



# 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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December 8, 2025

**SCHOLAR-ATHLETES:** Athletic Director Matt Cameron and Assistant Athletic Director Mike Chappas introduced coaches of 10 Varsity Teams who presented 184 Scholar-Athletes for the Fall Season. Athletes from the Cheerleading Team, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Field Hockey, Football, Girls' Tennis, Volleyball, Girls' Swimming and Diving, Girls' Cross Country and Boys' Cross Country were recognized. Superintendent of Schools Joseph Ricca thanked coaches, parents, and everyone who helps these student athletes achieve this honor. He also thanked Coach Fred Singleton who is retiring after 50 years of coaching Boys' Cross Country.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Ricca called upon Student Liaisons Charis Choi and Afrozah Hussain who presented their reports on activities throughout the schools in the District..

Dr. Ricca said the administration is working very hard on the long-range plan and has also been advocating actively with elected officials for White Plains's share of Foundation Aid. He wished everyone a very happy, healthy holiday season and said we're looking forward to a great new year.

**BOARD COMMENT:** Board Member Cayne Letizia along with Dr. Ricca attended the Lower Hudson Council Superintendents' Advocacy Meeting where they discussed issues of concern with elected officials from around the state, particularly fiscal support and charter schools authorization. Board Member Jessica Buck spoke of the valuable partnership with PTA. She also attended the Singer-Songwriter Showcase which she said was very impressive. Board Member Sheryl Brady attended the Friends of White Plains Public Schools Reunion along with other Board Members, and also various events of the Westchester-Putnam and New York State School Boards Associations.

**PERSONNEL:** The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Charles Moore, Custodial Worker at the Middle School-Highlands.

Receiving appointment to tenure at this meeting were five staff members: Teaching Assistant Pamela Vazquez-Espinoza at George Washington School, and four teachers: Yokasta Betancourt, Elementary Education at Church Street School, Jeta Tahiri, Elementary Education at George Washington School, Morgan Roessler, Physical Education at Middle School-Highlands, and Katrina Cullen, Social Studies at Middle School-Highlands.

Edwin Diaz, Jr. was appointed Varsity Baseball Coach. Mr. Diaz thanked the administration and said he looks forward to taking on this position.

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

**DUNKIN** for \$8,300 in gift cards for White Plains High School students, teachers and staff

**Oakland Trading Corp.** for \$2,500 for the Key Club and Midnight Run Club

**Scarsdale Police Benevolent Association** for \$300 for the Key Club

**The Professional Firefighters Associates** for \$250 for the Key Club

**Ms. Donna Joseph** for \$500 for the Dr. Leonard G. Rhodes Memorial Fund

**Mr. & Mrs. James Baker** for \$500 for the Frank A Schmidt Memorial Music Award

**WPHS PTA Grants Committee** for \$1,545 for White Plains High School, for \$895. for admission fees for 55 students to enter the El Museo del Barrio and Whitney Museum, for \$300 for headphones compatible with the new iPads for students in ICOT Global History, and for \$350 for membership for all WPHS staff and students to the Katonah Art Museum

**Friends of White Plains Public Schools** for three grants:

\$2,800 for a trip for 40 Rochambeau students to the 9/11 Museum and One World Observatory

\$2,100 for books for the *One Book, One School* program at Post Road School

\$1,050 for the Critter Caravan program for Kindergarten students at George Washington School

**The Middle School PTA Board** for the following three grants:

\$3,300 for T-shirts for 500 for 8th grade T-shirts

\$850 for 7<sup>th</sup> grade mural at Eastview second floor by Sabrina Crowley

\$2,500 for Grit Ninja interactive fitness experience during Spring Tiger Fest at Eastview

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Special Education Committee reported that new **Assistant Superintendent Dr. Karen Tesik** is doing an excellent job. The second phase of the audit of Special Education will be conducted this year.

The Finance and Audit Committee reported that Moody's has visited the District and reaffirmed our Aa1 rating which is excellent for the District.

The Health and Safety Committee, under the leadership of **Jeremy Harrison**, proceeds with continuous improvement, looking particularly at elections and outside visitors in the schools, processes to support nurses in the buildings, and security infrastructure to keep our students safe.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld