

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

January 9, 2017

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent Dr. Howard Smith** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Maryam Yelegen**, a Food Service Helper at the High School for the last 16 years.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: **Board President Rosemarie Eller** announced that a nationwide search for a new superintendent has begun, with applications due by the end of this month. The Board will use the same profile in screening applicants as that identified by the community for previous, recent searches. School and community representatives from all constituencies will be involved in interviews of finalists, in late March or April. The Board hopes to appoint a new Superintendent in April or May.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Dr. Smith congratulated four High School students for recent awards: **Shelley Zhu** was named a Semifinalist Scholar in the 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search; **Jordyn Fields** won the 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Legacy Youth Award for Spirit of Love; **Amala Davis** was named a Semifinalist in the 2016-17 Coca-Cola Scholars Program; and **Michael Hunter** was selected as the 2016 Youth of the Year by the City's Youth Bureau.

WIPRO SCIENCE PROGRAM: Teachers **Carmen King** and **Vincent Dougherty** described this partnership with Mercy College which is now in its third year. They explained how the program has supported them in teaching leadership initiatives and thanked the Board for its support. **Dr. Amanda Gunning**, Assistant Professor at Mercy College and Co-Director of the program, presented a plaque to the district which Dr. Smith and Ms. Eller accepted with thanks.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION: The Board appointed **Dr. Debbie J. Hand** as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, replacing **Jessica O'Donovan** who has moved out of the area with her family. Dr. Hand comes to the district from a similar position in Tarrytown where she supervised all K-12 instructional programs. She has a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, two Master's degrees – from Fordham University and the College of New Rochelle, and a Bachelor of Science from Iona College. Dr. Smith said she is very well qualified and was the unanimous decision from a large pool of candidates. He is pleased that Dr. Hand will be able to join the district next month.

In other curriculum action, the Board approved four new courses at the High School: AP Studio Art, Protest Movements in American History, SUPA (Syracuse University Project Advance) Public Policy, and Dual Language Medical Terminology.

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

BUDGET PLANNING FOR 2017-18: Dr. Smith described the current composition of the budget, what it provides for, and how it compares with others in the region. Next steps are a review of the a long-range plan with the Finance Committee and a forum for public input on proposed areas for enhancement, both on January 24<sup>th</sup>, and a Board discussion of the latter on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

PERSONNEL: **Adeline Ferreri**, Elementary Education Teacher at George Washington School, was appointed to tenure and the Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of Teaching Assistant **Lillian Judith McClain**, and Elementary Education Teacher, **Merle Stewart-Hill**. Both are at Church Street School.

DONATIONS: Dr. Smith thanked the following donors for their generous gifts:

**The WPHS Alumni Association, Inc.** for \$15,000 for digital signs and equipment for the High School

**The College Club of White Plains, Inc.** for \$4,200 to establish the **Patsy Havlin Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**The WP Post #191, Jewish War Veterans of USA** for \$500 in memory of **Captain Herbert Glazer** and **Milton Hoffman** for the High School

**The Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$4,250 for programs at Mamaroneck Avenue and Eastview Schools

**OverDrive Education** for the K-5 QuickStart Program at George Washington School

**Karen Blumenthal** for 15 Target Gift Cards for the PBIS Program at Rochambeau

UPCOMING MEETINGS: January 24: Budget Forum, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.  
February 13: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

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