

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

July 10, 2017

REORGANIZATION MEETING: New **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** took his Oath of Office as did the two incumbent Board Members elected in May for three-year terms: **Rosemarie Eller** and **Randy Stein**. The Board re-elected its officers – Mrs. Eller, President and **Charlie Norris**, Vice President. Mrs. Eller welcomed Dr. Ricca to the district and the Board then acted upon various resolutions required to conduct business in the 2017-18 school year.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Dr. Ricca asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Evelyn Heavyside** who taught Elementary Education at Ridgeway School from 1970 to 1985.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca said he has already met with many members of the community and has received a very warm welcome to White Plains. He said the summer is busy – with new staff being hired, a large summer school in progress, ongoing construction projects, and curriculum review. He looks forward to meeting and working with everyone in the months ahead. Dr. Ricca learned that graduation ceremonies went very smoothly and Mrs. Eller added that this is the most favorite and rewarding time of the year for Board Members. She congratulated students, their families and teachers on reaching this important milestone.

PERSONNEL: After creating the new position of Transportation Coordinator last month, the Board appointed **Sergio Alfonso** to this position, effective in August. He comes to White Plains with school district experience in this field.

Dr. Ricca congratulated **Eliana Fernandez**, Special Education Teacher at Eastview Middle School, whose resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted by the Board.

**Kerry Broderick**, Biology Teacher at the High School and President of the White Plains Teachers Association, was granted a leave absence for the coming school year, in order to take a position with the New York State United Teachers. Teachers **Kara Lyons** and **David Acevedo** will act as President and Vice President, respectively, of the WPTA.

Two teachers were appointed to Probationary positions: **Susannah Genty-Waksberg** will be a Math Specialist, Districtwide; and **Karen O'Brien** will be a Library Media Specialist at Ridgeway School.

TRIPS ABROAD: The Board approved High School trips abroad to Costa Rica and Peru, and the German Exchange, with students from Germany coming here. It was made clear that future trips abroad will be planned as conditions permit, with cancellation clauses included.

**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 generous gifts:

**Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Masinter** for \$14,120 for the Masinter College Incentive/Scholarship Program at the High School

**Mamaroneck Avenue School PTA** for \$16,911.17 for the school playground

**The Matsuri** for \$350 for enrichment of the English as a New Language program

**Claire Garrett Maino** for a flute and a trombone for George Washington School

**Bernice Sayegh** for a clarinet for the district's Music Program

**Various donors** for \$4,425 for scholarships, as per attachment

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 7 : Special Meeting, Education House, 6:15 P.M.  
(Executive Session, Board Retreat)

August 14: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld