



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

September 12, 2022

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent **Dr. Joseph Ricca** reported on a very smooth opening day and thanked everyone who made that possible. He said that on the staff opening conference day everyone was on the same page, with a focus on students and making this a great year for them. We follow an individualized approach, trying to make certain that every child has what they need, including social and emotional support. In accordance with our mission and vision to support the unique diversity of every child, we continue to support equitable and inclusive learning environments at both the school and district level.

Dr. Ricca introduced **Athletic Director Matt Cameron** who began the report on the High School Summer Sports Academy, which was presented by **Assistant Athletic Director Michael Chappas**. He described the three-pronged program of SAT/ACT & Study Skills Preparation, Speed Training and Strength Training and said the program served 169 students in its introductory year. Everyone agreed it was a great success. It covered both day and evening times and staff were "remarkable." The hope is to potentially double the size next year.

BOARD COMMENT: Board President **Rosemarie Eller** attended some opening activities including the swim relay carnival and the first football game and said our facilities are second to none in the County. New Board Vice President **Cayne Letizia** thanked the Board for its confidence and said he will work hard to fill the shoes of Charlie Norris. Focusing on the broader sphere of activity, Board Member **Sheryl Brady** attended some New York State School Boards Association and BOCES meetings. Other Board Members spoke about opening activities they attended.

PERSONNEL: Dr. **Kimberly Crawford** was appointed Interim Principal at Ridgeway School, replacing **Jessica Torres Maheia** who resigned to take a position as a Middle School Principal in New York City. Dr. Crawford had been Assistant Principal at Church Street School and prior to that, at Ridgeway. She thanked the Board for this opportunity and said that White Plains is a very special place.

The Board accepted the resignation of **Valerie Lakestream** as Director of World Languages/ENL Programs K-12. Ms. Lakestream had been appointed on July 5th.

Probationary appointments were given to **Katie Hengel** as a Math Instructional Specialist at Ridgeway School, and **Arelis Rodriguez** as a Dual Language Spanish Zone Teacher at Church Street School.

OTHER ACTION: On the Financial Year-End Summary for June 30, 2022, the Board was presented with a preliminary draft of year-end results of operations for the General Fund and School Lunch Fund. Recommendations were made by the Finance Committee for final distribution of the Fund Balance, in accordance with Board Policy #62456, to ensure financial stability and flexibility in order to respond to unexpected adversity and/or opportunities.

The Board approved an agreement with Feeding Westchester for George Washington School to become a distribution site to supply USDA-approved foods for community members in need at no cost to the district.

Board Member Sheryl Brady was nominated to election as Area 10 Director of the New York State School Boards Association.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 6: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.

October 11: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld