RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Present: President Erica Wagner
Trustee Nikki Barker
Trustee Jason Carmel
Trustee Halli Gatenio
Trustee Ruth Homberg - Joined the Meeting at 6:37 p.m.
Trustee Alex Rainert
Mr. Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Corrine Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the August 25, 2025 Board of Education Meeting

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 approves the Minutes of the August 25, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

III. Discussion

Summary of Summer Curriculum Work

Mrs. Ryan advised the Board that the staff put in over 450 hours this summer on curriculum work, some of which included ParentSquare training, the math curriculum, creating a new Capstone project for 8th graders, modifying the High School Capstone curriculum, creating a new Forensics 2 curriculum, a sculpturing curriculum for the Art department, and aligning the Dream Project with the Strategic Plan. In addition, the Counseling Department took students on a college visit to Iona College.

Strategic Plan Next Steps

Mrs. Ryan advised the Board that the October curriculum presentation will highlight the

Strategic Plan and all that has been accomplished to date, and the January curriculum presentation will highlight the next steps in implementing the Strategic Plan. She stated that consultant Judy Wilson will guide the District into the next phase. She will create surveys which will be used to formulate the steps for the next 18 months.

Discussion was had regarding the new Rye Neck tag line - Think Deeply, Care Greatly, Act Boldly

Cell Phone Update

Mr. Burke reported that students and staff had a good first two days following the new cell phone ban. Teachers and students reported that it wasn't as bad as they thought. There was more conversation and cooperative activities among the students. In the senior lounge, students said they are more attentive and are playing more games rather than being on the phone. They are enjoying music through older technologies such as i-Pods during lunch and study hall. In addition, the wellness focus this month will be engaging all students in cooperative activities on Thursday and Friday focusing on the immediacy of real, human interaction.

Construction Project Update

Mrs. Mahar reviewed with the Board the capital projects that have been completed over the summer. At Daniel Warren they repaved the parking lot and driveway, repaired the arches, replaced lintels and repaired the brick work. At F.E. Bellows, they repaved the area in front of the annex, playground and right side of the building, added an emergency access to the playground from Carroll Avenue, painted new playground lines, repaired the masonry work around the windows, and repaired the lintels and brick work. She reviewed the budgeted vs. actual costs of the projects. After all the projects were completed, the District came in $93,742 under budget.

Next, Mrs. Mahar advised that the District will be using money from the 2022 Capital Reserve Fund in the Fall of 2025 to replace the original gymnasium low asphalt roof, the High School gym skylights, and perform leader work. This is the only remaining roof in the District that has not been replaced since 2019. In addition, the athletic field study and districtwide energy study are underway.

Finally, Mrs. Mahar reviewed the transfers to capital for the capital projects and reviewed the activity in the Capital Reserve Fund.

IV. Adjournment of Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board that the Board of Education Planning Session of September 3, 2025 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk