



# 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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June 8, 2026

### PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DISTRICTWIDE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**PLAN:** Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** introduced **Jeremy Harrison** who opened the hearing. He noted that the State Education Department issues requirements each year and this district is far ahead of the curve. Dr. Ricca thanked the White Plains Department of Public Safety for their partnership. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed. The plan was adopted later in the meeting.

**RECOGNITION:** In the New York State School Boards Member Excellence Program, **Board Member Sheryl Brady** received a Level 4 Lifetime Achievement Award and **Board Member Jessica Buck**, received a Level 2 Excellence Award.

Southern Westchester BOCES honored two staff members with their American Dreamer's Awards at a recent luncheon: **Khali Murrell**, Director of Rochambeau School, and **Steven Chetcuti**, a teacher there.

On behalf of the New York State School Boards, Sheryl Brady presented the "Tomorrow's Leaders Today" awards to three students, one from White Plains --**Yaniv Dardashti-Weisz**.

Dr. Ricca and Board Members recognized the two Ex-Officio Board of Education Student Members for this past year: **Charis Choi** and **Afrozah Hossain**. They thanked them for their service, their reports, and for their help in establishing the cell phone policy. Their names will be engraved on a plaque in the Assembly Room at Education House. Their replacements, **Layla Hanbali** and **Giulia Amussen**, were introduced.

**RETIREES AND 25-YEAR STAFF:** **Dr. Tammy Cosgrove**, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, thanked the following retirees on behalf of the students of White Plains for their dedicated service. Dr Ricca wished them a happy, healthy next chapter and said the door is always open. Retirees are **Annette Adamiak**, **Mark Armogida**, **Marcia Baker-Eddie**, **Katherine Barpoulis**, **Constance Brannon**, **Kevin Brown**, **Susan Brumer**, **Denise Cherico**, **Yun Jing Chow**, **Cristina Conomos**, **Laura Crowley**, **Joan Cruz**, **Boneida Cruz**, **Susan Epstein**, **Leandro Francisco Jr.**, **Daniel Furry**, **Sonia Gomez**, **Lynda Hricay**, **David John Jones, Jr.**, **Laura Mazziotti**, **Kristine McMath**, **Jacqueline Miller**, **Charles Moore**, **Antonio Moronta**, **Laura Mungin**, **Karen O'Brien**, **Walter Ortega**, **Ahalya Persaud**, **Valerie Riddick**, **David Roher**, **Regan Santangelo**, **Ronda Saylor**, **Joy Schneider**, **Vicky School-Mendez**, **Wanda Soto-DeJesus**, **Michael Sullivan**, **Helena Valdes**, **Bonnie Vendola**, **Jeneffer Villarie**, **Janet Von Stein**, **Linda Washington**, **Janet Wiggins**, and **Jeffrey Willson**.

25-year staff honored were: **Hassan Abdul-Basheer**, **Taidra Brabham**, **Donelle Cabell**, **Michael Chiariello**, **Jennifer Degraphenreed**, **Tina Del'Orletta**, **Emily Delucia**, **Andrea DiCamillo**, **Patricia Espinoza**, **Karen Fleischman**, **Donna Fraioli-Gallinelli**, **Timothy Giambalvo**,

**Ina Giglio, Lise Goudreau, Laura Green, Stacey Podolsky Hebert, Launese Jackson, Eliseo Lugo, Leslie Madden-Fleischman, Alyson O'Connor, Judith Plant, Amy Podolak, Claudia Ruggiero, Joanne Schmidt, Melissa Staar, Michael Sullivan, Brenda Tollinchi, Carol Tripp-Bagley, Jawanda Weston, Angela Williams, and Sonya Wilson.**

**BOARD COMMENT:** **Board President Rosemarie Eller** expressed thanks to the entire community for the passing of the budget, at 92% of the vote. Dr. Ricca added his thanks to the PTA, the League of Women Voters and the staff. All the Board Members attended the National Honor Society Induction and congratulated all of the many scholarship winners in the Class of 2026. **Board Member Sheryl Brady** congratulated the large number of students achieving a Seal of Civic Readiness.

**PERSONNEL:** The Board approved a memorandum of agreement with the White Plains Teachers Association authorizing the Superintendent to execute a Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. This is a successor to the 2022-2026 agreement.

Six staff members were awarded tenure: **Erika Richardson**, School Social Worker, High School, **Meilyn Batista**, Teaching Assistant, Highlands, **Tara Daly**, Assistant Principal, Highlands, **Jessica Maracallo**, Assistant Principal, Highlands, **Justine Shewbarran**, House Administrator, High School, and **Yolanda Rodriguez**, Director of World Languages, Districtwide.

**Irene Iannuzzi** was appointed Director of Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Career and Technical Education. She has a BA from Columbia University and an MS from Mercy College.

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

**Mr. & Mrs. Mark Varian** for \$3,000 for the Rita Varian Art Scholarship

**Jack Massaro** for \$500 for the Louis and Rose Massaro Scholarship

**Andrea Robinson** for \$5,750 and **Carole Lashley** for \$190 for the Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship:

**Raymond Hames Global Account** (\$500), **Stephen Holden** (\$200), **James Levy** (\$250),

**Edward Sonn** (\$195), **A. Williams Nicolai** (\$100), **Judith Peters** (\$100), **Arlene**

**Dahm** (\$100), **Suzanne Erskine** (\$100), **Nancy Mayers** (\$65), **Nathalie Warner**

**Steinbach** (\$50), **Dr. Marietta Saravia-Shore** (\$50) for the Ed Furtick Class of 1957 Scholarship

**Daniel Cultice** for \$863 for the David R. Cultice Memorial Fund

**Jimena Perez** for a flute and case for the Music Department

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld