



# 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

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November 13, 2023

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent of Schools Joseph L. Ricca asked for a moment of silence in memory of Terrence Schruers who was Assistant Superintendent for Business from 2003 to 2006, and Harry Jefferson, a teacher, coach and administrator in the District for 45 years. A well-known leader and sportsman throughout the community, Mr. Jefferson graduated from the High School in 1953 and was an All-American football player. He received many awards and accolades and was a beloved mentor to thousands of students. Board President Rosemarie Eller and Member Charlie Norris also related some anecdotes about Mr. Jefferson.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca welcomed Church Street staff and others who were in attendance. He spoke about American Education Week and the recent State Education Department announcement related to the on-going research into graduation pathways beyond the traditional Regents diploma. He mentioned an update regarding the State's requirement that school district transportation vehicles transition to fully electric by 2035. Additionally, Dr. Ricca shared that the process to install stop arm cameras on District buses is still projected for implementation in 2024.

Dr. Ricca introduced High School Liaison Frida Loehr, who reported on recent events in the schools.

On current activities, Dr. Ricca mentioned the Athletic Hall of Fame, being held tonight, the upcoming State Swim Championships to which we are sending two swimmers, the 12 applicants for the Regeneron Talent Search, and the Friends of White Plains Schools Thanksgiving Homecoming.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Board Members reported on enjoyable visits to schools for Reading Night, Veterans Day, Trunk or Treat, the Youth Bureau Gala, the Special Education Coffee Talk, PTA Council, and other events. Board Members Sheryl Brady and Cayne Letizia attended various Westchester Putnam School Board and New York State School Board Association workshops and meetings.

**NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENT DATA:** Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Debbie Hand and Director of Elementary Teaching, Learning and Assessment Kathy Barpoulis presented New York State data on Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA) and Regents. ELA results remain steady and there is solid growth in Math. There is work to be done on the Regents exams and it is being looked at very closely. Action plans include implementation of a new universal screener, NWEA MAP Growth assessment, and professional learning, amongst others.



**PERSONNEL:** The Board approved the negotiated Memorandum of Agreement with the Administrators and Supervisors Association for 2023-2027.

The resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from **Kathy Marji**, Teaching Assistant at Ridgeway School.

The Board made two appointments to tenure: **Regina Butler**, Teaching Assistant at Ridgeway School, and **Laura Sileo**, School Social Worker at the High School.

**DONATIONS:** Dr. Ricca thanked the following donors for their generous gifts:

**USA Today Network** for 25 copies of USA Today, for the High School, for the 2023-24 year

**Dr. Hagop L. Shahabian** for \$250 for the Phillip Barnett Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Ms. Donna Joseph** for \$500 for the Dr. Leonard G. Rhodes Memorial Fund

**The White Plains Teachers Association**, from a grant from the American Federation of Teachers, for:

Refrigerators/freezers for the High School, Highlands, Eastview and Ridgeway Schools

Refrigerator/Freezer/Shelving for Mamaroneck Avenue School

Freezer for Post Road School

Storage Cabinet for Church Street School

Bags, storage boxes and hygiene supplies for various buildings

**The Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for:

\$3,450 to fund an \$18,000 grant for *Beyond Broadway Dancing* for all 5th graders and the unspent balance from 2022-23 will be reallocated to fund this program.

\$900 for a trip by Rochambeau students to Philadelphia. The unspent balance of \$1,200 from 2021-22 will be reallocated to fund this trip.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld