RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2025

Present: President Erica Wagner
Trustee Nikki Barker
Trustee Jason Carmel
Trustee Halli Gatenio
Trustee Ruth Homberg
Trustee Alex Rainert
Mr. Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. President's Report

President Wagner began by welcoming everyone back and reported that the Board worked collaboratively over the summer to create strong, realistic, well-intended, and thoughtful goals for the 2025-26 school year. She stated that there is no doubt working together with the administration, that the Board will help contribute to a successful year for Rye Neck's students, staff and community.

III. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Burke began by welcoming the entire Rye Neck school community back for the 2025-2026 school year. It's been an extremely busy summer, with final preparations underway for the return of our students. Over the last two months, the administrators have been coordinating schedules and communications and the clerical staff has been preparing welcome back messages and activities. He thanked and recognized the maintenance and custodial staff who not only did a magnificent job getting our facilities ready, but also coordinated and supported the Rye Y while we hosted their eight-week summer camp.

During the summer, the District completed masonry, renovation and restoration at Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows, repaving at F.E. Bellows, as well as the construction of a high school security vestibule, and a new enclosed lighting and sound booth in our HS/MS auditorium.

Next, Mr. Burke reported that staffing is a key activity every new year, and by the first day of school we will have addressed 10 vacancies, including a new district security officer, monitors, teaching assistants and teachers who will be welcomed at the new staff orientation today with our veteran staff returning on August 26th for a full three days to prepare for students to arrive on September 2nd. The Athletic Department has already begun the year, with 225 varsity and JV fall sport athletes, and an additional 125 modified athletes practicing with 33 coaches, and we are eagerly anticipating the installation of our brand new soccer/baseball and field hockey/softball scoreboards this coming week. A big thank you to the Rye Neck School Foundation for their generous donation.

Mr. Burke reminded the community that last year, we announced the transition to ParentSquare, a communications platform that will help us keep you better informed and more connected to our school community. He announced that starting this school year, families will receive all district, school, grade-level and and classroom communications in one place and translated into their preferred language, whether by email, text, app, or web. ParentSquare allows you to:

- Stay up to date on news and events
- Send and receive messages with teachers and staff
- Fill out forms and permission slips
- Sign up for conferences and volunteer opportunities
- View calendar items and photos from your school

To get the most out of ParentSquare, he encouraged everyone you to download the free mobile app, available for iOS and Android.

In addition, Mr. Burke reported that the cell phone policy goes live for the start of the school year. Students are reminded that cell phones must be turned off and out of sight for the entirety of the school day per New York State Law. Everyone should refer to the district-wide communication sent earlier this month as an update. He thanked high school principal Ms. Melinda Folchetti and all the students who volunteered for the "no cell phone" trial in June.

Mr. Burke will be enhancing communications with videos entitled "Superintendent's Spotlight." They will be posted on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, so please follow the school accounts to receive immediate notifications. All the information mentioned today was posted last week on those platforms.

Additionally, Mr. Burke's Year 1 Entry Plan will be posted on the district website today. He will be learning and reviewing the school district's policies and procedures across five different categories: Instruction & Program, Finance, Governance, Operations and Personnel. He looks forward to gathering more information and providing opportunities for feedback from all the stakeholders in our district including students, staff, parents, and community members.

Finally, he stated that the major initiative for our school year is the second phase of the Rye Neck Strategic Plan. The District is continuing its relationship with consultant Judy Wilson as they expand on the three key goals:

- Equip all learners to approach problems by asking questions, exploring solutions, taking action, and reflecting on outcomes
- Build transformative environments that foster empathy, compassion, and connection to the world. Create learning experiences that instill a sense of purpose inside and outside of the classroom
- Design systems for our professional learning community to develop practices and expertise that lead to transformational experiences for themselves and their students

Detailed information will be provided on the status of Year 2 of our goals throughout the year.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Barker 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:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the July 1, 2025 Organizational Meeting

2. Approval of the Minutes of the July 1, 2025 Board of Education Meeting

3. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints **Alexis Pantello**, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary term as a K-5 School Counselor, in the tenure area of School Counseling, commencing on August 26, 2025 and ending on August 25, 2029; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints **Christine Smith**, in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary term as an English to Speakers of Other Languages Teacher, in the tenure area of English to Speakers of Other Languages, 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 **Cynthia Lanuza** as a part-time Teacher Aide, effective 09/02/2025. 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 the following certified personnel:

Name	Effective Date	Type	Assignment/Location	Salary/Step
Yvette Goldman	**2025-2026**	**Perm. Sub. 1.0 FTE**	**Teacher/MS/HS**	**BA/Step 2**
Carolann Baal	**06/30/2025**	**Extra Pay Form**	**Seasonal Clerk**	**Special Hourly Rate**
Nicole Yannuzzi	**07/01/2025**	**Per Diem Sub.**	**Clerical/ District Wide**	**Per Diem Sub. Rate**
Samantha Yannuzzi	**07/01/2025**	**Per Diem Sub.**	**Clerical/ District Wide**	**Per Diem Sub. Rate**
Ernest Ricketts	**2025-2026**	**Extra Pay Form**	**Safety & Security Consultant/District Wide**	**Special Daily Rate**
Antonella Lacatena	**2025-2026**	**Per Diem Sub.**	**Monitor/ FEB**	**Per Diem Sub. Rate**
Matteson Donnelly	**08/26/2025**	**Leave Replacement**	**Teacher/MS/HS**	**Grad. Sub. Pay Rate**
Robert Simels	**10/01/2025**	**Leave Replacement**	**Teacher/HS**	**Grad. Sub. Pay Rate**

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 2025-2026 school year:

STEAM Liaison - **Allison Reynolds**

Kindergarten Ready Teacher - **Concetta Levin (Retiree)**

3rd Grade Transition Teachers
Ann Cullagh
Philece McCoy

MS Musical Director - **Caitlin Clarke**

Instructional Support Staff, Special Services - **Peter Wilson**

ENL Summer Teachers
Ivan Martinez (Elementary)
Kathleen Regan (MS/HS)

Special Services Summer Evaluators
Laura Finkelson
Surena Singh
Kimberly Duque
Danielle Grunes

Safety & Security Extra Duties - **Sean Burke**

Curriculum Preparation Support - **David-Anthony Murray**

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint the following staff sports:

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
2025-2026			Support Staff	David	Meiliken
Fall	Boys Soccer	JV	Head Coach	Robert	Simels

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoints the following substitutes:

Dianna Anderson
Kimberly Barth
Teresa Castaldo
Gail Fiorille
Karen Fontecchio
Concetta Levin
Susan Lichtenstein
Suzanne Melillo
Joyce Pezzola
Wendy Reynolds

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescind the appointment of **Peter Wilson** as an Extended School Year Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescind the appointment of **Lynda Welsh** as a Kindergarten Ready Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescind the appointment of **Jeffrey Coronel** as the Head Coach for JV Boys Soccer; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescind the appointment of **Albertus Brailsford** as a Volunteer for

Varsity Football; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board approve the resignation of **Stephanie Bongo** effective 07/17/2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board approve the resignation of **Lisa Tansley-Jervis** effective 08/04/2025; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board approve the resignation of **Nicole Pelosi** effective 08/14/2025; 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/sick leave beginning August 26, 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 **Steven Halper** a paid FMLA/sick leave beginning on or about October 3, 2025 to November 28, 2025.

4. Approval of Substitute Teacher, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Teaching Assistant/ Teacher Aide/Monitor, Clerical, Custodial and Nurse Rates

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the daily substitute pay rates for teachers, teaching assistants/teacher aides/monitors, as well as the long term substitute teacher rates, clerical, custodial staff, and school nurse **(attached).**

5. Authorization to Negotiate and Approve Data Privacy Agreements

WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs; WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school

districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

6. Approval of Tax Rate Apportionment
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the homestead and non-homestead levy (as per attached) which is computed pursuant to the adoption of Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) §1903-a.

7. Approval of Contract for Summer 2025 Transportation Route
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following transportation piggycontract as per the attached **Schedule** A for summer 2025 extended school year programs

8. Approval and Award of Contract for School Year 2025-26 Transportation Route
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the Request for Bids opened on August 20, 2025, award the following transportation contract for the 2025-2026 school year:

RN#2526-001	Winston Prep/St. Catherine Academy	Super Wheels Inc.	$15,300.00/month

9. Approval of Rejection of Bids for Contract for School Year 2025-26 Transportation Route
WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the District has endeavored to enter into a contract for school year transportation to The Clearview School (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 three (3) bids for the Contract (the "Bids"), which were duly opened and read aloud on August 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the same day (August 20, 2025) the District was informed that this bus route is no longer required as the student is moving out of district prior to the start of the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that because the route is no longer required, it is in the best interests of the district to reject all bids received in response to the invitation to bid for the school year transportation route to The Clearview School.

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 August 20, 2025 by the District for school year transportation to The Clearview School.

10. Approval of Disposal of Equipment, Textbooks and Uniforms

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

11. 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.

12. Approval of Safety and Security Extra Duties Stipends

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the Safety and Security Extra Duties stipend amounts for the 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years, as set forth in the Schedule A attached.

13. Approval of Standard Work Days for Appointed Officials

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby establishes the following as standard work days for appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based upon the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the District Clerk:

Title	Name	SS# (Last 4 Digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs/Day)	Term Begins/ Ends	Participate in Employer's Time Keeping System	Days/Mo (Based on Record of Activities)	Tier 1 Check only if Member is Tier 1	Not Submitted (Check only if no record of activities is completed or if participates in timekeeping system)
District Clerk	Mary Ellen Chiera	XXXX	XXXXXX	7 Hours	7/1/25 - 6/30/26	No	22	_____	_____

14. Approval of Standard Work Days for Seasonal Clerk, Chemical Hygiene Officer and Assistant Chemical Hygiene Officer

RESOLVED, that the Rye Neck Union Free School District, Location Code 75510, hereby establishes the following as standard work days for the titles listed and will report days worked to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System based on the timekeeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these members to the clerk of this body:

Title	Hours
Seasonal Clerk	7
Chemical Hygiene Officer	7
Assistant Chemical Hygiene Officer	7

15. Approval of 2025-26 Adult Meal Prices

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following price of adult breakfast and lunch for the 2025-26 school year in accordance with state mandates:

ADULT MEALS: Breakfast: $3.01 + tax ($3.26 includes tax);
Lunch: $5.20 + tax ($5.64 includes tax)

16. 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.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

V. Communications to the Board

President Wagner reported that the Board has received 2 communications since the last meeting, one regarding student records and one regarding supporting non-panther athletes.

VI. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

VII. Reports - Board of Education

West/Put Report - Ruth Homberg

Trustee Homberg reported that she attended the most recent advocacy Zoom meeting on August 18th at which they discussed increased frequency of State mandates paired with lack of funding, which over time will add up and put pressure on districts that are already stretched thin; the time frame in which the policies are pushed through – the cell phone policy was given as an example; the current legal precedent for districts to provide education for students until age 22, and the fact that the federal support for this has recently been cut to age 21, so there's a gap year for which districts will have to provide funding; and, lastly, the desire to streamline the things they advocate for so they can help better shape the conversation when they get to that point.

VIII. New Business

Approval of 2025-2026 District Wide School Safety Plan and Building Level Plans

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Carmel and seconded by Trustee Homberg, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approve the District Wide School Safety Plan and building level plans for the 2025-2025 school year.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Acceptance of Rye Neck School Foundation Grants

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Gatenio and seconded by Trustee Rainert, 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

Adoption of Board and District Goals

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Carmel and seconded by Trustee Homberg, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District adopt the **attached** Board of Education and District Goals for the 2025-2026 school year.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Approval of Superintendent's Entry Plan

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District accept the attached Superintendent's Entry Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

IX. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public.

X. Adjournment of Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Carmel seconded by Trustee Homberg, it was

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board, that the Board of Education Meeting of August 25, 2025 be adjourned.

AYES: **All Present**
NAYES: **None**

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk