



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

January 8, 2024

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of Rosalyn Weiner, former Clerk and Secretary to the Director of Special Education from 1985 until her retirement in 2009.

BOARD COMMENT: **Board Members** reported on recent events they attended, including the CSEA and PTA Holiday Parties, Special Education Coffee, Little Theatre Production, and various BOCES, Lower Hudson and Small Cities workshops and webinars. **Board President Rosemarie Eller** attended the retirement party for **Frank Stefanelli** and **Ron Velez** and expressed the Board's appreciation for their work over many years in the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca transmitted the regrets of the Student Liaisons who were unable to attend this meeting. He reminded everyone of the precautions necessary in this cold and flu season and also spoke about the reported antisemitic exchange at a recent basketball game which was widely covered in the local news media. He stressed that there are policies in place prohibiting any biased behavior and there will be very serious consequences.

Dr. Ricca also mentioned that the 2024-25 calendar is currently in the process of development.

LONG-RANGE PLAN: Dr. Ricca, assisted by **Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations**, presented the Strategic Long-Range Plan Update for 2023-24 to 2027-28. Dr. Ricca said all of this information, which is available on our website, is a compilation from every area of the District, linked to the Strategic Plan and fitting together with the fiscal plan. He thanked Dr. Vaccaro-Teich and her team, the Cabinet, and building administrators for this start on the cycle of planning.

Dr. Vaccaro-Teich reviewed the economic outlook and the assumptions used to develop the estimated revenues and expenditures for the long-range plan. Dr. Ricca reviewed Curriculum & Instruction's and the Operational Department's goals and objectives for the long-range plan, based on the District's Strategic Plan.

PERSONNEL:

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca was granted an extension of his contract, to December 31, 2028, with a one percent increase in salary for the current year. Dr. Ricca said this is a very special place and he is grateful for the opportunity to serve the community. He expressed appreciation to the Board for its continued confidence.

PERSONNEL (continued):

Xavier Hernandez-Delgado was appointed Director of Facilities & Operations, replacing **Frank Stefanelli** who retired. Mr. Hernandez-Delgado has been Assistant Director for the past three years. Prior to that he was Director of Engineering at the Ritz-Carlton in White Plains for two years and has more than 19 years of experience in the maintenance and operations area.

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from **Joseph Boykin**, Security Assistant, High School, **Sharon Grahame**, Teaching Assistant, George Washington School, and **Linda Moretti**, Office Assistant II, Districtwide.

Two teachers were given probationary appointments: **Antonella Agudelo**, teaching Math at Rochambeau School, and **Juia Furlipa**, teaching English at the Middle School-Highlands..

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

Rebecca Hommez of **Martiz Global Events** for a color printer and paper donation to Eastview Middle School

Faith Zimmel of the **Saw Mill Club East** for 15 gym mats for Mamaroneck Avenue School

The White Plains High School PTA for \$400 for the Calculus Luncheon at the High School

The Friends of the White Plains Public Schools for \$6100 for the following grants:

\$500 for the Innocence Project Program at Rochambeau School

\$500 for a trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty for High School students

\$2,100 for Heartsong Music and Art Therapy sessions at the High School

\$3,000 for a Broadway Show and meeting with cast members for High School students

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld