President's Report - April 21, 2026

Hello and good evening Rye Neck.

A huge thank you again to Mrs. Mahar and her team for proposing a tax-cap compliant budget for the 15th year in a row. The Board is proud to support this balanced budget in a year where the District has seen rising costs on everything from utilities to transportation to benefits. Inflation is up 3.3% year over year, whereas this year's budget-to-budget increase spending is up only 2.4%.

Even in the face of rising expenses, the 2026-2027 budget is still inclusive of many of the unique attributes that make Rye Neck a special and warm place for our children to thrive and learn. The budget honors Rye Neck's commitment to favorable class size, delivers continued support for the Strategic Plan and investment in professional development, supports dedicated enrichment programs, enhanced security and safety measures, and has an important focus on mental wellness that ensures social-emotional resources for all students.

This year's budget is a nod to prudent spending and a commitment to creating efficiencies wherever possible. One example of prudent spending is the comprehensive NYSSBA policy review the board completed this year to align our policy manual with New York State best practices. The Board contracted with NYSSBA for the review, which took place over the past two years and was spearheaded by the Policy Committee. In addition to reflecting New York's best practices, the review saved the District thousands of dollars in legal fees and will continue to do so moving forward.

Another way our district realized cost efficiencies was when we bid, for the first time, for our buildings' natural gas supply for heat this past winter. We were able to lock in rates for November through April, which proved to be financially beneficial, especially in light of the extremely cold winter. It is estimated that locking in rates saved the district over $50,000 for the six-month period over Con Edison rates.

In closing, we would like to remind the community that in addition to tonight's budget presentation, there will be one more public budget hearing in May prior to the Budget and Trustee Vote on Tuesday, May 19th. Please come out to vote on the 19th - your voice matters, make it count.