



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

January 11, 2021

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca asked for a moment of silence in memory of those lost to the Coronavirus as well as those killed in recent incidents of civil unrest in Washington, D.C.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca looks forward to an exciting new year, as we move out of the pandemic and enter Phase 1B, with vaccinations for all staff beginning today. He thanked the three bargaining units for their help with this process. Also regarding COVID, Dr. Ricca said the Reopening Committee meetings start up again on Wednesday and will meet every other week. Next topics for discussion will be communication, vaccinations, testing for COVID-19, and changing the density permitted to add more time in school for students.

Dr. Ricca thanked **Student Liaison Yesenia Perez** for attending and introduced **Board Member Cayne Letizia** who presented two High School students who shared a project of theirs. **Sophomores Ryleigh Falvey** and **Sophia Emmert** spoke about their support and fundraising for patients and families through the Lymphoma Society, as part of a leadership development program. **Board President Rosemarie Eller** thanked them for the work they are doing.

APPOINTMENTS: Robert Janowitz was appointed Acting Principal at Mamaroneck Avenue School, effective February 1 to June 30, 2021, replacing **Eileen McGuire** who retires at the end of the month. Mr. Janowitz has been Assistant Principal at the school and Dr. Ricca expressed full confidence in his ability to lead the school while the District conducts a broad search for a permanent Principal.

Raquel Benitez was appointed Interim Assistant Principal at Highlands Middle School. Currently an Instructional Specialist in English Language Arts the school, Ms. Benitez replaces **Valerie Cadet** who is on a short-term leave of absence.

Julie Cangro was appointed Director of Human Resources for the District, replacing **Jackielyn Manning Campbell** who has joined another district.

TENURE: Eight staff members were awarded tenure in what Dr Ricca called “a celebration of their dedication to the profession of teaching – the most important profession of all.” Board members commented that this achievement, during a pandemic, is extraordinary. Presented by **Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Scott Pepper** and their administrators, the teachers are:

Angela Alvarez, Speech Teacher, George Washington School

Gregory Bart, Art Teacher, Middle School-Highlands

Katherine Esswein, Science Teacher, High School

Karen O'Brien, School Media Specialist, Ridgeway School

Molly Pace, Elementary Education Teacher, George Washington School
Meghan Raderstrong, Reading Teacher, George Washington School
Sarah Reynolds, Special Education Teacher, Middle School-Eastview
Jennifer Villani, Science Teacher, High School

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

Judith Benjamin for a violin for Church Street School
The Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$8,415 for several grants
Various donors for \$425 for the Philip Barnett Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donna Joseph for \$1,000 for the Dr. Leonard G. Rhodes Memorial Fund
Various donors for \$1,816 for the Greenstein Memorial Music Scholarship
Jenifer Cambeiro, Nathalie Forbes and Lorraine Trovato-Cantori for gift cards to support the PBIS Initiative at Rochambeau School

UPCOMING MEETINGS: February 4: Special Meeting, 5:30 P.M Human Resources
Committee (Executive Session) Zoom
February 8: Regular Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Zoom TBA

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld