

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

December 11, 2017

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of four retired staff members. **Mildred Aronoff** was a teacher at Eastview for 41 years -- until 1976. **Gayle Ayer** was a Teaching Assistant at Mamaroneck Avenue School for 23 years, retiring in 2009. **Bernadette Liotta**, a Teacher Aide at Mamaroneck Avenue School for 21 years, retired in 2002. **Christine Pacewicz** was a Clerk Typist and an Office Assistant at Highlands School for 19 years, retiring in 2007.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES **Athletic Director Matt Cameron** introduced coaches of 10 fall Varsity Teams who presented a total of 162 athletes for this honor. Teams represented were Girls and Boys Cross Country, Football, Field Hockey, Cheerleading, Girls and Boys Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis and Volleyball. Certificates were given to the students and **Board President Rosemarie Eller** thanked their parents and teachers for helping them achieve this honor.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION: Community representative **Steve Rabinowitz** was thanked for his seven years of service on the Board Finance/Audit Committee, as well as for his contributions and input to the district spanning many years. Mrs. Eller said the district has benefited greatly from his wise counsel and feedback. Mr. Rabinowitz said he is proud to have served and urged students in the room to consider public service in the future.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca reported that candidate interviews for the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources will take place in January, on schedule. We are moving forward with a review of the Dual Language program and long-range plans, as well as the 2018-19 budget. On the latter, the district is advocating to continue the state and local tax deductions.

THE CASE AGAINST "ZERO": **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. Debbie Hand** made a presentation on the "40 Floor Grade," grading practice to eliminate the grade of zero, substituting 40 as the lowest grade. She outlined the negative effects that zero has on students. This will be instituted in the Highlands and High Schools and will also be considered for Eastview.

PERSONNEL: Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from **Rose Kwik**, Teaching Assistant at Mamaroneck Avenue School, **Laurie O'Neil**, Registered Professional Nurse, Districtwide, and one anonymous staff member.

Three teachers were appointed to tenure: **Michael Lafiandra**, Elementary Education Teacher at Eastview Middle School, **Danielle LoMedico**, Special Education Teacher at the High School, and **John Orrego**, Social Studies Teacher at the High School.

Probationary appointments were approved for **Sara Reynolds** to teach Special Education at Eastview Middle School and **Jennifer Villani** to teach Biology at the High School.

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

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

Burlington Stores for \$1,000 for Jeannette Castilla's classroom at George Washington School

Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge #535 for personal dictionaries for each third grader

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Pi Iota Omega Chapter for backpacks for various schools

Barish & O'Brien for two laser printers for use districtwide

Various donors for contributions for the Family Technology Night

Constance DeFilippis, Ronald Weinstein and Paul Schonewolf for contributions to scholarship funds

Mark Griffin for a trombone and a clarinet for George Washington School

UPCOMING MEETINGS: January 8: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld