

# RyeNeck Schools

**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
300 HORNIDGE ROAD  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MAY 20, 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

**I. Safety Presentation**

Dr. Lutinski and Mr. Scarantino reviewed Rye Neck's Safety Plan for 2025-26. They stated that it complies with the New York State regulation for all threats and hazards, for prevention, mitigation, protection, response and recovery regarding natural, technological, biological and adversarial threats. Following this meeting, the plan will be posted as a draft on the District's website and will be up for approval at the August Board meeting. While the District plan is posted publicly, the three Building plans are kept secure.

Next, they reviewed the key elements of the plan and explained the make up of the different safety teams. There are no new changes to the District's plan for the 2025-26 school year but there are some minor changes to the Building plans.

In addition, they reviewed the emergency response terminology and explained the make up of the threat assessment team. Finally, they updated the community on recent improvements such as Salto door locks at all the schools, new radio/walkie-talkie system, bullet resistant film at all the schools, new fencing and gates at the elementary schools, knox boxes, professional guards, a walking/bike path and lights at the Middle/High School, a workplace violence prevention policy, and a new video management system.

**II. Opening of Meeting**

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

**III. Capstone Presentation**

Mr. Graziano began his report by explaining that the goal for 2024 was to encourage students to graduate with the Seal of Civic Readiness and explained that the importance of civic readiness is for the students to gain critical-thinking, become local/global

citizens, have an adaptive/resilient mindset and a supportive learning environment. He then reviewed the criteria to obtain the seal which is that a student must complete all the requirements for a New York State local or Regents diploma and earn a total of six points with at least two points in civic knowledge and at least two points in Civic Participation. They may also earn points by completing a middle school or high school Capstone project.

Next, Mr. Graziano stated that this year 80+ students are receiving the Seal of Civic Readiness. He reviewed the topics that were undertaken, the challenges involved with the program, and the goals for the program going forward.

#### **IV. President's Report**

President Wagner began by acknowledging that the beginning of the month was Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurse's Day and expressed the District's gratitude to its teachers and nurses for their hard work, thoughtfulness, dedication, creativity, and for being the heartbeat of the schools.

Next, President Wager stated that tonight is Rye Neck's budget vote. A new fiscal budget will allow the district to fund imaginative programs and strategic experiences for our students and staff. New budgets invite new beginnings, new opportunities and new ways to both teach and learn. The Board is grateful to the Rye Neck community for coming out to vote today and expressing their desire to keep Rye Neck fresh, innovative and competitive.

Finally, President Wagner advised that tonight we will also welcome two board members with whom we are eager to work with and support; we are grateful for their enthusiasm, time and desire to help make Rye Neck the best it can be.

#### **V. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Lutinski began by stating that tomorrow night he, Ms. Folchetti and President Wagner will be attending the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendent's Scholarship Awards Dinner to honor Rye Neck's valedictorian and salutatorian who will also be attending. Valedictorian Anais Brown will be on her way to Vanderbilt to study computer science and Salutatorian Shotaro Oshikawa is bound for Johns Hopkins to study cognitive science. Rye Neck is exceedingly proud of Anais, Shotaro, and their friends in the Rye Neck class of '25!

Next, Dr. Lutinski reported that Spring is heavy on celebration days. In addition to the recent Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurses Day, there are other such dates scattered throughout the year. Appreciation Days and Weeks are wonderful ways to recognize and celebrate the hard work, dedication, and positive impact of every member of our Rye Neck team. He then expressed his gratitude and thanked all the staff for the countless ways they go above and beyond every day. He encouraged anyone who hasn't had the opportunity to thank them for making a difference every day---because there are only 24 days of school left!

#### **VI. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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 approves the following consent agenda:

**Approval of the Minutes of the May 7, 2025 Board of Education Planning Session**

**Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignation**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Oneka McIntosh** 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 **Amy Rossignuolo** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 05/07/2025, and ending 05/06/29; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Stephanie Bongo** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 05/27/2025, and ending 05/26/29; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint a staff member to the following position for the 2024-2025 school year:

Continental Math Advisor, FEB  
**Suzanne Losito**

and it was

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Assignment/Location</b>	<b>Salary/Step</b>
<b>Teresa Castaldo</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>Per Diem Substitute</b>	<b>Teacher/ District Wide</b>	<b>Per Diem Sub. Rate</b>

and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint the following staff member for 2024-2025 sports:

<b>SEASON</b>	<b>SPORT</b>	<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>ROLE</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>LAST</b>
2024-25			Athletic Support Staff	Albert	Ciuffettelli

and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Melissa Wagner** a paid sick/FMLA leave beginning on April 29, 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 **Alyssa Ciotti** an unpaid parental leave beginning on June 5, 2025 to June 27, 2025; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Employee ID 2054** up to 12 weeks of paid intermittent sick/FMLA leave beginning May 1, 2025 to be used intermittently in accordance with applicable FMLA regulations; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Linda Costelloe** up to 12 weeks of paid intermittent sick/FMLA leave beginning May 5, 2025 to be used intermittently in accordance with applicable FMLA regulations; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Amy Bushnell** a paid sick/FMLA leave beginning on or about October 13, 2025 to November 21, 2025; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Amy Bushnell** an unpaid FMLA leave beginning on or about November 22, 2025 to January 16, 2026; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board approve the resignation of **Marie Goodman** effective 06/30/2025.

**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 May 20, 2025, between the District and the parent of a student with a disability.

**Approval of Settlement Agreements**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby adopts and approves the attached Settlement Agreements between the District and the parents of students with disabilities.

**Approval of Disposal of Ballots**

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

**Approval of Disposal of Furniture**

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

**Approval of Updated District Consultant List**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the updated District Consultant List, as per the attached schedule.

**Adoption of Policy 4000 - Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines**

**WHEREAS**, revisions to Policy 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**, Policy 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 Policy 4000.

**Adoption of Policy 4325 & 4325-E - Academic Intervention Services and Exhibit**

**WHEREAS**, revisions to Policies 4325 and 4325-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 April 22, 2025 Board Meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, Policies 4325 & 4325-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 Policies 4325 & 4325-E

**Adoption of Policy 4532- School Volunteers**

**WHEREAS**, Policy 4532 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 April 22, 2025 Board Meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, Policy 4532 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 4532.

**Adoption of a Portion of Section 5000 of the Policy Manual**

**WHEREAS**, revisions to a portion of Section 5000 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 April 22, 2025 Board Meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 5000 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 5000.

**Authorization of Allocation to Reserve Funds**

**WHEREAS**, the School District previously established an Employee Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund (the “Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund”) in accordance with Section 6-r of the General Municipal Law, as amended, for the purpose of the payment of retirement contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rye Neck Union Free School District (the “School District”) previously established an Insurance Reserve Fund (the “Insurance Reserve Fund”) in accordance with Section 6(n) of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, as amended; to pay liability, casualty and other types of losses, except those incurred for which the following types of insurance may be purchased: life, accident, health, annuities, fidelity and surety, credit, title residual value and mortgage guarantee; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District previously established a Capital Reserve Fund on May 25, 2022 (the “2022 Capital Reserve Fund”) in accordance with Sections 6-c and 6-g of the General Municipal Law, as amended, for the purpose of masonry renovation, plumbing upgrades, electrical upgrades, mechanical upgrades, technology upgrades, telephone upgrades, roof replacement on District buildings, door replacement, window replacement, turf replacement, fencing, site work, including but not limited to paving, curbs and sidewalks, renovation/reconstruction of interior and exterior instructional spaces, abatement of hazardous materials and/or the purchase of furnishings/equipment or any other purpose for which bonds may be issued; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District now wishes to appropriate an amount up to \$1,200,000 from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund of the School District (the “General Fund”) for the purpose of transferring such amount to the Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District now wishes to appropriate an amount up to \$630,000 from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund for the purpose of transferring such amount to the Insurance Reserve Fund; and **WHEREAS**, the School District now wishes to appropriate an amount up to \$2,378,588.63 from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund for the purpose of transferring such amount to the 2022 Capital Reserve Fund.

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District (the “Board of Education”), as follows:

**Section 1.** The Board of Education hereby directs that an amount up to \$1,200,000 be appropriated from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund and transferred to the Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund. 2732009.2 7/25/2016 2

**Section 2.** The Board of Education hereby directs that an amount up to \$630,000 be appropriated from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund and transferred to the Insurance Reserve Fund.

Section 3. The Board of Education hereby directs that an amount up to \$2,378,588.63 be appropriated from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund and transferred to the 2022 Capital Reserve Fund.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Approval of Reserve Fund Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck UFSD on April 6, 2016 adopted a policy on Fund Balance, #6245; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck UFSD has reviewed the District's Reserve Fund Plan to meet the requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions" (GASB Statement No. 54); and

**WHEREAS**, the desired outcome of this directive was to have in place a plan to maintain a satisfactory level of restricted and unrestricted fund balance reserves (which includes committed, assigned, and unassigned funds) to ensure the long-term financial stability of the organization and position it to respond to varying economic conditions and changes affecting the organization's financial position and the ability of the organization to continuously carry out its mission.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board Education of the Rye Neck UFSD hereby approve the updated Reserve Fund Plan incorporated herein.

**Acceptance of Triennial Review of Wellness Policy**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accept the triennial review of the Rye Neck UFSD Wellness Policy.

**Ratification of WPSBA 2025-26 Budget and Slate of Officers/Directors**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby ratifies the Westchester-Putnam School Board Association 2025-2026 Budget and Slate of Officers/Directors.

**Approval of Shared Transportation Administration and Management Agreement with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the attached Shared Transportation Administration and Management agreement with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District commencing on June 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

**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 deletion of the following people 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.

PETER HOFFMAN  
ANNA VIRA

**Approval of Facilities Use Agreement for Summer Camp at the Middle/High School Campus**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approve the attached contract for the Rye YMCA to run their 2025 summer camp on the MS/HS campus.

**Approval of Rejection of Bids for Roof Replacement at High School Gymnasium**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the District has endeavored to enter into a certain contract for the Roof Replacement at the High School Gymnasium (the “Contract”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has solicited bids through an invitation to bid for the Contract in accordance with all applicable laws, including, the General Municipal Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education received nine (9) bids for the Contract (the “Bids”), which were duly opened and read aloud on May 13, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has reviewed the Bids; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the review of the Bids in conjunction with other bids opened on the same day, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the District to complete other capital project work first to ensure the availability of capital reserve fund funding for this Contract, which should be considered by the Board of Education in its decision making process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the District and serves the public’s interest in the economical use of public moneys to reject all bids received in response to the invitation to bid for the Roof Replacement at the High School Gymnasium Project.

**RESOLVED**, pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Education Law and the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education is authorized to, and by this Resolution does hereby reject all of the Bids, received, opened, and read aloud on May 13, 2025 by the District for the Roof Replacement at the High School Gymnasium Project and authorizes the District administration to re-advertise said Project for rebid at a later date.

**Award of Contracts for Capital Project Work**

**RESOLVED**, that as a result of the bids received on May 13, 2025 for Masonry Reconstruction & Site Improvements at F.E. Bellows Elementary School and Masonry Reconstruction at Daniel Warren Elementary School, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District make the following awards of the contract, pending final clearance of insurance documentation, to:

**F.E. Bellows Masonry Reconstruction & Site Improvements:**

Capitol Renovation Corp.  
1596 Vestry Road  
Wantagh, NY 11793

<u>Site Work:</u>	
Base Bid (Masonry):	\$368,110.00
Base Bid (Site work):	\$472,512.00
Allowance:	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL:	\$870,622.00

Unit Prices:  
AS PER ATTACHED BID LOG

Daniel Warren Masonry Reconstruction:

Total Construction Corp.  
290 McGuinnes Blvd.  
Brooklyn, NY 11222

<u>Site Work:</u>	
Base Bid (Masonry):	\$412,000.00
Allowance:	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL:	\$442,000.00

Unit Prices:  
AS PER ATTACHED BID LOG

**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 10 communications since the last meeting, 1 regarding a recess program, 1 regarding Safe Routes to School, 4

regarding the leaf blower law, 1 regarding transportation, 2 regarding the budget vote and trustee election, and 1 regarding the superintendent search.

**IX. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor**

There were no comments made by the public.

**X. Reports - Community School Groups**

**Student Senate - Spencer Elliot**

Student Senate President Spencer Elliot began by thanking the Board for giving him the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Senate and the student body this year; Mr. Graziano, the Senate advisor, and Ms. Folchetti for listening to all their ideas; and everyone on Senate for doing a great job this year. They had near perfect attendance at all of the meetings.

Next, he reported that at the last Senate meeting, they reflected on everything they did this year from brand new sports tournaments to sponsorships, spirit events, a winter dance, ice cream social, and more. The sports tournaments were highlights and they would love to have them again next year. Over 70 students participated in the volleyball tournament and around 60 in the pickleball tournament. He thanked Mr. Ceglia and Mr. Lincoln for helping make those events possible. In addition, they brainstormed ideas for events they would like to have next year. Senate officer elections will take place in two weeks.

Lastly, Spencer congratulated all the students who have finished their APs., good luck to all the seniors who are on internships, and good luck to all students who are taking their final exams in the coming weeks. Juniors and seniors are looking forward to prom, which is taking place on June 18th. He wished everyone a great end of the school year and a nice relaxing summer

**PTSA - Ruth Homberg**

PTSA President Ruth Homberg began by reporting that the last General Membership Meeting of the year took place on May 8th. Since this is Mrs. Homberg's last year, Elizabeth Gillespie was appointed to be the next PTSA President. She has a kindergartner and a 3rd grader, is a Rye Neck alum, spearheaded the Nominating committee this year and successfully filled 45 open roles. Her term will begin on July 1st. The new members of the Executive Committee will be Kate Graham as Corresponding Secretary, Amy Koizim as VP of Daniel Warren, and Piper Stevens will be taking over the role of VP of Special Projects. She thanked Kristen Lindberg whose term is ending, but who will continue to help out in another role.

In addition, Mrs. Homberg noted that the membership voted to approve an end of year gift for the district of just over \$32,000, as follows:

Daniel Warren - umbrellas and rugs, as well as recess supplies like Jumbo magnetiles

F.E. Bellpws - Recess supplies, including a flag football kit and a swing ball set

MS/HS/SEAC - New furniture for the library to complement the district's upgrades to the space as well as a sensory wall for students

For the first time ever, they are gifting the district social worker a small fund to encourage student engagement

The Athletic Department will receive a media screen and Bucket Golf

Next, Mrs. Homberg reported on this month's initiatives. Walk to School Week took place at all schools, At the upper schools they raffled off gift cards to local businesses for students who participated, Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows had bike helmet decorating stations; and they brought in a representative from the Westchester County Department of Traffic Safety to speak to Daniel Warren Students about Bike safety. Also this month, F.E. Bellows had their semi-annual Family Kickball night; Daniel Warren had their "Wake the Garden" event; they held a Health and Wellness Assembly with Singer/Songwriter Jared Campbell at Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellowsl there was a combined book fair where F.E. Bellows students walked to Daniel Warren to shop; and the Steam committee presented Critter Caravan to the 3rd grade students. Upcoming events include: Elementary School Theater performance of The Lion King Jr. in partnership with Artistree; the Bubble Bus for the 2nd Grade end of year Celebration; the 5th grade end of year luncheon; and a Crayon Drive to recycle unused school supplies.

In the Middle/High School the PTSA organized a visit from the Mobile Museum of Tolerance. Students in grades 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 were treated to workshops. The goal of the visit was to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to promote human dignity by empowering them to raise their voices to combat antisemitism, bullying, racism, hate and intolerance. They also organized a nighttime event for administrators, New York State and Local officials, important non-profit organizations and other notables. Additionally, the Middle School Book Fair will take place next week; the 8th Grade dance is this Friday; and the Senior Send-Off and Senion Love Letter initiative are in the works.

Mrs. Homberg stated that the last SEAC talk of the year was held virtually on April 30th. Dr. Hilary Cooper and Allison Stahl from Clear mind Westchester spoke about "How to Support An Anxious Child" while also managing one's own emotions. In addition to their contribution to the Panther Party, the RNIC held their May meeting last week at which they appointed their new co-head: Yuka Yoshida will be joining Michelle Goodman. On May 2nd, they will hold their Hanami Picnic at Harbor Island and are planning their end of year picnic now to be held on June 7th at Greenhaven Beach.

With regard to fundraising, she stated that the Annual Panther Party took place in late April. There were food trucks, raffles, student concerts, games, musical cakes, and crafts. A local Girl Scout troop sold cookies; and the RNIC sold baked goods, boba tea, origami, books, international sports jerseys, and sponsored games and crafts. She thanked everyone who helped out. This year a Color Run replaced the Fun Run. Students were sprayed with colorful chalk as they ran around the track of Florence Park, Duck Donuts sold snacks, and there were over 150 participants. Tomorrow they are partnering with Shake Shack in Portchester who will donate 25% of purchases to the PTSA. With regard to the Sign Up Parties, last Friday was the Cinco de Mayo Party, and Seashell Craft Night was Saturday. The Self Defense Class for Women and girls, taught by Trustee (and black

belt) Nikki Barker will take place soon, and the Battle of the Bands is scheduled for June 13th.

Finally, Mrs. Homberg acknowledged that her role as PTSA president ends on June 30th. She thanked everyone in the community for their support of the PTSA during her tenure, Mary Lanza for taking so many wonderful pictures of PTSA events, and Dr. Lutinski for his partnership and guidance over the past 2 years.

#### **Booster Club - Jennifer Abbey**

Booster Club President Jennifer Abbey stated that the Booster Club would be presenting scholarships to athletes and theater students at the upcoming award ceremonies.

#### **Rye Neck School Foundation - Jennifer Soussa**

Mrs. Soussa began by thanking everyone who has made the Rye Neck School Foundation's first year such a success. Since the launch last spring, they funded 14 grants—each one proposed by our dedicated administrators, teachers, and even students. These grants have introduced exciting new programs, clubs, classroom materials, and tech updates across all of our schools.

Next, Mrs. Soussa reported that they are gearing up for their biggest and most ambitious event yet—Cocktails & Kicks, happening May 29th from 7 to 10 p.m. at Crawford Mansion in Rye Brook. During the event, there will be a paddle raise to fund five exciting new grants—including new scoreboards for the middle and high school athletic fields, lighting and tech upgrades for the Performing Arts Center, a book vending machine at Daniel Warren, new audio visual equipment for F.E. Bellows' broadcast program, and an interactive visiting artist program with Corey Paige for our elementary and middle school students. To purchase tickets or donate to your favorite grants, visit [ryeneckschoolfoundation.org](http://ryeneckschoolfoundation.org).

#### **RNTA Report - Kathie Offner**

RNTA President Kathie Offner began by stating that the Middle School started the year with a new MS principal, Mr. Jason Doerr, and a new assistant principal for the MS/HS, Mr. Michael Priskie both who have created a very warm and collaborative relationship with their staff and students. Mr. Doerr continually looks to improve our programs, encourages teachers to offer suggestions on scheduling and provides time for intervisitations and greater cooperation amongst the grade teams and the departments. The support that the staff feels has trickled down throughout the middle school, creating an environment that promotes learning for all. We saw the implementation of 6 early dismissal days designed to give teachers the additional time necessary to learn the new initiatives set forth with Strategic Planning goals. Our Teaching Assistants and Monitors spent those afternoons in other forms of training to enhance their positions within the school district as well. Many of us are involved with continuing professional development, as new programs are planned for the next school year as well.

Mrs. Offner reported that this year also saw the negotiation and settlement of a new Teachers' contract, which will take effect on July 1, 2025 and end on June 30, 2029. In addition, it brought about a change in the Board of Education with Mrs. Erica Wagner becoming the President as Dr. Jason Carmel took on new career responsibilities. The RNTA wished Jason every success in his new position as well as to Erica in hers, and wished the candidates running in this election good luck. She congratulated Ms. Melinda

Folchetti on her appointment as Rye Neck Principal stating that it has been a pleasure working alongside her as a colleague, fellow union official, and friend. She is well loved by all the students, and the faculty knows we have an administrator who understands the needs of the teachers, the students, and the culture of Rye Neck. There could not have been a better choice.

The RNTA extended warm welcome to Mr. Michael Burke as the incoming Superintendent and stated that they look forward to working in cooperation with him.

Mrs. Offner then addressed Dr. Lutinski. “As a teacher for 26 years in this district, there is so much history made when over a quarter of a century is spent in one place. My 26 years in Rye Neck are better because I had a chance to know you, through my work in the union as a rep in Bellows, the move I made to the Middle School where you became my building principal and primary boss and in your position as superintendent. In all those years, I have felt supported and respected on a daily basis. Thank you so much for that. I am one of many who feel a loss with your coming retirement, but I am so happy you will have time for your family, time to still pursue all your many interests, and leave with the satisfaction of having served the Rye Neck community for so long and so well. It is a cliché to say, you leave big shoes to fill, but it is absolutely true. On behalf of the RNTA, and especially myself, I wish you the very best retirement, an exciting and fulfilling next chapter.”

Finally, she wished the new Tenure candidates and retirees from the District, the very best of luck in both the start and the end of your careers in the Rye Neck School District, and wished everyone a wonderful summer break.

## **XI. Reports - Board of Education**

### **Office Hours**

Trustees Golle and Barker will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, June 4, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building. Please email or call the District Clerk by Friday, May 30th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

### **Facilities Committee**

Trustee Yong reported that the Facilities Committee met on May 6th. Representatives from LAN Associates joined the meeting and there were updates on the capital project. The Vestibule project is expected to begin in June. The Daniel Warren masonry bid, F.E. Bellows masonry and paving bid, and the RNMS/ RNHS roofing bid closed last week. In addition, the Committee received an update on the feasibility study process for the RNMS/ RNHS athletic complex. The Flood Risk Group made several recommendations. The option that was selected retains the current number of fields and retains grass fields for both the softball field and baseball field. It proposes 2 turf multi-purpose fields and 1 grass multi-purpose field. All fields will be rehabilitated, whether courts, grass or turf. With this option, the construction timeline is reduced from 18 months to 6 months. Next steps include a geotechnical investigation and a westlands investigation to see if the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has jurisdiction. The timeline for the energy study is scheduled to begin in May 2025 and will be completed in December 2025. The next Facilities Committee meeting has not yet been scheduled, but will include an updated timeline for the athletic field study.

### **Policy Committee**

Trustee Yong reported that the Policy Committee met on April 29th. We reviewed outstanding policies from sections 1000, 4000 and 5000 of the comprehensive policy review as well as a policy from the second installment of the New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA) policy update. We also had an initial review of sections 6000-7000 of the comprehensive policy review. 16 policies, regulations, and exhibits are up for first reading today as additions or amendments from section 5000 of the comprehensive policy review, The policy committee initially reviewed 35 policies, regulations, and exhibits from sections 6000-7000 and referred 1 to the school attorney for further review. The next policy committee meeting will take place on May 22nd at 1:00 pm in the Administration Building.

## **XII. New Business**

### **Acceptance of Donations**

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 PTSA Grant to the Rye Neck Schools, as per the attached letter; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accept a donation from the Larchmont Mamaroneck Basketball Association (LMBA) in the amount of \$3,500 for the benefit of Rye Neck Athletics.

**AYES:**           **All Present**

**NAYES:**          **None**

### **First Reading - Policy 1400 - Public Complaints**

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

### **First Reading - Policy 1405 - Complaints About Certain Federally-Funded Programs**

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

### **First Reading - Policy 2245 - Ex Officio Student Member of the Board**

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

### **First Reading - Policy 4200 - Curriculum Management**

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

### **First Reading - Policy 4710 - Grading Systems**

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

### **First Reading - Section 5000**

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

## **XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above**

No comments were made by the public.

**XIV. Proposed Executive Session**

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Golle and seconded by Trustee Carmel, 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 a student matter made confidential under FERPA.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**XV. Adjournment of Executive Session, Reopening of Public Meeting and Adjournment of Public Meeting**

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

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education Meeting of May 20, 2025 be adjourned.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera  
District Clerk