



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

February 9, 2026

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **William Eckfeld**, music and orchestra teacher from 1987 until he retired in 2013, primarily at the High School but also at George Washington, Highlands and Post Road Schools; **Sandra Altman**, Middle School teacher, and later transitioning to elementary education at Church Street School, before retiring in 2013; and student, **GianRaul Yiango Moreno Olivo (GMO)**, a light in our educational community who personified joy, courage, and strength.

BOARD COMMENT: Board Members spoke about events they attended in the last few weeks, including various Martin Luther King celebrations, the High School musical production, and the Lower Hudson Educational Coalition meeting which Dr. Ricca moderated. **Board Member Sheryl Brady** recently attended an Advocacy Institute Leadership Seminar in Washington, D.C. at which she met with legislators.

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 mentioned that High School students participated in a walkout this morning relating to immigration. He thanked the White Plains Department of Public Safety for their help in ensuring their safety.

Dr. Ricca asked **Jeremy Harrison**, our Safety Director, to provide an update. Mr. Harrison spoke about our close relationship with first responders, as witnessed this morning in the walkout. He mentioned the Safety Plans in each building and also a training program which he will be conducting.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Katherine Barpoulis**, Director of Elementary Teaching, Learning & Assessment PreK-6. Dr. Ricca thanked her for her service. Teachers retiring are **Joan Cruz, Jacqueline Miller, Joy Schneider, Daniel Furry, Leandro Francisco, Jr., David John Jones, Jr., Laura Mazziotti, Mark Armogida, Lynda Hricay, Helena Valdes, Kevin Brown, Susan Brumer, Janet Von Stein, Jeneffer Villarie, Wanda Soto DeJesus, Kristine McMath, Vicky School-Mendez, Janet Wiggins, Denise Cherico, Cristina Conomos, Boneida Cruz, Regan Santangelo** and **Bonnie Vendola**.

Also retiring are **Antonio Moronta**, Custodian at the High School, and **Linda Washington**, Office Assistant II at Highlands Middle School.

Receiving tenure was **Ashlie D'Andrea**, Teaching Assistant at Mamaroneck Avenue School.

Dr. Tammy Cosgrove was appointed Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, replacing **Scott Pepper** who retired last month. She comes to White Plains from Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES.

The resignation of **Michael Eaton**, Middle School-Highlands Principal, was accepted by the Board. Appointed to replace him was **Joseph Spero** as Acting Principal.

INSTRUCTIONAL BUDGET PRESENTATION: **Dr. Debbie Hand**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, presented an overview of how the proposed budget provides high quality teaching and learning while remaining fiscally responsive. Ds. Hand said all of our instructional priorities align to the Strategic Plan. Although we are constantly evolving, refining and looking at new opportunities, the budget remains neutral. Ds. Hand thanked her whole team for their work.

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

Nancy Levy for 100 copies of the book *Berticus* for the 5th graders

Mrs. Ernestine Glenn for \$10,000 to the Glenn Creative Writing Scholarship

Ms. Naima Smith Monroe for \$600 for the SAIL Special Olympics

The following donations were made for the Phillip Barnett Memorial Scholarship Fund:

Ms. Ricki Soltan, \$18; **Mr. & Mrs. Howard Englander**, \$50; **Ms. Nancy Desplantes**, \$50; **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Crystal**, \$50 ; **Mr. & Mrs. Noel Cooperberg**, \$100;

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Boord, \$100; **Ms. Antonia Martinez, LLC**, \$120,

The White Plains Boys Basketball Team for \$5,832 to cover the bus to Springfield, MA

The Business Council of Westchester for an award of \$2,500 for the Incubator EDU course

The Friends of White Plains Public Schools approved the following grants:

\$1,020 for a science trip to Cranberry Lake for all Church Street 5th graders

\$2,000 for a year-end trip to Chelsea Piers in Stamford for all Church Street 5th graders

\$500 for Post Road 4th grade dual language trip to Wolf Conservation Center

The WPHS PTA Grant Committee approved the following grant:

\$1,000 for 37 AVID students to see *The Great Gatsby* on Broadway

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld