

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

March 12, 2018

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of two members of the school community. **Leah Mendelsohn** was a teacher at Church Street School and the Intermediate School from 1968 until 1987. **Rose Vaccaro** was a Cafeteria Worker at Church Street School and the High School from 1966 to 1994.

**2018-19 BUDGET:** Dr. Ricca presented the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget for 2018-19 in a Public Hearing and Community Forum. He began with guiding principles and fiscal challenges and then discussed the proposed budget of \$218,993,020, with a tax rate increase of 2.88%. This is under the tax cap for the seventh consecutive year.

Dr. Ricca reviewed major areas of expense, State Aid, enrollment trends, staffing changes, and maintenance and capital projects, including security. He said this budget "adds new and exciting learning opportunities while identifying efficiencies and making structural changes to capture savings. It maintains the outstanding educational program while being responsible to the taxpayers." Questions and comments from the public followed.

**Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** and the Business Department were thanked for their hard work in producing this budget.

**FREE BUSING TO HIGH SCHOOL:** The Board approved a proposition to be added to the ballot on May 15<sup>th</sup> which will authorize free transportation for students in Grades 9-12 students who live more than one mile from school. Currently there is a fee of \$1.75 each way for this service. The district expects that the additional cost for this will be offset by savings realized through efficiencies and that *there will be no additional cost to taxpayers.*

**CAPITAL PROJECTS:** Also on the May 15<sup>th</sup> ballot, as approved by the Board, will be a proposition to use up to \$10 million from the Capital Reserve Fund, for necessary projects in all of the buildings in the district. These include roofing, electrical work and security expenditures, among others. Dr. Ricca reminded everyone that this is a transfer of existing funds, *at no cost to the taxpayers.* In fact, the district will save money by not having to borrow for these projects.

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

**Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$8,000, the remainder of payment for the Beyond Ballroom Dancing Program grant for 2017-18

**Marguerite Itamar Harrison** for \$500 for the High School in memory of her father, Langston Randolph Harrison '45

**Mikhail Iwanow** for \$50 for Ridgeway School

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

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from **Janis McClain-Johnson**, Secretary, Middle Schools-Eastview and Highlands; **Connie Servello**, Office Assistant II, Family Information Center; **Angelina Triano**, Food Service Helper, High School; and **Gail Young**, Parent Information Center Assistant, Family Information Center.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: April 9: Regular Meeting, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.  
Adoption of 2018-19 Budget  
Scholar-Athlete Recognition

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld