



THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS: Rosemarie Eller, *President*; Cayne Letizia, *Vice President*; Sheryl Brady, James Hricay, Rose Lovitch, Charlie Norris, Randy Stein

July 5, 2022

REORGANIZATION MEETING: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** took his Oath of Office along with Board Members **Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris**, who were re-elected in May for three-year terms of office. The Board also elected its officers for the coming year: **Rosemarie Eller** was re-elected President and **Cayne Letizia** will be Vice President. Charlie Norris, who is stepping down after many years as Vice President of the Board, was thanked for his leadership and commitment. Action was taken on various resolutions to allow the District to conduct its business in the 2022-23 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca expressed his sympathy for the recent loss of life in Highland Park, Illinois, and the support from our community to theirs.

Dr. Ricca congratulated the Class of 2022, which has amazing opportunities ahead of them. He said, "We're proud of them and all of our Tigers." He mentioned that the graduation rate will be between 94 and 97%, pending disposition of summer school and testing.

Dr. Ricca also spoke about the challenges of moving staff members, which are usually complex undertakings and part of a larger picture, involving many people. There is an ongoing effort to analyze our resources and allocate them in the best possible way.

BOARD COMMENTS: Board members attended all of the moving-up ceremonies and graduations and spoke about the continuum of services to students through their schools and staff. They also commended the Retired Teachers Association, which held its annual luncheon announcing scholarships, and thanked the many talented retirees this year, who mentored the current teachers who were awarded tenure.

PERSONNEL: New employment agreements were approved for the Superintendent and Cabinet members, extending their terms.

Probationary positions were approved for seven new staff members: **Judith Bravo** will teach Elementary Education at Eastview, **Eric Gaccione** will teach Elementary Education at Mamaroneck Avenue School, **Manvir Johal** will teach Chemistry at the High School, **John Marro** will teach English at the High School, **Danielle Ruiz-Dunlavey** will teach Special Education at Eastview, **Elcillia Taveras** will be K-5 Math Instructional Specialist at George Washington School, and **Melissa Velez** will teach Elementary Education at George Washington.

In an agreement with the City of White Plains, two Resource Officers from the Department of Public Safety will again be assigned to the school district for the coming school year.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the following for their generous donations:

Katherine Greatwood for \$5,000 for the Christian Gianola Science Scholarship

Jason Bayuk for \$500 for the Barbara O'Garro Memorial Scholarship

Todd Bohmer for \$150 and **Kevin Brown** for \$66 for the Brown Family Memorial Scholarship

Theresa Stagg for \$2,500 for the Arthur "Mickey" Stagg Service Award

Theresa Stagg for \$2,500 for the Mark Stagg and Steve Shell Business Achievement Scholarship

Marc Weinstein for \$50 for the Charlie Jenkins Memorial Scholarship

Equitable Foundation for a \$500 grant to a High School student

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 25: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.

August 4: Special Meeting, Education House, 6 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld