



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

November 12, 2024

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence for former **Mayor Joseph Delfino**, “a beloved public servant and community visionary.” **Board President Rosemarie Eller** extended the condolences of the school district at Mayor Delfino’s wake.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS: Mrs. Eller, along with other Board Members, attended the Anniversary Gala of Centro Hispano and celebrated their achievements. She also went to the two Hall of Fame inductions. **Board Members Cayne Letizia, Jessica Buck** and **Sheryl Brady** spoke about the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) Annual Convention in New York City and the various workshops they attended. They were particularly proud of the White Plains High School students who presented a session on their SEED Program. Mrs. Brady also mentioned recent sessions of the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association which she attended. Ms. Buck added that she went to the Eastview Veterans Day celebration and the High School Songwriters’ Club, both of which were very impressive.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Ricca introduced Student Board Member Liaisons **Charis Choi** and **Afrozah Hossain** who provided information on activities in the schools. They highlighted the many events for Unity Day and Halloween.

Dr. Ricca congratulated **Dr. Hand, Mr. Varuolo, Mr. Martinez** and the students recognized by the Business Council of Westchester, and also the students involved in the NYSSBA presentation. He also noted the Grandpas United group which will be honored. He mentioned that the Church Street survey regarding transportation had a very high response and is being analyzed now. He also noted that the cell phone policy is being looked at for changes next year.

PERSONNEL: **Christopher DeMattia** was appointed Director of Secondary Teaching, Learning & Assessment 7-12. With a Bachelor’s Degree from Binghamton University and Masters Degrees from Lehman and Bank Street Colleges, Mr. DeMattia was most recently Director of STEM at the Ossining School District. He thanked the Board for this opportunity and said he is excited to be coming to White Plains.

Amanda Spadavecchia was appointed to a probationary position as Elementary Education Teacher at Church Street School.

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

Blackbaud Giving Fund for \$70 for George Washington School

The City of White Plains Climate Action Fund for \$4,400 for the High School Gardening Club and \$4,860 for the High School STEM Club

The National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, for a donation of up to \$2,200 for Church Street Elementary School

Andrea Stern for \$250 for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Dunphy for \$200 for the Philip Barnett Memorial Scholarship

Donors Choose for funding the Classroom Project for Teacher Kimberly Fleming at the High School which includes the following:

- One Go Direct Conductivity Probe
- One Go Direct Optical Dissolved Oxygen Probe
- One Lab Book Water Quality Verni

The Friends of White Plains Public Schools for:

\$18,000 to help fund the Beyond Broadway Dance Program in all five elementary schools

\$900 for the SAIL program in the High School to fund tickets for students to attend a performance of *Hairspray*

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld