



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

October 10, 2023

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Joseph L. Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of everyone in Israel impacted by terrorist attacks, with hope for peace.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK: **Kara Lyons, President of the White Plains Teachers Association**, (also on behalf of **Adele Herzenberg, President of the CSEA**), and **Doug Cronk, President of the Administrators and Supervisors Association**, thanked the Board for its dedication of so many years on behalf of our children. Ms. Lyons also thanked the Board for its commitment to the Educator Pathways which starts this week and will begin a collaboration to raise our own educators. Dr. Ricca said support and leadership start at the top. "We are committed to planning and decisions are grounded in data." **Board President Rosemarie Eller** said, "It is an honor for the Board to be entrusted with this important job."

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE AWARD: Along with **Tammy Bierker** from Clarkstown, **Sheryl Brady, Area 10 Director for NYSSBA**, announced this award to the District which was designed as an initiative to highlight the positive programming that brings change to New York State school districts. NYSSBA makes nominations and their committee selects programs to be recognized. The award is in recognition of our program, "We Are White Plains: Bridging Belonging & Building Community." Our District partnered with Common Circles which fights antisemitism and racism with experience with high-tech Holocaust education, art and storytelling. **Mayor Tom Roach** added his congratulations and Mrs. Brady presented a banner to the District. Representatives of Common Circles **Marla Felton** and **Sue Spiegel** said, "This is a stellar school district and we hope to come back."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca said this is Principals' Appreciation month and expressed gratitude for all building leadership and our successful team effort.

Dr. Ricca then recognized **Dr. Randy Stein** who retired from the Board in June after 15 years of service. He presented her with a school bell and a personalized chair. Mrs. Eller added her gratitude and that of the Board Members for this important colleague and friend. Dr. Stein responded that "It has been an honor to be part of this family and to have served on the Board."

Dr. Ricca thanked **Tim Donohoe** who retired from the Board's Audit and Finance Committee after many years of service.

Dr. Ricca introduced High School Liaisons **Frida Loehr**, who reported on activities in the schools.

Dr. Ricca noted the Budget Calendar on tonight's agenda and reminded everyone of the upcoming public budget input session on October 23rd on Zoom. He also reminded everyone to join the PTA..

BOARD COMMENT: **Mrs. Eller**, and **Board Members Cayne Letizia** and **Sheryl Brady** reported on attendance at various New York State School Boards Association's leadership seminars and said we are always open to change and learning from other Boards. Board members also attended PTA meetings, open houses and various sports events.

PERSONNEL: In a probationary administrative appointment, the Board named **Dr. Katherine Barpoulis** as Director of Elementary Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Nursery, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6. Dr. Ricca said this will be very beneficial for our students. Dr. Barpoulis had been serving as Coordinator of Math K-6, STEAM and Enrichment K-5 in the District since 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Deana Guarino**, School Office Manager at Ridgeway School.

The Board appointed **Snejana Mateeva**, Teaching Assistant at Post Road School, to tenure.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the following donors for their generous gifts: **Robert Lent and the Elks** for *A Student's Dictionary & Animal Gazetteer* for all third graders, **Stephanie Bader** for a Casio Electronic Key Lighting Keyboard for the Fine Arts Department, and **Shoprite of Scarsdale** for 175 gift bags with school supplies.

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT: Christopher Angotta, Partner in the auditing firm of Nawrocki Smith, presented the annual external auditor's annual financial statement, noting there are no unresolved matters and the District has the highest rating possible. There are no errors or deficiencies and he commended **Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business**, and her staff for their timeliness and expert work.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld