

RyeNeck Schools

**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 22, 2025**

Present: President Erica Wagner

Trustee Nikki Barker

Trustee Jason Carmel

Trustee Halli Gatenio

Trustee Gloria Golle

Trustee Elizabeth Yong

Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools

Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

DRAFT

I. Third Budget Presentation

Dr. Lutinski and Mrs. Mahar presented the 2025-2026 budget. Dr. Lutinski advised that the last budget hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 7th in the Daniel Warren Auditorium. The Budget Vote and Trustee Election are scheduled for May 20th from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the MS/HS Community Room. He stated that the budget goals are: a tax cap compliant budget for the 14th year in a row; one that is committed to favorable class sizes and that maximizes efficiencies in scheduling and personnel; upholds and enhances the District's safety and security measures; offers extracurricular opportunities that support a comprehensive educational program; and continues the breadth and depth of core course offerings. In addition, it will continue to support the District's Strategic Plan by maintaining a \$30,000 budget line to support additional professional development opportunities for staff. He advised that the draft budget for the 2025-26 school year totals \$52,548,411, which reflects a 2.37% tax levy increase, and a 2.78% spending increase over 2024-25 totaling \$1,421,188. Dr. Lutinski then reviewed the projected enrollment for 2025-2026 which shows a slight decrease from this school year.

Next, Mrs. Mahar reviewed the draft revenues, the bulk of which come from property tax, estimated State aid, and Westchester County sales tax. Other sources of revenue are the appropriated fund balance, transfers in from reserve funds and interest on deposits. She then reviewed the draft tax cap calculation, explained the 10 year look at how the tax cap levy has moved, and reviewed the estimated tax rate changes for Rye Town (-0.08%) and Rye Cit (+2.30%).

She then reviewed the State Aid estimates for 2025-26, the largest category being Foundation Aid, and stated that BOCES aid, transportation aid, and high/private excess

cost aid are driven by how much money the district spends. The estimated increase in State Aid is 2.18%.

In addition, Mrs. Mahar reviewed the proposed expenses, the bulk of which are salaries (\$25,661,162), benefits (\$13,034,809) and regular school instruction and ENL (\$14,119,919). Some of the other expenses include special education (\$5,735,166) which fluctuates based on the needs of students; cleaning/repair, maintenance and storeroom (\$2,541,536); counseling, health services, psychology and social work (\$2,211,693); and co-curricular and interscholastic athletics (\$1,721,835). The total proposed expenses total \$52,548,411 which represents a 2.78% increase over this year. Factors that are affecting the budget are: active and Medicare health insurance rates are increasing by a composite rate of 8.95%; an increase to the education software, services and supplies budget of \$136,000, partially offset by a \$70,000 reclassification to security; employer retirement system contributions are increasing for ERS and are decreasing for TRS; a decrease in staffing by 1.0 FTE; and the special education outside placements and transportation costs fluctuate based on placements and routes, and transportation assumes an estimated 2% CPI. The District does recognize savings as a result of combining certain bus routes with Mamaroneck. In addition, there is a transfer to capital in the amount of \$485,000 for capital improvements, renovations and upgrades to the high school entrance and electrical system.

Dr. Lutinski reported on the security camera Video Management System which will have an estimated one-time cost of \$155,000 for implementation of the system to provide an analytic overlay on the existing security cameras. There will then be an estimated \$8,674 annual recurring cost for related software licensing. He then stated that the district pursues and obtains a number of state and federal grants each year. They are IDEA grants and Title grants. The total amount of grant funding planned to be used for the 2024-25 school year totals \$483,699.

Finally, Mrs. Mahar stated that the factors that influence the tax rate change are changes in the budget, changes in equalization and changes in assessments, and reviewed the effects of equalization and assessment on the 2025-26 tax rate change. Community members can calculate their estimated school taxes using the Tax Rate Calculator found on the District's website.

II. **Opening of Meeting**

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

III. **Recognition of Athletes Selected to the All Sportsmanship Team for Winter Sports**

Mr. Ceglia recognized the following athletes who were elected to the All Sportsmanship Team for their respective winter sports:

Katie Harvey - Track
Jackson Simon - Track
Paityn Tunno - Girls Basketball
Julian Ortiz - Boys Basketball
Melaney Acevedo - Girls Bowling
Dan Weidemann - Boys Bowling

In addition, he congratulated senior and three sport athlete Shelby Preisser who was selected as a Con Edison Scholar Athlete Award Winner.

IV. President's Report

President Wagner began by announcing that the Board will vote to adopt two significant resolutions tonight. The first is the adoption of the 2025-2026 proposed budget. She thanked Mrs. Mahar and Dr. Lutinski for their presentation. It is the third time the budget has been presented to the community in an open forum. The Board is proud to support and endorse a tax-cap compliant budget for the 14th year in a row, and this year's budget will continue to fund innovative programs and strategic experiences for all Rye Neck students and staff. President Wagner reminded the community that the budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 20th, and the ballot will also include the election of two community members to the Board.

Next, President Wagner advised that the second of these significant resolutions is the appointment of Mr. Michael Burke as Rye Neck's next Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Burke's 25 years in public education include serving nine years as Superintendent of the Cresskill (NJ) Public Schools, where he was named as the Bergen County Superintendent of the Year in 2022. He began his career as an AP Math teacher, before transitioning to his administrative career as a Supervisor of Curriculum and later a High School Principal. Mr. Burke is affable, engaging, strong, and warm-hearted, and the Board believes he fully aligns with the profile that was developed by the Rye Neck community. He is the Board's unanimous choice to lead Rye Neck as the next Superintendent of Schools.

President Wagner then thanked the Rye Neck community for its focus group feedback and strong survey contributions which allowed the search consultants to develop a solid candidate profile that guided the entirety of the search process. She stated that Mr. Burke spent today getting to know Rye Neck via meetings and quality time with Dr. Lutinski, the administrative team, and staff and reminded the community that there will be a meet and greet with Mr. Burke in the dining hall immediately following the meeting.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lutinski began by announcing that this is both Earth Week and the PTSA's Walk to School week, and tomorrow evening Rye Neck Safe Routes to School Coalition will be hosting an interactive workshop which emphasizes personal safety and how we can work as a community for safer streets and commutes for students. The facilitator will be Shannon Hughes, a nationally-recognized traffic safety specialist who most recently led program efforts for the USDOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's New York office. She is also a past Chair of the Village of Mamaroneck Traffic Commission.

Dr. Lutinski noted that this event has been part of the effort to make our streets and commutes safer for students and families. In advance of the expected 2026 NYS DOT project that includes repaving State Route 1 from New Rochelle to the City of Rye, the community has become more involved with this effort to improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure and to increase awareness of safe travel habits. Safe Routes sent out a parent survey last July; Rye Neck's Board of Education passed a resolution in October to support a School Zone on our section of Route 1; and in November we attended a meeting with Senator Mayer, Assemblyman Otis, and municipal leaders to offer local

perspective on the project. In October, Rye Neck celebrated the opening of our new MS/HS parking lot with a protected walk & bike path, and also cooperated with the Village Police on crosswalk safety and crossing guard posts, and most recently on messaging about drop off and dismissal traffic around our elementary schools.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski announced that he looks forward to the reception in the MS/HS Dining Hall at 7:00 p.m. this evening to for community members to meet Rye Neck's next Superintendent, Michael Burke who spent the day at Rye Neck meeting members of the faculty and staff. He echoed President Wagner's assessment of Mr. Burke's qualities.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

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 approves the following consent agenda:

Approval of 2025-2026 BOCES Administrative Budget

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School district agree that the 2025-2026 estimated administrative budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in the amount of \$13,672,215 be approved.

Vote for 3 BOCES Trustees

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School district cast one vote for each of Joan Weber, Lynn McBride and Robert Johnson to serve as trustee on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education Services for the time period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 2, 2025 Board of Education Planning Session

Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accepts the resignation of **Melinda Folchetti** from her full time position as an English teacher in the English tenure area, effective at the close of business on June 30, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby appoints Melinda Folchetti to a four-year probationary term as High School Principal in the administrative tenure area of Principal, commencing retroactive, *nunc pro tunc*, on 08/14/2023 and ending on 08/13/2027.

WHEREAS, Regina-Grace Mackin, during the period immediately preceding this probationary appointment, rendered satisfactory service to the District as a regular full-time substitute teacher for two years in the same tenure area in which she is now being appointed on probation.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and in recognition of Ms. Regina-Grace Mackin’s prior substitute service as set forth herein, instead of appointing her to a four-year probationary term, the Board hereby appoints Ms. Regina-Grace Mackin, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a two-year probationary term as an English Teacher, in the tenure area of English, commencing on August 26, 2025 and ending on August 25, 2027; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints **Daniel Linehan**, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary term as an Physical Education Teacher, in the tenure area of Physical Education, commencing on August 26, 2025 and ending on August 25, 2029; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Oneka McIntosh** as a part-time Teacher Aide, effective 04/07/2025. 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 **Kimberley Lozano** as a part-time Teacher Aide, effective 04/22/2025. 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 staff members to the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

Professional Learning Partners

Jesse Vega (effective 09/01/2024 - 03/11/2025)

Anne Palombo (effective 03/12/2025 - 06/30/2025)

Library Special Assignment

Susan Balsamo

Chemical Hygiene Officer

Anne Palombo

Professional Learning Committee Facilitators

Trisha Appel

Darien Bica

Jessica Calvini

Alexandra Campana

Kelly Cappa

Ann Cullagh

Christy Curran

Lauren D’Alessandro

Jennifer Dallow

Vanessa Dioguardi

Dara Goodman

Meegan Lawlor
Christopher Lincoln
Christopher Macli
Susan Marks
Nicole Pelosi
Alexandra Roviezzo
Kara Slattery
Eric Soderlund
Joan Spedafino
Jessie Vega
Zachary Zamek
Katie Zarkin

Troupe Club Advisor
Cynthia Feinman

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
Surena Singh	04/10/2025	Leave Replacement	Psychologist/ HS	Grad. Sub. Pay Rate

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Shailaja Vangala** a paid FMLA/sick leave beginning on March 24, 2025 to on or about April 25, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Carl Fazio** a paid FMLA/sick leave beginning on March 27, 2025 to on or about June 27, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Nicole Crispinelli** a paid sick leave beginning on April 18, 2025 to on or about May 15, 2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Employee ID 1203** up to 12 weeks of paid FMLA leave beginning April 8, 2025 to be used intermittently in accordance with applicable FMLA regulations; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board approve the resignation of **Teresa Bianco** effective 03/28/2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board approve the resignation of **Melinda Folchetti** from her English teacher position effective 06/30/2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board approve the resignation of **Concetta Levin** for the purpose of retirement effective 06/30/2025.

Adoption of Resolutions Concerning the Annual District Meeting and Election of the District

RESOLVED, that the following resolutions concerning the Annual Meeting and Election of the Rye Neck Union Free School District be adopted:

PROVISIONS FOR DETAILS OF REGISTRATION, ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEE

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the provision of tables, chairs, registration books, voting machines, printing, etc., and to advertise the proper notices required for the conducting of the registration of voters, the annual meeting and the election of school trustees in accordance with the Education Law of the State of New York.

SETTING THE DATE FOR PERSONAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND BUDGET VOTE

RESOLVED, that the Board of Registration shall meet at the Administration Building, 310 Hornidge Road, in the Village of Mamaroneck, County of Westchester, State of New York, on the 15th day of May 2025, from 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 7:00 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of preparing a register of the qualified electors of said District for the annual meeting and election of the members of the Board of Education, and to vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures, or on propositions involving the expenditures of money, or authorizing the levy of taxes, to be held on May 20, 2025, at the Rye Neck High School Library, 300 Hornidge Road, Mamaroneck, New York.

The Board of Registration will also meet during the voting hours for the annual meeting and budget vote and election of school board members on May 20, 2025 for the purpose of preparing a register of voters qualified to vote at meetings or elections held more than thirty (30) days subsequent to such annual meeting and election.

DATE OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AND USE OF VOTING MACHINES

RESOLVED, that the annual meeting of the Rye Neck Union Free School District and election of two members of the Board of Education of said district for two (2) full terms of three (3) years commencing on July 1, 2024 to succeed Gloria Golle and Elizabeth Yong, to vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures or on propositions involving the expenditure of money, or authorizing the levy of taxes, shall be held at the Rye Neck High School Library Community Room on May 20, 2025. between the hours of 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and 9:00 o'clock in the evening, during which hours the polls shall be open, and that the optical scanner voting machine(s) shall be used at said election to record the votes thereat.

Adoption of Resolutions Appointing Election Personnel

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION INSPECTOR OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoints **Joanna Lord, 211 Melbourne Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY** as Chief Election Inspector for the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 20, 2025 at the daily rate of \$350.00.

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint the following Election Inspectors for the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 21, 2024:

1. Yeni Morales-Diaz 550 N. Wagner Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY
2. Michael DiMurro, 525 English Place, Mamaroneck, NY
3. Barbara McCaffery, 1514 Park Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY
4. Adrienne Troupe, 270 Waverly Avenue, Apt. 310, Mamaroneck, NY

at the daily rate of \$300.00.

APPOINTMENT OF POLL CLERKS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint **Leslie Kane, Sophia Sinaheris and Maureen Williams** as poll clerks to canvass those paper ballots used by persons whose names are not on the Registration Poll ledgers; to meet on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building to canvass those votes.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint **Mary Beebe-Harrison** as Chairperson of the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 20, 2025.

Adoption of Policy 0111 & 0111-E - Sexual Harassment Grievances Under Title IX & Exhibit.

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 0111 and 0111-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 March 19, 2025 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 0111 and 0111-E 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 revised Policy 0111 and 0111-E.

Adoption of Policy 1120-R - School District Records Regulation

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 1120-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 March 19, 2025 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 1120-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 revised Policy 1120-R

Adoption of Policy 8113 - Extreme Heat Condition Days

WHEREAS, Policy 8113 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 March 19, 2025 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8113 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 Policy 8113.

Adoption of Section 4000 of the Policy Manual

WHEREAS, revisions to Section 4000 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 March 19, 2025 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Section 4000 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 revised Section 4000

Awarding of Contract for Internal Auditing Services

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the Request for Proposals dated January 24, 2025, appoint R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP as the District's Internal Audit Services provider effective July 1, 2025.

Awarding of Contract for Legal Services

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the Request for Proposals dated January 6, 2025, appoint Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC as the District's Legal Counsel Services provider effective July 1, 2025.

Awarding of Contract for Neuropsychological Evaluation Services Through Sound Shore RFP

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of a Request for Proposals dated December 26, 2023 by the White Plains City School District on behalf of the districts in the Sound Shore Consortium Cooperative, award contracts for the following services based on the attached ratings matrices:

Neuropsychological Evaluation Services:

- PearlCare Search Group, LLC
1428 W Belmont Avenue, Suite 1
Chicago, IL 60657
Please see attached rate sheet

Approval of Stipulation of Settlement

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District adopt and approve the attached Stipulation of Settlement, effective April 3, 2025, between the District and the parent of a student with a disability.

Approval of Board of Education 2025-26 Meeting Schedule

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the attached Board of Education Meeting Schedule for the 2025-2026 school year.

Approval of Disposal of Instructional Material and Equipment

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

Approval of Disposal of Chromebooks

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the disposal of Chromebooks no longer in working condition, 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.

RAMY LOUIS

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the **deletion** 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.

CHRISTINE MOORE

Acceptance of Donation

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accept donations as per the attached schedule.

Approval of Additional Route Under Transportation Piggybacking Contract with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District

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 an additional route with Mamaroneck Union Free School District to PNW BOCES – Fox Meadow for an estimated total cost of \$2,962.00.

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 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:

Troupe

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 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 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 Budget Transfers and Warrant Schedule - All Funds for information purposes.

VIII. Communications to the Board

President Wagner reported that the Board has received 4 communication since the last meeting, 1 regarding athletics, 1 regarding Safe Routes to School and 2 regarding staff.

IX. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

High School student George Santa addressed the Board regarding the policy on school absences and athletic participation.

X. Reports - Community School Groups

Student Senate - Spencer Elliot

Student Senate President Spencer Elliot reported that students are getting reading for AP exams and seniors have begun their internships. In addition, there was a trip to Syracuse for the HOSA Spring Leadership Conference; the AP Spanish class went to see Don Quixote; there was a trip to see The Great Gatsby; Junior/Senior Day took place right before break; and the Senate hosted an Ice Cream Social. In addition, this week is Walk/Bike to School Week. Students from the Eco Club are handing out raffle tickets for a chance to win gift cards to students who walk or bike to school.

Next, Spencer thanked the Booster Club for helping the Senate fundraise at Panther Palooza, and stated that there are two more meetings this year at which they will talk about Senate officer elections and begin preparing for next year.

PTSA - Ruth Homberg

PTSA President Ruth Homberg began by announcing that this week is Bike/Scoot to School Week at all campuses. Committee Heads are working to raise awareness of the benefits of walking and are raffling off gift cards to local businesses for those who participate. Friday at Daniel Warren a speaker from the Westchester County Public Works department will give a talk on Bike Safety to the students.

Also at Daniel Warren, the PTSA hosted a presentation about Women in History. Mobile Ed came into the school and students watched historical women such as Harriet Tubman and Helen Keller come to life through storytelling; March 20th was Family Fitness Night; and the "Let It Grow Play Club", a health and wellness initiative that allows kids to 'JUST PLAY' outdoors, was launched on April 4th. The Rye Y recess program is providing a few weeks of extra instruction in gym classes. An instructor came in to teach cardio kickboxing, and later this month they'll be teaching circus yoga. Additionally, earlier this month, we brought in a STEAM Science Museum.

At F.E. Bellows, we hosted a virtual Author Visit with *Fish in a Tree* author Lynda Mullaly Hunt; Make Inspires presented "The Science of Sound" to grade 4; and this Thursday is Family Kickball Night.

At the Middle School, Mrs. Homberg advised that Holocaust survivor Judith Altman was supposed to have a virtual visit with the 8th graders in late March, but was hospitalized, so they are working to reschedule the talk for May.

At the High School, 9th graders were treated to a virtual presentation on Extreme Weather by the Cleveland Museum; the PTSA funded the Registration fees for all 23

students who attended HOSA, the High School Spring Leadership Competitive Conference in Syracuse, and funded tickets for English Classes to attend the Great Gatsby on Broadway; and the last week of this month the Museum of Tolerance Bus will be coming to the campus.

Next, Mrs. Homberg reported that the most recent Heard in Rye Talk was held on March 31st with NYTimes Bestselling Author Dr. Aliza Pressman on the “5 Principles of Parenting and How to Raise Good Humans”. The last SEAC talk of the year will be held virtually on April 30th by Dr. Hilary Cooper and Allison Stahl from Clear Mind Westchester who will speak about How to Support An Anxious Child while also managing one’s own emotions.

With regard to fundraising, Mrs. Homberg stated that their partnership with Frankie and Fanucci’s raised \$388. It will be followed up with a charity night at Shake Shack on May 21st. Parent’s Night out was the only Parents Only event of the year. Over 200 tickets were sold and we raised over \$20,000. The Nearly New Sale on April 5th made almost \$5,000. The Panther Party is this Saturday. It’s the biggest community event of the year, and there will be 4 food trucks, free activities for kids, student concerts, merch, a cake walk, fire trucks, and all of the parent groups will be there.

Finally, Mrs. Homberg stated that the April Rye Neck International Committee meeting was held on April 4th. It was primarily spent on planning the Panther Party.

Booster Club - Jennifer Abbey

Booster Club President Jennifer Abbey reported that the Booster Club hosted March Madness Night at Wellington’s Bar & Grill, and ran the concession stand at the Panther Palooza track meet and donated \$500 from the sales to the Student Senate. They are currently working on graduation lawn signs which go on sale tomorrow, and Senior Signs for the senior athletes. She stated that the Scholarship Committee will meet the first week in May, and the Booster Club will be awarding athletic and theater scholarships this year.

Additionally, Mrs. Abbey stated that they will be selling merchandise and bringing in food trucks for this year’s Springfest, and they are working with SAC to send athletes to the elementary schools.

Rye Neck School Foundation - Jennifer Soussa

Mrs. Soussa reported that there are three InstaGrants on tonight’s agenda for acceptance by the Board. One is a grant proposed by Cyndi Feinman and Dalia Mansell for a High School student directed Troupe Show; the second is a grant proposed by Joe Ceglia and the Student Athlete Cabinet (SAC) to fund materials and gear for athletes, coaches and spectators to participate in a cancer awareness event hosted by 4 varsity teams on May 10th; and the third is grant proposed by Cathy Toolan for her 8th Grade To Kill a Mockingbird Passion Project. In addition to these grants, Mrs. Soussa stated that the RNSF has reached out to the staff and community for additional grant requests and ideas for new programs and student opportunities. They have received many applications and plan to choose between 8-10 grants to fund live at the May 29th “Cocktails and Kicks” event.

XI. Reports - Board of Education

Office Hours

Trustees Carmel and Yong will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, May 7, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Daniel Warren Elementary School. Please email or call the District Clerk by Friday, May 2nd to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Barker reported that on March 31st she and Mary Lanza attended a WestPut webinar entitled “Students, Smartphones, and Social Media” which was led by Dr. Devorah Heitner is the author of *Growing Up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World* and *Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World*. The book focuses on helping kids navigate growing up in a world where nearly every moment of their lives can be shared and compared. Dr. Heitner discussed schools being a resource in educating kids about responsible phone use, and the importance of dialogue and communication in navigating social media and cell phones.

Audit Committee

Trustee Golle reported that the Committee met on March 26th and finalized its recommendation for an internal auditor which will be up for Board approval tonight. In addition, it received a report from NawrockiSmith regarding a cyber security NIST Gap analysis which they are performing now through the summer.

She stated that the Committee will meet again on May 22nd at which time it will have a kickoff meeting with the external auditors in preparation for their annual audit which will take place over the summer.

Technology Advisory Committee

Trustee Barker reported that the Committee held its last meeting on April 9th. They reviewed the past year, their goals and processes and discussed new ideas for next year as well as areas where they felt they could improve. Some new ideas were to hold a technology “job fair,” open up mentorships or talks with some of the TAC members to engage students interested in the field, and develop a club to learn more about AI. They compiled this information into a year end report that will be presented to the Board in May.

Trustee Barker stated that the Committee is considering cancelling the meeting schedule for May as they work with the new administration on goals for next year.

Policy Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the Committee met on March 25th. They reviewed policies from section 5000 of the comprehensive policy review and policies of the second installment of the NYSSBA policy update as well as remaining policies from sections 4000 of the comprehensive policy review.

The Committee reviewed 63 policies, regulations, and exhibits from section 5000. Of these: 3 policies were recommended as is; 7 were modified and recommended; 10 were unchanged; 6 were removed 3 were not adopted including 1 that was adopted last month;

1 was referred to the school attorney for further review; 14 were referred to various administrators for further review; 1 was referred to NYSSBA for clarification; and 17 have been deferred for further discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Trustee Yong stated that 20 policies, regulations, and exhibits are up for first reading tonight from section 5000. The Committee is approximately half-way through the two-year comprehensive review of the policy manual. Drafts and lists of all policy recommendations to the Board can be found in the monthly Planning Session agendas.

Next, Trustee Yong stated that policy 2245 - Ex Officio Student Member of the Board - is a required policy with a required update and was discussed at the April Planning Session. Of the 7 policies from section 4000 deferred for further discussion from last month, 3 were modified and recommended; 1 was recommended to administrators for further review; 1 was referred to the school attorney for further review; and 2 have been deferred for further discussion at the next Committee meeting.

The 3 policies recommended for first reading are policy 4325 & 4325-E - Academic Intervention Services; and policy 4532 - School Volunteers. Amendments were made to these policies to reflect actual district practices and align with State laws.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. on April 29th in the Administration Building.

XII. New Business

Approval of 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby adopts the proposed budget or estimate of expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$52,548,411.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Approval of Property Tax Report Card

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the attached annual New York State Property Tax Report Card which has been prepared pursuant to the regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Approval of Library Special Assignment Rate

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the Library Special

Assignment rate amount for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth in the memo and Schedule A attached.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Acceptance of Rye Neck School Foundation Grants

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 accept the Rye Neck School Foundation Grants to the Rye Neck Schools, as per the attached letter and chart.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

First Reading - Section 5000 from NYSSBA Policy

This was explained in the Policy Committee update by Trustee Yong.

First Reading - Policy 4325 & 4325-E - Academic Intervention Services and Exhibit

This was explained in the Policy Committee update by Trustee Yong.

First Reading - Policy 4532 - School Volunteers

This was explained in the Policy Committee update by Trustee Yong.

Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby appoints Mr. Michael Burke to serve as Superintendent of Schools under the terms and conditions of the attached employment agreement which it hereby adopts and approves.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above

No comments were made by the public.

XIV. Adjournment

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board , that the Board of Education Meeting of April 22, 2025 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk