

# RyeNeck Schools

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**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
300 HORNIDGE ROAD  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543  
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION  
JUNE 7, 2023**

Present: President, Gloria Golle

Trustee Rebecca Mansell

Trustee Patty Nashelsky

Trustee Jennifer Rubin

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 Devina O'Reilly

**I. Middle/High School Programs & Priorities Meeting**

Dr. Lutinski invited parents to share what they would like to see the administration focus on when planning for the future. The responses included:

Would like more meetings and school level communications from principals regarding curriculum and policy as it relates to homework. Parents requested a more coherent philosophy and the reasons behind it. There is a big jump in homework from 5th grade to 6th grade which creates a stressful environment. There should be some cohesiveness.

Would like to see students get more excited about reading and to get them reading more, especially at the Middle School level.

Would like to see a more holistic approach to dealing with the stress students are under in high school (i.e. anxiety from homework and how we validate learning). Is there something we can do to make them more excited about learning and less stressed. Dr. Lutinski explained how teachers differentiate instruction based on their students' learning levels.

Would like the District to have a better modified sports program since team sports help mental wellness. Currently, there are issues with transportation, fields, resources, coaching, equity in playing time, and some of the modified teams have low enrollment. Some students choose to play club sports over modified, but this is inequitable for those students who can not afford to join a club team.

Would like to see more interaction between the middle and high school students similar to Senior Buddy Day.

Would like more field trips planned, and would like to have the 8th grade overnight trip brought back. Overnight trips are invaluable experiences for students. Would like more thought put into the field trips - not just Playland.

Would like to have more extracurricular activities for middle school students, like a competitive math team that can continue into high school. Would also like the middle school students to have the ability to do both sports and extracurricular activities.

Would like to see civic engagement classes at the high school level. Coursework can be combined with field trips.

Wanted to know why there is no advanced science program in 6th grade. It was explained that 8th graders take advanced science.

Would like to see different language offerings such as Mandarin, and languages from the eastern countries.

Everyone who graduates should have at least one year of computer coding.

The District should offer home economics classes and classes that teach basic life skills.

Would like to have a robotics club.

Would like to see an applied physics class offered in high school. Can we partner with Mamaroneck or Rye High Schools in this regard.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski asked whether or not they felt the District was communicating too much or not enough. It was stated that communications are better overall, but it was requested that the subject lines of the emails reflect if the email is important by stating the subject matter. They also like the High School Weekly Round Up and Dr. Lutinski's monthly newsletter.

## **II. Opening of Meeting**

President Golle called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

### **Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2023 Board of Education Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee Mansell, it was

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held May 17, 2023, as submitted.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**IV. New Business**

**Rejection of Bid**

**WHEREAS**, on or about May 1, 2023, the Rye Neck Union Free School District (the “District”) issued and advertised a Notice to Bidders for the general construction contract (the “Contract”) for the “E” Corridor Slab Stabilization work at the Middle School/High School Building; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., sealed bids for the Contract that were received by the District were publicly opened; and

**WHEREAS**, the Notice to Bidders explicitly advised that the Board of Education of the District reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid which it deems in the best interest of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that it is in the District’s best interest to reject all bids received and opened in connection with the Contract and to readvertise for bids for the Contract.

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

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the District, that the Board of Education rejects all bids received for the Contract, pursuant to Section 103(1) of the General Municipal Law and the Notice to Bidders, and in the best interest of the District authorizes the readvertisement for public bids for the Contract

**AYES:           All Present**  
**NAYES:         None**

**V. Discussion**

**Programs and Priorities Review**

Dr. Lutinski and the Board reviewed the responses from tonight’s meeting and discussed how best to address the suggestions and issues. Dr. Lutinski stated that there were many good points made and valid suggestions, and they will be discussed by the administrators at their retreat in July.

**Senior Exit Interviews**

Dr. Lutinski and Dr. Wilson discussed with the Board the questions and responses from this year’s Senior Exit Interviews. Some of the questions they asked the students were which departments they felt were the strongest, the weakest, and why they felt this way. In addition, they were asked if they had someone at school they felt they could talk to if they needed help. Some of the other topics brought up by the students were course offerings, athletic facilities, more relative hands-on electives, and more support for international families during the college process.

**District Goals**

Dr. Lutinski advised the Board that the administration discusses the information received from meetings like Senior Exit Interviews and Programs and Priorities in order to

formulate the District's goals. He then discussed the priorities for next year's goals and for long-range planning.

**Mental Wellness Update**

Trustees Rubin and Mansell updated the Board regarding the recent meeting of the Social Emotional Steering Committee. They stated that Effective School Solutions will be starting in the District on July 1st. At the meeting, the committee discussed how the program will be implemented and how mental wellness will be provided to students. ESS will be providing professional development for faculty and staff, as well as parent training. They will be attending the Superintendent's Conference Days in August. Discussion followed regarding the Board's role on the committee, as well as the need for a presentation to the community in September.

**VI. Executive Session**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby agrees to move into executive session to discuss a particular person.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**VII. Adjournment of Executive Session, Reopening of Public Meeting and Adjournment of Public Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Rubin and seconded by Trustee Mansell, it was

**RESOLVED**, that the executive session be adjourned and the Public Meeting be reopened; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that there being no further business before the Board and upon motion duly made by Trustee Nashelsky and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education Planning Session of June 7, 2023 be adjourned.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera  
District Clerk