



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

Present: President Jason Carmel

Trustee Nikki Barker

Trustee Halli Gatenio

Trustee Gloria Golle

Trustee Erica Wagner

Trustee Elizabeth Yong (Joined meeting at 7:02 PM)

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

I. Opening of Meeting

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

II. President's Report

President Carmel began by reporting that the Board is advancing their three goals for this year, and tonight the community will hear about the District's goal to maintain a tax cap compliant budget while investing in instruction and facilities in a Long Range Financial Planning presentation. He stated that the district invests in recruiting and retaining talented teachers as half of the budget goes towards instruction and a quarter goes towards teachers' benefits. Staffing the schools with the most talented teachers is the best way to advance Rye Neck's mission to educate.

Next, he advised that the District also invests in facilities. To understand its needs the District commissioned a building conditions survey which was reviewed by our Facilities team in order to help the administration prioritize the capital projects. Several of the urgent projects were completed over the summer, some are part of the ongoing capital investments and others will be budgeted for the next several years.

Additionally, President Carmel stated that the District creates sustainable budgets to help grow and expand programs while keeping budget increases modest for local taxpayers who provide nearly 90% of the revenues.

Lastly, he thanked Trustees Yong and Barker for leading the comprehensive policy review of the District's policy manual.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lutinski began by reporting that the improvements being made throughout the District are mostly complete. At Daniel Warren, there is new paving, and new carpet and furniture in the library. There is new enrichment space at F.E. Bellows, and new interior turf in the fitness center and a new bike path at the Middle/High School. The new parking lot at the Middle/High School campus and the fencing project around Daniel Warren which are nearing completion.

He stated that there are some exciting new things going on in the schools. At Daniel Warren there is a brand new fish tank for students to learn more about aquatic life, and they have started a schoolwide Question Formulation Technique process to stimulate their thinking. In addition, there will be courtyard designs applied to the new pavement to provide interactive fun for students.

At F.E. Bellows, Dr. Lutinski reported that new enrichment units are being developed for all grades in the Library Media program. Like 5th grade, grades 3 and 4 will follow a semi-departmentalized model for both Science and Social Studies, and they are pairing Second Step with the RULER approach in classrooms and Town Hall Meetings to strengthen social emotional learning.

To support social emotional wellness, the Middle School has created a "Panther's Den" for students to build relationships and focus on their social emotional wellness, has trained additional staff in the RULER approach, and has created new extracurricular clubs, and is putting together a student advisory committee.

At the High School, new courses have been added; the Counseling Department is piloting *Wordly* at their presentations, which allows attendees to listen to translated audio in real time; and both the Varsity Girls and Boys Soccer team are piloting Student-Athlete Mental Health workshops offered by the Rye Youth Council.

Next, with regard to communications, Dr. Lutinski advised that the District tested the emergency notification system last evening with everyone being sent a phone call, email and text message of the alert. If anyone did not receive a complete series, they should log into their Parent Portal account to update their contact information. Additionally, he stated that the NY State Department of Education requires that parents and guardians be notified the week before an emergency drill takes place and explained the purpose of the different types of drills.

Finally, with regard to safety, Dr. Lutinski reported that bullet resistant window film has been installed in various locations around the District, and more is being installed this fall, and interior electronic door lock installation is completed at Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellow. Installation will begin at the Middle/High School this year. Juniors and Seniors will be attending a "Hang Up and Drive" presentation about the dangers of distracted driving, and he noted that the parking lot speed limit on the campus is 10 mph and on Hornidge Road it is 15 mph.

IV. Long Range Financial Planning Presentation

Dr. Lutinski and Mrs. Mahar reviewed for the community the District's Long Range Financial Plan. All years assume tax cap compliance; years 1 through 3 are balanced; and years 4 and 5 show a deficit, primarily driven by an estimated decreasing CPI.

However, they stated that these years are the most speculative.

Dr. Lutinski stated that all assumptions are made at a single point in time. Although the factors used can and will change, they still provide a basis for financial decision making. He reviewed the historical revenues which include local sources, State sources and interfund transfers, and the historical expenses the bulk of which are instruction and employee benefits, and he reviewed the enrollment forecast through the 2029-30 school year.

Mrs. Mahar then reviewed the unassigned, assigned and restricted fund balance history for the period 2017 through 2024; revenue projections from local, State and other sources; tax cap projections for 2025 through 2030; and expense projections through 2030, the largest categories being salaries and benefits.

Finally, Mrs. Mahar answered questions regarding revenue projection and what would be the impact if we don't bring on new debt.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the following consent agenda:

Approval of the Minutes of the September 4, 2024 Board of Education Planning Session

Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Rye Neck Union Free School District Board of Education (the "District") voted at a public meeting held on June 20, 2024 to grant a four-year probationary appointment to Grace Cassese, in the tenure area of English; and

WHEREAS, because Mrs. Cassese was previously granted tenure as a teacher by the Community School District 10, and Mrs. Cassese has demonstrated that she received an annual professional performance review (APPR) rating pursuant to New York Education Law § 3012-c and/or 3012-d in her final year of service in the Community School District 10, Mrs. Cassese is entitled to a shortened three-year probationary appointment.

RESOLVED, that upon the Superintendent's recommendation, and in recognition of Mrs. Cassese's prior receipt of tenure and APPR rating as set forth herein, instead of appointing her to a four-year probationary term, the Board hereby appoints her, *nunc pro tunc*, in accordance with § 3012 of the Education Law, to a shortened three-year probationary term, in the English tenure area, commencing on August 27, 2024 and ending on August 26, 2027; 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. Cassese 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 two (2) of the three (3) preceding years, and must also 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, that except as specified herein, the Board's prior resolution pertaining to Mrs. Cassese, as adopted on June 20, 2024, shall remain in full force and effect; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District's Superintendent of Schools is directed to provide a copy of this corrective resolution to Mrs. Cassese; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Christina Santini** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 08/27/2024, and ending 08/26/2028; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Kendyl Nethercott** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 08/27/2024, and ending 08/26/2028; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint **Alexandra Roviezzo**, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a three-year probationary term as an Elementary Teacher, in the tenure area of Elementary Education, commencing on 08/27/2024 and ending on 08/26/2027; except that to the extent required by Education Law § 3012, in order to be eligible for tenure at the end of the probationary term, Ms. Roviezzo 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 two (2) of the three (3) 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 **Christy Curran**, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary term as an Elementary Teacher, in the tenure area of Elementary Education, 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, Ms. Curran 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, hereby that the Board appoint **Robert Kiernan** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 09/09/2024, and ending 09/08/2028; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Amanda Pryzgod**a to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 09/09/2024, and ending 09/08/2028; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Janifer Lopez** as a part-time Teacher Aide, effective 09/03/2024. Civil Service requires a probationary period of a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Andrew Benkwitt** as a School Monitor, effective 09/03/2024. Civil Service requires a probationary period of a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Mack Lipinski** as a School Monitor, effective 09/04/2024. Civil Service requires a probationary period of a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks; and it was

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

Name	Effective Date	Type	Assignment/Location	Salary/Step
Madeleine Biegen	08/27/2024	Permanent Substitute 1.0 FTE	Teacher/ DW	MA+30/ Step 22
Amy Zhang	2024-2025	Per Diem Substitute	Teacher/ District Wide	Per Diem Sub. Rate
James Horigan	09/03/2024 - 09/13/2024	Per Diem Substitute	Teacher/ RNMS/HS	Per Diem Sub. Rate
Kimberly Barth	2024-2025	Per Diem Substitute	Nurse/ District Wide	Per Diem Sub. Rate

and it was

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

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
Fall	Field Hockey	Varsity	Assistant to Program	Danielle	Fucci
Fall	Boys Soccer	Varsity	Volunteer	Luis	Galeano
Fall	Co-Ed Cross Country	Varsity	Assistant to Program	Susan	Sooahoo
Fall	Football	Varsity	Co-3rd Assistant	John	Tessitore
Fall	Football	Varsity	Co-3rd Assistant	Karim	McFarlane
2024-25			Athletic Support Staff	Carolyn	Muller
2024-25			Athletic Support Staff	Kevin	McQuade
2024-25			Athletic Support Staff	Victoria	Shopovick

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescind the appointment of **Matthew Macias** as the Co-3rd Assistant to Program for Varsity Football; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescind the appointment of **Armond Yusi** as the Assistant to Program for Varsity Field Hockey; 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:

Summer Instructional Planners

Gwen Hoeler
Angela DeRosso

McKinney-Vento Instructor

Rachel Druker

Student Senate Advisors, FEB

Joan Spedafino
Janice Tosi

Math Olympiad Advisor, FEB

Ellie Speros

Continental Math Advisor, FEB

Suzanne Losito

DEI Department Chair

Meegan Lawlor

Art Crew Advisor, HS Fall Play

Caitlin Clarke

Assistant to Director, HS Fall Play

Veronica Hudak

Playbill, HS Fall Play

Cynthia Feinman

Ticket Sales, HS Fall Play

Mary Ellen Chiera

Videographer, HS Fall Play

David Golden

Set Designer, HS Fall Play

Vincent Gunn

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Christopher Shawn Lincoln** an intermittent paid FMLA leave beginning on September 16, 2024 to on or about September 30, 2024; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Alyssa Ciotti** a paid FMLA leave beginning on or about February 27, 2025 to April 9, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Alyssa Ciotti** an unpaid FMLA leave beginning on or about April 10, 2025 to May 28, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Christopher Naumann** effective 08/20/24; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Cynthia Mulligan** effective 08/21/24; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Steven Metzger** effective 08/21/24; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Natalie Reckson** effective 08/27/24; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Julie Ianello** for the purpose of retirement effective 11/14/24.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Approval of Award of Contracts for School Year 2024-25 Transportation Routes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District extend the following transportation contracts with an increase of 3.9% Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 2024-2025 School Year:

RN4	BOCES – Tappan Hill	Super Wheels Inc.	
	\$6,872/month		(with monitor)
RN5	St. Catherine Academy	TLC Transportation	\$10,045/month (with monitor)
RN13	Children’s Academy	Parent Contract	\$97.03/day
RN50	Field Trips	County Coach Corp	\$134.43/hour/bus \$123.67/hour/van

RN 51	Athletic Trips	County Coach Corp	\$134.43/hour/bus \$123.67/hour/van
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and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the August 21, 2024 bid, award the following transportation contracts for the 2024-25 school year:

RN7	REACH Academy	Super Wheels Inc.	\$7,895.00/month (with monitor)
RN10	PNW BOCES - Primrose	TLC Transportation	\$9,668.00/month (with monitor)
RN11	WCC Yonkers	TLC Transportation	\$2,550.00/month
RN29	Byram Hills/Whitby School	Super Wheels Inc.	\$8,185.00/month

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Approval of Transportation Piggybacking Contract

WHEREAS, on or about May 24, 2021, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District issued a Request for Proposals for home to school student transportation to resident students including those attending schools outside of the Mamaroneck School District's boundaries for the 2021-2022 school year.

WHEREAS, on or about June 22, 2021, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District awarded a contract to Royal Coach Lines, Inc. for the Home to School Transportation Contract for the 2021-2022 school year;

WHEREAS, on or about March 22, 2022, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District authorized an extension of the Home to School Transportation Contract for an additional five (5) year period;

WHEREAS, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District Home to School Transportation Contract includes a provision which allows other school districts to piggyback onto the Contract for purposes of transporting students to a location outside of the students' school district of residence in accordance with Education Law section 305;

WHEREAS, the Rye Neck Union Free School District wishes to use the Mamaroneck Union Free School District's Home to School Transportation Contract to transport Rye Neck students to certain out-of-district locations to which the Rye Neck and Mamaroneck School District are already providing transportation in order to recognize cost savings for the Rye Neck Union Free School District.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby consents to and authorizes the use and sharing via piggybacking of the Mamaroneck Union Free School District's Home to School Transportation contract to the out-of-district locations to which the Mamaroneck Union Free School District is already providing transportation, pursuant to the terms and conditions thereof, as per the attached Schedule A.

Approval of and Award of Contract for School Year Transportation Route Under RFP

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the August 21, 2024 Request for Proposals, award the following transportation contract for the 2024-25 school year as per the attached matrix.

RN55	Bridge School at CPW	Super Wheels Inc.	\$9,995.00/month
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Approval of Change to List of Impartial Hearing Officers

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the addition of the following people to the Rotational Section List of Impartial Hearing Officers from the State Education Department which was adopted by the Board of Education at the July 2, 2024 Annual Reorganization Meeting.

**ANDREA COHEN
CHINYERE EZE-NLIAM
RACHEL GIBBONS
SUKHBIR SINGH**

Awarding of Contract for Construction Management Services

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the August 23, 2024 Request for Proposals, award the contract for Construction Management Services to Savin Engineers, P.C. located at 3 Campus Drive, Pleasantville, NY 10570 as per the attached matrix.

Approval of Stipends for 2024-2025

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck School District approve the A/V Coordinator stipend amount for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth in the memo and **Schedule A** attached; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck School District approve the Assistant to Program, Fall Co-Ed Cross Country stipend amount for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth in the memo and **Schedule A** attached.

Approval of Homebound Instruction

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District agree to arrange for homebound instruction as recommended by the Committee on Special Education, as per the **attached** memorandum.

Approval of CSE Recommendations

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

agree to arrange for special education placement as recommended by the Committee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-School Education and Committee Recognition of Disabilities under American Disabilities Act (504), as per the **attached** memorandum.

Approval of Updated District Consultant List

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District Hereby approve the updated District Consultant List, as per the **attached** schedule.

Approval of Disposal of Equipment

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the disposal of equipment which are obsolete, no longer in use or in good working condition, as per **Schedule A**.

Approval of Budget Transfers

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District allow Carolyn Mahar to complete the following budget transfers for the period June 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024.

Approval of Financial Reports

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report, Appropriation Status Report, Bank Reconciliation Report, Claims Auditor Report, Extra-Classroom Activity Fund and Revenue Status Report.

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 Carmel reported that the Board has received 4 communications since the last meeting, 1 regarding digital policy, 1 regarding transportation, 1 regarding walking safety and 1 regarding students leaving the district.

VIII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

IX. Reports - Community School Groups

Student Senate - Spencer Elliot

Student Senate President Spencer Elliot reported that next week is Spirit Week leading up to Homecoming. There are different themes planned for each day of the week. The Senate is working on creating a student volleyball tournament; planning for a pep rally on September 27th; and working on trying to get local sponsorships for this year's events.

PTSA - Ruth Homberg

PTSA President Ruth Homberg reported that in the elementary schools, the PTSA hosted separate playdates for grades K-2, and Chalk the Walk on Labor Day Monday.

Instructors from the Rye YMCA started coming to recess again, and after school clubs began on the 16th. They are offering 15 clubs at Daniel Warren and 12 Clubs at F.E. Bellows.

In the Middle School, they hosted the annual Bagel and Locks event at which they distributed school supplies, and organized a Welcome Back snack for students. The Steps to Success program began last Monday, and the PTSA sponsored an Organize Your 6th Grader talk.

In the High School, STEAM and Health and Wellness committees have lots of ideas. They are partnering with Artistree to provide a PTSA-funded dance class for students interested in musical theater, and they funded the registration fee for MathCon, a nationwide mathematics competition for Middle and High School students.

In addition, to celebrate the first days of school, the PTSA organized a welcome back breakfast for teachers and staff in all four schools and the administrative and athletic offices. The RNIC had their first meeting last Thursday and hosted an informal meet up for families at Florence Park on September 8th.

Mrs. Homberg then stated that the first parent social event of the year will be held next Thursday evening at Patsy's Pizzeria in Harrison and a \$45 ticket includes dinner and one alcoholic beverage. The first general membership meeting of the year is scheduled for September 27th at which they will present and vote on their budget for this school year. They plan to raise and spend over \$108,000 on enrichment programs for all Rye Neck students. After the meeting, they will distribute the decals for the Ribbons for Rye Neck fundraiser, the biggest fundraiser of the year. The goal is to raise \$35,000.

Lastly, Mrs. Homberg reported on the upcoming events for next month. Class photos at the Middle School, F.E. Bellows and Daniel Warren are scheduled for October 1st; Walk/Bike/Scoot to School Week will take place in the elementary schools; a family kickball night is scheduled at F.E. Bellows; an after-school playdate and costume exchange is scheduled at Daniel Warren; and they will host the Middle School Spooktacular. The next RNIC meeting is scheduled for October 9th, and the first SEAC meeting will take place on October 7th.

Booster Club - Jennifer Abbey

Booster Club President Jennifer Abbey reported that the Booster Club has been planning and organizing for the 2024-25 school year. They have ordered bulk merchandise which has already been sold at the Florence Park community event and at a pop up shop at F.E. Bellows, and which will be sold at a Daniel Warren pop up shop and at Homecoming. They have also sold merchandise on an online store.

Their next big event is Homecoming where they are working with sports teams and liaisons to set up the Athlete's Village on the basketball court where each team will have their own table to offer food and snacks to their teams. In addition, they will be selling merchandise and concessions; providing Rye Neck themed decorations around the Middle/High School campus; organizing a panther visit to the schools; scheduling a spirit week at the elementary schools; are running the Bring Me to Homecoming raffle ticket program; and gifting the entire High School with homecoming t-shirts.

Lastly, Mrs. Abbey announced that the Annual Fall Fest is scheduled for October 19th at Rye Grill & Bar at which they will have an auction, a cornhole tournament, and visits from student athletes, thespians and the chorus.

RNTA - Kathie Offner & Elizabeth Leifert

RNTA Co-Presidents Kathie Offner and Elizabeth Leifert reported that the summer was busy with much of the staff completing curriculum planning and hours, summer instruct, taking courses, directing and working at various summer camps, learning or revising curriculum, organizing and readying classrooms, and taking part in three Professional Development days prior to Labor Day weekend. All staff completed a newly mandated two hour child abuse training and had the opportunity to begin work on the Strategic Plan. In addition, the RNTA hosted the New Teacher Luncheon for over 20 new hires.

At Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows, there were Welcome Back ice cream treats on September 3rd. Special Services and reading teachers participated in a 3 day PAF training led by The Windward School. There was a crosswalk safety presentation by the Mamaroneck Police Department for grades K-2, and a bike safety presentation hosted by the Department of Public Works and Transportation-Traffic Safety Office for grades 3-5. A collaborative mural to “plant seeds of kindness and watch them grow!” was created at Daniel Warren. Open House is on September 19th for F.E. Bellows and September 26th for Daniel Warren, and after school clubs have started at both schools. Additionally at F.E. Bellows, early morning library and library enrichment have started; Student Council elections will be held next week; they are rolling out the Second Step program to align with RULER; and all three grades will be changing classes for Science and Social Studies.

In the Middle School, Open House was held on September 12th; Steps to Success has begun; Organize your Sixth Grade took place on September 17th; officers from the Mamaroneck Police Department shared bicycle safety tips; clubs and after school library hours begin in October; the 8th grade trip to Philadelphia will take place on October 18th; and both Middle and High School students will attend the Homecoming Pep Rally on September 28th.

In the High School, Open House was held on September 5th; students in the 12th grade Government classes are involved in the Capstone Project which will allow them to complete the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness; college visits have started for Seniors; Senior Week will take place in October, including a field trip to Chelsea Piers and Senior Buddy Day.

Rye Neck School Foundation - Jennifer Soussa

Mrs. Soussa reported that since the Foundation launched last spring, they awarded three Instagrants: one to F.E. Bellows for a schoolwide store for student incentives which will be operated and managed by 5th grade students to teach real-world skills in inventory management, budgeting and customer services; one to the Middle School for the creation of the Panther Den, a supportive environment organized by the counseling department that is available during lunch to help facilitate connections and foster friendships among Middle School students; and one to the High School for zone indicators (laminated “traffic light” signs) for classrooms and other areas to manage high school cell phone usage under the new cell phone initiative.

Next, she stated that this fall, the Foundation is planning to meet and communicate regularly with principals and teachers to discuss the grant process and the types of projects they can fund. They want to communicate with staff to ensure that the grants requested are for items that fall outside the budget and that the RNSF can cover.

Mrs. Soussa then reported that the RNSF will have a fundraising campaign in November, a community fundraising event in early March, and an adults-only fundraiser in May. The inscribed Panther Pavers which were sold last spring are now on display outside the entrance to the High School. They will be running another brick fundraiser again towards the end of the school year.

Finally, she announced that the RNSF is looking for help with graphic design as well as website maintenance. If anyone is interested they should email her at ryeneckschoolfoundation@gmail.com.

Strategic Plan Update - Corinne Ryan

Mrs. Ryan shared highlights of what the District has been working on regarding the Strategic Plan.

- There was a district-wide introduction to QFT and a few dream project examples were shared when staff returned from summer break.
- Teachers have been trying out QFT in their classrooms.
- As part of our Civic Readiness seal that was presented to you last year, capstone projects are being introduced to seniors in Government & Economics.
- A social and emotional screener was chosen and a digital administration was created, and a timeline has been developed, and communication with the community regarding the screener has already started.
- The administrative team created an outline for professional learning this year.
- The four principals, department chair for our professional development committee (Linette Milo), myself and our support staff have been trained in creating a professional learning catalog utilizing Frontline, a software program that the District already uses for tasks such as tracking our continuing teacher and leader education hours and for course approval forms.
- We have started implementing what we learned and have begun to design our catalog and compile our professional learning opportunities.
- Wednesday, September 25th is our first early release day for professional learning. October 23rd is the second early release day..
- As Dr. Lutinski stated, our curriculum presentations at the next three board meetings will focus on the Strategic Plan. At the October board meeting, our curriculum presentation will focus on goal #3, our November meeting will focus on goal 2, and in December we will discuss goal #1.

At any time you can look at our website to see how the District is progressing with its goals. We are monitoring progress using milestone indicators. In order to achieve these goals the subcommittees created action steps which were further broken down into smaller steps found in these indicators. If an indicator is red, we have not started it; if it is yellow, it is in progress, and if it is green it is complete.

X. Reports - Board of Education Office Hours

Trustees Wagner and Gatenio will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, October 1, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, September 27th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Barker reported that she and Trustee Gatenio attended training for new board members this past weekend. In addition, she and Trustee Yong attended the advocacy meeting via Zoom on Monday night at which they discussed the 37 resolutions being put forth by NYSSBA. The next advocacy meeting is scheduled for October 7th, and voting on the NYSSBA resolutions will take place on October 10th.

Audit Committee

Trustee Golle reported that the business office closed the books for the 2023-24 school year, and the auditors are finalizing the financial statements. The Audit Committee will meet with the auditors in October to review the annual audit, and the Board anticipates accepting the financials and results of the audit at the October meeting.

Policy Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the Committee met for the first time this year on August 27th when it reviewed NYSSBA's draft of required policies, recommended policies, and local policies in sections 0000-1000 which include 56 policies, regulations, and/or exhibits and identified policies that required further review by the school attorney or administrators, or required a follow up with NYSSBA. Feedback from these parties will be considered at the next Committee meeting before recommendations are made to the Board to adopt the revised sections.

She stated that the Committee also reviewed the policies recommended for revision in NYSSBA's 3rd and 4th policy update installments. Some were included in Sections 0000-1000. Of the remainder, one was referred to administrators for further review and the rest are up for a first reading later tonight.

In addition, in June the Board adopted Policy 2261 (District Advisory Committees) to formalize opportunities for community members to bring their expertise to the District's attention. The Facilities Committee and Technology Committee are the first to be formalized under this policy, and their charters will be presented for adoption later tonight. She then encouraged the community to apply for the board committees and District advisory committees by submitting an application through the District's website. Applications are due September 20th.

Finally, she stated that the Policy Committee will be meeting more often than usual until the completion of the comprehensive policy review. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26th at 1:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.

XI. New Business

First Reading - Policy 4772 - Graduation Ceremonies

Trustee Yong stated that this is a required policy with a required update. It will be adopted at the October Board meeting.

First Reading - Policy 4773 - Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

Trustee Yong stated that this is a recommended policy that is new for the District. It will be adopted at the October Board meeting.

First Reading - Policy 5500 and 5500-R - Student Records and Regulation

Trustee Yong stated that this is a required policy with a recommended update. It will be adopted at the October Board meeting.

First Reading - Policy 5550 - Student Privacy

Trustee Yong stated that this is a required policy with a recommended update. It will be adopted at the October Board meeting.

Adoption of Facilities Committee Charter

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 hereby adopt the **attached** Rye Neck Union Free School District Facilities Committee Charter.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Adoption of Technology Committee Charter

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby adopt the **attached** Rye Neck Union Free School District Technology Committee Charter.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

XII. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public

XIII. Adjournment of Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Barker, it was

RESOLVED, there being no further business before the Board that the Board of Education Meeting of September 18, 2024 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Carmel adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk