



# 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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November 10, 2025

**BOARD COMMENT:** **Board President Rosemarie Eller** spoke about the Athletic Hall of Fame which she and others attended earlier this evening. It was very well attended and is testament to the support for athletics in the community. President Eller and many other Board Members also attended the Trunk or Treat and the Youth Bureau Gala. **Board Member Cayne Letizia** spoke of the great assistance we offer in the sessions for parents/guardians regarding the college application process. **Board Member Sheryl Brady** attended the Veterans Day celebrations, Theater Unlimited, the Budget Input session, and many of the development programs of Westchester-Putnam School Boards, New York State School Boards and the National School Boards.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** **Dr. Ricca** began by sharing the regrets of the Student Liaisons to the Board who could not attend tonight's meeting. He welcomed Mamaroneck Avenue staff in attendance. He congratulated and thanked **Coach Fred Singleton** who is retiring after 50 years of coaching and said this is an example of amazing dedication.

Dr. Ricca introduced **Dr. Pamela Jimenez**, Program Director of Latino University College Access who works closely with the High School and our students.

**CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE:** Dr. Ricca introduced **Joseph Ciserano**, of H2M Architects, and **Chris Pearson** and **Joe Mottola** of Triton Construction, who provided an update of projects. They said the HVAC projects are all basically completed or in the closeout phase. Construction is underway on the Innovation Wing at the High School with the foundation complete. The project is on schedule for completion in 2027. Progress is going well at Rochambeau School on various projects. They also mentioned future projects in the various schools.

**ASSESSMENT REPORT:** **Dr. Debbie Hand**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, assisted by **Dr. Kathy Barpoulis**, Director of Testing & Assessment PreK-6, and **Christopher DeMattia**, Director of Secondary Learning, Teaching & Assessment 7-12, began by saying that concentration on growth never stops. Dr. Hand presented New York State data from June 2025 showing many increases in results. She also reviewed the various instructional tools and resources being implemented.

**PERSONNEL:** The Board appointed **Laura Garcia Farfan** to the probationary position of Special Education Teacher at George Washington School.

**FIELD TRIPS:** The Board approved three overnight field trips for school groups the Varsity Softball team trip to Spring Training in Orlando, Florida, the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team trip to the Hoop Ball Tournament and the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, and the High School S.E.E.D. Club trip to the Taconic Outdoor Center in Cold Spring, New York.

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

- Tamar Rubinstein** and **Michael Greenberg** for \$450 for the Highlands Spring Music
- George Washington Girls Tennis SALT** for \$776.70 for the US Open trip in August 2025
- Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for \$3,000 for the Outdoor Classroom program at Post Road for all 5th grade students
- Fred Singleton** for \$4,300 for the bus to Thetford, VT for the Cross Country Team
- Nordstrom** for 40 pairs of sneakers for Church Street School
- White Plains Middle School PTA** for three grants:
  - \$3,392.50 for 7th grade T-shirts for use on trips
  - \$3,006 for 6th grade T-shirts for unified identity and school spirit
  - \$1,850 for a traditional Indian Dance troupe interactive instruction at Eastview's International Celebration, Anja Dance Company.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld