



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
MAY 7, 2025**

Present: President Erica Wagner
Trustee Nikki Barker
Trustee Halli Gatenio
Trustee Gloria Golle (*Left Meeting at 10:15 a.m.*)
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

Absent: Trustee Jason Carmel

I. Adjournment of Executive Session, Opening of Public Meeting

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

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

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

II. Final Budget Hearing

Dr. Lutinski and Mrs. Mahar presented the 2025-2026 budget. Dr. Lutinski advised that 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 and reviewed the ballot details. 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. 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. 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 City (+2.30%).

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. She explained that the District is required to break the budget down into three parts: Administrative expenditures (\$6,099,489), Program expenditures (\$37,707,616) and Capital expenditures (\$8,741,307).

Mrs. Mahar then explained that the 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 technology 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. 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, and a one time cost of \$155,000 for implementation of a video management system to provide an analytic overlay on existing security cameras.

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.

III. Opening of Meeting

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

IV. New Business

Approval of Consent Agenda

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 approve the following consent agenda:

Approval of the Minutes of the April 22, 2025 Board of Education Meeting

Approval Change Order

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following change order for the 2024 Daniel Warren Parking Lot Repaving and Sitework Project:

- DeRosa Sports Construction, Inc. - Change order for an increase of +\$13,259.38 related to the cost of three exterior sets of gate hardware which are compatible with the current district security system

Authorization of Additional Signatory to Extraclassroom Account

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District authorize Jason Doerr as additional signatory of the Extraclassroom Account at M&T Bank.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

V. Discussion

Athletic/Academic Opportunity Conflicts

Mr. Ceglia discussed with the Board the issues arising out of conflicts for students between athletics and other opportunities such as class trips, clubs, etc. He stated that while it's a good thing that Rye Neck has a large number of extracurricular opportunities for students to participate in, it causes students to have to make choices when they are on athletic teams. They discussed excused and unexcused absences; consequences for missing practices; how athletic/extracurricular/academic calendars are created; how much we can plan for vs not plan for; and other districts' policies in this regard. Mr. Ceglia and Mrs. Ryan stated that the District is going to try to look at the calendar more carefully to avoid conflicts that the school creates such as trips and prom, but certain scenarios are out of their control.

Wellness Committee Update

Mrs. Mahar advised the Board that since we participate in the National School Lunch Program, we must have a triennial review of the District's nutritional and physical wellness policies. The Wellness Committee met two times in April for this purpose and found everything to be okay. The Board will accept the report at its May 20th Board Meeting.

HS Course Selection Process

Mrs. Ryan advised the Board that the course selection process begins after midterms in January with counselors going into classes to talk with students, teachers making recommendations, and counselor meetings with parents and students which were completed prior to Spring break. They now begin sectioning off classes. Mrs. Ryan noted that there are new classes being added to the schedule next year and some electives will be removed due to lack of interest and not enough periods in the day. However, if a particular class doesn't run this year, that doesn't mean that it won't be offered again.

Update on Superintendent Burke’s Transition Schedule

Dr. Lutinski reviewed with the Board Mr. Burke’s schedule prior to June 30th and what he’s been doing when he’s here.

SuperEval

The Board reported that there will be no evaluation of Dr. Lutinski this year since he is retiring.

VI. Policy Update

Policy 2245 - Ex Officio Student Member of the Board

Trustee Barker reviewed this policy with the Board and stated that it will be on the May 20th Board agenda for a first reading.

Recommendation for First Readings

Trustee Barker stated that the following policies will be on the May 20th Board agenda for a first reading:

- 1400 - Public Complaints
- 1405 - Complaints About Certain Federally-Funded Programs
- 4200 - Curriculum Management
- 4710 - Grading System

In addition, she explained that since only certain policies from Section 5000 are ready, it will not be put up for a first reading.

Technical Update for Second Reading/Adoption

Trustee Yong explained that since this policy only had a technical amendment, it will be put up for adoption at the May 20th Board meeting.

VII. Adjournment of Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board that the Board of Education Meeting of May 7, 2025 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk