

Members of the Health Education Advisory Council (HEAC)

The Board of Education has selected volunteers to serve as members of the Health Education Advisory Council, which will review Rye Neck's current health education curriculum and recommend potential enhancements to the Board and administration.

In selecting the members of the Council, the Board has sought to create a group that represents a wide range of stakeholders across the Rye Neck community, including not only parents, teachers, students and administrators, but also leaders of religious organizations and a member of the general community.

Each of our four schools is represented on the Council by two parents who currently have children attending those schools. We received applications from many qualified parents, which required the Board to make some difficult decisions. In selecting parents to join the Council, the Board sought to include parents who have professional experience and expertise in education, medicine and health services, as well as parents who have demonstrated a passion for issues involving health education.

The Council also includes Rye Neck teachers who currently provide health and biology instruction to our students, along with school administrators who have extensive experience in all aspects of curriculum development, including health education.

Our community is fortunate to have so many talented parents and professional educators who are willing to assist us in this important effort. We are grateful for their dedication to our school district and their commitment to continually enhancing the quality of education for our children.

HEAC Members

Wendy Abbatantono's nursing career started 23 years ago working primarily in the acute care setting. She has been working at Daniel Warren for the past 14 years where she has been providing direct health care to students, staff and parents. Mrs. Abbatantono is dedicated to serving as a liaison between school personnel, family, community and health care providers, as well as supporting the needs of students in the learning process, to achieve educational success, emotional well being and lifelong health.

Dr. Ritika Arora is a physician who has two daughters – one attending Daniel Warren and the other attending F.E. Bellows. She is a HEAC parent representative for Bellows.

Dr. RyaLynn Carter is an obstetrician-gynecologist with experience in counseling women and teens regarding safe sex practices and sexually transmitted diseases. Her daughter attends Daniel Warren. She is a HEAC parent representative for Daniel Warren.

Joe Ceglia is in his tenth year as an administrator for the Rye Neck School District. Mr. Ceglia is the Director of Physical Education, Health and Interscholastic Athletics.

Erin Colagiovanni has 12 years of experience as a kindergarten teacher. Her son and daughter attend Daniel Warren, and her youngest son will enter kindergarten next year. She is a HEAC parent representative for Daniel Warren.

Lisa Dalsimer is a member of a group of Rye Neck parents seeking a review of the current health education curriculum. Her oldest son attends the High School and she also has a son and daughter who attend Daniel Warren. She is a HEAC representative for the High School.

Mary-Ellen Dorfman, RDN, CDN, MPH is a registered dietician nutritionist with a Masters in public health. Her daughter is an 11th grader who attends the High School. She is a HEAC representative for the High School.

Tara Goldberg has been an Early Childhood and Elementary School Educator for 21 years, a School Administrator in NYC for 9 years and is currently Principal of the Daniel Warren Elementary School, K-2.

Gloria Spedafino Golle serves on the HEAC in her capacity as President of the Rye Neck Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). She currently has a Middle School son and a third grade daughter.

Shawn Lincoln has a BS in Physical Education Pedagogy from the University of New Hampshire and a Masters of Education from East Stroudsburg University. He has taught 7th grade, 8th grade and High School Health, Middle School and High School Physical Education, and Middle School and High School Sports Management at Rye Neck for 10 years. Mr. Lincoln has coached a total of 25 seasons in his 10 years at Rye Neck, including Varsity Girls' Basketball, Varsity Boys' Basketball, Varsity Boys' Tennis, JV and Modified Volleyball and Modified Girls' Basketball.

Dr. Eric Lutinski taught social studies for 13 years, including 10 years at Rye Neck High School. He has been Rye Neck Middle School Principal since 2005, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction since 2017 and also has roles in our music program and safety planning.

Linette Milo has been a Living Environment Regents teacher at Rye Neck for the past 13 years. She also has been teaching Advanced Placement Biology for the past 6 years. She was the Freshmen Class Advisor for 10 years and currently, this is her second year as the Junior Class Advisor. She is also currently the Peer Leadership teacher. Mrs. Milo received her Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Science in Teaching Biology from Fordham University.

Lucas Pasquina is a junior at Rye Neck High School. He has attended Rye Neck since Kindergarten. Lucas has been an active member of the Art Club, Mock Trial, the Gay Straight

Alliance, and Cross Country and Track and Field. Outside of school, he is the Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 2 Mamaroneck, and is currently working on his Eagle Scout rank. In college Lucas hopes to major in sociology, where he can continue to explore his interest in how youth view spirituality in the twenty first century.

Laurel Ryan is an attorney and a member of the executive board of the Rye Neck PTSA. She has two sons – one who attends F.E. Bellows and the other who attends the Middle School – as well as a daughter who attends Daniel Warren. She is a HEAC representative for the Middle School.

Kristen Scheyder is a parent with two sons attending the High School and one son attending F.E. Bellows. She is a HEAC parent representative for F.E. Bellows.

Matthew Tauber has more than 20 years of experience advising young students in the areas of athletic performance, health and mental wellness. He has an advanced degree in community health. His youngest son attends Daniel Warren, his oldest son attends the Middle School, and his daughter is currently a preschool student. He is a HEAC representative for the Middle School.

Rebecca Tenner is a senior at Rye Neck High School. She has attended Rye Neck Schools since Kindergarten. She is currently Student Senate Vice President and Events Coordinator for her Senior Class. These leadership experiences have helped her to understand the power of student voice. Rebecca is very passionate about public health and plans to major in Community Health as she attends Tufts University in the Fall. Rebecca hopes to eventually attend medical school where she will continue to help her community and those in need.

Thomas Unkenholz is Pastor of the Harrison Presbyterian Church. He is a Rye Neck resident who has four grown children.

Sidney Young is a Digital Account Specialist with a global media network. Ms. Young, grew up in the Rye Neck school district after moving from Toledo, Ohio in 2004. She graduated from Rye Neck High School in 2012 and went on to Long Island University to receive a B.S. in Sports Management with a minor in Journalism and now is completing her Master of Arts in Media Management. Ms. Young is working to launch her first media company this year as well as develop her brand as a voice and activist for people of color.