

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

March 11, 2019

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Antoinette Dougherty**, Teacher Aide and Senior Clerk Typist at the High School from 1985-2012; **Nancy Paul**, ESOL Teacher at George Washington School for 13 years, until retiring in 2002; **Rosalind Starkman**, School Psychologist, districtwide, from 1972 to 1995; and **Fannie Thomas**, Teacher Aide at the High School from 1971 to 1984.

BUDGET PRESENTATION & PUBLIC HEARING: Presenting his Preliminary Proposed Budget for 2019-2020, Dr. Ricca thanked the Finance Committee for its time and effort on this important work and **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** and her office as well. He said this budget follows the district's Strategic Plan and provides a great many opportunities for our students yet stays within the tax cap. The majority of expenditures go directly to the children. The budget totals \$226,285,980, up 3.52% over last year, with a tax levy increase of 3.44%. Dr. Ricca reviewed the planning process, revenues, expenditures, enrollment and staffing changes. He noted that two additional propositions are being recommended to be placed on the ballot, concerning the Capital Reserve Fund. One authorizes expenditures of up to \$6.4 from the 2016 Fund for capital projects. The other authorizes additional 2019 Capital Reserve Funds of up to \$25 million with a term of 10 years, for future projects. It was stressed that these incur *no additional costs to taxpayers*.

Budget information is available on the district's website, www.whiteplainspublicschools.org and the public is encouraged to call the Superintendent with any questions.

CHURCH STREET PRESENTATION: **Principal Myra Castillo** spoke about the goals of the school and how they are supported by the collective efforts of many. She said everyone matters and everyone plays an important role – students, teachers, parents, administration, and the greater community. Dr. Ricca thanked Ms. Castillo and everyone at Church Street for the excitement and and love he has seen in the building. On behalf of the Board, **President Rosemarie Eller** thanked Ms. Castillo for an excellent presentation and for her work in the school.

FINANCIAL AWARD: Dr. Ricca presented Dr. Vaccaro-Teich with a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 from the Association of School Business Officials International. He thanked her and the Business Office staff for their fine work.

2019-2020 CALENDAR: The Board approved the school calendar for next year which has been posted on the district's website. Schools open for students on September 3rd and the December holiday recess runs two full weeks.

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

RETIREMENT: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Eleanor Smith**, Teaching Assistant at George Washington School.

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

James Burr for an alto saxophone for the district's music program

Cornerstones of Maine, LLC for \$500 for the Mary Jane Bayuk Scholarship

Huaxia Chinese School of Greater NY Inc. for \$1,000 for the Asian Heritage Scholarship at White Plains High School

Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$4,600 for five programs

Italian American Committee on Education (IACE) for \$1,000 for the Italian Language Program

Sabrina Crowley for a mural for Post Road School

UPCOMING MEETINGS: March 18: Special Meeting & Budget Workshop, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
Budget Workshop

April 4: Special Meeting, Education House, 6 P.M.

Human Resources Committee of the Whole (The Board will entertain a motion to enter Executive Session relating to individual employment.)

April 8: Regular Meeting, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.

Scholar-Athlete Recognition

Adoption of 2019-2020 Budget

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld