

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

October 16, 2017

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of four retired staff members. **Herbert W. Allen** was Head Custodian at Post Road School from 1976 to 1983. **Ruth Bergman** taught at George Washington School for 26 years, retiring in 1979. **Ricardo Chimilio** was a Custodial Worker at Post Road School for 21 years, from 1989 to 2010. **Betty Levin** taught at Rochambeau School from 1966 to 1977. Dr. Ricca also mentioned the passing of **William (Bill) Brown**, White Plains native, alumnus ('54), member of the WPHS Hall of Fame and important member of the community. Board President **Rosemarie Eller** commented that Mr. Brown was a strong supporter of our schools and will be greatly missed.

ACCEPTANCE OF DISTRICT AUDIT: **David Tellier**, Partner in the auditing firm of Nawrocki Smith, presented the External Auditor's Report and Management Letter for the year ended June 30, 2017, in accordance with State requirements. He said this is a very positive report and the district is in the best possible financial position. He noted the "truly outstanding work" of **Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich**, Assistant Superintendent for Business, **Marcy Moskowitz**, Treasurer, and the **Business Department**. Audit information will be posted on the district website.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca reported on numerous achievements in recent weeks:

- Six students received **National Merit Scholar Commended** status: **Andreas Alexandrou, Aaron Ditkoff, Thomas Hughes, Frederick Kara, Amy Rosenblatt, and David Terry**. Three were named in the **National Hispanic Recognition Program**: **David Terry, Anna Tender, and Julia Wisell**.
- **ROAR**, the High School literary magazine, once again received First Place in the American Scholastic Press Association competition. Editors-in-Chief were **Grace Hamby** and **Elana Hausknecht**. The publication's Advisors are Art Teachers **Michael Chiariello** and **Miranda DeMella**.
- The **High School Mariachi Band**, the only one of its kind in the state, was selected to perform at the All State Music Festival in Rochester in December.
- **Patty Gilmartin** was named Girls Swimming & Diving 2016-17 Coach of the Year for New York.
- The **Business Department** received financial reporting awards from the Association of School Business Officials International and the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Three students and their teachers were recognized in the October celebration of Italian Culture and Heritage in America. Students are **Marcello G. Cappello, Alison G. Cunney** and **Julianna Mucciolo**; their teachers are **Gandolfo Scarpa, Guiseppe Spedaliere** and **Karen Tyska**.

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

Dr. Ricca also noted that this is Principal Recognition month and thanked our principals for the work they do. He reminded everyone of the Community Budget Forum on October 23rd and also called attention to the electric school bus – a future possibility – parked in front of the building tonight. He added that the search for a new Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, including an interim person, is moving ahead.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK: In honor of this event next week, **Suzanne Lasser**, President of the Administrators Association, and also representing Civil Service staff; **Carol Tito**, on behalf of the White Plains Teachers Association; and **Kristine Holden**, Co-President of PTA Council; spoke about the great amount of time and energy the Board members devote to the welfare of our students and community. They expressed the gratitude of their constituencies for the Board Members' dedication to education and to the support of each and every child.

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

Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$6,800 for three programs

Ridgeway Garden Center for 20 plants for Ridgeway School

Torrence Burrowes for 10 Gift Certificates to Café Veracruz Restaurant for Rochambeau School

Dr. Mira Schwartz for a Gift Card to Cold Stone Creamery for Rochambeau School

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Ruth White**, Registered Professional Nurse, Districtwide.

Cindie Lembo, School Social Worker at the Highlands Middle School was appointed to tenure.

Probationary appointments were approved for two staff members: **Monica Torelli** will teach Science at the Highlands Middle School, and **Luis E. Gonzalez** will be a School Psychologist at the High School.

OTHER BUSINESS: **Craig Mondschein** was appointed to the Finance/Audit Committee to fill the seat of the required community member. The Board thanked the several people who stepped forward to express interest in this position and looks forward to working with Mr. Mondschein, who has excellent credentials for the assignment.

Dr. Vaccaro-Teich presented a calendar for the 2018-19 Budget development process. This begins with a Community Budget Forum next Monday at 7 P.M. in the B-1 Room of White Plains High School. The community is invited to share its thoughts about priorities for the school district's budget.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: October 23: Special Meeting, Education House, 6:15 P.M.
 November 13: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld