



THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS: Rosemarie Eller, *President*; Cayne Letizia, *Vice President*;
Sheryl Brady, Valerie Daniele, James Hricay, Rose Lovitch, Charlie Norris

July 6, 2023

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Dr. Brenda Grant Davis**, a Social Worker at George Washington School from 1977 to 2002, and **Mina Nokes**, Social Worker Districtwide from 1966 to 1981.

REORGANIZATION MEETING: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** took his Oath of Office along with incumbent Board Member **Rosemarie Eller** and new Member **Valerie Daniele**, who were elected in May for three-year terms of office. The Board also re-elected its officers for the coming year: **Rosemarie Eller, President**, and **Cayne Letizia, Vice President**. Dr. Ricca thanked everyone who helped put this process together to enable the Board to continue governing properly and efficiently. Ms. Daniele was welcomed to the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT: Mrs. Eller opened the public hearing, noting that this occurs each year, when the code is revisited and edited. Dr. Ricca said this is a living document and is updated so that expectations are clear. He thanked **Assistant Superintendent Deborah Augarten** and her committee for their work.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca spoke about the wonderful end-of-year activities, including the High School Graduation which was back at the County Center. He also mentioned the important work going on this summer in the areas of technological infrastructure and facilities, commending **Director Frank Stefanelli** for the latter. He thanked **Assistant Superintendent Scott Pepper** and the Human Resources staff for their ongoing efforts to fill all open positions.

Dr. Ricca also mentioned the item on this agenda outlining the plans for use of the Foundation Aid provided by the State that was increased by more than 10% this year.

PERSONNEL: The Board appointed seven new teachers to begin in September: **Heather McCabe**, Special Education Teacher, and **Isabel Marrero**, Elementary Education Teacher, both at Church Street School, **Michelle Endres**, Science Teacher at the Highlands Middle School, and four teachers at the High School: **Shawn Maignan**, ELA, **Harry Romero**, Math, **Dayana Picard**, Social Studies, and **Caitlin Ocasio**, Science.

The Board approved employment? agreements and amendments with the Cabinet and other staff members.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked **Mel Morin** for his generous donation of photography equipment for the High School:

OTHER ACTION: The Board approved an agreement with Westchester Community College to provide High School students the opportunity to take certain courses for credit at the college.

The Board also authorized an association with Southern Westchester BOCES to provide classroom space at Rochambeau School for ESOL and High School Equivalency programs for the benefit of adult students.

The Board approved a Section One merger application to combine with other schools to establish a Girls' Varsity Ice Hockey Team.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld