Rye Neck Schools

RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Present: Mary Lanza, Director of Technology and Communications
Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools
Trustee Nikki Barker
Tunc Altinbas
Meghan Keane Graham
Ilissa Miller
Delia Osgood
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

Absent: Michael Gillespie

I. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Trustee Barker reviewed with the Committee members the purpose of the Committee and their roles and responsibilities, which are to address the District's technology needs, advise Mrs. Lanza, and give best practices based on their experience. She then reviewed this year's goals, which are to evaluate enhanced video monitoring software platforms and its procurement process, and to assist in developing criteria for our technology consultant RFP and provide feedback on prospective proposals. Finally, she reminded the Committee that they are an advisory committee, not a decision making committee but would like all of us to be on the same page about the first goal and why it is in the budget.

III. VMS Budget Discussion

Mrs. Lanza reminded the Committee that if we go forward with the plan, the initial costs are not recurring costs. Our Business Office officials have a plan to utilize money currently in the budget. Mrs. Lanza reviewed the process and stated that she thought everyone was on board, but there seemed to be some recent hesitation. The platform we are currently using is outdated and if we wait to upgrade, there is a strong possibility that we will have to buy new cameras, as well as new software, and the cost could double. There are many layers to the District's security, and we want to be proactive, not reactive. Mrs. Lanza and Trustee Barker stressed the importance of upgrading the system for security purposes to enhance features our current system does not have.

Extensive discussion followed with regard to concerns about upgrading our system, including a review of the vendor's responses to questions posed by the TAC. One of the

initial concerns was about the system's use of AI to learn our environment. Mrs. Lanza stated that the cameras cannot and will not be used for facial recognition, as it is against NYSED law. They have features that assist in object detection (humans by shoulders and torso, and motor vehicles by axel and wheelbase). These features can be turned off. There is an additional cost if we wanted to add on firearm detection. Committee members, also, expressed concerns about cyber vulnerabilities in the surveillance industry and if this process had been properly communicated or provided opportunity for community input. Goal #1 has been the focus and on the agenda for every meeting so far this year and all but one meeting have been open to the public. The Committee spoke about ways to communicate the information and gain community input since meeting attendance has been low.

IV. Goal #3 Development and Action Plan

Possible Topics for Goal #3: Cybersecurity, Digital Wellness & District's Strategy on AI and its Oversight

The Committee ran out of time. It was decided that there will not be a third goal for the year. Instead the Committee will spend its last two meetings in April and May drafting goals and action plans for the 2025-2026 Committee.

Action Plan

The Committee ran out of time. Action plans for next year's goals will be developed at the Committee's last two meetings in April and May.

V. Additional Member Topics, As Needed

There were no additional topics brought up at the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2025.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk