



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

May 11, 2020

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of four retirees: **Lenore Brager** was a School Social Worker at Ridgeway and Highlands Schools from 1964 to 1987; **Shirley Brown** was an Elementary Teacher at Church Street and George Washington Schools from 1967 to 1987; **Carol Emes** was an Elementary Teacher at Ridgeway School from 1954 to 1987; **Brenda Hannon** was an Office Assistant in Special Education at Education House from 1989 to 2020.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca thanked the many, many people who have been working hard to meet the challenges of the Coronavirus, despite new issues and changes each day. He said White Plains continues to demonstrate strength in a cohesive community.

In other areas, he said one focus is on the budget, a particular challenge this year, with the unknowns of State funding. The District pledges to try to retain all elements in our educational program that ensure that our students receive the excellent education that White Plains has always provided. The Public Hearing on the Budget will take place on May 27th and the Budget Vote and Board Election will be an all-absentee vote on June 9th. The reopening committee will begin meetings this week and the tenure meeting is scheduled for May 27th. Dr. Ricca thanked volunteers for their work, students who have stepped up, and the Class of 2020 which has proven it is ready to lead. On May 27th the Board will be asked to approve an adjustment to the calendar, to close schools one week earlier, June 19th, because of the loss of the Spring Break.

BOARD ACTIVITY: Board Members participated in many events during the last few weeks. They read to students on Facebook, helped with book giveaways, participated in the Town Hall moderated by Dr. Ricca, and are grateful to all those in the community who are also doing so.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation of **John Orcutt**, Assistant Principal at the High School and the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Todd Farrison**, Assistant Director of Facilities & Operations, and **Nancy Perdeu**, Teaching Assistant at Post Road.

Probationary appointments were given to: **Lisa Torres**, School Psychologist at Mamaroneck Avenue and Ridgeway Schools; **Joseph Ursino**, Music Teacher, Districtwide, and **Julianne Farella**, Art Teacher at Post Road and Ridgeway Schools. At George Washington School, **Laura Scarcella** and **Allison Richards** will teach Elementary Education, **Robert Guilford** will teach Music, and **Julia Marques** will be a Special Education Consultant Teacher. At Highlands Middle School **Melanie Ortiz** will be School Psychologist. At the High School, **Andre Johnson** will be a Special Education English Teacher, **Matthew Glashoff** will teach Math, **Ashley Tomaselli** will teach Social Studies, and **Kaylin Fitzsimmons** will be a School Counselor.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: May 27: Special Meeting, 7 P.M.
Public Hearing on the Budget, Teacher Tenure
June 9: Annual Meeting/Budget Vote & Election, Ballots
Due 5 P.M.
Retiree Celebration, Administrative Tenure
June 11: Special Meeting, Human Resources Committee,
5:30 P.M.
June 15: Regular Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
June 22: Special Meeting, 7 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld