



THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

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

December 12, 2022

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of retiree **Joyce Lopez**, an Elementary Teacher at Church Street School from 1998 through 2017, and for those lost in the Sandy Hook tragedy ten years ago.

RECOGNITION OF SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: Assistant Director of Athletics **Michael Chappas** introduced coaches who presented 200 Scholar-Athletes for fall sports. Teams honored include Football, Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Field Hockey, Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Swimming & Diving and Cheerleading. Dr. Ricca and Board Members congratulated students, parents and coaches.

BOARD COMMENTS: Board President **Rosemarie Eller** mentioned that she stopped by all the schools just before Thanksgiving to express gratitude to the staff for their wonderful work with our children. She attended the High School concert, along with Board Member **James Hricay**, and the PTA Council meeting. Board Member **Charlie Norris** has resumed visits to classes for the first time since the pandemic began, and found intelligent, engaged students, ready to learn. Board Vice President **Cayne Letizia** attended the Highlands concert, and Board Member **Rose Lovitch** mentioned the High School Craft Fair, which included entertainment by the Songwriters' Club.

Board Members commented on recent Board Committee Meetings. At the Finance Committee they sampled food from cafeterias and discussed risk assessment and investment strategies. Meetings on the high school construction project are ongoing, with good input, to prepare for our future. The Curriculum Committee has been discussing course proposals for next year, including courses for college credit, and also formalizing the process to focus on literacy skills. The Special Education Committee discussed the District's acceptance into Shape Up New York, a learning collaborative to assess, plan and measure mental health supports.

Board Member **Sheryl Brady** commented on her new role as Area Director for the New York State School Boards Association where she has been focusing on legislative priorities.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Carmen (Virginia) Calderon** and **Patricia Galluzzo**, both Assistants/Translators at the Family Information Center.

Five Teaching Assistants were awarded tenure: **Paula Bernal**, at Church Street School, **Spencer Smith**, at the High School, and **Douglas Thron**, **Thea Fortunato** and **Zeuleni Colon**, all at Ridgeway School.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the following for their generous donations:

Subaru of America Adopt a Classroom Program for a \$12,500 grant for the High School
Westchester County School Music Association for \$1,500 for the Fine Arts Department
Stop & Shop for \$10,000 in gift cards to purchase items for the school pantries

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 5: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.

January 9: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld