



# 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

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January 9, 2023

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** congratulated High School tenth grader **Emily Portillo** for being selected for the Youth Legacy Award by the African American Men of Westchester. Emily is also President of the Mayor's Youth Council. Dr. Ricca thanked **Board President Rosemarie Eller** for her work on the selection committee.

Dr. Ricca introduced **Student Liaisons Sinclair Harris and Delia Rojas** who reviewed school events of the last few weeks.

**LONG-RANGE PLAN UPDATE:** Dr. Ricca, assisted by **Assistant Superintendent for Business Ann Vaccaro-Teich**, presented the Long-Range Plan Update for 2022-23 to 2026-27. Dr. Ricca thanked everyone who participated in this project as well as the Finance/Audit Committee for their input.

The cycle of planning begins with the Strategic Plan and a look at everyone's goals. Planning is important in order to insure effectiveness and efficiency in the use of district resources. The economic status of the district is very strong and we are optimistic about State Aid. Academic achievement remains one of the guiding principles for the district and continuous improvement is one of the goals.

Dr. Vaccaro-Teich reviewed revenues and expenditures and is estimating a tax levy increase of 1.94% for next year. Budget development is underway, leading to presentations in February.

**EASTVIEW REPORT:** **Principal Leroy Dixon**, accompanied by **Assistant Principal Suzanne Lasser**, reported on Eastview's sixth grade program, beginning with the students' transition and how they build community. Student identity – how they see themselves -- is important, as well as social contact. Mr. Dixon spoke about the instructional program, the workshop model, early literacy skills, AVID and clubs.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** **Board Members Charlie Norris and Rose Lovitch** reported on the Special Education Committee meeting, with a presentation on new methodology K-12 and the progress that has been made in monitoring students and their IEP's. Mrs. Eller reported on the High School Addition Committee, saying the plans for enhanced facilities are very exciting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT:** **Gabe Robles** was given a Probationary appointment as Assistant Principal at Ridgeway School. He replaces **Dr. Kimberly Crawford** who is now Principal of the school. Mr. Robles is a White Plains High School graduate and has a Bachelor's Degree from Iona College, a Master's in Teaching from Manhattanville College, and is currently enrolled in a Master's in Education program at Hunter College (CUNY). He has been with the district since 2014, when he began as a Teaching Assistant. He is currently an elementary teacher at Mamaroneck Avenue School, and an Administrative Intern. He is also the Head Coach of the Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Team.

Dr. Ricca expressed great pride in Mr. Robles for having gone completely through the system – from being a student to becoming an administrator.

PERSONNEL: Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from two district staff members: **Richard Logan, Jr.**, Attendance Liaison, and **Elizabeth Napp**, Social Studies Teacher, both at the High School. Two people were appointed to tenure: **Melissa Bosmediano**, Teaching Assistant at the Middle School-Eastview, and **Kelly Sosa**, Elementary Education Teacher at Church Street School.

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

**Ron and Lauren Ranieri** for \$150 for outstanding breakfast/lunch balances at Ridgeway School

**The Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$6,000 for AVID shirts for Eastview Middle School and the 123 Andrus performance at Eastview

**Ed and Donna Sirlin** for three Yamaha Wind instruments for the Music Department

**Matt Gold** for a large book donation for the Middle and High Schools

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 23: Special Meeting, High School Addition Workshop, Education House, 7 P.M.

February 9: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.

Human Resources Committee - Executive Session

February 13: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Instructional Budget

February 27: Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M.

Non-Instructional Budget

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld