**President's Report - December 17, 2025**

Hello and good evening Rye Neck.

It has been a heavy news week and I thought I might start by sharing Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous quote about darkness: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." He reminds us that violence can only be overcome with positivity, love and empathy.

It is our board's wish that this special Rye Neck community continues to show positivity, love and empathy toward each other now and always.

On a community related note, this evening the board would like to inform everyone that effective January 2nd, Nikki Barker will step down from her role as trustee as a result of a professional opportunity that unfortunately prohibits her from serving as an elected official. Nikki has been an absolutely unbelievable asset to our board and community and she will be deeply missed. Nikki has been a key driver of our two-year policy manual review which was an incredibly heavy lift; additionally she served as Vice President this year.

We will miss Nikki's unwavering commitment to pursuing what's best for our district, her consistent voice of reason, and her thoughtful and creative ideas to approach district opportunities. Word is that she also bakes delicious treats for policy meetings so I think they will miss her too!

According to Policy 2150 the Board has the power to fill any vacancy by a majority *board* vote. However, realizing that there are only five months until the next election, we have unanimously decided not to fill the seat. We believe strongly that board seats should be voted on by the community, not by appointment.

This means that in addition to holding trustee elections for two 3-year terms in May, the community will also elect one trustee for a 1-year term which is the balance of Trustee Barker's term.

Thank you again Nikki - we wish you the best in your new adventure. And to all of our Rye Neck community, we wish you and your families a peaceful and happy holiday season.