

## President's Report Oct 16, 2024

This past weekend, a group displaying signs of a political candidate led a caravan of cars around the middle and high school. The school was notified and subsequently notified the police department. By the time police officers arrived on campus, the political parade had driven away. Dr. Lutinski along with Trustee Gatenio, our safety liaison, met with the Chief of the Mamaroneck police and discussed ways of preventing political rallies, which is prohibited by school policy. We thank the school administration and the police for addressing this political parade on school property, which was correctly identified as trespassing. We hope that this is an isolated incident, and we have outlined steps with law enforcement that will be taken if it is not.

Keeping partisan political activity out of our schools is a value shared by many in our community. At the same time, it is worth reflecting on the role of politics and free speech in fulfilling our duty to teach civics to Rye Neck students. While school property is the wrong place to display political messages and signs, we want the discourse about what is best for our country to be vigorously and politely discussed inside the classrooms. We hope our students grapple with the major policy debates happening in national politics in and outside of class. We hope they listen and speak kindly and live through their personal conduct the kind of politics we hope for but rarely achieve.

In a year of painful politics on our college and university campuses, we are heartened by the calm within Rye Neck. We appreciate that the school community has respected the culture of polite debate. As the national election draws close, we hope that the school community continues to engage with the political issues while rising above the fray of politicking.