

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

March 20, 2017

PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2017-18 PRELIMINARY PROPOSED

BUDGET: **Superintendent of Schools Howard Smith** began with an overview, including long-range planning and student outcomes. With its conservative projections of revenue and expenses, the district is in a position to preserve existing programs, services and staffing without exceeding the tax cap and also consider reallocating some resources to support priorities. Dr. Smith reviewed targets for the latter. A preliminary snapshot shows a budget of \$215,972,750 (a 1.06% net operating increase over last year) and an estimated tax rate increase of 1.75%. Dr. Smith noted that two large PILOTs will expire and be returned to the tax rolls, thereby decreasing the tax rate. Other areas covered include revenue sources, enrollment projections and staffing changes. Questions and answers followed.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Dr. Smith asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Mary Baker**, a Teacher Aide at Ridgeway School for 7 years, until retiring in 1994, and **Flora Daughtrey**, a Teacher Aide, Districtwide, from 1967 to 1990.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Smith congratulated students for their recent achievements: **Rose Gebhardt** and **Noah Lichtblau** who repeated as All-County Mathletes; **Nicholas Crino**, **Elana Hausknecht** and **Noah Lichtblau** who were named National Merit Finalists; Highlands Middle School students who participated in the musical "13"; and Post Road fourth grader **Madison Lagares**, a cast member of "On Your Feet" on Broadway. He also commended Eastview staff and students who will be presenting at the 2017 LHRIC Tech Expo in April.

Dr. Smith welcomed **Dr. Debbie Hand**, new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, to her first Board Meeting. He also commended **Dr. Corey Reynolds**, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, for an ambitious hiring schedule and also for arranging district participation in a recent Job Fair.

John LaPlaca, from **Altaris Emergency Management**, made a presentation on Security Assessment and Planning, serving the district through BOCES. He spoke about the process and plans at the districtwide and building levels for compliance with administrative and State mandates to ensure that the district is prepared for any emergency response situation. Altaris also provides staff development and completes an assessment process in each building, which includes improvement opportunities.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Suzanne Helbach**, School Technology Specialist, Staff Development Center. Ms. Helbach has been with the district for 15 years.

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

DONATIONS: Dr. Smith thanked the following donors for their generous gifts:

Marie McMahon for \$5,000 for the Eastview “Wicked” trip, in memory of Jean Amodio

Marie Newman for a microscope for the High School AP Biology Program

Patricia Arscott for four headsets for Ridgeway School

Debbie Campion for a viola for Mamaroneck Avenue School

Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$2,860 for programs at Mamaroneck Avenue,
Eastview and the High School

UPCOMING MEETINGS: March 27: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
 *April 4: Public Forum on the Budget, Education House, 7:30 P.M
 April 17: Regular Meeting, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.
 Board Adoption of 2017-18 Budget
 Scholar-Athlete Recognition

* Postponed and moved from March 22nd at the High School

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld