RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026

Present: President Erica Wagner **DRAFT**
Trustee Jason Carmel
Trustee Halli Gatenio
Trustee Ruth Homberg
Trustee Alex Rainert
Student Representative Spencer Elliot
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 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the December 17, 2025 Board of Education Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the Minutes of the December 17, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

III. Discussion

Swearing In of New Vice President

Trustee Gatenio was sworn in as Vice President.

Superintendent's Mid-Year Report

Mr. Burke reviewed with the Board his priorities for the remainder of the school year. His areas of focus are instruction and programs, fiscal matters, governance and operations, and personnel. He talked about the new goals for the Strategic Plan, reviewed the District's performance on State testing, discussed his ideas for increasing Middle School participation in Algebra 1, and how to better inform students about the college preparatory process.

With regard to fiscal matters, Mr. Burke stated that he is working with the business office

to come up with a tax cap compliant budget as has been the case for many years. He also discussed the grant process and the bond referendum.

Regarding governance and operations, Mr. Burke reported that a District-wide climate survey will be sent to the community via Parent Square this month; he will be participating in senior exit interviews with Mrs. Folchetti in January/February; and would like to have more communication regarding the Strategic Plan and college readiness.

With regard to his personnel goals, Mr. Burke stated that the teachers participate in a good amount of professional development and he would like to see that continue and provide more PD opportunities for staff. In addition, he commended the mentoring plan that is in place for the teachers to learn from each other.

Finally, Mr. Burke noted that the District is in a position of strength. He would like to work to continue to improve areas of growth, promote curricular exemplars, promote the District and continue increasing communication with the community.

2026-2027 School Calendar

Mrs. Ryan explained to the Board that since Labor Day is late next year (September 7th) and Easter and Passover do not overlap, it is possible that Rye Neck will not have a full week for Spring break. She suggested considering asking the teachers to come back at the end of August and have students come back on Wednesday, September 2nd. If the RNTA agrees to the terms and we have the students back on the 2nd, the District would be able to have a full week for Spring break. Following discussion, the Board agreed that this is a good option to explore.

Suggested Bond Referendum Communication Timeline

Mr. Burke stated that the goals for the bond referendum are to inform the community about the purpose, scope and impact of the project; build trust and transparency; generate enthusiasm; inform about the additional capital project work; and encourage turnout on vote day.

Next Mr. Burke reviewed the proposed timeline for the referendum with a potential date for the vote being the beginning of October. The District will hold presentations, conduct livestream forums to all for submission of virtual questions, create FAQ sheets, post renderings in the athletic center and in the schools, make social media posts, send out a mailer, host meet and greets and town halls, and have information present at all school events.

The Board then discussed the messaging of the referendum, the importance of communicating clearly, hosting in-person forums, debt service and tax implications of the bond, and a catch phrase for the referendum.

Superintendent Evaluation Tools

President Wagner explained that the Board is considering discontinuing the SuperEval tool it currently uses to evaluate the Superintendent in order to save money. They discussed different ways of evaluating the Superintendent that won't cost the District any money.

Board of Education Discussion Protocol

Mr. Burke and the Board discussed the protocol during the public comments section at Board meetings and the possibility of addressing the community member under certain circumstances.

IV. Adjournment

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board that the Board of Education Planning Session of January 7, 2026 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera