



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

March 9, 2020

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca asked for a moment of silence in memory of four retirees:

Harold (Tim) Moore, Teacher, House Administrator and Interim Assistant Principal at the High School, 1968-2004

John Owens, Teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal at George Washington, Post Road, Battle Hill, Rochambeau and Ridgeway Schools, 1955-1988

Frances Welch, Elementary Education Teacher at Ridgeway School, 1958-1983

Fred Woodworth, Physical Education Teacher at the High School, 1956-1982

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca commented on the Coronavirus situation and reminded everyone of recommendations for health and wellness. He said the District is taking every step possible to ensure that its children are healthy and safe. The administration is keeping the school community informed of developments on a daily basis. Dr. Ricca thanked everyone for their cooperation and particularly the District's Facilities staff for its assistance.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2020-2021: Dr. Ricca presented the Superintendent's Proposed Preliminary Budget for 2020-2021 which totals \$233,244,050, a 2.94% increase over last year. The tax levy percentage increase is 2.91%. He reviewed the planning and various factors that contributed to the development of this budget. Enrollment is fairly flat and staffing increases are mostly in the area of support services. There will be a proposition on the ballot to use money from the Capital Reserve Funds, not to exceed \$10 million, for various school improvement projects, in accordance with the District's Long-Range Master Plan. Dr. Ricca noted that the District will save \$2.3 million on bond interest and issuance costs by using funds from the Reserves. This generates **NO TAX INCREASE**.

Dr. Ricca reminded everyone of upcoming dates related to the Budget Vote and Board Election on May 19th. He encouraged everyone to call with questions and check the District website for information on the budget. www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/Page/21724)

Board President Rosemarie Eller thanked Dr. Ricca, the Cabinet and staff for its input in the planning process and for preparing a responsible, functional budget for next year.

BOARD COMMENT: Board members reported on events which they have attended in recent weeks. These included the Five School Fundraiser, the Monster Art Show -- a collaboration between Post Road students and High School Art Honor Society members, the Invention Convention at Church Street School, and Ballroom Dancing at Mamaroneck Avenue School, a Friends of White Plains Public Schools-sponsored program.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the following donors for their generosity:

The Class of 2020 for a mural for Ridgeway School

The Trapp Family for art supplies, a trumpet, an electric guitar and an amplifier for the Music Program

Michael Stevens for \$75, **Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Brown** for \$400, and **Janet Pulcini** for \$63 for the Brown Family Memorial Scholarship

Angie Garcia, Donna Centone and **Antonella Agudelo** for donations to Rochambeau School

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Sylvia Watson**, Food Service Helper, Middle School-Highlands.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 23:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M. Budget Workshop
March 30:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M. Adoption of the 2020-2021 Budget
April 16:	Special Meeting, Education House, Human Resources Committee of the Whole Master Planning Presentation
April 20:	Regular Meeting, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M Scholar-Athletes

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld