



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

September 14, 2026

OPENING OF MEETING: **President of the Board Rosemarie Eller** called the first meeting of the school year together, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and read the District's mission statement. **Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of retired teacher **Nancy Vande Berg** who taught music from 1988 to 2003.

HALL OF FAME: Dr. Ricca introduced **Amy Geiger**, representing the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for the October 22nd Induction Ceremony. Inductees will be: **Dr. Nancy Uscher**, '68, international concert violinist and college administrator, **Dr. Joseph Silverman**, '73, prominent mathematician and university professor, **Sean Bratches**, '79, sports and media marketing innovator, and **Marie Houston**, '80, community advocate and leader. Mrs. Geiger invited everyone to attend this important event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME BACK: Mrs. Eller said opening day was fantastic and Board Members added their welcomes. **Board Member Jessica Buck** looks forward to all the activities and thanked the Board for its support of the B Smart Gun Safety Program, which is on tonight's agenda for approval. **Board Member Sheryl Brady** mentioned some recent webinars and Dr. Ricca spoke about the plans for new pathways to learning outside of Regents. He introduced the two new ex officio Board Members, **Giulia Francesca Amussen** and **Layla Yamna Hanbali**, who presented their reports. He also congratulated the two National Merit Finalists, **Christine Damato** and **Nizar Hammami**.

Dr. Ricca mentioned the challenge of the district transportation, with about 100 buses, and said we are in the second year with Durham Transportation. We are making adjustments and hope to reach perfection. He also thanked the Youth Bureau for its additional staffing to accommodate more students in before- and after-school activities.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE: **Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich** introduced representatives from H2M and Triton Construction who reported on progress. The Innovation Wing is ahead of schedule but there will be lane closures on North Street. Rochambeau renovations are running slightly behind, mainly due to abatement work. Education House upgrades are almost complete and Mamaroneck Avenue School bathrooms are a vast improvement.

PERSONNEL: Tenure was awarded to two Teaching Assistants at Eastview Middle School: **Andrew Baskerville** and **Makai Johnson**.

Probationary appointments were awarded to two teachers at Church Street School: **Christopher Babock**, Health, and **Linda Bencivengo**, Special Education.

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

Ahold Delhaize USA Inc. for \$824.90 for Church Street School

Century Country Club for 200 school supply kits

Andrea Agre and Ashleigh Nutt for school supplies

Robert Lent on behalf of the Elks for a copy of *A Student's Dictionary & Animal Gazetteer*
for all third grade students (515 students)

The WPMS PTA for \$3,700 for T-Shirts for the 7th grade class trip to the Bronx Zoo

The WPMS PTA for \$4,136. to the Grit Ninja-Grit on the Go Mobile Ninja Warrior
Experience

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