



# THE BOARD REPORTS

## *Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting*

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

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July 6, 2020

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **John “Jay” Johnson**, Security Assistant at the High School and Highlands from 2001 to the present; **James Bryant**, Custodial Worker at Highlands from 1987 to 2003; and **Joan Stangarone**, Food Service Staff Member at Highlands from 1970 to 1994.

**REORGANIZATION MEETING:** Dr. Ricca took his Oath of Office along with Board Members **Rosemarie Eller** and **Randy Stein**, re-elected in June for three-year terms of office. The Board also re-elected its officers: **Rosemarie Eller, President** and **Charlie Norris, Vice President**. Action was taken on various resolutions required for the District to conduct business in 2020-2021.

**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL RESIGNS:** After eight years at White Plains High School, **Principal Ellen Doherty** submitted her resignation in order to take the position of Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services at Chappaqua Central School District. She said it “has been an honor to work with many exceptional teachers, administrators, and staff on behalf of the wonderfully creative, enthusiastic and impressive students at White Plains High School.”

Dr. Ricca and Mrs. Eller both thanked Ms. Doherty for all she has done for our children and wished her well in her new role. They said the District will miss her.

The position has been posted, with an application deadline of July 13<sup>th</sup>. According to **Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Scott Pepper**, an Advisory Committee has been appointed and will interview candidates in late July. The District hopes to decide on a replacement for Ms. Doherty before the end of August. Interviews for an interim candidate will be conducted simultaneously, should the search not produce a permanent candidate.

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** The Board opened the floor to a public hearing on the Code of Conduct for 2020-21. **Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Services Deborah Augarten** said there were word changes dealing with gender and issues of equity. The plan was accepted by the Board later in the meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca congratulated Mrs. Eller and Mr. Norris on their election to another term as Board officers. He congratulated Ms. Augarten on the successful start to the mandated summer school for Special Education students.

Dr. Ricca thanked everyone who came together to provide virtual end-of-year and award ceremonies for our students. We are moving forward with planning for the opening of school and are awaiting guidance from the State. We’re also engaged in Strategic Planning and goal-setting, including some COVID-19 goals..



PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Connie Bellom, Elementary Education Teacher at Ridgeway School.

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

NYSIR for \$1,000 for the WPHS virtual graduation ceremony.

Liz Hoexter for clothing for Highlands Middle School

Janet Pulcini for \$200 for the High School

UPCOMING MEETINGS: July 8: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.  
(The Board will entertain a motion to enter Executive Session on individual personnel matters.)

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld