

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

March 9, 2015

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent **Tim Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of two members of the school community. **Anne Clifford** was with the district for 38 years, beginning as a Math Teacher at Highlands and Eastview Schools. She then was Math Coordinator for 10 years, until retiring in 2003. **Herman Hilliard** was a Teaching Assistant at the High School from 1997 to 2007.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Mr. Connors congratulated students recognized by the College Board for their various award programs. They are: **Madeleine C. Beck**, Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program; **Andrew W. Smiley**, Semi-Finalist; **Gabriella Alexandrou, Isabelle Hofgaertner, Raina Kadavil, Michelle Krug, Robert Lovitch and Jarrett Sannerud**, Commended Students. In the National Achievement Scholarship Program, **Kayla Smith** is a Finalist and **Olivia Powell**, Outstanding Participant. **Juan Rodas** and **Liliana Santizo DeLeon** were recognized in the National Hispanic Recognition Program. The Prudential Spirit of Community Certificate of Excellence and the President's Volunteer Service Award went to **Raina Kadavil**.

Six White Plains High School Seniors in the school's Science Research Program received awards at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair held last weekend. Those recognized were: **Sara Crane, Rizza Estacio, Allison Jasne, Raina Kadavil, Hannah Malcomson and Matthew Straub**.

2015-2016 BUDGET: Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** presented the Instructional Budget, Part II and Revenue. As of now, the budget stands at \$204,670,480, an increase of 2.39% over last year, a smaller increase than last year's 3.36%. The district is in full compliance with the property tax levy cap.

Mr. Seiler reviewed major expenditure changes which include an enrollment increase at Eastview. The latter, combined with an increase in Special Education needs, combine for 9.4 of the total 15.7 positions being added. In revenue, \$1.1 million in State Aid is projected, although the Governor has not made this known yet.

The resulting change in the property tax would be 2.25%. Mr. Seiler reminded everyone of upcoming dates, with the vote to take place on May 19th.

CSEA AGREEMENT: The Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Civil Service Employees Association, covering the period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018. Among the terms are cooperation and concessions on health insurance which have enabled salary increases of 1% in the first year, 2% in the second year, and 2.5% in the third and fourth years.

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

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation of **Darrell Stinchcomb**, Elementary Principal at Church Street School, who is leaving to take a new position

The resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from **John Fitzsimmons**, Teaching Assistant at Church Street School.

Mr. Connors welcomed members of the High School staff who were present at the meeting.

PERFORMANCE DATA: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction **Jessica O'Donovan** presented assessment data relating to students in Read 180, a reading intervention program. The first cohort of that group, beginning in 2011, outperformed the other students on the June 2014 English Regents, along with various Regents exams in Math, Science and Social Studies. This shows significant progress for these students.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted the following donations to the district and Mr. Connors thanked the donors for their generosity.

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

\$200 from the **Class of 1956** for their WPHS Alumni Association Scholarship

\$100 from **Barbara Cleary** and the **Barksdale Staff** for the Rosa Kittrell Scholarship

\$100 from **James & Stacey McDonough** and \$398 from various other donors for the
Guy Mathews Memorial Scholarship Fund

\$250 from **Anthony and Denise Frasca** for the Anne Frasca Memorial Fund

\$1229.28 in technology equipment from **CDW-G** for the Instructional Technology
Department

2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR: The Board approved the calendar for next year, which will be posted on the district's website. Students will be returning on September 2nd, prior to Labor Day.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: April 13: Regular Meeting, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.
Scholar Athlete Recognition

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld