



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

May 13 & 20, 2024

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Peter Cerreta**, Counselor, Art Teacher and Assistant Principal at Eastview, Highlands and the High School from 1958 until he retired in June of 1988; **Joyce Peagler**, Reading Teacher at Mamaroneck Avenue and George Washington Schools from 1969 until she retired in June of 1992; and **Carol D'Ariano**, Substitute Nurse for 25 years.

BOARD COMMENT: Board Members attended many events throughout the month, including an overnight with SEEDS students, the Women's Club Scholarship Luncheon, several orchestra concerts, the Loucks Meet and various Westchester-Putnam School Board and New York State School Board webinars.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2024-2025 BUDGET: **Board President Rosemarie Eller** opened the Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 Budget of \$265,900,000 which has 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 Ann Vaccaro-Teich** have met with many community groups to answer questions on the budget. Complete information is also on the District's 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.

Also on the ballot is a proposition to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund for improvements to District buildings which will have no impact to taxpayers. The public is welcome to reach out to the administration with questions or comments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: **Board Member and NYSSBA Area 10 Director Sheryl Brady** presented NYSSBA's Culture of Caring Award to the District. Dr. Ricca announced a change in the 2024-25 Calendar for next year, to allow for the celebration of the holiday Eid. He then introduced **Student Liaison Frida Loehr** who provided school event updates. He spoke about Transportation and Special Education Reviews which are underway as well as collaboration with the Westchester Mental Health Facilities and a regional safety symposium.

PERSONNEL: Seven teachers were given probationary appointments, to begin in September: **Lena Eldana** will teach Elementary Education at George Washington School; **Anne Davidson** will teach English as a New Language at Post Road; **Claire Yergeau** will teach Physical Education at Ridgeway; **Barbara Carvalho** and **Arwa Zafar Amin** will both teach Social Studies at the High School; and **Ashlee Sims** and **Patricia Darcy** will both teach Physical Education at the High School.

The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Dr. Margaret Doty**, Coordinator of Science, effective 6/30/24.

Two Teaching Assistants submitted their resignations for the purpose of retirement: **Karen Clark** at Church Street School and **Victoria Habermann** at Post Road School.

Twenty-five teachers were awarded tenure at the Special Meeting of May 20th:

Greta Daka	Church Street	Psychologist
Christine Columna	George Washington	Special Education
Julia Marques	George Washington	Special Education
Veronica Mittenzwei	Mamaroneck Avenue	Elementary Education
Marisa Barzelatto	Mamaroneck Avenue	Special Education
Kathleen Vaughan	Ridgeway	Special Education
Lauren Straface	Ridgeway	Special Education
Morgan Bauch	Middle School – Eastview	Special Education
Brooke Kunze	Middle School – Eastview	Elementary Education
Colleen Fenlon	Middle School – Highlands	Special Education
Anthony Lupia	Middle School – Highlands	Science
Melanie Ortiz	Middle School – Highlands	School Psychologist
Aljuany Creacy	High School	School Social Worker
Susan Murphy	High School	School Social Worker
Michael Ross	High School	Science
Ashley Tomaselli	High School	Social Studies
Kaylin Fitzsimons	High School	School Counselor
John Corbett	High School	English
Patricia O'Rourke	High School	Special Education
Gary Casity	High School	Music
Joseph Ursino	Districtwide	Music
Julianne Farella	Districtwide	Art
Robert Guilford	Districtwide	Music
Shira Schwartz	Districtwide	Special Education Instructional Coach
Abigail Stolz Monks	Districtwide	ENL

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

Larry Gianola for \$2,000 for the Christian M. Gianola Science Scholarship
Victoria Hochman Shelby for \$2,000 for the Richard Liebson Journalism Scholarship
Dr. Terri Thomas Klemm for \$1,000 for the Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Brown for \$1,000 for the Brown Family Memorial Scholarship
Ms. Diane Maudsley for \$600 for the Frederick J. Maudsley GRIT Scholarship
Jacob Gelles for \$500 for the Bayuk Love of Nursing Scholarship
Jason Bayuk for \$500 for the Barbara O'Garro Memorial Scholarship
Jeff Zucker for \$250 for the Morton Zucker Memorial Scholarship
Mr. Edward Peduzzi for \$24.02 for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Kurtz for \$7,000, **Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kurtz** for \$5,000, and **Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Kurtz** for \$2,000, for the Margaret L. Kurtz Memorial Scholarship
Andrea Robinson for \$3,700, **Carole Lashley** for \$185 and **Tatiana Flowers** for \$100 for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship
Richard Chow for a clarinet for Mamaroneck Avenue School
The Ridgeway PTA for an outdoor classroom to be installed over the summer.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld