

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

November 13, 2017

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of two retired staff members. **Harold (Hal) Eaton** was an Educational Media Technician in the district for 21 years, retiring in 1991, and **Selma Markowitz** was a Reading Teacher at Highlands and Post Road Schools for 30 years, retiring in 1994.

MARIACHI BAND: The meeting began with a rousing performance by the **White Plains High School Mariachi Band**, the only one of its kind in the State, and which has the honor of being invited to perform at the All State Music Festival in Rochester next month. Music Teacher **Zachary May** is advisor to the group.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca invited the members of the School Resource Officer Program to provide an overview of their work in the schools. Four members of the White Plains Department of Public Safety, led by **Lt. James Spencer**, explained the goals and the roles of the SROs who are specially trained and serve as classroom resources for students and staff in the Middle and High Schools. Lt. Spencer was assisted by **Detective Gilberto Lopez**, **Officer Michael Cheeks** and **Officer Jeannette Cullen**. He also mentioned the important contribution of **Sgt. Luis Muniz** who was unable to be here tonight. Dr. Ricca thanked the officers for the presentation and for being accessible whenever needed. He expressed appreciation for the District's partnership with the City's Public Safety Department.

Dr. Ricca mentioned some of the many wonderful events he has attended in recent weeks – **Friends of White Plains Public Schools' 20th Anniversary Gala**, **Church Street's Farmer's Market**, **Post Road's World Cultures Day**, **Reading Nights at various schools**, **the Sports Hall of Fame Induction**, among them. He congratulated Swim Team members for their new school record and the High School for its Sportsmanship Award from the NY State Public High School Athletic Association.

Dr. Ricca mentioned that the district recognizes the impact of the cancellation of the Turkey Bowl this year and is committed to developing an activity for next year. A community group will meet to explore possibilities. Dr. Ricca mentioned that he is awaiting proposals regarding continuation of the district's work on Strategic Planning.

Dr. Ricca welcomed **Dr. Linda Ochser** back to the staff, as Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and said that this search is moving forward on schedule, with a competitive pool of candidates.

PERSONNEL: Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from **Hector Garcia**, Custodial Worker, and **Michael Roma**, Social Studies Teacher, both at the High School.

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

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

Friends of White Plains Baseball and Hit 'N Run, Inc. for a 1999 John Deere Gator

Barish & O'Brien for two desks for Ridgeway and Rochambeau Schools

The **Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$3,800 for five programs, at Ridgeway, Eastview and the High School

UPCOMING MEETINGS: December 11: Regular Meeting, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.
Scholar Athlete Recognition

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld