



# 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

---

April 10, 2023

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of two District people. **Barbara Barnes** began as a Typist in 1972 and retired in 2010 as Switchboard Operator at Education House. **Angel Gauthier** was a Security Assistant at Highlands from 2015 to 2023.

**SCHOLAR-ATHLETES:** **Athletic Director Matt Cameron** and **Assistant Athletic Director Michael Chappas** presented Coaches of nine teams who introduced 118 scholar-athletes. Athletes were recognized from Girls' & Boys' Bowling, Boys' and Girls' Track & Field, Boys' Swimming & Diving, Ice Hockey, Cheerleading, Wrestling, Boys' Basketball, and Girls' Basketball, which went all the way to the State Finals this year. Dr. Ricca thanked the parents and said the amazingly strong community of adults helps to make this program what it is.

**2023-2024 BUDGET:** The Board voted to approve the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2023-24 of \$256,645,394, a tax levy percentage increase of 1.91% over last year. Dr. Ricca said this budget remains below the tax cap. He said this is a long process and all information is available on the District website. The proposed budget protects and expands upon the current program, with everything students currently enjoy, including social and emotional supports and facilities and maintenance. Board members commented that the District has always followed solid and prudent fiscal planning and has also had the benefit of community members of its Fiscal/Audit Committee. The Board is very grateful to have them.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Board Members visited and participated in various activities in the schools, including: the Art Portfolio exhibit, the Common Circles display including the Holocaust, George Washington School's Math Night, the City's Strategic Planning, and New York State School Board activities, among others.

**PERSONNEL:** The Board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from **Sonia Gordon**, Teaching Assistant at Rochambeau School, **Magda Martas**, School Guidance Counselor, Districtwide, and **Lucia Scala**, Registered Professional Nurse at the Leffell School.

Probationary appointments were given to **Kristen Bellinzoni**, who will teach Special Education at the Middle School Highlands and **Robin Stieglitz**, Dual Language Spanish Zone Elementary Education at Post Road School.

**Jennifer Hammond-King**, Coordinator of ELA K-5 and Prekindergarten, submitted her resignation to take a position in another district.

**ELECTION DISTRICTS:** The Board reversed its action in March and re-established the Battle Hill Voting District at the Community Room there, reverting to six election districts.

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

**The Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$3,000 to support the One Book, One School Program at Ridgeway School

**Westchester County Music Association** for \$1,500 to the White Plains Fine Arts Department

**Melanie Roddy and Apple TV Production** for \$1,000 for permission to use the Post Road Elementary Parking lot for filming

**Marie Gross** for \$50 for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship

**The friends and family of Leanne Santa-Donato**, for planting a tree in her memory on the George Washington Campus

**Robert Blinken, Jr.** for school and office supplies for schools with school supply stores

**Ridgeway School PTA** for a 75 inch TV monitor, using funds raised

**Dr. Terri Thomas Klemm** for \$1,000 for the Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

**Edward Peduzzi** (\$1000), **Eileen Loveless** (\$50), **Mr & Mrs. Marvin Pearlman** (\$50),

**Marie Gross** (\$50), and **Helene Rothstein** (\$36) for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- May 4 : Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.  
Human Resources Committee - Executive Session
- May 8: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
Public Hearing on the Budget
- May 17: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.  
Canvass of Election
- May 22: Special Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M.  
Teacher Tenure

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld