

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

September 17, 2018

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent **Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of three members of the school community. **G. James Kelleher** was a member of the Board of Education from 1981 to 1989. **Nancy Vandewart** was a music teacher at Ridgeway and Post Road Schools between 1961 and 1984, when she retired. Dr. Ricca also mentioned the recent passing of a high school student.

HALL OF FAME: High School Principal **Ellen Doherty** announced the names of four alumni who will be inducted into the White Plains High School Hall of Fame on October 25th and invited everyone to attend. Inductees are: **Frank Bruni** '53, prominent businessman and community leader, **Steven Baruch** '56, award-winning Broadway theatre producer, **Lena Anderson** '65, President of the White Plains-Greenburgh NAACP, and **Richard Schlesinger** '72, award-winning broadcast journalist. Inductees will visit with students prior to the 3 P.M. induction ceremony.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- **School Opening:** School opening went very smoothly and Dr. Ricca thanked the administrators and support staff who worked over the summer. He also thanked the PTAs for their welcome back activities. **Director of Facilities Frank Stefanelli** presented an update on work done in the buildings over the summer and Dr. Ricca thanked him for his exceptional work. **Sean Lewis**, representing Altaris, provided information on summer security projects.
- **2019-20 Budget:** Dr. Ricca noted the development of the 2019-20 Budget Calendar, to be approved at the October meeting. A forum is planned for October 22nd, to engage the community early in the process.
- **Strategic Plan:** Dr. Ricca discussed the new Strategic Plan and the different, consensus-driven process used this year, in three days of meetings. The mission and core beliefs will be updated and every decision should be based on moving our children forward. Two committee members present said they found it to be an excellent process.
- **Dual Language:** **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Debbie Hand** discussed the report based on the evaluation by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), along with the guiding principles of Dual Language. CAL provided 5 summary recommendations and a plan for the future has been developed.
- **Student Liaison:** Dr. Ricca welcomed White Plains High School student **Jackson Reynolds** who introduced himself and said he hopes to provide good feedback to and from the Board and students.
- **Upcoming:** Dr. Ricca noted next week's "Coffee and Conversation" on September 26th, with **Colleen Wilson** of the Journal News, 7 P.M. in the High School Media Center.

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

AWARDS: Dr. Ricca recognized **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** and the Business Department for receiving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the 30th consecutive year that the district has received this award.

Dr. Ricca also noted that White Plains High School has been named one of the top 12 schools in the County in the News12 School Spirit Showdown.

PERSONNEL: After a thorough search, yielding 150 applicants, Highlands Middle School teacher **Michael Eaton** was appointed Assistant Principal at that building. Mr. Eaton is a White Plains High School graduate and replaces **Chad Gleason** who left for a position nearer his home.

The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Apolinar Mota**, Custodial Worker at the Middle School-Eastview.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked these donors for their generosity:

The Schwartz Family for 3,000 science books by the late **Dinah L. Moche**, WPHS graduate and Hall of Fame member, for elementary students

The Kurtz Family Fund for \$5,000 for the Margaret L. Kurtz Memorial Scholarship
Bus companies **Lion Electric Company** and **National Express** for \$1,500 each for district programs

Bruce J. Grobe, Esq. for golf balls for the High School Golf Team

UPCOMING MEETINGS: October 15: Regular Meeting, Education House 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld

*Special Coffee & Conversation with
Superintendent Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Wednesday, September 26th, WPHS Media
Center, 7 P.M.
Guest: Colleen Wilson of the Journal News*
