

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

September 11, 2017

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Anthony Capobianco**, an elementary teacher at Ridgeway, George Washington and the Intermediate School from 1966 to 1996, and **Arthur Rondeau**, a Science Teacher and Chairman of the Science Department at the High School between 1959 and 1985. He added that on this day of 9/11, our thoughts and prayers are also with the families of those lost in the tragedy 16 years ago.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: **Gary West** provided a review of elementary summer school, which served 265 K-2 students. The Special Education Extended School Year program served an additional 70 elementary students. **Sara Hall**, with **Dan Furry**, reviewed the Middle and High School Summer Schools. Math 8, Algebra and ELA Preparedness classes were held for seventh and eighth graders. There was also an AVID Excel Summer Bridge program, to provide sustained support. In the High School, 68% of those attending summer school successfully passed their courses and three students earned their diplomas.

Dr. Ricca said the opening day of school went very smoothly, including transportation, which he tried out by riding a bus to George Washington School. The day was preceded by a retreat for administrators, orientation sessions for new staff members, and an opening staff conference day session with greetings from Board of Education President **Rosemarie Eller**, the Mayor, union presidents and Dr. Ricca. The morning began with a performance by the Mamaroneck Avenue School Chorus.

Director of Facilities **Frank Stefanelli** provided an update on the various projects completed over the summer. With the wide use of the buildings for summer schools and camps, the window of time is short and he thanked his staff for their hard work in completing work on time.

Dr. Debbie Hand presented a summary of the New York State assessment data for 2016-17, reminding everyone that this is an overview and that standardized exams provide only one snapshot of student achievement. Information gained from these results can be used to inform planning and to make any necessary adjustments to curriculum and/or instruction. She presented the data, highlighted successes and noted some challenges as well as areas for growth. Dr. Hand thanked the administrators, teachers, students and parents for all of their hard work.

Dr. Ricca recognized Eastview students who received the **MasterCard** CEO's Force for Good Awards as well as two Science Research students who were recognized by **Regeneron** and **Memorial Sloan-Kettering**.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the **White Plains Substitute Teachers Association** for a gift of \$2,460.06 for the Guy Mathews Scholarship Fund.

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

HALL OF FAME: High School Principal **Ellen Doherty** announced the names of the four alumni who will be inducted into the White Plains High School Hall of Fame on November 15th and invited everyone to attend. Inductees are **Ralph Waite**, Class of 1946, an actor best known for playing John Walton in "The Waltons" (posthumous); **Dr. Robert L. Johnson**, '64, adolescent health expert and Dean of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School; **Georgia Kacandes**, '77, film producer and production manager; and **David Levy**, '80, President of Turner Broadcasting.

PERSONNEL: In an administrative appointment **Rosemarie Ampha** will assume the new position of Director of Secondary Special Education. She comes to the district from Greenwich (CT) schools with extensive experience in the Special Education area.

Sarah Kerby Halaifonua was appointed to tenure as a School Social Worker at the Highlands Middle School.

Deborah Hickey received a probationary appointment as a Districtwide Music Teacher.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: October 16: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld