



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

June 10, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DISTRICTWIDE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN: Board President Rosemarie Eller opened the Public Hearing and Superintendent Dr. Joseph Ricca introduced Jeremy Harrison, districtwide liaison to the security company Altaris. Mr. Harrison assured everyone that we have already implemented most of the many changes in the plan and that we are well ahead of required responsibilities. He thanked the Committee, the Facilities & Operations Department, the IT Team, building administrators and everyone involved. Dr. Ricca said there is no more important task than safety and the district is available to answer questions or hear feedback. The Safety Plan was approved by the Board later in the meeting.

EDUCATOR PATHWAY: Dr. Ricca made a presentation to three elected officials who have been instrumental in supporting this new program to train educators. Three students were present to thank Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and Assemblyman Chris Burdick for their efforts in this partnership. Dr. Ricca expressed gratitude for their constant work on behalf of our children and also thanked White Plains Teachers Association President Kara Lyons and High School Assistant Principal Sara Hall for their collaboration.

BOARD COMMENT: Board Members attended Memorial Day and Juneteenth Parades and numerous events where students had the opportunity to express their interests, such as the Indubatoredu. event, the Seal of Civic Readiness, Educator Pathway, Citywide Art Show and others.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca thanked James Hricay and Rose Lovitch, retiring Board Members for their years of service on the Board. He congratulated newly-elected Board Members Jessica Buck and Craig Mondschein. He also thanked the community for its support of the budget in the May vote. He thanked Student Liaisons Frida Loehr and Sinclair Harris for a fine job and also expressed appreciation to the PTAs and to the donors who contributed toward scholarships.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING AND 25-YEAR STAFF MEMBERS: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Scott Pepper introduced a video by Director of Human Resources Julie Cangro and Assistant Principal Tara Daly highlighting the 28 retiring staff members. He said the value of the impact of these people is priceless and thanked them for their decision to become educators. Retirees are: Joseph Boykin, Paul Bratcher, Brent Brown, Villma Caban-Vazquez, Donna Centone, Michael DiStefano, Margaret Doty, McSheller Edwards, Miguel Gaoneda, Patricia Gilmartin, Luis A. Gonzalez, Evelyn Gonazlez-Smith, Sharon Grahame, Deana Guario, Carmen King, Alexandra Klemstine, Franco Lombardo, Andrea Manigault-Adelakun, Kathy Arji, Lamont McCormick, Linda Moretti, Sungho Pak, Laura Pizzella, Adrienne Pollack, Janneth Ponce-Doyle, Monique Reilly, Dennis Scullion, Denise Tomici and Yarina Sencion.

Board members and school officials thanked the 31 staff members celebrating 25 years with the District: **Annette Adamiak, David Bergen, Elsa Bracero, Laura Crowley, Lorraine DiMarco, John Donnelly, Guerlande Dormeus, Tina Edwards, Maureen Fargo, David Ferrell, Jacqueline Forbes-Machado, Joseph Havis, Eugenia Inzero, Diana Jackette, Albert Laporte, Gaetana Mariani, Alberto Minotta, Lauren Mohr, Ryan Mulcahy, Kusumlata Negi, Angela Novielli, Eileen O'Leary, Walter Ortega, Nicole Reis, Larry Roberts, Jason Skinner, Irene Spiconardi, Denise Tomici, Janet Wiggins, Mark Wolstencroft, and Linda Woodward.**

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING: Three administrators were awarded tenure: **Leroy Dixon, Middle School Principal** at Eastview, **Emerly Martinez, High School Principal**, and **Guy Vitiello, Assistant Principal** at the High School. Dr. Ricca said he recommends these staff members with great enthusiasm.

Three administrative appointments were made. **Alfonso Delgado**, new Assistant Principal at the Middle School-Highlands, comes to the District from 11 years as Assistant Principal at the North Bronx School of Empowerment. He has a Bachelor's Degree from St. John's University and a Master's Degree from Touro College.

Khali Murrell, current House Administrator at White Plains High School, was promoted to the position of Director of Rochambeau Alternative School. She has 27 years' experience as a Social Worker and administrator, a Bachelor's Degree from Syracuse and a Master's from Hunter College School of Social Work.

David Jacob was named Director of Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Career and Technical Education 7-12. For the last 11 years he has been Regional Science Coordinator at Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Central Florida, a Master's from New Jersey City University, and a Doctorate from Manhattanville College.

PERSONNEL: Retirements were accepted from **Deirdre Slavik**, Cafeteria/Recess Monitor, Mamaroneck Avenue School, **McSheller Edwards**, Teaching Assistant, Church Street School, **Erika Ortiz**, Teaching Assistant, Middle School-Eastview, and **Theodora Argyros**, Speech Teacher, Middle School-Highlands..

Probationary positions were given to: **Amanda Zalesny**, Special Education Teacher at Church Street School, **Jessica Batson**, Elementary Education at Mamaroneck Avenue, **Kayla Sarmiento**, Chemistry at the High School, **Simone Tharkur**, English at the High School, **Yolainny Minaya**, School Counselor at the High School, **Emma Murray Bilanych**, School Psychologist at Post Road, **Elizabeth Prendergast**, Special Education at the High School, **Sophia Gil**, Speech at Eastview Middle School, **AnnMarie Spica**, Speech at George Washington, **Ivan Mendoza**, Elementary Education at Church Street, **Yerlanny Ledesma**, ENL at George Washington and **Yahaira Rodriguez** Elementary Education at George Washington.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked **Mr. & Mrs. Jack Maassaro** for their donation of \$500 to the Louis and Rose Massaro Scholarship Fund.

OTHER ACTION: The Board made its annual tax warrant authorization for the City of White Plains to collect the school taxes. The Board also approved a merger application with the New York State Public High Athletic Association for a Girls Varsity Ice Hockey Team.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld

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