



# THE BOARD REPORTS

## *Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting*

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Rosemarie Eller, *President*; Cayne Letizia, *Vice President*; Sheryl Brady, Jessica Buck, Valerie Daniele, Craig Mondschein, Charlie Norris

---

July 1, 2024

REORGANIZATION MEETING: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** took his Oath of Office along with new Board Members **Jessica Buck** and **Craig Mondschein** and incumbent **Cayne Letizia**, who were elected in May for three-year terms. **Rosemarie Eller** was re-elected President of the Board and Cayne Letizia was re-elected Vice President for the coming year. Ms. Buck and Mr. Mondschein were welcomed to the Board and retiring members, **James Hricay** and **Rose Lovitch**, were thanked for their services. Action was taken on various resolutions to allow the District to conduct business in the 2024-2025 school year.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Dr. Ricca asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Angelina Garbutt**, School Technology Coordinator with the District since 2016.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT: Mrs. Eller opened the hearing and there were no comments, The hearing was closed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca congratulated the Class of 2024 and expressed great pride in the 97% graduation rate. He also thanked the PTAs for organizing the moving-up festivities in the schools. He noted that Summer School is underway, and the Special Education audit is moving along.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE: **Joseph Ciserano** of H2M Architects and **Chris Pearson** of Triton Construction presented this review. On HVAC, Church Street, George Washington, Highlands, and Eastview are complete and the High School is 80% complete. Regarding on-going construction, the High School field and track are nearing completion; High School and George Washington work is to be completed this summer along with Dammann House demolition. In design/preconstruction, various interior alterations are planned in all buildings, most scheduled for completion next summer. Budgets are on target.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Joe Allen, Jr.**, Custodial Worker, Districtwide.

Tenure was granted to **Geraldine Miele**, Teaching Assistant at the High School, and **Kimberly DiPilato**, Teaching Assistant at George Washington School.

Probationary appointments were given to **Amanda Almeida**, ENL Teacher at the Middle School-Highlands, **Danielle DeCourcey**, Special Education Teacher at Church Street, and **Christina Valenti**, Reading Teacher at Middle School-Highlands.

The Board also approved Summer School appointments.

A Memorandum of Agreement was approved with the White Plains Substitute Teachers Association and the Superintendent was authorized to executive a Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective 7/1/24-6/30/28.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the following for their generous donations:

**Mr. Daniel Cultice** for a \$750 donation for the David R. Cultice Memorial Fund

**Nena Gil** for a trumpet for the Music Department

**Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Kim** for two cellos for the George Washington School Orchestra

**Andrea Robinson**, \$245, and **Sheldon Pearce**, \$200, for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Fund

**Erin Mitchell & Ted Erkkila** for a violin outfit and **Karen Abrego & Manual Munoz** for two rosins and two shoulder rests for the Highlands School Orchestra

CORRECTION – RETIREES: Last month's *Board Report* omitted the names of seven retirees: **Lisa Sherman, Clare Smith, Maria Spista, Frank Stefanelli, Karen Sullivan, Denise Tomici** and **Jose Torres**. Our sincerest apologies and best wishes to them.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld