



# 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

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January 10, 2022

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of: three members of the school community. **Lula Bryant** was a Teacher Helper in Pre-Kindergarten at Highlands School, 1969-1992. **Manson A. Donaghey** was Principal of Post Road Elementary, Battle Hill Junior High and White Plains High School from 1960 to 1980. He also was co-founder of the Loucks Track Meet. **Josephine Falcone** was a Board of Education member from 1982 to 1987, a member of the WPHS Hall of Fame, and a graduate of White Plains High School. She was the mother-in-law of current **Board Member Charlie Norris**.

LONG-RANGE PLAN 2021-2022 through 2025-2026: Dr. Ricca thanked everyone involved in this major, annual project which moves the District forward each year. The cycle of planning begins with our Strategic Plan and is then evidenced in budget planning for the following year. Dr. Ricca emphasized the importance of planning, making the District effective and efficient and ensuring its fiscal health. The guiding principle in the development of the plan is to protect the instructional core. Dr. Ricca mentioned that we are looking at a very conservative budget for next year. Included in the presentations were reviews of every facet of the District's operation. **Assistant Superintendent for Business Ann Vaccaro Teich** assisted with the presentation.

Master Planning will be discussed with the Board later this month. This is a tax-neutral plan which is the result of careful planning and fiscal responsibility. Future meetings will focus on this as well as the budget. Dr. Ricca concluded by noting that the District is on very solid fiscal footing, while maintaining its progressive approach to instruction and programming. It is responsive to our children's needs as well as community input. **Board President Rosemarie Eller** thanked Dr. Ricca and his team for a very comprehensive presentation.

PERSONNEL: With the return in January of **Ernie Spatafore** from his leave of absence at the Middle School-Highlands, the two Interim Administrators will return to their previous positions as of January 10: **Michael Eaton** from Interim Principal to Assistant Principal, and **Tara Daly**, from Interim Assistant Principal to Social Studies Teacher.

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

**Christine Ciofalo**, Library Media Specialist, Middle School-Highlands  
**Caren Levant**, Elementary Education Teacher, Mamaroneck Avenue School  
**Catherine Mahoney**, Special Education Teacher, George Washington School  
**Edward (Ted) O'Donnell**, School Social Worker, High School

Two Teaching Assistants were awarded tenure:

**Jay Turner**, Mamaroneck Avenue School  
**Amanda Zalesny**, Church Street School

**Laura Prestipino** was appointed to a probationary position as Special Education Teacher at George Washington School.



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

\$3,000 from the **Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for outdoor tables and benches at  
White Plains High School

\$1,000 from **Dr. Terri Thomas Klemm** for the Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 18: Special Meeting, 6:30 P.M., Education House

February 10: Special Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Education House  
Executive Session

February 15: Regular Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld