



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

April 4, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Visiting Boy Scouts, **Siddhant Sawant**, **Rohan Kumar** and **Cedric Dell** led the Pledge to open the meeting. They and their **Scoutmaster Vinay Sawant** 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: **Audrey Carollo** was a Clerk Typist at Pre-Kindergarten and Highlands from 1973 to 1992, and **Janet Drach** was a Security Guard and Teaching Assistant at White Plains High School from 1989 to 2013.

2022-23 SUPERINTENDENT'S PRELIMINARY BUDGET: The Board voted to adopt the 2022-2023 Budget of \$224,846,646, to be presented to the voters on May 17th. 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 changes and a great opportunity for growth. Foundation aid is fully funded and the burden of the budget has shifted away from the taxpayer.

Also on the ballot will be three propositions which will be tax neutral. "One brings climate-controlled buildings to the entire district, the second is Phase 1 of the Capital Plan, a \$71.4 million long-term plan for projects and upgrades, and the third establishes another Capital Reserve, allowing the district to make Capital changes without needing to bond.

Board President Rosemarie Eller thanked everyone responsible for this budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca welcomed Ridgeway School attendees to the meeting. He introduced student liaisons **Sophia Emmert** and **Solis O'Donnell** who reviewed activities in all the schools. Dr. Ricca urged everyone to visit the wonderful sculpture of Harriet Tubman now on display in Renaissance Plaza in White Plains.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Eladio Pareja**, Custodial Worker at Mamaroneck Avenue School.

Three teachers were given probationary appointments, all at the High School. **Frank Hurley** and **Alex Lainez** will teach Social Studies, and **Stephanie Kindestin** will teach Special Education,

Jennifer Braunagel was appointed as District Clerk, replacing **Michele Schoenfeld**. She comes to the District from the Nyack Schools.

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

Caren Levant for a microwave for Mamaroneck Avenue School

Various donors for \$1,236 for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship

Various donors for \$300 for the Philip Barnett Memorial Scholarship Fund.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- May 5: Special Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Education House
- May 9: Regular Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Education House
- 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