



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

April 8, 2024

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Marilyn Bull**, Special Education Teacher from 1969 until she retired in 1993, and **Breda Malfesi**, Reading Teacher from 1986 until she retired in 2007. Both taught at Highlands Middle School.

BOARD COMMENT: **Board President Rosemarie Eller** said she attended an outstanding performance of “Matilda” at the Highlands Middle School which showcased our talented students.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: **Athletic Director Matt Cameron** presented Coaches of nine Varsity Teams who introduced 138 Scholar-Athletes. Members of the Boys’ Swimming & Diving, Boys’ and Girls’ Track & Field, Ice Hockey, Bowling, Cheerleading, Wrestling, Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball Teams were recognized. Dr. Ricca and Mrs. Eller congratulated the students and their parents.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE: **Chris Pearson** of Triton Construction and **Robert Bee** of H2M Architects provided a construction update. Work on HVAC at five schools is in the completion stages. Projects at Ridgeway and Mamaroneck Avenue were awarded in December and are going well. At the High School the track and field and ceiling replacement are expected to be completed by the end of August. Work at George Washington will begin this summer.

The Dammann House demolition is planned for late August and SED approval of the new construction is anticipated for January 2025. We are talking about a partnership with BOCES in an effort to expand our offerings in this new building into areas such as Cyber Security, Health Sciences, Culinary Sciences and other vocational and technical areas in order to provide a variety of new ways for students to progress through their educational careers.

2024-2025 BUDGET: The Board voted to approve the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for 2024-2025, of \$265,900,000 with a tax levy percentage increase of 1.06% over last year. It will be presented to the voters on May 21st. Dr. Ricca and **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** will be meeting with groups around town to present information and answer questions. Complete information is also on the website. The Budget continues to support all of our programming and the instructional core remains the same. Dr. Ricca said this is an extraordinary place to live and go to school. We constantly look at how we can improve. He thanked the Finance-Audit Committee along with all the staff who participated in preparing the budget. Mrs. Eller spoke about the work that goes into the budget and how important it is to manage our funds well.

The public is welcome to reach out to the administration with questions or comments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca first thanked the Facilities & Operations staff for all of its work through the recent storm and earthquake. He also said he's excited about the Trade Vocation and Civil Service Fair scheduled for Wednesday and stressed the importance of showing our children all the opportunities available to them.

Dr. Ricca also thanked our elected officials who have been working hard to restore our Foundation Aid.

PERSONNEL: The Board voted to abolish the positions of Coordinator of Science and Coordinator of Mathematics, 7-12, effective July 15th and to create the administrative position of Director of Mathematics, Science, Engineering and CTE (Career and Technical Education) 7-12 effective July 16, 2024. Other positions were also eliminated or added.

Several members of the staff commented in the Public Participation portion of the meeting on their disapproval of the above actions.

Two teachers were appointed to probationary appointments: **Grissell Filpo** will be a Speech Teacher at George Washington School and **Connor Lantier** will be a STEM Teacher at Post Road School.

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

Ms. Helene Rothstein for \$25, **Ms. Eileen Loveless** for \$50, **Ms. Joan Phares** for \$50, **Ms. Marie Gross** for \$50, **Ms. Kathleen Greenberg** for \$50, and **Mr. Edward Peduzzi** for \$1,000 for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Crystal for \$50, **Ms. Nancy Desplantes** for \$50, **Mr. & Mrs. Noel Cooperberg** for \$100, and **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brownell** for \$120 for the Philip Barnett Memorial Scholarship

Friends of White Plains Public Schools for \$3,500 for the High School Band & Orchestra trip to Virginia

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld