Superintendent's Report: 11.19.2025

The months of October and November are a very exciting time here in the Rye Neck School District. It's with great enthusiasm that I look forward to our Strategic Plan committee meeting with our staff members and consultant Judy Wilson tomorrow. As we enter Phase II of our strategic plan, the action plans are paramount to build upon the laudable work of Phase I. A cohort of Rye Neck staff members from each of the three buildings will meet for the duration of the day tomorrow and begin to create detailed action plans that will guide our work moving forward. I thank Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Corrine Ryan for all her hard work and leadership and thank all of the staff members that have volunteered to meet tomorrow and begin the process of Phase II.

I stated in my opening meeting with staff that life is always about celebrations, and there have been a myriad of noteworthy events and accomplishments here in Rye Neck. Our Wonder Studio at Daniel Warren launched on October 20th, and the students selected their first book from our book vending machine, gratuitously donated by the RNSF. I've had the chance to attend many wonderful school events across the district included the following: two Halloween parades and celebrations at DW and FEB, a visit from Mamaroneck historian John Pritts to discuss our rich history with our fourth grade students at FE Bellows, as well as the wonderful to multiple thrilling athletic competitions, highlighted by our girls field hockey trip to the sectional championship at Lakeland high school. Last weekend, I was engaged in a brilliant Fall drama performance by our high school students performing The Crucible. Last but certainly not least was the RNSF's very successful Polar Plunge last Saturday. Kudos to the leading fundraiser yet again, our MS Principal Jason Doerr for braving the cold temperatures in full Panther regalia. Those celebrations even continue today as our high school is giving a sendoff to senior Grayson Findlay, who competes for Rye Neck in the state swimming competition. All reasons to be proud of our students.

As I mentioned in my last Superintendent's Spotlight, we are honored that the NYDOE recognized Rye Neck high school as one of the Blue Ribbons Award winners for the 2024-2025 school year. We were commended publicly by the Board of Regents at their November meeting and have been encouraged to celebrate our award here in the district. We will be accepting the offer from the Board of Regents to join us in celebration of this accomplishment. It's a credit to the BOE, administrations, teachers and most importantly the students for making Rye Neck High school the wonderful place that it is.

Last May, the RN community overwhelmingly approved to begin the process of potentially upgrading and improving our outdoor HS/MS sports complex. After thorough investigations, discussions, borings samples, land surveys, and flood-risk analysis, the BOE approved the district to begin preparing for a bond referendum to upgrade the facilities. The first step in that process is to secure a project manager. We have seen recent success working collaboratively with project managers on facilities upgrades last year at DW, FEB and our MS/HS. Once that is secure, we can provide the community a detailed outline of the process, timeline and cost of our proposal. This is an exciting time for Rye Neck and the timing is right for this long overdue project. We look forward to speaking with stakeholders, community members, parents and students on why we are moving forward with this plan, and what we hope to accomplish in both the short and long term. More information is to come. I encourage you to attend my last Coffee and Conversation meeting on Monday 12/1 at the MS/HS at 6 pm, as well as our Board meeting on December 17th where we will have more information.

Finally, I'd like to thank BOE president Erica Wagner for joining me tonight in a legislative advocacy meeting tonight in the Harrison school district. We are proud of the public education we provide here in Westchester County., We understand that there are annual challenges with state funding across the county, but the superintendents are steadfastly aligned that despite all

these challenges, the state needs to continue to support our public school districts financially, with a process that is based on thoughtful projections, grounded in sound mathematical modeling. Changes to state funding directly impact our schools, which impact programs, which impacts our children. We thank our legislators for joining us tonight and look forward to the opportunity to continually advocate for the public school students here in Westchester county.