

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

February 8, *postponed to* February 22, 2016

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Paul Fried** asked for a moment of silence in memory of five former staff members. **Clara Carrick** taught at Rochambeau School for 20 years, until 1989. **Gary Lanni** taught Special Education at Church Street and Highlands from 1974 to 1994 and was also a football coach. **Mary Lindt** taught Kindergarten and Prekindergarten at North Street and Highlands Elementary Schools from 1965 to 1996. **Bunny Steinman** was an Art Teacher at Rosedale, the Intermediate, and Ridgeway Schools, from 1972 to 1993. **Ed Zimmel** taught in the schools for 43 years, at the Middle and High Schools, until 2004. He also coached Track for many years.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS:** **Dr. Corey Reynolds** was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and will join the district on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The finalist of 60 candidates, he comes to White Plains from the Ossining schools.

In Temporary appointments at the High School for the balance of the school year, **Reagan Figueroa** will assume the position of Assistant Principal and **Jessica Rappaport** will become House Administrator.

**BUDGET AND ELECTION PROCESS:** Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** made presentations on the 2016-17 Non-Instructional Budget and Part 1 of the Instructional Budget. He said that the major challenge is to balance costs of program which students need in order to be successful with community needs and expectations, while being sensitive to the economy and taxpayers' interests. The partial budget discussed shows a slight increase over last year. Mr. Seiler said budget information is posted on the district's website and there will be a Public Hearing on the Budget on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 P.M., at Education House. He also invited the public's participation in the next Community Forum on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**District Clerk Michele Schoenfeld** pointed out two major changes in the May 17<sup>th</sup> Budget Vote and Board Election. The district will be using optical scanning machines for the first time, as mandated by the State, and one polling place will be changed. Voters in the Battle Hill area will now vote in the Battle Hill Community Room (first floor of the former Battle Hill School), rather than at Fire Station #5 which has been closed by the City.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE:** In coordination with the Budget discussion, Assistant Superintendent **Debbie Augarten** made a presentation on Special Education planning to meet the needs of all students. Ms. Augarten provided information on goals and the State's blueprint for improved results. The district is working toward the goal that 60% of students should be in general education classrooms for at least 80% of their day. Mr. Augarten also discussed the benefits of integrated co-teaching and outlined proposed changes for 2016-17.

**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 of three administrators whom they described as "significant losses" to the district. **Assistant Superintendent for Business Fred Seiler** will retire after 10 years with the district, having made a great contribution in the area of the district's finances. **David Cabrera**, currently Assistant Principal at the High School, joined the district 18 years ago as Assistant Principal at the Highlands. **Lesley Tompkins**, a WPHS graduate, came back to the district as an Instrumental Music Teacher 29 years ago. For the last nine years she has been Director of Guidance & Counseling Services.

Retirements of the following staff members were also accepted, from both the February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup> agendas:

**Barbara Ammirato**, Special Education Teacher, High School  
**Cynthia Evans**, Elementary Education Teacher, Ridgeway School  
**Susan Fried**, Biology Teacher, High School  
**Lisa Giordano**, Music Teacher, Districtwide  
**Kathleen Junge**, Reading Teacher, George Washington School  
**Katrin Laube**, School Psychologist, Church Street School  
**Amy Luck**, Music Teacher, Districtwide  
**Diane Markert**, Purchasing Agent/Transportation Supervisor, Education House  
**Odessa McGill**, Teaching Assistant, Middle School-Highlands  
**Sandra Mitchell**, Teaching Assistant, Middle School-Highlands  
**Gail Peluso**, Instructional Specialist, Church Street School  
**Filomena Rubillo**, Food Service Helper, Church Street School  
**Rina Slavin**, Special Education Teacher, Middle School-Highlands  
**Carol Ann Tito**, English Teacher, High School  
**Lorraine Weatherhogg**, Administrative Assistant, Family Information Center

**DONATIONS:** Dr. Fried thanked the following for their generous donations to the district:

**Dr. David Elcott and Rabbi Shira Milgrom** for \$1,000 for the Acts of Loving Kindness Award  
**Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge 535** for dictionaries for all third grade students  
**Jack Lonker** for a pressure vest for Church Street School  
**Beth and Eugene Kava** for a clarinet, music stand and various musical equipment for the Music Department  
**Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance** for \$500 for George Washington School  
**Dr. Terri Thomas Klemm** for \$1,000 for the Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship  
**Carole Lashley, Dr. Melanie Jackson and Andrea Robinson** for \$250 for the Dorothy Peters Memorial Scholarship

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:** March 14: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
Public Hearing on the Preliminary Proposed Budget  
March 16: Community Forum on the Budget, High School B-1 Room,  
7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld