



# 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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December 11, 2023

**BOARD COMMENT:** Board Members reported on recent events they attended, including American Education Week observances, Honor Roll assemblies, Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association workshops and the CSEA Holiday Celebration.

**SCHOLAR-ATHLETES:** The Board recognized 156 Scholar-Athletes from 10 Fall Varsity Teams. **Athletic Director Matt Cameron** introduced coaches from the Girls' and Boys' Soccer Teams, Football, Women's Swimming & Diving, Field Hockey, Tennis, Girls' and Boys' Cross Country, Volleyball and Cheerleading. He noted that eight of the ten teams achieved Team Scholar-Athlete status. **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** and **Board President Rosemarie Eller** congratulated athletes and their families.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:** Representatives of H2M Architects and Triton Construction provided an update on the current capital project work underway, including \$39.8 million in HVAC and Filtration Projects, \$71.4 million in Capital Projects and \$1.5 million for the Loucks Field Track Upgrades. Work on HVAC and filtration at three schools – Church Street, Eastview and George Washington -- is almost complete. Completion is expected this spring/summer at Highlands and the High School. Bids are being awarded tonight for Mamaroneck Avenue/Ridgeway and bidding for work at Rochambeau will take place at a later date.

A bid was awarded in October for work at the High School and the permit was received for the demolition of Dammann House, which will take place in the Summer 2024. Work on the new addition will begin in November 2024 with completion expected in July of 2026. Other renovations are planned for the Summers of 2024 and 2025. Committee meetings have been ongoing at the various schools. Dr. Ricca thanked **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** and **Director of Facilities Frank Stefanelli** for their work to oversee these projects.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca introduced **High School Liaisons Delia Rojas** and **Frida Loehr**, who reported on recent events in the schools.

Dr. Ricca congratulated the PTAs for many awards and recognitions this fall and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

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

**Mr. & Mrs. James Baker** for \$500 for the Frank A. Schmidt Memorial Music Award  
**The County Chamber of Commerce Inc.** for \$2,500 for High School Incubator classes  
**The Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$2,020 for two grants  
**Stop & Shop** for 500 donuts and cocoa packets for George Washington's Winter Games



PERSONNEL:

The Superintendent and Board recognized and congratulated the following teachers on their appointments to tenure:

**Luz Arapa**, Elementary Education, Church Street School

**Michelle Bason**, School Counselor, High School

**Megan Brannigan**, Elementary Education, Ridgeway School

**Kirsten Calkins**, LOTE, High School

**Robert Peebles**, Science, Middle School-Highlands

**Vicky School-Mendez**, Elementary Education, Post Road School

**Marissa Terry**, Elementary Education, Ridgeway School

**Amy Torres**, School Counselor, Middle School-Highlands

The resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from **Karen Sullivan**, Elementary Teacher at George Washington School.

**Gregory Collins** was given a probationary appointment to teach Italian at the High School.

STUDENT TRIPS: The Board approved overnight trips for three Varsity Teams for this coming Spring. The Softball team will travel to Cabana Bay, Florida for Spring Training & Games, the Baseball Team will go to Bradenton, Florida, and the Track Team will go to the University of Pennsylvania.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**