



# 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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May 9, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Visiting Boy Scouts, **Andrew Rappa, Chris Hansen and Duff Morel** led the Pledge to open the meeting. They and their parents attended to observe the Board Meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of two retirees: **Marcia Kowan**, Reading Teacher at Highlands and the High School from 1977 to 2005, and **Olga Olivet**, Elementary Teacher at Mamaroneck Avenue and George Washington Schools, until 1992

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022-23 BUDGET: **Board President Rosemarie Eller** opened a Public Hearing on the 2022-2023 Budget of \$224,846,646 to be presented to the voters on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ricca said this is an extraordinary budget which results in *no tax increase*. It continues to achieve all the district goals and objectives and also brings some exciting enhancements and opportunities for growth. Foundation Aid will be fully funded over the next three years. Dr. Ricca is speaking with groups around the City explaining the budget and the three propositions to be voted upon. Also on the ballot is the election of two Board members for three-year terms. Candidates are incumbents **Sheryl Brady** and **Charlie Norris**. Voting is Noon to 9 P.M. on Tuesday. There being no questions or comments, Mrs. Eller closed the hearing and thanked everyone responsible for this budget, particularly **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** and her staff.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca thanked **Jessica Buck**, PTA Council President and her members for their support through the last two-and-a-half years of the COVID crisis. He said it is still with us and the district continues to offer testing. He also mentioned the extended Memorial Day weekend holiday due to the absence of snow days.

PERSONNEL: The Board approved the temporary appointment of **Michael Eaton** as Acting Principal at the Highlands Middle School and **Tara Daly** as Interim Assistant Principal there for the balance of the school year.

Retirements were accepted from **Julia Probbler**, Teaching Assistant at Eastview, **Deborah Williamson**, Teaching Assistant at Ridgeway School, **William Braswell**, Science Teacher at the High School and **Susan Levin**, Elementary Education Teacher at Eastview.

Probationary appointments were given to **Erika Richardson**, School Social Worker, and **Alejandro Pena**, Guidance Counselor, both at the High School, and **Morgan Roessler**, Physical Education Teacher at the Middle School-Highlands.

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

**Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$12,200 for four grants

**The Beautification Foundation** for \$200 for each school for outdoor gardening projects

**Deanne Gonsalves** for \$500 and **Robin Castronova** for \$50 for the Brown Family Memorial Scholarship

**Diane Maudsley** for \$500 for the **Frederick J. Maudsley** GRIT Scholarship

**Mr. & Mrs. James Baker** for \$500 for the Frank A. Schmidt Memorial Music Award

**Laurence Gianola** for \$500 for the Chris Gianola Science Scholarship

**Jere Rice Vockins** for \$200 and **Deborah Ann Mumford** for \$25 for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 18: Special Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Education House – Canvass of Vote

May 23: Special Meeting, 7:30 P.M., High School Media Center – Teacher Tenure

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld