

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

November 10, 2014

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of three members of the school community. **Sue Huppert** was a Speech Teacher at Ridgeway School. She joined the district in 1969 and retired in 2001.

Glenn “Dean” Loucks was a talented student and athlete at White Plains High School. He quarterbacked the football teams of 1950-52 in three undefeated seasons and was named All County, All Metropolitan and All American. Dean went on to become a Social Studies Teacher and Football Coach at the High School and helped and inspired many students. He was inducted into the Westchester Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Guy Mathews, a Guidance Counselor at White Plains High School, passed away suddenly in October. He worked tirelessly at the school for 28 years, first as a Special Education Teacher, and also as both a Hockey and Lacrosse Coach. He touched the lives of thousands of students and encouraged many to achieve success in their lives. There will be a tree planting ceremony in his memory on November 26th, 1:30 P.M., at the school.

TEACHERS’ CONTRACT: The Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement between the White Plains Teachers’ Association and the school district for a contract extending from July 1, 2012 to June 20, 2017. Terms include a 1% salary increase in 2015-16, a .5% increase in the final year, negotiated step, lane and longevity payments, and increases in health insurance contributions. Mr. Connors said, “Everyone worked hard to come to an agreement and we can now move on and devote full time to the business of educating students.”

VETERANS’ TAX EXEMPTION: The meeting opened with a Public Hearing on this subject and the Board later voted to adopt the exemption, in accordance with the New York State Real Property Tax Law, in compliance with the City’s taxable status date of December 1st. The exemption commences with the 2015 assessment roll, which will be utilized for the school tax levy for the 2015-16 school year. Further information is available from the City Assessor and on the City’s website.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: In an update on Capital Projects, **Veronica Byrnes**, of **H2M Architects**, and **Dan Jordan**, of **Triton Construction**, reviewed work completed and projects remaining. On the latter, the Eastview bids will be received next week and construction is scheduled to begin in January on this 26-month project. We are on budget, with 31% already contracted from the original bond of 2012.

Mr. Connors provided enrollment data and said the numbers are quite flat. Projections show a little growth in sixth grade.

Showing a video of new technological equipment at the Highlands Middle School, Mr. Connors said this innovative individualized instrumental music instruction program is the first of its kind.

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

RECOGNITION: Celebrating School Board Recognition Week, school leaders thanked the Board for its commitment and for its service to the community. **Lionette Tuck** represented the White Plains Teachers' Association; **Rob Del'Orletta** spoke on behalf of the Civil Service Employees Association; Co-President **Catherine Murphy** represented the PTA Council; and a statement was read from **David Cabrera**, President of the Administrators and Supervisors Association.

Mr. Connors thanked Rochambeau School staff members who were present and said he is very proud of the wonderful work they do and the climate in the school under the leadership of **Paul Bratcher**.

Mr. Connors showed a video of segments of the recent music faculty recital and praised the talents of these staff members, led by **Coordinator Gary West**.

High School Teacher **Laura Owen** was congratulated for receiving the Physical Education Secondary Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Connors commended students on two successful teams: the White Plains High School team came in first in the Business Olympics, sponsored by the African American Men of Westchester, and the Academic Team came in first among 44 teams in a recent tournament.

Finally, Mr. Connors said the Veterans Day program at Eastview was a wonderful salute to these important members of the community who deserve recognition.

PERSONNEL: **Cindie Walline** was appointed to the probationary position of School Social Worker at the Highlands Middle School.

The Board approved the creation of the certified position of District Coordinator of Math, K-6. Mr. Connors explained the need for a person with expertise at this level, to complement the secondary level Coordinator. He said it is not necessarily a permanent position.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted the following donations to the district:

Gift cards from Applebee's, Barnes & Noble, iTunes and Movie Theatres from **Karen Blumenthal of Student Advocacy** for Rochambeau School

Gift cards for movie tickets from the **White Plains Youth Bureau** for Rochambeau School
Complimentary lunches at **Uno Chicago Grill** for Rochambeau School students with perfect attendance during October

Additional pin selector machines from **Planet Fitness** for the High School Fitness Center

A guitar and a flute from **Laura Butterfield** for the Music Program

A violin from the **Friend Family** for the Highlands Music Program

A viola from the **Chatterjee Family** for the Highlands Music Program

Golf balls from **Bruce J. Grobe** for the High School Golf Team

\$500 from the **Ram Truck and White Plains Chrysler Jeep Dodge** for the Class Challenge Contest at the High School

UPCOMING MEETINGS: December 8: Regular Meeting, High School, 7:30 P.M.
January 12: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

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