

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

May 8, 2017

PUBLIC PRESENTATION/HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2017-18:

Superintendent Dr. Howard Smith offered the public the opportunity to ask questions and comment on next year's proposed budget of \$214,135,854. He mentioned the process leading to the vote on May 16th and said copies of the budget are available tonight, in all the school buildings and on the website. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Dr. Smith asked for a moment of silence in memory of two former staff members. **Sandra Barker-Boyd** was a Special Education teacher in the district for 37 years at Ridgeway and George Washington Schools before retiring in 2011. **Carolyn Smith** was a Teaching Assistant at New York Hospital for 33 years until retiring in 2004.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTED: The Board appointed **Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** as Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Ricca was given a four-year contract to lead the district and said he looks forward to meeting and working with everyone here.

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION: Dr. Smith announced several recent honors:

- The district will receive an Earth Day Award from Westchester County on Saturday for its recycling initiatives.
- Highlands student **Dante Palombo** was selected for the New York District Hockey Player Development Program.
- Teachers **Tara Simmons** and **Greg Baldasaro** were honored with Barnes & Noble "My Favorite Teacher" awards, nominated by Highlands students **Rina Stanghellini** and **Sebastian Andrade**.
- **Eastview students and staff** were praised for their three presentations at the LHRIC Tech Expo in April, the most of any district.
- The **High School Jazz Band** participated and several students received awards in the recent "Essentially Ellington Regional Jazz Festival."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: On the Program Evaluation Plan Development Process, Dr. Smith said the first task is to come up with a model. **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Debbie Hand** reviewed the timeline and said evaluation will include qualitative and quantitative measures of effectiveness, progress and outcomes. The plan is to create a cycle to do this on a continuous basis, resulting in a presentation of recommendations to the Board in June, after evaluations of selected programs and initiatives.

Dr. Smith said the results of the recent Kindergarten Registration Process show a better comfort level with choice placement and with socioeconomic differentials, with the implementation of new parameters. Results also confirm the demand for Dual Language in a third school.

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

PERSONNEL: Nine Teaching Assistants were awarded tenure: **Lisa Eisen**, Post Road School; **Joseph Lopane**, High School; **Rosemary Mahana**, Post Road School; **Donna McCloskey**, Mamaroneck Avenue School, **Tania Noriega**, Middle School-Highlands; **Kelvin Ramos**, High School; **Gabriel Robles**, Mamaroneck Avenue School; **Camilo Sanchez**, Post Road School; and **Joseph Tito**, High School.

Probationary appointments were given to the following: at Church Street School, **Christine Causa** (Elementary); at Post Road School, **Brittany Miller** (School Psychologist); at the Middle School-Highlands, **Gregory Bart** (Art), **Magdalena Padilla** (Spanish) and **Nathalie Gordon** (Social Studies); at the High School, **Kaylee Alicea** (Math), **Leslie Piedra** (Special Education), **Daniel Castillo** (Art), **Stacey Farber** (Special Education), **Judy Lee** (English), and **Katherine Esswein** (Chemistry); and at Rochambeau School, **Vanessa Canedo** (School Social Worker).

DONATIONS: Dr. Smith thanked the following donors for their generous gifts:

Chris Springer for a drum set for Eastview School

Regeneration Science Talent Search/Society for Science & the Public for \$2,000, for use at the High School

Melanie Alvarez for \$800 to be used for scholarships for the 2017 Post Road Nature's Classroom Trip

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 17:	Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M. Canvass of the Election
May 22:	Special Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. Teacher Tenure – Portfolios on display from 7 P.M.
June 5:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
June 12:	Regular Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. Recognition of Retirees and 25-Year Staff Administrative Tenure

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