

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

May 7, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2018-19 BUDGET: In this final Public Hearing and Presentation before the public vote on May 15th, **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** described what he called a “fiscally responsible” budget which stays within the tax cap and provides new opportunities for the district’s 7,000+ students. The budget of \$218,593,020 is an increase of 2.08% over last year’s budget and increases the tax rate by 2.88%.

Dr. Ricca thanked **Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business**, for her leadership and hard work, as well as everyone else who provided input. He noted the three Board members running unopposed, **James Hricay, Cayne Letizia and Rose Lovitch**, all incumbents, and mentioned the two propositions on the ballot. One would authorize use of money currently in the Capital Reserve Fund (no new cost to taxpayers) and the other would provide transportation to high school for students living more than one mile away. The cost of this is expected to be offset by efficiencies in transportation routes and the number of buses.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed in memory of three former staff members. **Agnes Girillo** was a Teacher Aide at George Washington and Church Street School from 1973 to 1987 and **Edwin Shindelman** taught at Ridgeway School for 21 years, until 1985. **Dr. Paul Fried** was appointed Superintendent of Schools in July of 2015 and served the district with dedication and compassion but, unfortunately, he took ill in May of the following year. He was well respected and liked by colleagues, students and parents alike. **Board President Rosemarie Eller** noted that she was honored to be asked to speak at Dr. Fried’s service and said we all appreciate his contributions in his short time here.

STEM LAB PRESENTATION: George Washington School Teachers **Nena Gil and Chuck Sincerbeaux** were awarded grants from WIPRO to provide an afterschool STEM Lab where students could prepare for their STEM Fair projects. They helped students develop hypotheses and experimental design and provided supplies. For many it was a first-time experience which opened their eyes to science. Dr. Ricca congratulated them and said this is another example of the outstanding work of district teachers to provide new opportunities for students.

AWARDS: Dr. Ricca received a Certificate of Appreciation this week from the White Plains Department of Public Safety for his support of the Department and of the School Resource Officer Program. **Commissioner of Public Safety David Chong** and **Chief of Police Anne FitzSimmons** recognized him in a public ceremony at their offices.

Three schools – **Church Street, Mamaroneck Avenue and Highlands Middle School** – received Promising Practice Awards in recognition of their “unique specific and effective education strategies.”

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 for their donations:

Joan & Roy Haberman for \$3,000 for the Highlands Middle School

Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$1,250 for art and music books for each elementary school in memory of former teacher **Alma Cormican**

Drew Mollo & Family for a drum set for White Plains High School

Mr. & Mrs. James Baker for \$500 for the Frank S. Schmidt Memorial Music Award

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Massaro for \$500 for the Louis & Rose Massaro Scholarship Fund

Cornerstones of Maine LLC for \$500 for the Mary June Bayuk Love of Nursing Scholarship

Mark Stagg for \$2,000 for the Arthur Stagg Service Award and the Mark Stagg & Steve Shell Business Achievement Scholarship

Dr. Terri Thomas Klemm for \$2,000 for the Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Various donors for a total of \$865 for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship

Various donors for a total of \$3,346 for the Brown Family Memorial Scholarship

Various donors for a total of \$350 for the Joseph Rivera Memorial Scholarship

Various donors for a total of \$2,795 for the Liz Fink Hidalgo Scholarship Fund

Dr. Mira Schwartz for \$500 for a scholarship award at Rochambeau School

Masinter Family Foundation for \$10,000 for college readiness activities

PERSONNEL: Probationary appointments were given to **Amber Fidel**, and **Gayane Hamparsoumian**, both Elementary Education Teachers at Post Road School; **Jorge Gonzales Guillot**, Biology Teacher at the High School; and **Ashley LeBlanc**, French Teacher at the High School.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- May 16: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.
Canvass of the District Election
- May 22: Special Meeting, High School Media Center 7:30 P.M.
Teacher Tenure (Portfolios on display from 7 P.M.)
- May 24: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
- June 11: Regular Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M.
Recognition of 25-Year and Retiring Staff
Administrative Tenure
Public Hearing on the Code of Conduct

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld

REMINDER TO VOTE

May 15th - Noon to 9 P.M.

For further information, call 422-2000.