



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

April 13, 2026

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **LaVeda Cherry Ellis**, Media Specialist/Librarian at Highlands Middle School from 1985 until she retired in June 2007, and **Alphonse Ramsey**, Security Assistant at the High School from 1998 through 2000

BOARD COMMENT: Board Members attended the **Friends of Public Education Spring Fling**, honoring former **Mayor and County Clerk Tom Roach** and **County Legislator Ben Boykin**. They expressed appreciation for all the Friends do to enrich our programs and support our students. They also mentioned our wonderful collaborative relationship and partnership with the City of White Plains.Wi

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: Athletic Director **Matt Cameron** and Assistant Athletic Director **Mike Chappas** introduced coaches of 11 Varsity teams who presented 142 Scholar-Athletes for the Winter season. Athletes from Girls' and Boys' Indoor Track, Girls' and Boys' Ice Hockey, Girls' and Boys' Bowling, Wrestling, Cheerleading, Boys' and Girls' Basketball and Boys' Swimming and Diving were recognized.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2026-2027: Beginning with an overview, Dr. Ricca said the good news is that every program we have now is included in this budget. We are not talking about cutting and we are staying within the tax cap. We utilize the Strategic Plan each year as the foundation for the Budget and we focus on our students and the services that they receive. **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** assisted Dr. Ricca in presenting the details of this \$284,932,300 budget, which remains within the tax levy cap at a percentage increase of 1.60% over last year. The Board adopted the Budget later in the meeting.

Dr. Ricca thanked everyone who contributed to the creation of the proposed Budget and the community for its consistent support. He also expressed appreciation to the Finance & Audit Committee. He and Dr. Vaccaro-Teich remain available to answer any questions and all of the information on the Budget is available on the District's website here: <https://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/district-offices/businessoffice/budget/2026-2027budget>.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Laura Mungin, Principal at George Washington School**, effective September 1st. Dr. Ricca thanked her for her long career in White Plains and said she was completely dedicated to her students.

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were also accepted from **Greta Daka**, School Psychologist, Church Street, **Marymilt Duran**, School Psychologist, Middle School-Highlands,

Meghan Gaslor, Art Teacher, Rochambeau, **Julia Rose-Perea**, Spanish Teacher, Middle School-Highlands, and **Stephen Stark**, Special Education Teacher, Mamaroneck Avenue School.

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

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

\$2,040 for tickets to a concert during the WPHS Band/Orchestra trip to Portland, ME

\$1,000 for an academic symposium with author Roberto Quesada

\$780 for the purchase of books for all 4th graders at Ridgeway

The WPHS PTA Grants Committee for \$500 for the Cosplay Group to purchase supplies and materials to design and develop costumes for 36 students

Joanne Dunphy (\$200) and **Richard Brownell** (\$150) for the Phillip Barnett Scholarship:

Eric Kantor (\$1,500), **Marcia Cardarelli** (\$150), **Elizabeth Schutt** (\$50) and **Helene**

Rothstein (\$36) for the Lois Van Epps Scholarship:

Susan Shaw for various music supplies for the Music Program

Nora Contract for \$300 for the Highlands Middle School Holiday Concert performance at New York-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health

Bruna Mascia for a heavy duty laminator (with plastic rolls) for Ridgeway School

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld