



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
JANUARY 8, 2025**

Present: President Jason Carmel

DRAFT

- 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
- Corrine Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Carmel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

President Carmel then called for a moment of silence for the student who passed away.

II. Approval of Minutes

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the Minutes of the December 18, 2024 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

III. Discussion

Policy Committee Update

Trustee Barker advised the Board that the Policy Committee had started working on Section 4000 of the policy manual. A summary of this section and the amended Policies are attached in Board Docs for the Board's review. In addition, a copy of Ed Law Section 1709 is also attached for their information.

Regionalization: Resolution regarding the optional NYSED program for school districts to share resources

Dr. Lutinski explained to the Board the idea behind NYSED’s regionalization proposal which is for schools to pool resources and participate in cooperatives within their supervisory districts. He stated that although it’s a good idea in concept, it would put BOCES in charge of coming up with a plan for either of their regions and schools would be locked into each plan. Rye Neck already participates with a cooperative program through BOCES and we don’t need a regionalization plan to take advantage of this cooperative. Dr. Lutinski recommended to the Board that they pass a resolution opting out of the regionalization plan since we already take advantage of the BOCES cooperatives, we have relationships with our neighboring districts, and we are part of a local consortium. The resolution will be passed during New Business.

Metrics for Student and District Performance

Dr. Lutinski advised the Board that the foundation of Rye Neck student performance assessment is based on contact between students and their teachers. The individual grades are expressed through student report cards and progress reports, the parent/student portal, and parent-teacher conferences. This data is private and will not appear on district or state reports, but is important for families. It is common for students to participate in progress monitoring assessments such as i-Ready; state measures such as 3-8 ELA, Math and Science assessments or Regents exams; and college preparatory assessments such as AP exams. These individual scores are private and any group data from non-state sources is only available to school districts. Publicly available data includes whole-grade or whole-course figures on NY State measures such as 3-8 measures and Regents exams. He stated that an important aspect of performance data to consider is how students gain access to certain coursework and degree of choice.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski advised that there will be a presentation of student and district performance data at the January 22nd Board of Education meeting. The presentation will show test data, demographics, the different ways we assess our students, and a sample of what data teams use in making decisions about students.

IV. New Business

Appointment of Superintendent Search Firm

WHEREAS, at the December 18, 2024 general meeting, Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools, announced his retirement effective June 30, 2025, and

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, the Board of Education accepted the retirement of Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools, effective June 30, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has subsequently interviewed and evaluated three search firms to lead the Board in the search for a new Superintendent of Schools and, as a result of the interviews and evaluations, the Board has selected School Leadership LLC as the firm that will lead the District’s Superintendent Search.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint School Leadership LLC as the firm to lead the district’s Superintendent search;

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District appropriate up to \$35,000.00 (thirty five thousand dollars and no cents) of funds in the District’s 2024-2025 budget or unappropriated fund balance or a combination thereof to pay the cost the search firm and other costs including recruitment letters, online advertising, and certain travel expenses; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes a corresponding increase (or so much thereof as is necessary) in the amount of the District budget for the 2024-2025 school year and fiscal year to satisfy this obligation and determines that such amount is hereby appropriated therefore.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Adoption of Resolution Opting Out of NYSED’s Regionalization Planning Process

WHEREAS, the New York State Board of Regents adopted by emergency regulation Section 124 enacting a Regionalization Planning Process; and

WHEREAS, at its December 2024 meeting, the Board of Regents adopted a new subsection 2.8 of Section 124 entitled: “Non-participation” which provides that: “A school district may elect not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan. If it so elects, the superintendent of a school district, after consultation with their board, shall communicate the district’s election, in writing, to the Department’s Office of Education Policy” by January 15, 2025.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby opts out of the New York State Education Department’s regionalization planning process; and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take all necessary steps to implement this resolution, including but not limited to, completing, executing, and filing by January 15, 2025 any required paperwork and communicating with the New York State Education Department in connection with such decision to not participate.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

V. Executive Session

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby agrees to move into executive session to discuss contract negotiations updates, a particular person, and the Superintendent search.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

VI. Adjournment of Executive Session, Reopening of Public Meeting and Adjournment of Public Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the executive session be adjourned and the Public Meeting be reopened; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board and upon motion duly made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Barker, it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education Planning Session of January 8, 2025 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Carmel adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk