



# 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**

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November 4, 2019

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **New York State Regent Judith Johnson** who was Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction here from 1990 to 1997. She left White Plains for an appointment by President Clinton as Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Education. Regent Johnson was a respected leader committed to educational equity for all children.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca provided a follow-up report on the lockdown that occurred at the High School last Thursday. The security system, which is in the process of being installed, should not have been active. The system malfunctioned when tripped and caused the activation of the alarm and subsequent lockdown. The building was secured and cleared very quickly and Dr. Ricca thanked first responders, the administration and staff for their leadership in following the District's Emergency Management Plan. The District will incorporate what it learned from the experience into its safety and security protocol. Dr. Ricca assured everyone that, despite some rumors, there were no weapons, no violence, no arrests, and thankfully, no one was hurt. The Board was informed in a conference call that afternoon and **Board President Rosemarie Eller** said the Board will always treat student safety as its first priority. Following the lockdown, steps were taken so that a similar situation would not occur in the future.

Additionally, Dr. Ricca mentioned many recent and upcoming activities: the award to the District from Lion Electric for our electric buses, the new Equity Committee, the White Plains Basics Kickoff, Family Technology Night, successes in athletics and the upcoming Veterans Salute at Eastview, among others.

**APPOINTMENTS:** The Board made two Probationary appointments: **Amy Torres** will be a Guidance Counselor at Eastview Middle School and **Robert Peeples** will teach Earth Science at Highlands Middle School.

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

- \$7,500 from the **Friends of White Plains Public School** for two programs
- Halloween Decorations from **Joanne Fytros** for the High School "Trunk or Treat"
- Dictionaries for all third graders from the **Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge 535**
- \$1,000 from **White Plains Little League** for Ridgeway's Athletic Field Project
- Equipment and services from **various vendors** in support of Family Technology Night
- Donations from **16 Rochambeau School staff members** to the PBIS Program

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

December 5:	Special Meeting, Education House, 6:30 P.M.
	Human Resources Committee of the Whole
December 9:	Regular Meeting, WPHS B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld