



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

May 10, 2021

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Eleanor Holman**, Psychologist, Middle and High Schools, 1970 to 1992; **Audrey Hubbard**, Highlands Librarian who retired in 1979; **Carmela Staffiero**, Cafeteria Worker, Highlands and the High School, 1994 to 2019; and **Sybil Winterburn**, Teaching Assistant at Ridgeway, 1986 to 1999.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021-22 BUDGET: The Board held a hearing on the budget of \$229,627,400 which will be voted on next Tuesday, May 18th. Dr. Ricca said that the budget is very strong and the district is on solid fiscal footing. He thanked everyone who participated in the budget preparation and said he and **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** are available to answer any questions. There was no public comment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca spoke about the visit of the U. S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona to the District and thanked everyone who participated. He said he is honored to be a part of the national discussion on how government can help local school districts to ensure they are supporting every child.

Dr. Ricca congratulated staff and students on some recent achievements:

- **Ridgeway School** was selected a 2020-21 Imagine National Beacon School for their enthusiasm and innovative use of Imagine Learning.
- Girls' Swimming & Diving Team members **Alexa Reyna, Ava Iannetta, Julia Hricay** and the **Relay Team** achieved sectional titles and records.
- Wrestler **Sebastian Garibaldi** took a first-place medal at the High School Nationals.
- **Max Galkin** and **Sean Eyebers** won the 2021 New York State U.S. Bowling Conference Youth Championship.
- **Nathaniel Fields** was named winner of the 2021 Congressional Art Competition for the 17th District. His work will be displayed in the U. S. Capitol for one year.

HUMAN RESOURCES: The Board accepted resignations for retirement from **Susan Kozlow**, Food Service Worker at Eastview, **Phyllis Paul**, Administrative Assistant in Facilities & Operations, **Rochelle Rettleff**, Senior Payroll Clerk at Education House, and **Jaime Valencia**, Custodial Worker at Ridgeway School.

Probationary appointments were given to **Damiana Carolini**, Elementary Education Teacher at Mamaroneck Avenue School; **Xiaolei Jiang**, Foreign Language Teacher at the Middle School-Highlands and High School; and **Conniree Francis**, will teach Foreign Language; **Sue Ellen Evangelista**, Chemistry, and **Qi (Alice) Zhang**, ENL, all at the High School.

Eastview Principal Daisy Rodriguez has resigned to take an Assistant Superintendent position in another district.

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

Stillman Management Realty Co. for \$500 for Eastview School

The Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$12,200 for end-of-year activities at Highland Middle School and White Plains High School and for a program at Church Street School

James Hricay for 2 field hockey nets for the High School Athletic Program

Angel Tinnirello for a cello for the music program

Harry Rothmann for \$1,000 for the Charlie Jenkins Memorial Award.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kurtz for \$3,000, **Mary Anderson** for \$3,000 and **Robert Kurtz** for \$5,000 for the Margaret L. Kurtz Memorial Scholarship

John Collins for \$500 for the American Legion Post 135 Scholarship

Dr. Terri Thomas Klemm for \$2,000 for the Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Brown, Tital Concrete, Inc. and **Robin Castronova** for \$700 for the Brown Family Memorial Scholarship

Bonnie Vendola for \$1,000 for the Audrey Rodgers Memorial Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Cantori for \$400 for the Ceasar and Joseph Cantori Awards

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 24:	Special Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Teacher Tenure
June 10:	Special Meeting, 5:30 P.M. Huma Resources Committee (Executive Session)
June 14:	Regular Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Budget Hearing

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld