



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

Present: President Rebecca Mansell

Trustee Gloria Golle

Trustee Patty Nashelsky

Trustee Erica Wagner

Trustee Elizabeth Yong

Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools

Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

Absent: Trustee Jason Carmel

I. Opening of Meeting

President Mansell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. President's Report

President Mansell stated that Rye Neck is always looking for ways to enhance communication and make information easier to access. Board Meetings are filmed and broadcasted by LMC Media and, moving forward, Planning Sessions will be recorded. The videos will be posted to the district website after each meeting. Prior to each meeting, the community will receive two reminder emails with a direct link to the agenda on Board Docs. In addition, we have implemented posting the monthly president's reports and superintendent's reports on the district website, streamlined our internal protocols for responding to emails from members of the community, and will be increasing board member visibility at school events, including at Daniel Warren.

Lastly, President Mansell recognized the hard work and dedication of the administrators and district staff and acknowledged that Rye Neck students are happy and thriving due to their immense efforts and positive attitudes.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lutinski reported that the first Facilities Planning Advisory Team meeting was held last Wednesday. Our architect partners outlined the results of their Building Condition Survey and discussion was had regarding specific aspects of each of the campuses. Mrs. Mahar is organizing a building walkthrough to better familiarize the parent representatives with the buildings and grounds and to help provide context for the team to

make recommendations for a 5 year capital plan for future facilities and infrastructure needs and possible use of the new Capital Reserve Fund.

Additionally, he stated that the Technology Planning Advisory Team is meeting tonight. At the November Board Planning Session, Mrs. Lanza described the need to adopt a new website template. The team's first order of business will be to begin the process of choosing a new look. This will include a community survey. The second half of the project will be to look at an enhanced Rye Neck app. Later, the team will look at the technology infrastructure, security, and buying cycle.

With regard to strategic planning, Dr. Lutinski thanked the parents who participated in the voluntary virtual forums with the Strategic planner, Judy Wilson. He encouraged members of the community to take the survey that was sent and which is on our webpage under the district tab. Ms. Wilson will be gathering and organizing the survey data for the Strategic Planning Team to work on during their sessions on November 29th and 30th. The team is composed of three board members, four parents, four high school students, one community member, nine teachers or faculty, and most of the administrators. They will help develop district goals and action steps with measurable benchmarks. The completed plan, including how it will be implemented and translated into real improvements, will be communicated to the community.

Next, Dr. Lutinski reported that, to date, the High School celebrated four of our five honor society inductions. 81 students were inducted into the National Honor Society on October 2nd, 33 students were inducted into Rye Neck's chapter of the World Language National Honor Societies on October 16th, 39 students were inducted into Mu Alpha Theta, the National Math Honor Society and 22 students were inducted into the International Thespian Honor Society on November 13th. The second half of the International Thespian Honor Society featured the Tri-M Music Honor Society inductees.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski reminded the community that November 22nd is a half day that begins the Thanksgiving weekend. Each school has a specific dismissal time as the district will conduct its annual "rapid dismissal" drill when students are released.

IV. Curriculum Presentation - Math

Daniel Warren Principal, Tara Goldberg, and F.E. Bellows Principal, Michael Scarantino, presented the new K-5 math program, Eureka Math². They explained that the program teaches the why behind the math through different levels of problems, hands-on and pictorial models, and practice opportunities and uses real life connections, interactive learning, talking about math and collaboration with peers. Student materials include books for school and home, manipulatives, and a digital platform. They reviewed the various modules of the curriculum, explained how it encourages math at home and how there are supporting materials available to parents. Finally, they explained the various assessments that inform instruction and the professional development provided to teachers.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District

approves the following consent agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2023 Board of Education Special Meeting
2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 1, 2023 Board of Education Planning Session
3. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Retirement
4. Approval of Retroactive Appointment
5. Appointment of Advisors to MS Clubs
6. Appointment of Advisors to HS Clubs
7. Appointment of Advisors to FEB Clubs
8. Approval of Revised Board of Education Meeting Schedule
9. Approval of Stipulation Agreement
10. Approval of Addition of Impartial Hearing Officer
11. Approval of Amended Audit Committee Charter
12. Approval of Budget Development Calendar
13. Approval of Update District Consultant List
14. Approval of Donation of Furniture
15. Approval of Disposal of Furniture & Equipment
16. Approval of CSE Recommendations
17. Approval of Homebound Instruction
18. Approval of Budget Transfers
19. Approval of Financial Reports

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

VI. Financial Reports for Information

The Board was presented with the Warrant Schedule - All Funds for information Purposes.

VII. Communications to the Board

President Mansell reported that the Board has received 11 communications since the last meeting regarding policy, board relations, recording of planning sessions, technology, streamlining email responses, and strategic planning.

VIII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

A community member addressed the Board with concerns about the functionality of the Board and explained what it is she expects from them.

IX. Reports - Community School Groups

Student Senate - Dylan Schneider

Student Senate President Dylan Schneider could not attend the meeting, so Dr. Lutinski read an update on his behalf. Halloween went smoothly - no costumes broke the dress code. The Senate organized a school-wide pink out in late October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, and they are organizing a collection drive in conjunction with

the Key Club. In addition, he advised that homeroom organization was revamped by organizing homerooms by grade level; the bulletin boards that were destroyed by the flood have been replaced; the Library Cafe has reopened; and there is now a posted survey with a QR code around the school that allows students to provide feedback on the dining hall and Library Cafe.

PTSA - Ruth Homberg

PTSA President Ruth Homberg reported that the elementary schools had their fall Walk, Bike or Scoot to School week during the week of October 23rd. The Environmental and Health & Wellness Committees asked students to pick up any interesting pieces of nature they found on their way to school and worked to create living murals outside of each school. The Health and Wellness Committee also worked with Rye Y and organized a kickball Fall Family Kickball night at F.E. Bellows.

In addition, kindergarteners participated in a Pumpkinfest where they had an afternoon celebration with fall-themed games and crafts. After Halloween, the Health & Wellness Committee worked with Rye Smiles to organize a candy drive to donate extra candy to the dental practice to send to U.S. Troops; Daniel Warren held the Put the Garden to Bed event where the children planted 200 tulip bulbs which will hopefully bloom in the spring; and the Middle School Spooktacular was held the Friday before Halloween with over 200 students in attendance.

The first SEAC meeting took place on October 24th at which Mr. Wil Siegel presented the ESS' new therapeutic program which provides more mental health support to the schools, and the Rye Neck International Committee held their Potluck dinner at the High School.

The PTSA is organizing and funding STEAM programs this month. Historian and storyteller Sheila Arnold gave a presentation in the Middle/High School earlier this week; Animal Embassy will visit Daniel Warren later this week; Path to Rhythm will visit 3rd graders early next month; and the 4th Grade Circus will be held this Friday night.

Lastly, the fundraising efforts are underway. Casino Night is taking place tomorrow night. The PTSA is partnering with Square 1 Art so Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellow students can create artwork that can be transferred to personalized items; school photos have been sent home for purchase; and community members have been purchasing merchandise from the first pop-up store of the year in addition to purchasing athletic apparel directly from the Booster Club.

Booster Club - Jocelyn Donat

There was no report from the Booster Club.

RNTA - Lauren Wolman

RNTA Representative Lauren Wolamn reported that in the High School, Author David Grann came to speak to 11th and 12th graders about his book/movie *Killers of the Flower Moon*; varsity and JV sports are starting up; the process for the spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, has begun; Key Club organized and participated in a Polar Plunge at Rye Playland; and professional speaker and storyteller, Sheila Arnold, spoke to the 11th grade about the Underground Railroad.

In the Middle School, the 7th graders attended a team building activity at PNWBOCES; the 8th grade went on a trip to Philadelphia; the 6th grade will be having a Social Studies International Feast; all Middle School students will be participating in Ruler activity events; Ms. Lawlor and Ana Crivorot hold trivia and musical activities in homeroom classes to spread mindfulness and emotional awareness; and the Middle School is sponsoring a food drive.

Students at F.E. Bellows participated in the Halloween parade and sing-a-long; the 4th Grade Circus will take place on Friday; the student council is sponsoring a Thanksgiving food drive for the Mamaroneck Food Pantry; the 5th grade is taking a trip to Boundless Adventures; students were treated to a “Mad Science” presentation for National STEM Day; parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for December 1st, 5th and 6th; the 3rd grade will be entertained on “Path to Rhythm” as part of their social studies curriculum; the 5th grade concert will take place on December 11th; and the PTSA book fair is scheduled for December 13th and 14th.

Daniel Warren students will participate in assemblies from Animal Embassy where they will have the chance to be up close and personal with some animal friends to learn about habitats and adaptations.

Finally, Mrs. Wolman announced her retirement and thanked the community and staff for an amazing 25 years.

X. Reports - Board of Education
Office Hours

President Mansell and Trustee Wagmer will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, November 29, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Wednesday, November 22nd to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Wagner reported that she attended the West/Put advocacy meeting on October 30th where the focus was on reviewing the Lower Hudson Education Coalition survey results from board members and superintendents from Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess and Putnam counties. The survey’s priorities included transition to electric buses and bus driver shortages, cost of maintaining aging school buildings, energy efficient upgrades, sustaining student mental health programming, allocating resources for cybersecurity, revisions to the tax cap formula, teacher shortages and staff retention, and funding safety measures through alternatives other than the district’s operating budget.

Audit Committee

Trustee Yong reported that Thrive Network has been working to tailor a proposal for this year’s special review project on phishing and penetration testing of the district’s IT systems which we expect to receive later this week, and Policy 6690-E will be posted in the policy manual shortly. She stated that the Audit Committee is grateful for the community’s participation in the district’s strategic planning process. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Thursday, January 25th.

Policy Committee

Trustee Nashelsky reported that the next meeting of the Policy Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21st with the hope that there will be three or four policies on the December 20th Board Meeting agenda for a first read.

XI. New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

XII. Public Comments Concerning Above

Four community members addressed the Board regarding what is expected from the Board, expressing support for Dr. Lutinski, expressing support of the special review, and explaining that the back and forth at the last planning session is what used to take place in Executive Sessions.

XIII. Adjournment of Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Nashelsky and seconded by Trustee Golle, it was

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board, that the Board of Education Meeting of November 15, 2023 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Mansell adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk