



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

September 9, 2024

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in respect and remembrance of September 11, 2001.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: **Amy Geiger**, Co-Chairman of the Hall of Fame Steering Committee, announced the names of four alumni who will be inducted on October 17th. They are **Sandra Galef**, '58, New York State Assemblywoman; **Shawn Bryant**, '81, Managing Director at Deloitte Consulting; **Larry Rogowsky**, '90, Tony Award-winning Broadway producer; and **Mara Gay**, '04, member of *The New York Times* Editorial Board. The public is invited to attend.

CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE: **Robert Bee** and **Joseph Ciserano** of H2M Architects and **Chris Pearson** of Triton Construction presented the latest update on the districtwide projects. HVAC and Filtration work is substantially complete in the first five schools; Mamaroneck Avenue and Ridgeway are still under construction. On-going work proceeds at the High School field, track, and ceilings, GW toilets and Dammann House, with demolition there complete. In the Design and Pre-Construction phases, projects are filed and under review by NYSED and work will continue into 2025.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS: **Board President Rosemarie Eller** said this is a very hopeful time, seeing all the excited students back and preparing for the coming year. She and other Board Members attended the National Night Out, a great opportunity to connect with the community. **Board Member Cayne Letizia** noted the exciting opening for staff and the Board retreat. **Board Member Sheryl Brady** attended many school conferences over the summer, in Albany and elsewhere, with common themes: customer service, absenteeism, AI, student achievement, diversity.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca reported on a successful school opening. We are looking at student bus ridership and are responding to parent feedback. Student wellness and support continue to be the focus, along with using technology responsibly. He welcomed everyone back, particularly new Student Board Members **Charis Choi** and **Afrozah Hossain**. New legislation requires Boards of Education to include students and said we have had these student liaisons for three years. We will enhance their experience, with them reviewing agendas and providing feedback from the High School. The students provided a report on recent activities in the schools.

Dr. Ricca also informed the Board that the State plan to mix athletic competition has been tabled.

White Plains students will be participating in both the Youth Bureau conference this year, to be held locally, and the New York State School Boards Convention in New York City.

SMART SAFETY STORAGE RESOLUTION: The District adopted a resolution urging secure storage of firearms in homes and in the homes of others whom their children visit. Dr. Ricca said accidents with guns can be prevented. He thanked **Board Member Jessica Buck** for her advocacy on this subject.

STRATEGIC PLAN: The Board approved the Plan for 2024-2026 and Dr. Ricca thanked the Board for its annual review of this Plan. The District reaffirms and continues to support these goals and objectives which have stood the test of time.

TRANSPORTATION: The Board approved a new three-year contract with a division of our present provider company, so it is known to the District. A great deal of attention has gone into this subject. **Board Member Craig Mondschein** remarked that the Finance Committee has spent a lot of time on it, and he thanked **Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business**, for her work.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the retirement of two staff members: **Amera Wiese**, Cook/Manager at George Washington School, and **LaSheila Brown**, Elementary Education Teacher at Church Street School.

Probationary appointments were made for two teachers: **Lauren Sanfilippo** and **Katherine Eveland**, both ELA Teachers at Middle School-Highlands.

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

Century Country Club for 100 backpacks with school supplies

Wayne Groh for High School math books

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld