



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 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

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 9:00 a.m.

II. President's Report

President Carmel began by acknowledging last week's election and stating that while students are too young to vote they are free to discuss ideas of how we ought to govern ourselves. He hopes the dialogue continues in the classrooms since our students cannot engage fully without debating the way the political system addresses their needs and concerns.

Finally, President Carmel wished good luck to the boys soccer team as they head to the State finals.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lutinski began by explaining that every year the Board holds daytime Board meetings at each of the elementary schools. Rye Neck is a close-knit community and this complements the usual evening times and showcases each location to reinforce its place in our students' learning journey.

Next, Dr. Lutinski stated that despite our compact size all of our varsity teams have reached the postseason this fall. He wished the boys soccer team luck as they represent the District at the State semifinals on Saturday and hopefully the State Championship on Sunday.

In addition, he reported that this morning, members of the Goal 2 Action Team of the Strategic Planning team will speak to how the District is building the kind of empathetic environments that will enable the students to concentrate on learning.

Finally, he stated that we will be honoring three employees on their retirement. He thanked them for their public service, particularly in the form of service to students, and congratulated them on their retirement.

IV. Recognition - Retirements

Mrs. Goldberg recognized second grade teacher Madeline Beigen who retired as of November 1st, Mr. Ceglia recognized his Assistant, Julie Ianello, who is retiring as of November 14th, and Mrs. Folchetti recognized her Assistant, Valerio Oddo, who is retiring as of December 4th.

V. Curriculum Presentation - Strategic Plan Goal 2

Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Mr. H. William Siegel, Middle School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Meegan Lawlor, and Second Grade Teacher, Mr. Brian Pinto gave a presentation on Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan which is meant to create connections and purpose. They stated that SEL matters because it focuses on student and adult mental wellness and teaches compassion as a life skill. Empathetic students engage in the community, and students with SEL maturity develop purpose. Social emotional learning takes place in school and in the community through theme days, RULER, second step, building presentations and MTSS interventions. It takes place with faculty, during group learning, senior internships, community service, at home and at work.

Next, they presented the scientific evidence that SEL programs make a difference. Students show more empathy and compassion, are able to form connections and fosters a student's sense of purpose. They then reviewed the action steps for Goal 2 which are creating a student SEL screener, gathering SEL resources, professional development for faculty and staff, engaging the Rye Neck community, and culminating dream projects with students. They stated that starting the 2025-2026 school year, there will be wellness theme days for students and faculty one day per month. Finally, they reviewed the timeline for the winter and spring.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Golle and seconded by Trustee Wagner, 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 October 30, 2024 Board of Education Planning Session

Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves, Resignations and Retirement

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Caroline Leira** to a contingent probationary position as Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems), effective 11/15/2024 and ending 11/14/2025. 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
Jessica Rosenberg	10/18/2024	Leave Replacement	Teacher/ FEB	Grad. Sub. Pay Rate
Robert Delaney	11/13/2024	Leave Replacement .06 FTE	Teacher/ RNHS	MA+15/ Step 22

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:

HS Yearbook Proofreaders

Trisha Appel

David Golden

HS Club Advisors

Crochet Club - **Kara Slattery**

Biodiversity Club - **Gwen Hoeler**

String Club - **Yating Yang**

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescind the appointment of **Jesse Vega** as the Living Environment Review Club Advisor; and it was

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

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
Winter	Girls Ice Hockey	Varsity	Head Coach	Jed	Shahar
Winter	Girls Ice Hockey	Varsity	Assistant Coach	Brendan	Collins

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Carl Fazio** a paid intermittent FMLA leave beginning on November 22, 2024 to on or about December 17, 2024; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Employee # 794** a paid intermittent FMLA leave beginning on December 11, 2024 to on or about January 6, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Elisa Barilli** a paid FMLA leave beginning on or about March 26, 2025 to May 6, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Elisa Barilli** an unpaid FMLA leave beginning on or about May 7, 2025 to June 27, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Juan Ramos** effective 10/25/2024; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Madeleine Biegen** for the purpose of retirement effective 10/31/2024; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Matthew McMurray** effective 11/30/2024; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of **Theresa Michna** for the purpose of retirement effective 12/31/2024.

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant tenure to **Theresa Michna**, Certification: Teaching Assistant, effective 12/13/2024; and it was

Approval of Disposal of Furniture

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the disposal of furniture no longer needed, as per **Schedule A**.

Approval of Budget Development Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the **attached** Budget Development Calendar for the May 20, 2024 Budget Vote.

Approval of Change Order

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following change order for Bradhurst Site Construction Corp. for site work related to the Rye Neck Middle/High School Parking Lot and Bike Path project:

- Change order PC-01 for a decrease of **\$14,241.50** which represents the credit of the remaining balance of the \$25,000.00 contract allowance.

Authorization of Transportation Piggybacking with Mamaroneck UFSD

WHEREAS, on or about August 21, 2024, the Rye Neck Union Free School District issued a Request for Bids for transportation routes including a route to REACH Academy located in West Harrison, New York 10604 for special education students for the 2024-2025 school year;

WHEREAS, on or about September 18, 2024, the Rye Neck Union Free School District awarded a contract to Super Wheels, Inc. for the aforementioned route for the 2024-2025 school year;

WHEREAS, the District Administration received a request from the Mamaroneck Union Free School District for use of the Rye Neck’s REACH Academy home-to-school contract to transport Mamaroneck students.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby consents to and authorizes the Mamaroneck Union Free School District to utilize and share via piggybacking the Rye Neck Union Free School District's REACH Academy transportation contract pursuant to the terms and conditions thereof.

Approval of Extraclassroom Activity

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approve the following additional Extraclassroom Activity for the 2024-2025 school year:

Biodiversity Club

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 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:

Petitioner	Municipality	Parcel ID#	Consent Judgment Amount
AVIBAC Investments	City of Rye	152-16-1-51-2	\$21,860
TOTAL			\$21,860

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to the settlement, that the Board of Education authorizes the appropriation of the tax certiorari reserve to increase the 2024-25 budget for \$21,860 in order to refund taxes.

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 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 October 1, 2024 through October 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

VII. Financial Reports for Information

The Board was presented with the Warrant Schedule - All Funds for information Purposes.

VIII. Communications to the Board

President Carmel reported that the Board has received 0 communications since the last meeting.

IX. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

X. Reports - Community School Groups

Student Senate - Ensar Burrja

Student Senate Vice President Ensar Burrja reported that the Senate meetings have covered several upcoming events and activities. The student volleyball tournament began after school yesterday and will finish up today. 14 teams with approximately 70 students participated, and the winners, runners up and other participants will receive prizes.

Next, he stated that Halloween was a huge success. The Senators made a video that was shown in homerooms for Halloween Do's and Don'ts, and organized a Halloween costume competition. The November Can Drive has started and will run through December 6th there will be a prize of donuts for the homeroom with the most cans donated.

In addition, Ensar reported that the Student Senate will be taking a more active role in helping the Curriculum Council which is involved in creating new courses for the school year. They introduced plans for a possible course fair where students could learn about courses and teachers could gauge interest in possible new classes.

Finally, he stated that future plans include a centralized paper calendar for all school events, hot chocolate day as the weather gets colder, and a potential fundraiser before the winter break.

PTSA - Ruth Homberg

PTSA President Ruth Homberg reported that since the last meeting, Daniel Warren had their Family Day at Westchester Children's Museum where free admission was offered to all students and their families. Students in grades 1 through 5 had classroom celebrations for Halloween, and Kindergarteners had a Pumpkinfest where the students spent time outside building scarecrows and participating in fall-themed activities. The Middle School had their Spooktacular where students were charged a \$15 admission and were treated to pizza, spooky snacks, games, prizes, fortune telling and a DJ. 217 tickets were sold. Additionally, the elementary schools hosted their annual post-Halloween Candy Drive for the U.S. troops.

Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows had their fall Walk to School Week where the students were encouraged to walk, bike or scoot to school the week of October 21st. The Environmental and Health and Wellness Committee encouraged students to create living murals and asked kids to pick up any interesting pieces of nature they found on their way to school. Raffles were set up for anyone who participated and walkers and bikers were given tickets when they arrived at school.

At Daniel Warren, the Garden Committee held the Put the Garden to Bed event, and next week the students will be treated to a STEAM presentation on The Magic of Science. At the Middle and High School, the PTSA funded t-shirts for 6th graders for Buddy Day, and funded an author visit for grades 6 through 8. Grades 6 and 7 were treated to an interactive assembly on Extreme Weather by David Hagerman. Next week, grades 10, 11 and 12 will participate in an assembly called Letter of Anne and Martin; grade 8 will see storyteller and historian Sheila Arnold who will also give a Civil Rights presentation to 11th grade social studies classes.

Mrs. Homberg stated that the Newcomers Committee hosted a get together at Cafe Roaster for anyone new to the District. The next Heard in Rye talk is scheduled for next Wednesday night at Rye High School; and the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for December 2nd.

With regard to fundraising, the PTSA will be selling Rye Neck patterned shorts and lounge pants this year; will be bringing back the gift wrap fundraiser; and sign up parties are continuing.

Finally, Mrs. Homberg stated that the RNIC had a meeting on November 7th and Mr. Siegel was the guest speaker. They held their annual Potluck Dinner in the High School and raised over \$2,500 through raffle tickets and a silent auction. The Culture Club is

taking a trip to the Cloisters on November 21st and planning an outing to an NHL game in the spring. The Origami Club is working hard on the Panther Party.

Lastly, she advised that the PTSA has two open positions to fill for this year. They are looking for someone to help out with Social Media and with Author Visits.

Booster Club - Rachel Felenstein

Booster Club representative Fachel Felenstein reported that since the last meeting, the Booster Club held their Fall Fest on October 19th at the Rye Grill & Bar. Over 100 people attended, they held an auction and 50/50 raffle and raised approximately \$15,000. They sponsored the You've Been Boosted Halloween fundraiser with sweet treats from Chocolations. They donated money to purchase dry ice for The Great Gatsby, will sell concessions at the performances, and purchased signs for the senior cast and crew members. Finally, they will be sponsoring a basketball tournament in December and hosting the Harlem Wizards in January.

Rye Neck School Foundation - Jennifer Soussa

Mrs. Soussa reported that last month the Foundation approved an InstaGrant application from Mr. Scarantino to revive the Life Garden at F.E. Bellows, and they recently approved two additional grant applications for a MS Comic Book After School Club and OT Sensory Tools for F.E. Bellow students.

Next, she stated that they will begin their November "Give, Grant, Impact" fundraising appeal via email, website and social media. The community will have the opportunity to contribute directly to four different funds which include an academic enrichment fund, an arts fund, athletic/facilities fund and a general fund. Information regarding the latest grants and the fundraising campaign can be found on their website.

XI. Reports - Board of Education

Office Hours

Trustees Golle and Barker will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, December 4, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, November 22nd to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Barker reported that the latest advocacy meeting took place on November 4th at which they reviewed advocacy goals, reviewed cell phone policies, and discussed foundation aid.

Audit Committee

Trustee Golle reported that the Committee is not scheduled to meet again until January at which time they will receive the annual report from the claims auditor and review proposers from the Internal Audit RFP. The District intended to release the RFP for the internal auditor next month.

Facilities Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the Committee's first meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 6 p.m. in the MS/HS Community Room. The architect will present about the athletic field study and the current status of the other capital reserve fund projects. There will

also be a presentation from Fischer Energy Partners regarding the districtwide energy audit.

Technology Committee

Trustee Nikki Barker reported that the Committee met last night. They discussed the need for a new software company for one of the District's systems and the evaluation matrix for vendors, goals for what the District would like to achieve with the software and some challenges that obtaining the software may present. They reviewed a timeline for choosing a vendor, and stated that they will review the list of possible vendors in December. This is the committee's priority right now since certain information is need by the business office for budget preparation.

She stated that they discussed budget priorities for technology, reviewing the challenges being faced in obtaining certain vendors, and discussed the priorities in updating technology. In addition, they discussed the overall communication strategy as a committee as it pertains to Board reports and meeting minutes.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11th.

Policy Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the Committee met on October 29th to review sections 2000-3000 from the comprehensive policy review as well as policies from NYSSBA's 3rd and 4th quarter policy updates and the special installment. These will be presented for a first reading later in the meeting. Additionally, the Board will be adopting 16 new policies and 11 amended policies, removing 2 policies that are no longer up-to-date, and putting forward 29 policies from sections 2000 - 3000 for a first reading.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26th.

XII. New Business

Adoption of Policies 8635 & 8635-R - Information and Data Privacy, Security, Breach and Notification & Regulation

WHEREAS, revisions to Policies 8635 and 8635-R were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the October 16, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policies 8635 and 8635-R have been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policies 8635 and 8635-R

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 8635-E - Parents' Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 8635-E were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the October 16, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8635-E has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of revised Policy 8635-E.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 6150 - Budget Transfers

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 6150 were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the October 16, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 6150 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of revised Policy 6150.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Adoption of Sections 0000 - 1000 from Comprehensive Policy Review

WHEREAS, revisions to Sections 0000 and 1000 were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the October 16, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Sections 0000 and 1000 have been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Golle 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 revised Sections 0000 and 1000.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Adoption of Policies 5500 & 5500-R - Student Records & Regulation

WHEREAS, revisions to Policies 5500 and 5500-R were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the September 18, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policies 5500 and 5500-R have been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policies 5500 and 5500-R

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 6710 - Purchasing Authority

WHEREAS, Policy 6710 was presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the April 17, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 6710 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Barker 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 Policy 6710.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 4327 - Homebound Instruction

WHEREAS, Policy 4327 was presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the April 17, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4327 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of Policy 4327.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 8520 - Free and Reduced Price Food Services

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 8520 were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the April 17, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8520 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of revised Policy 8520.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

First Reading - Policy 5550 - Student Privacy

Trustee Yong stated that this policy has been updated to better reflect the restrictions on the use and disclosure of certain personally identifiable information under Education Law §2-d and regulations Part 121. This is a required policy with a recommended update.

First Reading - Policy 9520.6 - Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

Trustee Yong stated that this policy has been updated to reflect changes made by the NYS Department of Labor in response to a change to Labor Law §206-c. It is a required policy with a required update.

First Reading - Policy 8130.2 - Workplace Violence Prevention

Trustee Yong stated that this policy was updated because a typo was found in item (f) which was originally issued in November 2023. This is a required policy with a required update.

First Reading - Sections 2000 - 3000 from Comprehensive Policy Review

Trustee Yong stated that the sections would be adopted as explained in her Policy Committee Report.

Acceptance of Grant from the Rye Neck School Foundation

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

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

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public

XIV. Adjournment of Meeting

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

RESOLVED, there being no further business before the Board that the Board of Education Meeting of November 13, 2024 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Carmel adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk