RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
FEBRUARY 4, 2026

Present: President Erica Wagner
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

Absent: Trustee Jason Carmel

DRAFT

I. Opening of Meeting

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the January 20, 2026 Board of Education Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the Minutes of the January 20, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

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

III. Discussion

Technology Committee Update

Mrs. Lanza reported that the first Technology Committee meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, February 9th. This year's goals are to review and provide feedback on the 2026-2029 New York State Education Department Instructional Technology Plan, and to engage in a conversation about the integration of AI in education in order to support the emerging trends and skills needed in the workplace. Two other meetings are scheduled for March 23rd and May 11th.

Letter Day Calendar

Mrs. Ryan explained that in past years when the District had an emergency closure, the letter days shifted so that if we were closed on an A day the next day would switch to an A day rather than a B day. She explained some of the issues this caused. However, last year, the District piloted keeping the letter days as they were set on the calendar so that if

we were closed on an A day, the next day would still be a B day, as scheduled. Mrs. Ryan reported that this worked out well last year so we are going to continue it.

Ex Officio Policy Update

Mr. Burke discussed with the Board the Ex Officio Student Member of the Board policy. Spencer Elliot reported that the Student Senate feels that next year there should be 2 students who attend the meetings on a rotating schedule and the students should be Senate representatives. Discussion was had regarding opening it up to all students, even if they are not on the Senate so every student has the opportunity to apply and participate. It was suggested that one Ex Officio be on the Senate and the other could be anyone who wishes to apply. The Board thought this was a good idea, so Spencer will discuss it further with the Senate at its next meeting.

International Celebration

Mr. Burke advised the Board that the addition of a district-wide International Celebration has been brought up as a way to recognize all cultures in the Rye Neck community. He thought it would be nice to celebrate at different times throughout the year. The Board agreed that this would be a nice addition to the curriculum. Spencer Elliot suggested that perhaps students in the different cultural clubs could help put together a cultural calendar.

Policy Committee Update

Trustee Homberg reported that the Policy Committee met last Wednesday. They reviewed NYSSBA-recommended Policy 8121.1 and 8121.1-R,which covers opioid overdose prevention. They decided not to adopt this policy as it is covered in the District's current policy, 5420. In addition, they reviewed Policy 0105 which talks about Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity in Education. The review of this policy began during the comprehensive process, and was tabled during the transition of Superintendent Burke. It is a local policy and is not required. They will continue to review this policy, as Ms. Ryan is currently working to adhere and adapt to NY Inspires, which will also impact DEI. Mrs. Ryan will give updates at each planning session so that the Board can see where action points may lie. The Board is dedicated and committed to supporting DEI, and will work to align policy implementations with the other initiatives that are being put into place.

In addition, Trustee Homberg stated that the Committee also reviewed Policy 2210 which is a required policy. There is a new paragraph from NYSSBA, which gives more flexibility when it comes to July dates for the re-organization meetings. This policy, along with policies 8505 and 8521, will be up for a first reading at the February 11th Board meeting.

The next Policy Meeting will be held on February 24th at 2 p.m. at which the Committee will be reviewing section 1000 to ensure the District is adhering to policies in place. For the remainder of meetings this year, they will also be reviewing quarterly updates as submitted by NYSSBA.

Facilities Committee/Athletic Fields Update

Mr. Burke reported that he was pleased with the first livestream. He will be doing one every month to inform the community about the bond referendum. The next livestream is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th. All livestreams are recorded and will be posted

on the District website.

IV. **New Business**

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accept the Rye Neck School Foundation Grant to the Rye Neck Schools, as per the attached letter and chart.

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

V. **Adjournment**

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board that the Board of Education Planning Session of February 4, 2026 be adjourned.

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

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera