

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

September 12, 2016

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Acting Superintendent Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Marjorie Swayne**, a Chemistry Teacher at the High School who will be greatly missed by students and staff and was a wonderful role model for everyone throughout her illness over the past several years.

SCHOOL OPENING: Mr. Connors reported that school are off to a great start, beginning with the opening day for our enthusiastic staff members. They were treated to an exciting performance by the **George Washington School Chorus** to start the day. **Board President Rosemarie Eller** thanked Mr. Connors for stepping in as Acting Superintendent until the end of this month, in place of Dr. Paul Fried who is out ill. She said the Board is interviewing for a replacement for Mr. Connors.

HONORS TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS: Mr. Connors congratulated several teachers and students for recent honors and accomplishments:

Jon Joseph, High School Social Studies teacher, received the 2016 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Teaching Champion Award from the Council for Economic Education for his commitment to supporting economic and financial education.

Penelope Cruz, High School Music teacher, was awarded Oberlin Conservatory's 2016 Music Education Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Lauren Berrios and **Lisa Fillat**, elementary enrichment teachers, named 2016 Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts, for using technology to transform education.

J. Fred Singleton, retired teacher and active coach, has had a book published. Titled "The Quorum's Child," the inspiration for this story about a presidential election came while he was teaching a Social Studies class at Rochambeau School.

Congratulations to three students -- **Nicholas Crino**, **Elana Hausknecht** and **Noah Lichtblau** -- who were named 2017 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists; and to musicians **Sarah Cassidy** and **Robert Eatmon** who were selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association All-State Ensemble in December.

DONATIONS: Mr. Connors thanked the following for their generous donations to the district:

Sperber and Steinfeld Families Charitable Trust and **Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, LLP** for \$1,250 for the BioBus visit to Post Road School

Melanie Conly for a clarinet for the Music Department

Caroline and Dan Furry for a violin for Post Road School

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors asked **Frank Stefanelli, Director of Facilities and Operations**, to provide an update on the physical plant. He reported on various summer projects and mentioned, in particular, the project at the High School pool, where walls need to be reinforced. He stressed that the pool will not need to be closed.

Mr. Connors said that Dual Language continues to be a vibrant, successful program and he feels no changes are needed this school year in order to comply with State legislation. He will share some information and provide recommendations as we look at next year's enrollment data.

Regarding the recent new requirements issued by the State on the testing of drinking water, Mr. Stefanelli is working with consultants to be sure the district is in compliance.

Ms. O'Donovan reported on a partnership with Mercy College in which we sent two teachers to Japan last year, at no cost to the district. They are expected to infuse the knowledge they gained into the Science curriculum. The same opportunity exists this year if we have interested teachers.

In the area of technology, Mr. Connors said he is going to look into oversight of content and quality of the website. He will come back to the Board with a recommendation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: September 19: Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M.
 September 26: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
 October 17: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld