

# Rye Neck Schools

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**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
300 HORNIDGE ROAD  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543  
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION  
November 30, 2022**

Present: 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: President Gloria Golle  
Trustee Devina O'Reilly

**I. Opening of Meeting**

President Golle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2022 Board of Education Meeting**

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Rubin and seconded by Trustee Nashelsky, 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 November 16, 2022, as submitted.

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

**III. Discussion**

**Stress Busters - Mental Wellness Discussion**

Dr. Lutinski and Mr. Siegel discussed with the Board the content of the November 3rd presentation, *Stress Busters: Flexibility in the Learning Environment*, given by Professor Cathy Vatterott from the University of Missouri-St. Louis which some of the administrators and board members participated in. The goal of her presentation was to understand the problem, see what other schools are doing and examine our practices. She discussed the social pressures that affect students and explained how school can either add to or mitigate these pressures. Based on a survey given to high school students, the top stressors are grades, tests and other assessments, overall workload and homework and lack of sleep. Dr. Lutinski stated that these are topics which Rye Neck has been addressing for many years.

Discussion was had regarding the rise in the number of children in crisis. In addition, discussion was had regarding the issues involved in changing school times, the rationale for tests and quizzes, the use of a testing calendar, and changes that can be made. Mr. Siegel stated that the social/emotional piece is most important and students need to be taught coping strategies. However, adults need to have the skills first.

**Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)**

Mrs. Ryan reviewed the background on the Commissioner’s regulations on educating SIFE students. The district currently has 4 SIFE students. She stated that the students are assessed by the ENL teachers when they enter the district and again at the end of each school year. Discussion was had regarding meeting their needs, the need to build a capacity to educate them, and the district’s staffing needs.

**Senior and Disability Tax Exemption Cap and Increase**

Mrs. Mahar discussed with the Board the senior tax exemption and disabled tax exemption income cap and increase. She reported that New York State and Westchester County recently passed amendments to increase the income limits for low income seniors and persons with disabilities as they relate to tax exemptions. Local governments and school districts can opt to grant a reduction of up to 50% on the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying seniors and those with disabilities. Rye Town and Rye City have opted to increase the limits. Mrs. Mahar reviewed the district’s income limit and estimated impacts of increasing the limit to the new maximums. The board can decide to make no change or increase the limit to the maximum amount or to another amount.

It was decided to discuss this further at the January 4th planning session. If a change is made, it needs to be adopted by the board prior to May 1, 2023, and will impact the 2024-25 school tax year.

**IV. Executive Session**

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee Rubin, 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

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

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

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education Planning Session of November 30, 2022 be adjourned.

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

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera  
District Clerk