



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

November 14, 2022

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca introduced Student Liaisons Sinclair Harris and Delia Rojas who reviewed events in the schools which took place in the past few weeks. Dr. Ricca mentioned that parents are being welcomed into the schools this week for American Education Week. He also congratulated the fall athletes for their successes, notably Sophie Ginsberg, State qualifier in Cross Country, and the Women's Swim Team which has four qualifiers – Grace Hricay, Saskia Aikman, Kara Ha, and Taryn Becerra.

Dr. Ricca welcomed Post Road and Ridgeway staff members to the meeting and wished everyone happy holidays.

BOARD COMMENT: Board President Rosemarie Eller mentioned the Athletic Hall of Fame tonight, which she and Dr. Ricca attended prior to this meeting. She also spoke about the wonderful Trunk or Treat at the High School for Halloween and said that many community members came out to celebrate both of these events. Board Member Sheryl Brady attended the George Washington Family Reading Night, the High School Theatre Unlimited production of "Much Ado About Nothing," the Eastview Veterans Day celebration, the Parent University Program, the Community Budget Forum and a Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association advocacy program.

AUDITOR'S ANNUAL STATEMENT: Christopher Angotta, Partner in Nawrocki Smith, LLP, presented the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ending June 30, 2022. He commended Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business, and Marcy Moskowitz, Business Administrator, for the timely closing of the books and a well-run operation. The audit ran smoothly, reports were filed with the State on time, and the district is in a good financial position. There are no material weaknesses in internal control or compliance findings. Dr. Ricca and Board Members thanked Dr. Vaccaro-Teich and also the Board's Finance/Audit Committee for its work.

POST ROAD UPDATE: Post Road Elementary School Principal Jessie Ossorio presented an update on the school's progress and said it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to some of the "traditions" which had been missing during the pandemic. She discussed the new Power of Circles program in which everyone is an equal participant in building deeper connections and relationships by engaging in dialogues. Another emphasis this year is to develop greater participation by families and also to continue to build the new Post Road Food Market. Ms. Ossorio thanked PTA Co-President Cynthia Malave in particular, for giving her time and talent to promoting these projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT: The Board appointed **Dr. Kimberly Crawford** to the position of Principal at Ridgeway School. Dr. Crawford had been serving as Interim Principal and, prior to that, had been Assistant Principal. She replaces **Jessica Torres-Maheia** who accepted a position in another district. Dr. Crawford came to the district in 2016 from an Assistant Principalship in New York City.

Retiree **Eileen McGuire** is serving as Interim Assistant Principal at Ridgeway until a permanent replacement is appointed. Ms. McGuire was Principal at Mamaroneck Avenue School for 8 years until retiring in 2020.

Dr. Ricca said Dr. Crawford has devoted her energies to our district for six years and it is a pleasure to work with her. Mrs. Eller said it is particularly pleasing to be able to promote one of our own to this position.

PERSONNEL: The Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement and authorized the Superintendent to execute a collective bargaining agreement with the Civil Service Employees Association for a successor to the 2022 agreement between the parties. This would be effective through June 30, 2026. Dr. Ricca noted it was a very collegial process and will result in a strong, sustainable agreement which allows the district to continue to attract and retain the highest quality of employees.

The Board approved the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Carla Nelson**, Science Teacher at the Highlands Middle School.

Crystal Alvarado, a Teaching Assistant at Post Road School, was granted tenure.

Anthony Anzovino was given a probationary appointment as Treasurer of the district. He has been with the district since 1984 as Accountant in the Business Office.

Four teachers were appointed to probationary positions: **Erin DiMartino** will be a Library Media Specialist at Post Road School; **Joanna Fusco** will teach Music, Districtwide; and **Halpaa Duarte** and **Alisa Kolenovic** will both teach ENL at the High School.

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

Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$5,000 for the 2022-23 districtwide Parent University Program

Donna Joseph for \$500 for the Leonard G. Rhodes Memorial Fund

Retired Music Teacher Bill Miro for music books and sheet music.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

December 8: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.

December 12: Regular Meeting, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld