



# 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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June 12, 2023

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Rebecca "Beckie" Bright**, Vocal Music Teacher at Eastview School from 1964 until she retired in 1992. At the Special Meeting of May 22nd, the Board observed a moment of silence in memory of **Daniel Woodard**, Teacher, Assistant Principal and High School Acting Principal, from 1961 to 1996.

**THANK YOU TO DR. RANDY STEIN:** At her last official Board Meeting, Board Members thanked **Dr. Randy Stein** for 15 years of service on the Board of Education. They mentioned her dedication and commitment and said she always put the students first. Dr. Stein responded that "It has been a gift to be a part of the Board and an honor to serve." There will be a farewell to her at the September meeting.

**RECOGNITION OF RETIRING AND 25-YEAR STAFF MEMBERS:** Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources **Scott Pepper** thanked the retirees for devoting their lifetime to this important work which has made a difference for thousands of children. A video made by **Teacher Tara Daly** in tribute to these people, was shown. Board President **Rosemarie Eller** thanked the retirees and 25-year staff for their service.

Retirees are: **Robert Baddeley, Carmen V. Calderon, Eric Chen, Cynthia Demeo, Richard Dillon, Michael Ferder, Patricia Galluzzo, Maxine Gentry, Sonia Gordon, Patricia Hogan, Richard Logan, Magda Martas, Melanie Monteleone, Maria Mosley, Elizabeth Napp, Carla Nelson, Kathy Nissinoff, Eleanor Pizzarello, Howard Rubenstein, Ana Maria Salazar, Luz Savarese, Lucia Scala, Dennis Scullion, Mark Stanton, Michael Stevens, Shari Streichler, Kathleen Tabb, Lorraine Trovato-Cantori, Pablo Valedon and Ronald Velez.**

Twenty-five year staff members are: **Jennifer Amabile, Maddalena Andrade, Diana Arboleda, Jaynean Austin, Debora Bannister, Steffany Cabrera, Litin Chu, Kathleen Contrata, Raymond Drach, Jr., Kristin C. Dwyer, Patricia Falcone-Cortino, David Ferrell, Jacqueline Forbes-Machado, Daniel Furry, Marcel Galligani, Priscilla M. Garito, Angela M. Legramandi, Richard Manorqui, Joanne Murphy, Vincenza Persampieri, Ahailya B. Peraud, Ybelize Pilarte, Dana Quigley, Elizabeth S. Ramos, Howard Rubenstein, Gloria Salerno, Marlena A. Simmons, Alyson Stone, Jose Torres, Robin L. Turner, Bincy Varughese and Katie Young.**

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Board Members attended many events in the last month, including the Memorial and Juneteenth Parades, the Mamaroneck Avenue Concert, Church Street Spelling Bee, a School Business Officials conference and various NYSSBA events.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca introduced **Sinclair Harris** and **Delia Rojas**, Student Liaisons, who reviewed activities in the schools over the last month. He noted this has been an amazing year, capped off by the recent and unique Canadian wildfire smoke.



PUBLIC HEARING ON SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: **Jake Harrison**, liaison to security company Altaris, gave a brief overview of the safety plan and said the district is ahead of the curve and in compliance with New York State-required amendments. The Board approved the Safety and Emergency Management Plan later in the meeting.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Julie Pastore**, Student Activities Specialist at Eastview Middle School. It also granted tenure to six Teaching Assistants: **Jennifer Abreu**, Church Street; **Keith Brunson**, High School; **Joshua Eller**, Middle-School Eastview; **Kareen Haughton-Mullings**, Middle School Highlands; **Peter Idowi**, Rochambeau; and **Nicole Klein**, Ridgeway.

The following staff members were appointed to probationary positions, to begin in September: **Burton Jones** and **Elia Cullaro Pugliese**, both Elementary Education at Mamaroneck Avenue School; **Stephenie Lewis**, School Psychologist at Middle School-Eastview; **Ina Pascal**, Middle-School Highlands; **Melville Francis**, School Psychologist, High School; **Meghan Gosselin**, Art Teacher, Rochambeau; and **Antonieta Viczian**, School Counselor-Districtwide.

At the meeting of May 22nd the following staff members were granted tenure: **Pamela Del Balzo**, **Aleandra Palmeri**, **Michelle Caceres**, **Christian Portillo**, **Marsha Lantier**, **Allison Richards**, **Laura Scarcella**, **Eydoka Eliakostas**, **James McNamara**, **Andrew Cabibbo**, **Lillian Oliva-Rasulo**, **Sasha Mae Growick**, **Amanda Grogan**, **Carolina Restaino**, **Carroll Rodriguez-Ruiz**, **Najee Barnes**, **Alexandra Tshinel**, **Julia Rose-Perea**, **Jennifere Henzi**, **John Mascia**, **Nathalie Thornton**, **Silvana Mazurek-Lazala**, **Cesilie Vega**, **Matthew Glashoff**, **Steven Chetcuti**, **Jenna Margiasso** and **Angie Garcia**.

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

**Edward Peduzzi** for \$39 for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship

**Jason Bayuk** for \$500 for the Barbara O'Garro Memorial Scholarship

**Jeff Zucker** for \$500 for the Morton Zucker Memorial Scholarship

**Mr. & Mrs. Jack Massaro** for \$500 for the Louis and Rose Massaro Scholarship Fund

**Huaxia Chinese School of Greater NY Inc.** for \$1,000 to the Asian Heritage Scholarship Inc.

**Bonnie Vendola** for \$1,000 for the Audrey Rogers Scholarship from Bonnie Vendola

**Dr. David Elcott and Rabbi Shira Milgrom** for \$1,000 for the Acts of Loving Kindness-Chesed-Award

**Daniel Cultice** for \$1,000 to the David R. Cultice Memorial Fund

**Mrs. Theresa Stagg** for \$2,500 for the Arthur "Mickey" Stagg Service Award and \$2,500 for the Mark Stagg and Steve Shell Business Achievement Award

**Larry Gianola** for \$5,000 for the Christian Gianola Science Scholarship

**Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kurtz** for \$5,000 for the Margaret L. Kurtz Memorial Scholarship

**Anthony Tsokalas** for a Galileo Telescope for Ridgeway School

**Todd Read** for an OMAX (LED) Binocular Compound Lab Microscope

**The White Plains Teachers Association** for \$750 for the 23\_24 school year to cover the contractual rate (\$25) for a total of thirty hours of summer curriculum planning for EDU 101 & EDU 103

**Andrea Robinson** (\$650 & \$1985), **Tatiana Flowers** (\$200), **Restless Restoration LLC** (\$200), **Karla Kaskie** (\$200), **Carole Lashley** (\$180) for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 29: Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M.

Executive Session- Human Resources

July 6: Reorganization & Regular Meetings, Education House, 7:30 P.M.