

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

February 11, 2019

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Marie Byrne**, Guidance Counselor at the High School from 1967 to 1986, **Rajinder Chadha**, Treasurer/Bookkeeper at Education House from 1984 to 2004, **Geraldine Henderson**, Elementary Teacher at Post Road School from 1960 to 1982, **Ernest Martucci**, Psychologist at Highlands School from 1960 to 1995, **Mamie Redd**, Prekindergarten Teacher Helper from 1968 to 1994, and **Marcia Weinstein**, Elementary Teacher at Ridgeway School from 1988 to 2010.

**2019-20 INSTRUCTIONAL BUDGET:** In the first preliminary budget presentation for 2019-20, **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Debbie Hand** began by noting that the Instructional Budget is fully aligned with the district's Long-Range Plan and said it is a product of excellent teamwork and collaboration among the principals, coordinators and other administrators. She reviewed the various components of the budget in the different disciplines. Four new courses are proposed -- American Sign Language 2, Criminal Justice, Introduction to Computer Science and Music Technology -- and the addition of 9.3 teaching positions. More detailed information will follow in the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget report in March.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca congratulated four of our Science Research students who were recognized at last week's Westchester Rockland Junior Science & Humanities Symposium: **Pilar Ceron, Melanie Collana, Jillian Pope and Kristina Radulovic.**

He also noted that the 2019-20 school calendar is being developed and is expected to be brought to the Board for approval in March.

**TEACHERS' CONTRACT:** The Board approved a new three-year contract with the White Plains Teachers Association, effective July 1, 2019. The union membership ratified the contract on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Terms call for a 1.5% salary increase in each of the three years. Dr. Ricca thanked the teachers' bargaining team, led by **President Kara Lyons** and **Vice President David Acevedo**, for their collaboration. He said, "The negotiation process was collegial and fiscally responsible, due to the strong relationship between the parties."

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** **Dr. Jackielyn Campbell** was appointed Human Resources Director, to work with **Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Scott Pepper** in the Civil Service area of this department. Dr. Ricca said a vigorous process led to the appointment of a very talented candidate. Dr. Campbell comes to the District from Mount Vernon where she was Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services and Associate Superintendent for Human Resources for the last three years.

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

RETIREMENTS: The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of:

**April Beamon**, Special Education Teacher, Middle School-Highlands  
**Cairenn Broderick**, Science Teacher, High School  
**June Brown**, Registered Professional Nurse, Middle School-Eastview  
**Seadell Carlton**, Teacher Aide, Middle School-Eastview  
**Barbara Falk**, ESOL Teacher, George Washington School  
**Dalia Gonzalez**, Special Education Teacher, High School  
**Stephanie Hettinger**, Teaching Assistant, Church Street School  
**Donna Jones**, Elementary Education Teacher, Ridgeway School  
**Debra Lee**, Elementary Education Teacher, Church Street School  
**Joan Mullee**, Special Education Teacher, High School  
**Katherine Neglia**, Library Media Specialist, Middle School-Eastview  
**Alvera Pollard**, Guidance Counselor, High School  
**Janet Pulcini**, Special Education Teacher, High School  
**Barbara Schmidt Mora**, Special Education Teacher, Mamaroneck Avenue School  
**Nancy Snell**, Foreign Language Teacher, High School  
**James Van Buren**, ESOL Teacher, George Washington School

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

**Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$5,400 in grants to Mamaroneck Avenue, Post Road and Ridgeway Schools  
**Carol & Alfred Lalli, Jr.** for \$100 for the School Lunch Program  
**Donna Joseph** for \$1,000 for the Dr. Leonard Rhodes Memorial Fund  
**Ernestine Glenn** for \$1,250 for the E. Glenn Creative Writing Scholarship  
**Various Donors** for \$843 for the Philip Barnett Memorial Scholarship  
**Various Donors** for \$2,850 for the Liz Fink Hidalgo Scholarship Fund  
**Witlen Family** for a trombone for the District's Music Program

UPCOMING MEETINGS: February 25: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
Non-Instructional Budget  
March 11: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
March 18: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
Budget Workshop

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld