



# 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**

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July 1, 2025

**REORGANIZATION MEETING:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** took his Oath of Office along with **Sheryl Brady** and **Charlie Norris**, who were re-elected Board Members in the May election 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. Action was taken on various resolutions to allow the District to conduct business in the 2025-2026 school year

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Dr. Ricca asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Martin Marks**, a teacher at Highlands and the High School from 1966 until retiring in 1997, and **Norma Rinaldi**, Secretary at Ridgeway and the High School from 1974 until retiring in 2003.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT:** Dr. Ricca thanked **Deb Augarten, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Services**, along with the various stakeholders who participated in the review and updating of the Code. There were no public questions or comments and Mrs. Eller closed the hearing.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca reported on the groundbreaking for the new building at the high school which took place prior to this meeting. He said it's been a lot of years in the planning and will offer many new opportunities to our children. He thanked the people who attended – City officials including the Mayor, BOCES officers, former Board Members and people from H2M Architects and Triton Construction.

Dr. Ricca congratulated Mrs. Brady and Mr. Norris on their election and also Mrs. Eller and Mr. Letizia and said it is a pleasure to work with them.

Dr. Ricca apologized to **Sandra Serrano** for omitting her name from the 25 years of service list last month. He thanked her for her service.

Dr. Ricca introduced **Noah Miller**, Chief Information Officer, who spoke about the new communications system, ParentSquare which will be in place for September.

Dr. Ricca also mentioned the new cell phone policy, with a first reading on tonight's agenda. He said it will take some time for students and staff to adjust to this, beginning in the fall.

Finally, Dr. Ricca congratulated all the graduates in this impressive class which had a 96% graduation rate. Students earned over \$314,000 in local scholarships.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE:** **Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business**, introduced **Chris Pearson** from H2M Architects and **Robert Bee** and **Joe Ciserano** from Triton Construction who reported on the summer work in the buildings and those projects still in the bid process which will carry on into 2026. Dr. Ricca commented on the benefits of the HVAC work and thanked the Board for making it possible to use funds for climate control. Dr. Ricca recognized **Mr. Fred Camilli** of Triton who has worked with the district for many years on all of our projects.

**PERSONNEL:** The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Deborah Augarten, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Services. Dr. Ricca wished her well and spoke

of her devotion to our children and families. The Board approved the appointment of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates to assist in the search for her replacement.

The Board approved the probationary appointment of **Diana Barry**, Library Media Specialist at the High School.

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

**John and Sonya Pantanelli** for \$30,000 for the Rafaello Pantanelli Scholarship Fund

**The White Plains City Department of Finance** for \$5,000 for Mamaroneck Avenue School for the Nature Club

**Ms. Andrea Robinson**, \$2,145 & \$100, **Ms. Carole Lashley**, \$185, and **Restless Development, LLC**, \$100, for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship

**Jack Ciaramella** for \$100 for the Phillip Barnett Memorial Scholarship Fund

**The Marrano Family** for a violin with case, bow and shoulder rest for the WPHS Music Department

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld

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