



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

April 7, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS: Board Members commented on the variety of activities they attended this month, including workshops by attorneys Keane & Beane, the Harlem Wizards game, coffees with the Board, the Citywide Orchestra Festival, the SEED retreat, the Post Road Evening of the Arts and Steam Fair, High School Guidance Night, and many others. Board Member Sheryl Brady reported on her activity with the Westchester-Putnam School Boards, New York State School Boards and National School Boards Associations.

“CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE”: Mrs. Brady, who is Area 10 Director for the New York State School Boards Association, presented their Champions of Change Award to the District for its INCubatoredu Program, an innovative and engaging high school course in entrepreneurship. She thanked the volunteers who coach the students and Dr. Ricca thanked **Rocco Varuolo, Coordinator of Business Education, Instructional Technology and Library Media Centers**, and the **Business Council of Westchester** for their support.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: **Athletic Director Matt Cameron** and **Assistant Director Mike Chappas** introduced the coaches of 11 Winter Varsity Teams who presented 129 Scholar-Athletes. Members of the Cheerleading, Girls’ and Boys’ Basketball, Wrestling, Skiing, Girls & Boys’ Hockey, Boys’ Swimming & Diving, Girls’ and Boys’ Indoor Track and Bowling Teams were recognized. Dr. Ricca and Mrs. Eller congratulated students and their parents.

SCIENCE RESEARCH PRESENTATION: Kimberly Fleming, Teacher of this class, first thanked **Dr. Debbie Hand, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction**, and **Dr. David Jacob, Director of Math, Science, Engineering and Career & Technology Education**, for their support and guidance. She mentioned that seven students received awards at the Westchester Science Research Fair and also presented three students who spoke about the value of the class. Ms. Fleming also showed a video of the class in action.

SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025-2026: The Board voted to approve the budget of \$277,965,500 with a tax levy percentage increase of 1.67% over last year. Dr. Ricca noted that the administration constantly reviews the fiscal health of the organization in coordination with the Strategic Plan and the Five-Year Plan. Sustainability is embedded within the budget and we aim for continuous improvement. All information is available on the District website and Dr. Ricca and **Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business**, are available to answer questions. The Board voted to adopt the budget and will present it to the voters on May 20th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca introduced **Student Board Member Liaisons Charis Choi** and **Afrozah Hossain** who reported on activity in the schools. He also congratulated **Assistant Athletic Director Mike Chappas** who earned his certification as an Athletic Administrator, as well as five students from Mamaroneck Avenue School who won an Eco Award for their collection of plastic for recycling. They will be recognized by the County.

PERSONNEL: The Board approved the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **James Dowd**, Elementary Education Teacher, Post Road School, and **Joan Holt**, Teaching Assistant, Middle School Highlands.

The Board also appointed **Kevin Martins** as the new Football Coach. Mr. Martins thanked everyone for their support and said he is excited about his new position.

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

City of White Plains Department of Finance for \$5,000 for the Rochambeau Youth Climate Fund

White Plains Middle School PTA for \$775 for poster boards for 7th Grade Critical Literacy students

Eileen Loveless (\$50), **Elizabeth Schutt** (\$50), **Kathleen Greenberg** (\$50), **Nancy Taddiken** (\$100), and **Edward Peduzzi** (\$1,000) for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kurtz for \$5,000 for the Margaret L. Kurtz Memorial Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Crowe (\$150), **Mr. Benjamin Arnon** (\$150), and **Mr. Jeremy Arnon** (\$150) for the Dr. Dan Arnon Memorial Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Crowe (\$150), **Mr. Benjamin Arnon** (\$150), and **Mr. Jeremy Arnon** (\$150) for the Sara Miller Arnon Memorial Scholarship

Ms. Marion Lopez (\$30), **Mr. & Mrs. William Doenecke** (\$100), **Mr. Keith Bronitt** (\$100), **Ms. Lois Brechner** (\$100), **Ms. Patricia Milano** (\$100), **Mr. Roy Madsen, Jr.** (\$100), **Ms. Suzanne Erskine** (\$100), **Ms. Jacqueline Protano** (\$400), **Ms. Judith O'Gorman** (\$200), **Mr. Edward Sonn** (\$200), **Ms. Carol Wood** (\$500), **Mr. Joseph Ciffolollo** (\$500), and **Mr. Henry Hamburger** (\$1,000), all for the Ed Furtick Class of 1957 Scholarship

.Friends of White Plain Public Schools for two grants: \$2,600 for 40 WPHS Service Learning class students for the *Today's Vote* program at the Kennedy Institute in Boston; and \$1,725 for 75 Rochambeau students to participate in the Acoustics and Rink Design Program

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld