

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

May 13, 2019

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Jose Agudelo**, a Custodian at White Plains High School for 10 years, **Pauline Pharr**, a Reading Teacher at Eastview School for 14 years until retiring in 1986, and **Haley Kulsar**, a White Plains CSD BOCES student.

PRESENTATION & PUBLIC HEARING ON 2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET: Dr. Ricca shared that the team is very proud of this budget which supports 100% of our current programming and is directly connected to the Strategic and Long-Range Plans. He reviewed the basic facts about this \$226,588,509 budget, with a tax cap-compliant levy increase of 3.44%. He also explained the two propositions on the ballot regarding Reserve Funds, neither of which will have an impact on taxes. He mentioned the Board of Education Election in which the two incumbents, **Sheryl Brady** and **Charlie Norris**, are running unopposed. **Board President Rosemarie Eller** expressed the thanks of the Board for the excellent work on the budget by everyone involved.

PRESENTATIONS ON EARTH SCIENCE FOR ALL AND AVID: Highlands Middle School **Principal Ernie Spatafore** described Earth Science for All, new this year, which promotes high achievement and increases future opportunities for students, as explained by **Science Coordinator Dr. Margaret Doty**. They described various supports in place which help students to succeed. **Assistant Principals Brent Brown, Valerie Cadet** and **Michael Eaton** assisted with the presentation.

Moving to AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), **Doug Cronk, Director of AVID**, described this course in 6th through 12th grades, including professional development and social-emotional learning. Basically, it assists students “in the middle” with study skills and the tools needed to be as successful as possible. All students benefit from the strategies and practices promoted through the instructional approach. Two students and one teacher spoke about the benefits of the program which boasts a 100% graduation rate.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Ricca announced three awards: an ECO Award to the District from **Westchester County Executive George Latimer** for the addition of five electric school buses; a Certificate of Achievement to White Plains High School for contributions to Environmental Science and Technology, from the New York Water Environment Association; and the Promising Practice Award to Church Street School for the “Buddies Program” from the Character Education Partnership.

Dr. Ricca welcomed staff from all the schools to the meeting and introduced **High School Liaison Pilar Ceron** who mentioned recent and upcoming events.

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

ADMINISTRATORS' CONTRACT: The Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Administrators and Supervisors Association, effective 7/1/19-6/30/23. This will replace the present Agreement, expiring 6/30/19, relating to salary ranges (between 1-2 % increases based on range), vacation days, and other issues.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Lili Chang**, Senior Account Clerk, Education House and **Carmela Staffiero**, Food Service (Cook), High School.

Probationary appointments were given to: **Andrew Cabibbo**, Special Education Teacher, Mamaroneck Avenue School; **Pamela Del Balzo**, ENL Teacher George Washington School; **Lillian Oliva-Rasulo**, Instructional Special Education Co-Teacher, Ridgeway School; **Emily Falber**, School Guidance Counselor High School; **Silvana Mazurek-Lazala**, School Guidance Counselor, High School; **Omar Sharif**, Biology, High School; and **Jenna Margiasso**, Music Teacher, Districtwide.

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

Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$1,000 for a Latin American Dance Performance at Eastview School

Jeremy Abramson, The Premier Collection, more than 100 new books for all the schools.

Lauren Naughton, Nenetta Kress and Joanne Schmidt for \$700 from for the Nature's Classroom trip at Post Road.

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Haberman for \$3,000 for Highlands Middle School.

Various Donors for a total of \$8,016.01 for the following Scholarship Funds: Jewish War Veterans WP Post #191, Acts of Loving Kindness Award, Audrey Rodgers Memorial, Liz Fink Hidalgo Memorial, Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial, Gene Dubovik Memorial, Louis & Rose Massaro Memorial, Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial, Brown Family Memorial and Guy Mathews Memorial

White Plains Beautification Foundation for \$100 for the Middle School-Highlands.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 29:	Special Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. Teacher Tenure (Portfolios on display from 7 P.M.)
June 6:	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.)
June 10:	Regular Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. Reception for Retiring and 25-Year Employees, 7 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld