



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
300 HORNIDGE ROAD  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 2024**

Present: President Jason Carmel

Trustee Nikki Barker

Trustee Halli Gatenio

Trustee Gloria Golle

Trustee Erica Wagner

Trustee Elizabeth Yong

Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools

Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

**I. Opening of Meeting**

President Carmel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. President's Report**

President Carmel began by welcoming the two new Board members, Nikki Barker and Halli Gatenio. He reported that the Board spent the day at its retreat this afternoon at which they set goals for the year which include specific progress they hope to make in each of their major responsibilities: setting policy, maintaining a responsible budget, and helping the Superintendent to lead the district. They will outline the goals and the timeline and benchmarks for each at the September meeting.

Next, he mentioned the new pavers in the front of the High School building with the names of community members who have contributed to the Rye Neck School Foundation. He thanked the members of the Foundation for their efforts to bring another source of funding to the district.

Finally, he stated that the Board pledges to work together to advance the district and to deliver for the children and community.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Lutinski began by reporting that the district administrators and staff are busy preparing for the return of students. In addition, he stated that there are big projects underway throughout the district. At Daniel Warren, there is a major renovation of the rear parking lot and courtyard area including drainage improvements, curbing, fencing and repaving, as well as the addition of new lights and security cameras. In addition,

there were some interior improvements. At F.E. Bellows, there is a new wall in the library dividing the main library area from the new Bellows Science Lab. It is a dedicated space for teachers that will be used to accommodate the new NY State Science Investigations.

At the Middle/High School Campus, the old construction staging area on Hornidge Road is being used for additional parking. In order to improve safety for walkers and bikers, in addition to the 32 parking spots, there will be a safer pathway for students traveling on and off campus. In addition, the electrical transformer for the campus and the old fitness equipment in the Athletic Center have been replaced.

Next, Dr. Lutinski stated that by the first day of school we will have hired at least 20 new employees including monitors, teaching assistants, and teachers. They will be welcomed at our New Staff Orientation on August 26th, and the veteran staff will return on August 27th to prepare for students on September 3rd. The Athletic Department has already begun the year with 240 varsity and JV fall sport athletes, and 110 modified athletes practicing with 33 coaches.

Dr. Lutinski then reported that the “big deal” this year is the beginning of the Rye Neck Strategic Plan with the new goals and action plans in place. After the contest that led to the student-created strategic plan logo, we increasingly relied on the image of “head, heart, and hands” to help articulate the aspects of the plan. There will be variations of the logo used as part of the messaging and around the buildings. Each goal has its own individual component. An early feature of Goal 1 is the introduction of QFT, or question formulation technique. Towards Goal 2, students will take a fall social-emotional screener to be bookended by a companion screener in June. An important part of Goal 3 was the creation of more time for staff professional learning using delayed openings and early dismissals. After community input and a survey, late arrivals were eliminated. The district will facilitate child care for grades K-5 through the Rye YWCA. The resulting schedule balances the needs of the community with the need for staff to learn the new skills to make the plan happen. The final plan adds only six early student dismissal dates over the course of this year, and those days will decrease in number in subsequent years.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski advised that the brand new version of the ryeneck.org website went live today. Information regarding the Strategic Plan goals, action plans, early release day schedule, and more can be found on the Strategic Plan page. In addition to the website, monthly and weekly messages will be presented on each of the three goals at Regular Board of Ed meetings. At the October, November, and December meetings we will provide detailed information on the status of Goals 3, 2, and 1, respectively.

#### **IV. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Gatenio, 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 July 1, 2024 Special Meeting and Runoff Election**

2. Approval of the Minutes of the July 2, 2024 Organizational Meeting
3. Approval of the Minutes of the July 2, 2024 Board of Education Meeting
4. Approval of the Minutes of the July 16, 2024 Board of Education Special Meeting

5. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint **Laura Finkelson**, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary term as a School Psychologist, in the tenure area of School Psychologist, commencing on 03/01/2024 and ending on 02/29/2028; except that to the extent required by Education Law § 3012, in order to be eligible for tenure at the end of the probationary term, Mrs. Finkelson must have received composite or overall APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or §3012-d (as applicable) of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and also must have received an effective composite or overall APPR rating in the final year of the probationary period, or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint **Matthew McMurray**, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary term as a Science Teacher, in the tenure area of Science, commencing on 08/27/2024 and ending on 08/26/2028; except that to the extent required by Education Law § 3012, in order to be eligible for tenure at the end of the probationary term, Mr. McMurray must have received composite or overall APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or §3012-d (as applicable) of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and also must have received an effective composite or overall APPR rating in the final year of the probationary period, or he shall not be eligible for tenure at that time; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board provisionally appoint **Deana Colon** as Secretary to School Administrator, effective 08/19/2024; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint staff members to the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

FEB/MS/HS Extended School Year Teachers

Elizabeth Leifert

Brian Pinto

Jessica Salierno

FEB/MS/HS Enrichment Coordinators

Jessica Finney-Trotta

Linda Costelloe

ACT Special Services Coordinator

Sandra Siegel

CPSE/CSE Subcommittee Chairperson

Michelle Bowman (CPSE-K)

CSE Subcommittee Chairperson

Laura Finkelson (Grade 1-2)

Vanessa Dioguardi (Grade 3-5)

Elisa Barilli (Grade 6-8)

Nicole Crispinelli (Grade 9-12)

CPSE Coordinator

Michelle Bowman

MS Transition Services Coordinator

Christopher Macli

District Calendar Maintenance

Deborah Hutchinson

and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint the following certified personnel:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Assignment/Location</b>	<b>Salary/Step</b>
<b>Catherine Hynes</b>	<b>08/27/2024</b>	<b>Per Diem Substitute</b>	<b>Teacher/ RNMS/HS</b>	<b>Per Diem Sub. Rate</b>
<b>Catherine Hynes</b>	<b>09/25/2024</b>	<b>Leave Replacement 1.0 FTE</b>	<b>Teacher/ RNMS/HS</b>	<b>Grad. Sub. Pay Rate</b>
<b>Yvette Goldman</b>	<b>08/27/2024</b>	<b>Leave Replacement 0.2 FTE</b>	<b>Teacher/ RNHS</b>	<b>MA/Step 2</b>
<b>Yvette Goldman</b>	<b>08/27/2024</b>	<b>Permanent Substitute 0.8 FTE</b>	<b>Teacher/ RNMS/HS</b>	<b>BA/Step 1</b>
<b>Amanda Muccioli</b>	<b>08/27/2024</b>	<b>Leave Replacement 1.0 FTE</b>	<b>Teacher/ DW</b>	<b>BA/Step 1</b>
<b>Beth Nava</b>	<b>08/27/2024</b>	<b>Leave Replacement 1.0 FTE</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant/ DW</b>	<b>Level IV/ Step 6</b>

Yating  
Yang

08/27/2024

Leave  
Replacement  
1.0 FTE

Teacher/  
RNMS/HS

BA/Step 1  
1st Semester  
MA/Step 1  
2nd Semester

and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint the following coach for fall sports:

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
Fall	Football	Varsity	Co - 3rd Asst	Karim	McFarlane

and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoints the following substitutes:

- Sabrina Cinque
- Samantha Crecco
- Gail Fiorille
- Karen Fontecchio
- John Hearon
- Robert Kiernan
- Karina Martorano
- Suzanne Melillo
- Joyce Pezzola
- Stephanie Sanchez-Dermott
- Fran Ruello (Teaching Assistant)

and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District grant **Ashley Synowicz** an unpaid parental leave for the 2024-2025 school year; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Amanda Muccioli** an unpaid leave of absence from her Teaching Assistant position for the 2024-2025 school year; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Beth Nava** an unpaid leave of absence from her Teacher Aide position for the 2024-2025 school year; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Jessica Salierno** a paid FMLA leave beginning on or about October 30, 2024 to December 10, 2024; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Jessica Salierno** an unpaid FMLA leave beginning on or about December 10, 2024 to February 4, 2025; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Sara McElroy** effective 08/01/24; and it was **FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Armond Yusi** effective 08/05/24; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Emma Brewer** effective 08/16/24.

**6. Approval of Establishment of Standard Work Days for Appointed Officials**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby establishes the following as standard work days for appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based upon the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the District Clerk:

Title	Name	SS# (Last 4 Digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs/Day)	Term Begins/ Ends	Participate in Employer's Time Keeping System	Days/Mo (Based on Record of Activities)	Tier 1 Check only if Member is Tier 1	Not Submitted (Check only if no record of activities is completed or if participates in timekeeping system)
District Clerk	Mary Ellen Chiera	XXXX	XXXXXX	7 Hours	7/1/24 - 6/30/25	No	22	_____	_____

**7. Approval of Award of Contract for Awards, Trophies and Personal Recognition Products**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of a Request for Proposals dated July 26, 2024, award a contract for Awards, Trophies and Personal Recognition Products to Crown Trophy located at 9 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801 as per the discounts in the proposal attached.

**8. Approval of Field and Building Usage Fees**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District agree to Field and Building Usage Fees for the 2024-25 school year, as per below:

Facility	Fee, per hour July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
Bellows Gym	\$30.00
Bellows Softball Field	\$50.00
Bellows Utility Field	\$100.00
Daniel Warren Field	\$50.00

Daniel Warren Gym	\$30.00
Varsity Softball Field	\$50.00
Varsity Baseball Field	\$50.00
Varsity Soccer, Football or Field Hockey Field	\$100.00
HS Gym	\$60.00
MS Gym	\$60.00
MS/HS Track	\$100.00
MS/HS Tennis Courts (all courts)	\$100.00

9. Approval of Piggyback Contract for Irrigation Services

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve, as a result for bid process performed by Pelham Public Schools, a piggyback contract for Irrigation Services with Falco Lawn Sprinklers, located in White Plains, NY for the 2024-25 school year per attached.

10. Approval of Tax Certiorari Settlement

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, hereby authorizes the District to execute settlement in accordance with the consent judgment pursuant to §726 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York in the following tax certiorari proceeding:

<b>Petitioner</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Parcel ID#</b>	<b>Consent Judgment Amount</b>
Adelphi & Sons 427 Inc.	Town of Rye	154.50-1-68	\$5,217.67
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$5,217.67</b>

and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, pursuant to the settlement, the Board of Education authorizes the appropriation of the tax certiorari reserve to increase the 2024-25 budget in the amount of \$5,217.67 in order to refund taxes.

11. Approval of Tax Rate Apportionment

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the homestead and non-homestead levy (as per attached) which is computed pursuant to the adoption of Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 1903-a.

12. Approval of Updated District Consultant List

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





**Appointment of Middle/High School Assistant Principal**

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

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby conditionally appoints Michael Priskie, in accordance with Section 3012 of the Education Law, to a four (4) year probationary period in the administrative position of Middle/High School Assistant Principal in a tenure area co-extensive with the title, commencing July 22, 2024 and ending on July 21, 2028, at a salary in accordance with their terms and conditions of employment attached; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such appointment shall be subject to the terms and conditions of employment set forth in an Agreement between the District and Mr. Priskie, a copy of which shall be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting following approval of such Agreement by the Board; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to limit the unfettered statutory right of the school district to terminate Mr. Priskie from his position as Middle/High School Assistant Principal for any statutorily and constitutionally permissible reason while he remains in probationary status.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**Adoption of Amended Boiler Plate for Policy 5300 - Code of Conduct**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of the amended boiler plate for Policy 5300.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**Acceptance of Grants Awarded by the Rye Neck School Foundation**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accept the Rye Neck School Foundation Grants to the Rye Neck Schools, as per attached letter and chart.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**VIII. Public Comments Concerning Above**

There were no comments made by the public.

**IX. Adjournment of Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wagner seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

**RESOLVED**, that there being no further business before the Board, that the Board of Education Meeting of August 21, 2024 be adjourned.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

President Carmel adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera  
District Clerk