



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

May 12, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS: Board Members commented on the variety of activities they attended this month, including the Loucks Meet, National Honor and National Junior Honor Society Inductions, Mamaroneck Avenue School Math Night, PTA Council and Westchester Putnam School Board webinars, among others.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2025-2026 BUDGET: Board President Rosemarie Eller opened the Public Hearing on this budget of \$277,965,500 with a tax levy percentage increase of 1.67% over last year. Superintendent Dr. Joseph Ricca noted he is proud and pleased to bring forward a spending plan that stays well within the tax cap and preserves 100% of our programs. It focuses on enhancing our children's programming experiences, keeping our facilities well maintained, and reducing the tax levy without any new spending. Dr. Ricca thanked the Board, the Finance/Audit Committee, Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich and everyone in the organization who worked so hard to develop this budget. He reminded everyone that he and Dr. Vaccaro-Teich are always available to answer questions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca introduced Student Board Member Liaison Charis Choi who reported on activity in the schools. He mentioned that White Plains High School was awarded Gold Designation as a No Place For Hate School. He also mentioned the Free Book Giveaway this weekend and the Election next week. Two Board Members, Sheryl Brady and Jessica Buck were honored by the New York State School Boards Association for their continuing education activity.

TEACHER TENURE: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Scott Pepper introduced a video honoring 30 teachers who received tenure this evening. He said they are exceptionally talented candidates whose amount of professional development is remarkable. Dr. Ricca said teaching is the most rewarding and challenging of all professions and thanked the teachers for their commitment. Mrs. Eller thanked the candidates on behalf of the Board. Candidates who received tenure are: Ines Appel, Andrea Boyko, Kayleen Lugo, Lowella Masong, Amanda Molloy, Katelyn Emmet, Sage Marijo, Elissa Velazquez, Feona Bailey, Burton Jones, Joanna Pagliari, Bianca Richmond, Kithia Shibuya, Sophy Tejada, Erin Farley, Suzanne Horton, Dana Merrill, Christina Ramirez, Christina Bartolotta, Sue Ellen Evangelista, Benjamin Karol, Dena Pallogudis, Kyle Sutton, Charles Torres Iglesias, Qi Zhang, Delia Alexander, Conniree Francis, Joanna Fusco, Xiaolei Jiang, and Stehanie Kindestin.

PERSONNEL: In administrative appointments, Laura Sileo and Juan Herrera were both appointed House Administrators at the High School. Ms Sileo has been Interim House Administrator since October and Mr. Herrera comes to White Plains from the North Bronx School of Empowerment where he was

Dean of Students. Also, the Interim Assistant Principal appointment of **Joseph Spero** was extended from 7/1/25 to 10/31/25.

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from **Lisy Kalathara**, Account Clerk, Education House, and **Susan Repetti**, Registered Professional School Nurse, High School.

Probationary appointments were given to seven new teachers: **Pedro Rodriguez**, Secondary Instruction Coach, District-wide; **Matthew Carnaghi**, Special Education Teacher, Mamaroneck Avenue School; **Rachel Pearl**, Kindergarten Teacher, Church Street School; **Matthew Giliatta**, Physical Education Teacher, TBD/District-wide; **Yanarisi Marmolejos**, ENL Teacher, Post Road; **Samantha Berube**, Elementary Education Teacher, Mamaroneck Avenue School; and **Tina Wu**, Elementary Education Teacher, George Washington School.

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

Oakland Trading Corp for \$5,000 for the Raffaello Pantanelli Scholarship.

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Varian for \$3,000 for the Rita Varian Art Scholarship

Ms. Andrea Robinson for \$2,000 for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship

Friends of White Plains Baseball for \$2,000 for the Varsity dugouts at WPHS

White Plains Middle School PTA for \$1,366.67 for an activity for all rising 8th graders

Dr. Terri Thomas Klemm for \$1,000 for the Dorothy H. Thomas Memorial Scholarship

NYSIR (NYSchools Insurance Reciprocal) for \$1,000 for the Caring Corner Food Pantry at Ridgeway School

Ms. Victoria Hochman Shelby for \$700 for the Richard Liebson Journalism Scholarship

Ms. Diane Maudsley for \$600 for the Frederick J. Maudsley GRIT Scholarship

Mr. Jack Massaro for \$500 for the Louis and Rose Massaro Scholarship

Mr. Jacob Gelles for \$500 for the Mary Jane Bayuk Love of Nursing Scholarship

The Poetry Foundation for \$500 for White Plains High School

Mr. Jeff Zucker for \$250 for the Morton Zucker Memorial Scholarship

The White Plains Beautification Foundation for \$200 for the Post Road Courtyard

Ms. Helene Rothstein (\$36), **Ms. Marcia Caradarello** (\$100), and **Ms. Marie Gross** (\$100) for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship:

Ms. Ethel Mintz (\$25), **Dr. Marietta Saraivia Shore** (\$100), **Ms. Arlene Dahn** (\$100), **Ms. Helen Michaelson** (\$100), **Ms. Susan Sekuler** (\$100), **Mr. Richard Cole** (\$200), and **Ms. Joyce Axelrod** (\$500) for the Ed Furtick Class of 1957 Scholarship

The WPHS PTA Grants Committee for \$3,500 towards food and accommodations for the SEED program's recent trip

The NY Rangers LLC for hockey equipment

Mr. Gonzalez & Mrs. Pelaez for a painting of George Washington for George Washington School

The High School Music Department Booster Association Inc. Executive Board for three grants totaling \$4,276.30 for the 2025 White Plains High School Symphonic Band and Symphonic Orchestra trip to Philadelphia:

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld