



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 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. Adjournment of Executive Session, Opening of Public Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the executive session be adjourned and the Public Meeting be opened.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

II. Opening of Meeting

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

III. Superintendent’s Report

“Good evening, and as usual this time of year we welcome you to the “happy meeting” when we’re looking forward to the holidays. We recently had a conversation about the winter break, whether “two weeks” or “16 days” sounded better. The answer, of course, is they’re both great. Any extra time that you can spend with family and friends without the pressures of school or work is a gift to be treasured. Speaking of extra time with family...

I have made the decision to retire from my role as Superintendent of the outstanding Rye

Neck School District, effective June 30, 2025. For the past 30 years Rye Neck has been my home, and the deep sense of love and respect I have for this exceptional place made this decision possible only after much reflection.

Looking back to when I started here in 1995 there were no computers in any classrooms, newsletters were made of paper, and parents had to watch the bottom of the TV to see if there was a snow day. Life was simpler before Columbine, 9/11, and COVID, and of course Whole Language, the Common Core and social media. But throughout the challenges we faced as a district and community, the one constant that has ensured Rye Neck's success is the cooperative, familial spirit that defines us as a whole and is manifested in its people.

During my time here as a teacher, principal, and superintendent, I have been inspired by our incredible students who have kept me both young at heart and confident in our future; our dedicated faculty and staff, who have given me pride in our work and a collegial sense of purpose; our wonderful families, who have provided support and a true sense of community that overcomes the boundaries of our two municipalities. Members of that close-knit community step up every year and all year in the form of Board service, and I'm grateful for the partnership I have enjoyed from our committed and dedicated trustees, past and present.

Serving the students of Rye Neck has been the most rewarding experience of my 33-year career as an educator. I will always carry with me the memories and relationships our extended family of Panthers have provided me.

With the greatest sincerity, thank you.”

IV. President's Report

“Thank you, Dr. Lutinski, for those heartfelt words and for your incredible service to Rye Neck. There will be more opportunities for the community to express their appreciation for all that you have done for our children, but please know that we as a Board are so grateful for your many years as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Through your calm and effective leadership, you have created great affection from the community and particularly from the people with whom you work most closely. Few superintendents are as beloved as you. This must be an exciting time for you and your family, and we wish you only good things as you open the next chapter of your life.

Transitions in leadership can make us feel uncertain, but we as a Board are fully committed to finding the next leader of Rye Neck schools. We have a highly compelling district: a great group of principals and administrators, terrific teachers, sensational students, and an engaged and talented community. There will be opportunities for stakeholders to provide their input and be kept abreast of the search. We are highly confident that we will attract a great leader for our schools in advance of Dr. Lutinski's retirement in June.

The first step in the process is to hire a search firm. To this end, we have already interviewed 3 firms that were recommended to us. Each has conducted searches in similar districts to ours in Westchester. Once we hire a firm, they will help us set the process and the timeline. The process will include feedback from the administrators, teachers,

students, and the community. We will incorporate that feedback into a profile of the Superintendent, which will guide our search. We will give the community regular updates about the process.

We know that hiring a Superintendent is the most important duty that we have as a Board. We are eager to work with the community to define the characteristics of our next leader and to work with a search firm to find a person who fits that profile.”

V. Recognition - Retirement

Mr. Siegel recognized Special Services TA Theresa Michna, who is retiring as of December 31, 2024.

VI. Curriculum Presentation - Strategic Plan Goal 1

Mrs. Folchetti, Mrs. Schlote and Mrs. Ryan presented on the Strategic Plan Goal 1 - Promote Problem Solving. They began by reviewing the timeline. The implementation of student driven questioning took place from Spring 2024- Fall 2024, and now through February 2025 the staff will reflect on where they are in the process, and they presented video clips showing how it looks in the classrooms. They explained that they are ahead of schedule and discussed the next steps.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda

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 approves the following consent agenda:

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

Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that The Board appoints **Sofia Sinaheris Rivera** to a probationary position as Secretary to Administrator, effective 12/16/2024 and ending 12/15/2025. 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 appoints **Ana Fraioli** to a probationary position as Secretary to Principal, effective 12/16/2024 and ending 12/15/2025. Civil Service requires a probationary period of a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that **Lisa Rubenstein** be appointed by the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District to a probationary term as a full-time professional educator; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Mrs. Rubenstein will devote more than forty percent (40%) of her time to service in the Teaching Assistant Tenure Area; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Mrs. Rubenstein will devote at least forty percent (40%) of her efforts to service in the Special Education Tenure Area; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rubenstein possesses a professional Students With Disabilities 5-9, Mathematics Certificate and a professional Students With Disabilities 7-12, Mathematics Certificate.

RESOLVED, that upon the Superintendent’s recommendation, the Board hereby appoints Mrs. Rubenstein, in accordance with Section 2509 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary term in the Teaching Assistant tenure area commencing on December 9, 2024 and ending on December 8, 2028; the Board also hereby appoints Mrs. Rubenstein, in accordance with Section 2509 of the Education Law, to a three-year probationary term in the Special Education tenure area commencing on December 9, 2024 and ending on December 8, 2027; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to limit the unfettered statutory right of the District to terminate Mrs. Rubenstein for any statutorily and constitutionally permissible reason while she remains in probationary status; and it was

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

| Name | Effective Date | Type | Assignment/Location | Salary/Step |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Troy Travaglino | 11/18/2024 | Leave Replacement 1.0 FTE | Teacher/ DW | Grad. Sub. Pay Rate |
| Teresa Castaldo | 12/09/2024 | Leave Replacement 1.0 FTE | Teacher/ MS | Per Diem Sub. Rate |
| Valerie Oddo | 12/09/2024 | Per Diem | Clerical/ HS | Per Diem Sub. Rate |

and it was

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

Assistant to Director, HS Musical

Veronica Hudak

Playbill, HS Musical

Cynthia Feinman

House Manager, HS Musical

Cynthia Feinman

Ticket Sales, HS Musical
Mary Ellen Chiera

Videographer, HS Musical
David Golden

Costume Manager, HS Musical
Karen Fontecchio

Art Crew, HS Musical
Alexandra Campana

Purchase Order Entry, HS Musical
Maria Gigi

Scenic Designer, HS Musical
Vincent Gunn

Music Director, HS Musical
Kathryn Krull

Choreographer, HS Musical
Jason Summers

Payroll Manager
Maria Gigi

and it was

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

| SEASON | SPORT | LEVEL | ROLE | FIRST | LAST |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Winter | Wrestling | Modified | Head Coach | Andres | Corrales |
| Winter | Wrestling | Modified | Assistant Coach | Mitchell | Barcus |
| Winter | Indoor Track | Modified | Co-Coach | Matthew | DeBellis |

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescinds the appointment of **Chelsea Gillespie** as the Project Hope Club Advisor; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Oscar Betancur** a sick leave beginning on November 11, 2024 through November 27, 2024; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Nicole Crispinelli** a paid FMLA leave beginning on or about May 15, 2025 to June 25, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Nicole Crispinelli** an unpaid FMLA leave beginning on or about June 26, 2025 to October 8, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Antonella Lacatena** an unpaid leave of absence beginning on November 25, 2024 to on or about April 25, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Kelly Ceci** an unpaid parental leave beginning on December 9, 2024 to December 20, 2024; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accepts the resignation of **Kristen Dimmick** effective 11/27/2024; and it was further

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accepts the resignation of **Robert Kiernan** effective 12/20/2024.

Approval of Disposal of Ballots

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the disposal of the unused ballots from the May 21, 2024 Budget Vote.

Approval of Disposal of Furniture, Equipment and Instructional Materials

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the disposal of furniture, equipment and instructional materials no longer in good working condition or outdated, as per **Schedule A**.

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 person 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.

**ALLANA ALEXANDER
KATIA MEHU**

Approval of Standard Work Days for Monitors

WHEREAS, the Rye Neck Union Free School District, Location Code 75510 previously approved standard work days for monitors and monitors (security) on June 15, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the Rye Neck Union Free School District has a need to update the standard working hours for monitors and monitors (security) to reflect the current working day of employees.

RESOLVED, that the Rye Neck Union Free School District, Location Code 75510, hereby establishes the following as standard work days for the titles listed and will report days worked to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System based on the timekeeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these members to the clerk of this body:

| Title | Hours |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Monitors | 6 |
| Monitors (Security) | 6 |

Approval of Standard Work Days for Business Manager and Theatre Production Support Staff

RESOLVED, that the Rye Neck Union Free School District, Location Code 75510, hereby establishes the following as standard work days for the titles listed and will report days worked to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System based on the timekeeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these members to the clerk of this body:

| Title | Hours |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Business Manager | 7 |
| Theatre Production Support Staff* | 7 |

*Theatre Production Support Staff includes purchase order entry, ticket sales and additional titles as detailed in the RNTA collective bargaining agreement.

Adoption of Policy 5550 - Student Privacy

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 5550 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 November 13, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 5550 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.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 5550.

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

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 9520.6 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 November 13, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 9520.6 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.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 9520.6.

Adoption of Policy 8130.2 - Workplace Violence Prevention

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 8130.2 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 November 13, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8130.2 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.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 8130.2.

Adoption of Sections 2000 - 3000 from Comprehensive Policy Review

WHEREAS, revisions to Sections 2000 and 3000 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 November 13, 2024 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Sections 2000 and 3000 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.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Sections 2000 and 3000.

Adoption of Policy 0115-R -Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Regulation

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 0115-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, Policy 0115-R 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.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 0115-R.

Approval of Payroll Manager Stipened

RESOLVED , upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck School District approve the Payroll Manager stipend amount for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth in the memo and Schedule A attached.

Approval of Additional Route Under Transportation Piggybacking Contract

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2024 the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District consented to and authorized 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.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve additional routes to be shared with Mamaroneck Union Free School District as per the attached Schedule A.

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 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

VIII. Financial Reports for Information

The Board was presented with the Budget Transfers and Warrant Schedule - All Funds for information purposes.

IX. Communications to the Board

President Carmel reported that the Board has received 2 communications since the last meeting, 1 regarding the Rye Neck Athletic Hall of Fame and 1 regarding bullying.

X. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

**XI. Reports - Community School Groups
Student Senate - Spencer Elliot**

Student Senate President Spencer Elliot reported that the Senate finished up its annual can drive last week, and the homeroom that donated the most cans will receive Dunkin Donuts as a prize. In January, they will be bringing back the survey for student concerns. They've updated the Senate board with a poll where students can write down their

favorite holiday movie on a sticky note and place it on the board. They will post a different poll every month. The Senate and many of the High School clubs attended the Incoming Ninth Grade Orientation to advertise their clubs and encourage students to join. In addition, they organized a fundraiser with Dragon Tea; will host a High School Dance on February 7th; and are hosting Spirit Week this week. Lastly, he reported that seniors have started receiving responses from colleges.

Booster Club - Ruth Homberg

Mrs. Homberg reported on behalf of the Booster Club. She reported that last month they hosted the first "Fan Spirit Send Off" for the boys soccer team where they provided breakfast and spirit gear to fans on their way to the state semi-final game and thanked student senate president Spencer Elliot for his help in planning and marketing the event.

In addition, they helped to support the Invitational Basketball Tournament which was a huge success. They provided t-shirts to all players attending the tournament and sold concessions and merchandise at the event. They also sold merchandise at the PTSA Family Dance Party event. They are currently planning for the Harlem Wizards event scheduled for January 31st. They have sold over 200 tickets already and hope to reach a goal of just over 700 tickets, and are exploring options of donating tickets to families that need financial support to attend. With regard to social media, they are trying to increase their online presence and celebrate the success of all of our student athletes and thespians as much as possible.

Lastly, Mrs. Homberg introduced 8th grade student Charlie Barker who spearheaded the Pink Panther fundraiser this fall. Charlie Barker explained to the community how and why he came up with this project.

Rye Neck School Foundation - Ruth Homberg

Mrs. Homberg reported on behalf of the RNSF. She reported that the RNSF is currently running their Give, Grant, Impact Campaign. Each donation funds grants that benefit Rye Neck students. There are three days left to contribute to the campaign which has already raised over \$15,000.

Since the last meeting, the RNSF has funded two new grant requests at F.E. Bellows. The first is *One School One Book* which is a program that brings reading and community together. The second grant will provide additional funds for the Panther Prizes Store.

PTSA - Ruth Homberg

PTSA President Ruth Homberg reported that the PTSA has had an especially busy month. In the elementary schools class parents are organizing holiday parties this week and the PTSA Executive Board met to assemble cookie platters that were delivered to staff and administrators on Tuesday. Just after Halloween, the elementary school Health and Wellness Committee heads organized the annual candy drive in partnership with Rye Smiles Pediatric Dentistry. They collected over 190 lbs of candy, which was donated to troops, veterans, and first responders. The annual coat drive was held at both elementary schools. Gently used coats were donated to the Sharing Shelf in Portchester to help local community members.

In addition, there were four assemblies at the elementary schools. At DW, Mobile Ed presented “The Magic of Science” to grades K-2, and author/illustrator Aime Sicuro shared pictures of her studio, read her book “If you Find a Leaf” aloud to students and then led them in a grade-wide craft using preserved leaves, encouraging them to create art from nature the way she did in her book.

At FEB, Path to Rhythm visited the 3rd grade, and brought African hand drums in and lead interactive drum circles. Author Marc Tyler Nobleman visited the school and shared how his curiosity and hard work helped him prove that there was a co-creator behind the genesis of Batman and Superman.

In the MS, 6th and 7th grade science classes were treated to presentations from Mobile Ed. Grade 6 learned about DNA Extraction and Grade 7 had “Chemistry Chaos”. Historian and storyteller Sheila Arnold presented to 8th graders as Madam CJ Walker, the first African-American female millionaire in the early 1900s. The MS Health and Wellness Committee brought in singer/songwriter Jared Campbell to Grades 6-8.

In the HS, students in grades 10-12 saw a performance of “Letters from Anne & Martin”, which is a two-person show that highlights the parallels between Anne Frank’s *Diary of a Young Girl* and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”. Historian and storyteller Sheila Arnold gave a civil rights presentation to 11th graders. Author Colum McCann, spoke to the Journalism, Broadcasting classes as well as a large portion of the 12th grade about how he became a writer and a storyteller by learning humility and how to listen.

For parents, Jen Karlan organized a SEAC talk by Claudine Gebhard of Build 4Life regarding understanding and implementing positive Social Skills.

On the fundraising front, there were picture retakes at 3 schools, club sign ups are happening now, there were Book Fairs at DW and FEB, and a fundraiser with Charleston Wrap. They hosted a Family Dance Party in the DW auditorium, which was free to all elementary school families, and they had Casino Nights and a Fall Parent’s Night Out.

The RNIC had their December meeting on the 6th and had a holiday celebration, which included secret santa gift exchange. The Book Club discussed “Everyone but Myself” by Julie Chavez and the Culture Club visited the train show at the NY Botanical Garden. They also organized a family movie outing to see *Wicked*.

Lastly, she stated that the next General Membership meeting is scheduled for January 21st at 7pm in the Community Room.

RNTA - Elizabeth Leifert

Mrs. Leifert reported that Strategic Planning work is moving forward throughout the District and, as per the safety plans, the teachers are prepared for remote learning should the school for an emergency or inclement weather.

At DW, professional development is going on for ICT teachers, holiday class parties are taking place this week, and the Sunshine Club arranged a Holiday Breakfast for staff to celebrate together. In January, they will be launching lunch and learn offerings, and ENL Extended Day will begin on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

At FEB, they are celebrating Spirit Week this week. In addition, they had a visit from the Harlem Wizards, all three grades participated in a Town Hall that focused on empathy, third graders had a trip to the Stepping Stones Children's Museum and also put on their 3rd Grade Concert.

In the MS, the Student Senate organized a holiday charity food drive for "United for the Troops". Students enjoyed a concert from singer/songwriter Jared Campbell; 8th grade students enjoyed a performance by Sheila Arnold; and students will be participating in the annual MS Olympics.

The HS held the Incoming 9th Grade Orientation; 10th, 11th and 12th graders attended the assembly "Letters from Anne and Martin"; the 11th grade US History class took a field trip to view the exhibit on the capture of John Andre; author Colum McCann spoke to a group of 12th grade, drama and journalism students; Spirit Week is going on in the High School this week; winter varsity and JV sports have started; the Winter Concert was held on December 12th; and seniors are hearing back from colleges.

XII. Reports - Board of Education

Office Hours

Trustees Wagner and Gatenio will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, January 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, December 20th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Barker reported that West/Put held Community Conversations on November 25th at which they discussed how school districts use and monitor their social media. In addition, at the Advocacy meeting, discussion was had regarding Foundation Aid and how to make the distribution more granular. Discussion was also had regarding whether to remove the save harmless clause and make it more correlated with enrollment and the needs of the student population. She stated that the New York State budget is expected to be released in January, and there is a legislators meeting scheduled in February.

Audit Committee

Trustee Wagmer reported that the Committee is scheduled to meet on January 28th when they will receive the annual report from the claims auditor and review proposals for an internal auditing firm. The RFP for internal auditing services will be released by the District on January 6th and are due back on January 24th

Facilities Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the committee met on , November 20th. They received a presentation from Fischer Energy Partners with regard to our districtwide energy audit. The aim is to find ways to reduce natural gas consumption, while also bearing in mind the age of the various heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC). The New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)'s Clean Green Schools Initiative, known as the FlexTech Program, will pay 50-100% of the costs to identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce energy costs and incorporate clean energy into our capital planning. There is a cap of \$500,000 per district for Track 1 funding. An application was submitted to NYSERDA, and the district is awaiting approval to proceed.

In addition, discussion was had regarding the feasibility of A/C in all school buildings, solar, and incentives for moving from gas hot water heating to electric hot water heating.

In addition, the district's architect, LAN Associates presented a status update on various approved capital reserve fund projects and an overview of our ongoing athletic field study. The DW pavement project was completed this summer and the RNMS/ RNHS parking was completed this fall. We are currently waiting for state approvals for the RNMS/ RNHS security upgrades, DW masonry restoration, FEB & annex masonry restoration, FEB & annex sitework, and RNMS/ RNHS gym roofing to begin work. The athletic study has had two design meetings to determine the cost of the project. The Committee discussed considerations such as bus/emergency vehicle access, increased parking, stormwater ponds (which are required for artificial turf), ideal solar orientation for baseball/softball, loss of field space, and traffic. Two options were presented, but more have been drafted and more will be considered. Other factors considered included light, traffic, sound, and drainage. Finally, the Committee discussed the pros and cons of artificial turf, which typically has a life span of 10 years and costs \$500K to replace. Topics included injuries, infills, insurance cost due to increased flood risk, reduced maintenance costs, scheduled replacement costs, potential income from field rentals, and the need for a thorough cost-benefit analysis.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15th.

Technology Committee

Trustee Barker reported that the Committee met on December 11th. Discussion was had regarding the Committee's goals, the two main goals being facilitating the search for video management software and the search for a technology consultant. The goals are most pressing in terms of need, timeline and budget. In addition, the Committee discussed developing a solid process for procurement for these two goals, and reviewed the matrix and procurement guidelines developed by the Committee with possible systems for updating the video management software.

The discussion of goal two was postponed, and another meeting was added on January 9th for this purpose.

Policy Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the Committee met on November 26th and December 16th. In November, they received an updated on the parent opt-in for the Social Emotional Screener that is being administered this month, they discussed a draft of policy 0105 Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education, and reviewed revised policies from the NYSSBA 1st installment policy update for 2024-2025.

In December, they reviewed section 4000 of the comprehensive policy review. The policy committee initially reviewed 57 policies, regulations, and exhibits reviewed from section 4000. They will review feedback from our school attorney and administrators regarding some of these policies at the next policy committee meeting.

Trustee Yong advised that there will be a first reading of certain policies during New Business.

Finally, she noted that while reviewing and amending policy 0115 to reflect the practice of the school district in September, the committee overlooked removing the corresponding language in the regulation. Therefore, policy 0115-R was put up for adoption in the consent agenda earlier this evening to amend the oversight

The next policy committee meeting is scheduled for January 28th.

XIII. New Business

Acceptance of Donation of Scholarship

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 donation of the *E.J. Flynn Memorial Scholarship* which will be awarded annually to a graduating Rye Neck senior beginning with the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with the criteria established.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Acceptance of Donation

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 hereby accept a donation from the New York Football Giants in the amount of \$5,000 for the benefit of the Rye Neck football program.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Acceptance of Grant from the Rye Neck School Foundation

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Barker, 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

First Reading - Policy 1120 - School District Records

This is a required update. A recent amendment to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) now requires adoption of a policy to notify employees whenever the district responds to a FOIL request for their disciplinary records.

First Reading - Policy 5695 - Student and Personal Electronic Devices

This policy was amended to reflect the district's actual practice with respect to cell phones in the schools.

First Reading - Policy 8130 - School Safety Plans and Teams

This is a recommended update to the policy. It has been amended to reflect changes to State regulations regarding safety plans, including trauma-informed drills, parent notification, and multi-disciplinary behavioral assessment teams.

Walk In Resolution

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board accept the resignation of Dr. Eric Lutinski, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2025.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

XIV. Public Comments Concerning Above

Community Member Lisa Nadler addressed the Board regarding the effects of smartphone technology and social media on children. Leslie Lam addressed the Board regarding cell phone policies in the school.

XV. 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 December 18, 2024 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Carmel adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk