Rye Neck Schools

RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 21, 2026

Present: President Erica Wagner
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
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Presentation - Panthers with a Purpose Volunteer Day

Mrs. Ryan introduced High School teacher Gracie Mackin who spoke about the Panthers with a Purpose Volunteer Day which took place on April 16th where upperclassmen volunteered at organizations in the community.

III. Recognition - Con Edison Scholar Athlete Award

Mr. Ceglia recognized senior athlete Davey Ryan who was selected as a Con Edison Scholar Athlete Award winner. Davey is a three sport athlete in soccer, basketball and baseball.

IV. Third Budget Presentation

Mr. Burke and Mrs. Mahar gave the third presentation for the 2026-2027 budget. Mr. Burke advised that the final budget hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 6th in the Daniel Warren Auditorium. The Budget Vote and Trustee Election is May 19th from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the MS/HS Community Room. He stated that the budget goals are: a tax cap compliant budget; one that is committed to favorable class sizes and that maximizes efficiencies in scheduling and personnel; upholds the District's security and safety measures; offers extracurricular opportunities that support a comprehensive educational program; and continues the breadth and depth of core course and elective offerings. He advised that the draft budget totals $53,812,226, which reflects a 2.38% tax levy increase, and a 2.41% spending increase over 2025-26 totaling $1,263,815. Mr. Burke then reviewed the projected enrollment for 2026-2027 which shows a slight decrease from this school year.

Next, Mrs. Mahar reviewed the draft revenues, the bulk of which come from property tax and estimated State aid. Other sources of revenue are transfers in from reserve funds and ERate Cat 2 funding. She reviewed the tax cap components, the draft tax cap calculation and the 10 year look at how the tax cap levy has moved. She reviewed proposed State Aid estimates totaling $5,363,108 which represents an increase of 1.08%. She explained that the District obtains a number of state and federal grants each year and stated that the funding planned for 2025-2026 totals $434,962.

In addition, Mrs. Mahar reviewed the expenses, the bulk of which are salaries ($26,389,787), benefits ($13,546,109) and regular school instruction and ENL ($14,937,450). Some of the other expenses include special education ($6,206,315) which fluctuates based on the needs of students; cleaning/repair, maintenance and storeroom ($2,416,310); counseling, health services, psychology and social work ($2,186,718); and co-curricular and interscholastic athletics ($1,721,493). The total proposed expenses are $53,812,226 which represents a 2.41% increase over this year. Factors that are affecting the budget are: active and Medicare health insurance rates are increasing by a composite rate of 8.77%; employer retirement system contributions are increasing for ERS and are decreasing for TRS; and the special education outside placements and transportation costs fluctuate based on placements and routes, and transportation assumes an estimated 3.0% CPI, and there is a net increase of $512,000. The District does recognize savings as a result of combining certain routes with Mamaroneck. Other expense changes include the addition of one new psychologist/social worker to head up the Middle/High School in-house therapeutic support program, the reallocation of certain security duties to existing district staff, and a transfer to capital in the amount of $485,000 for capital improvements, renovations and upgrades to the Middle/High electrical system, boiler replacements and repair work in the Middle/High School gym, HVAC upgrades for the F.E. Bellows Annex, and gym floor replacement at Daniel Warren.

Mrs. Mahar then discussed the factors that influence the tax rate change and the effects of equalization and assessment on the tax rate change. She informed the community that they could calculate their estimated school taxes on using the tax rate calculator on the District website.

Finally, Mr. Burke briefly spoke about the athletic field and renovation referendum vote scheduled for October 1, 2026. He will be providing livestream information once a month until the vote, with the next one taking place on April 22nd.

V. President's Report

President Wagner began by thanking 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 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.

She stated that 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 its 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 the District realized cost efficiencies was when it bid, for the first time, for the buildings' natural gas supply for heat this past winter. They 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.

Finally, President Wagner reminded 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.

VI. <u>Superintendent's Report</u>

Mr. Burke began by commending students, staff and community for supporting the current PTSA's Walk to School week. Due to the efforts of High School principal Melinda Folchetti and the HS Student Senate, there has been and continues to be a Rye Neck Walk to school every day this week. Students and staff members are meeting in the CVS/Wells Fargo parking lot at 8:15 a.m. and walking in. On Wednesday, the Student Senate will sponsor the event, and on Thursday, the Warm Hearts Club will sponsor the event.

Next, he reported that Thursday night, he attended a Department of Transportation presentation at Mamaroneck High School. It was an update on possible modifications to Boston Post Road, both outside of Hornidge Road and throughout the entire stretch to Barry Avenue. He was encouraged by the various options presented, and thanked the Safe Routes to School Parents and community members who made their voices heard. The meeting was very well attended, with over 200 people.

Mr. Burke advised that the next Bond referendum livestream will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, April 21st at 7:00 pm on the Rye Neck YouTube channel. He will be joined by Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, Mrs. Carolyn Mahar, who will further outline the financial details and tax impact to the community. The livestream will remain available on the website, Instagram, and Rye Neck's YouTube Channel.

He announced that this Saturday is the annual PTSA Panther Party. There will be games, crafts, fire trucks, police motorcycles, musical cakes, a DUNK TANK and more. It will

take place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rye Neck High/Middle School Gym. In addition, the Rye Neck School Foundation Spring Event will take place at 25 North on Monday, May 18th, and Rye Neck's Spring sports teams are in full swing.

Finally Mr. Burke stated that the Rye Neck UFSD is proud to propose its annual budget which stays within the New York State tax levy cap for the 15th consecutive year. The goal for the 2026-2027 operating budget remains the same: prioritize the academic and extracurricular needs of the students while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the community. The budget vote and trustee election will take place on Tuesday, May 19th from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Rye Neck Middle/High School Community Room. Parking is available for easy access to the polls and assistance is available inside. An array of budget material is available on the website, including budget presentations, a tax calculator for both our Rye City and Rye Town residents, and procedures for absentee balloting.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the following consent agenda:

Approval of BOCES Administrative Budget
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School district agree that the 2026-2027 estimated administrative budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in the amount of $14,191628 be approved.
Vote for 3 BOCES Trustees
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School district cast one vote for each of Sheryl Brady, Nilesh Jain, and Nan Eileen Mead to serve as trustee on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education Services for the time period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2026 Board of Education Planning Session

Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignation
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint the following personnel:

Name	Effective Date	Type	Assignment/Location
Jakob Calvini	**3/25/2026 - 6/26/2026**	**Leave Replacement**	**Teacher/FEB**
Kimberly Chiarella	**2025-2026**	**Per Diem Substitute**	**Teacher/Districtwide**
Raffaele	**2025-2026**	**Per Diem**	**Teacher/Districtwide**

Ausanio		**Substitute**	
Marciano Rosales	**2025-2026**	**Per Diem Substitute**	**Teacher/Districtwide**

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Karen LaVecchia** as a part-time School Monitor, effective 04/08/2026. Civil Service requires a probationary period of a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Nicholas A. Smith** as a School Monitor, effective 04/13/2026. Civil Service requires a probationary period of a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks; amd ot was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint staff members to the following positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

Costume Manager, MS Musical
Karen Fontecchio

Playbill, MS Musical
Jennifer Dallow

Choreographer, MS Musical
Damiana DiMiceli

Music Director, MS Musical
Kathryn Krull

Assistant to the Director, MS Musical
Kelly Ceci

Technical Director, MS Musical
Cynthia Feinman

Art Crew Advisor, MS Musical
Trish Appel

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint the following staff members for 2025-26 sports:

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
Winter	Cheerleading	Varsity	Head Coach	Damiana	DiMiceli

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Kelly Davey** an unpaid parental leave of absence beginning on April 6, 2026 to April 19, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Mack Lipinski** effective March 27, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Employee #2125** effective April 15, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Hanan Eldahry** effective June 30, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Lisa Rubenstein** effective June 30, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Maryann Tucciarone** for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Vanessa Dioguardi** for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Pasquale Carolini** for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accept the resignation of **Angelo Labrusciano** for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2026.

Adoption of Resolutions Concerning the Annual District Meeting and Election of the District

RESOLVED, that the following resolutions concerning the Annual Meeting and Election of the Rye Neck Union Free School District be adopted:

PROVISIONS FOR DETAILS OF REGISTRATION, ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEE

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the provision of tables, chairs, registration books, voting machines, printing, etc., and to advertise the proper notices required for the conducting of the registration of voters, the annual meeting and the election of school trustees in accordance with the Education Law of the State of New York.

SETTING THE DATE FOR PERSONAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND BUDGET VOTE

RESOLVED, that the Board of Registration shall meet at the Administration Building, 310 Hornidge Road, in the Village of Mamaroneck, County of Westchester, State of New York, on the 14th day of May 2026, from 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 7:00 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of preparing a register of the qualified electors of said District for the annual meeting and election of the members of the Board of Education, and to vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures, or on propositions involving the expenditures of money, or authorizing the levy of taxes, to be held on May 19, 2026, at the Rye Neck High School Library, 300 Hornidge Road, Mamaroneck, New York.

The Board of Registration will also meet during the voting hours for the annual meeting and budget vote and election of school board members on May 19, 2026 for the purpose of preparing a register of voters qualified to vote at meetings or elections held more than thirty (30) days subsequent to such annual meeting and election.

DATE OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AND USE OF VOTING MACHINES

RESOLVED, that the annual meeting of the Rye Neck Union Free School District and election of three members of the Board of Education of said district for two (2) full terms of three (3) years commencing on July 1, 2026 to succeed Jason Carmel and Erica Wagner, and one (1) term beginning May 19, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 to succeed Nikki Barker (who previously resigned), to vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures or on propositions involving the expenditure of money, or authorizing the levy of taxes, shall be held at the Rye Neck High School Library Community Room on May 19, 2026. between the hours of 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and 9:00 o'clock in the evening, during which hours the polls shall be open, and that the optical scanner voting machine(s) shall be used at said election to record the votes thereat.

Adoption of Resolutions Appointing Election Personnel

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION INSPECTOR OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoints **Joanna Lord, 211 Melbourne Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY** as Chief Election

Inspector for the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 19, 2026 at the daily rate of $350.00.

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint the following Election Inspectors for the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 19, 2026:

1. Yeni Morales-Diaz 550 N. Wagner Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY
2. Michael DiMurro, 525 English Place, Mamaroneck, NY
3. Barbara McCaffery, 1514 Park Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY
4. Adrienne Troupe, 270 Waverly Avenue, Apt. 310, Mamaroneck, NY

at the daily rate of $300.00.

APPOINTMENT OF POLL CLERKS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint **Leslie Kane, Sophia Sinaheris and Maureen Williams** as poll clerks to canvass those paper ballots used by persons whose names are not on the Registration Poll ledgers; to meet on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building to canvass those votes.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint **Mary Beebe-Harrison** as Chairperson of the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 19, 2026.

Adoption of Policy 1800 - Donations, Gifts and Grants to the District

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 1800 were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 1800 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of revised Policy 1800.

Adoption of Policy 8121.2 - Automated External Defibrillators

WHEREAS, Policy 8121.2 was presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8121.2has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of Policy 8121.2.

Adoption of Policy 8130 - School Safety Plans and Teams

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 8130 was presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8130 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of revised Policy 8130.

Adoption of 2026-2027 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the **attached** Board of Education Meeting Schedule for the 2026-2027 school year.

Ratification of CSEA Stipulation Agreement

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the Stipulation Agreement between the Rye Neck Union Free School District and CSEA Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO CSEA Rye Neck UFSD Unit # 8215 Westchester Local 860 dated April 6, 2026 and covering the period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2030.

Approval of Stipulation Agreement

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the Stipulation Agreement dated March 27, 2026, for employee #2125 as set forth in the attached.

Approval of Change Order

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following change order: Replacement of Lower Roof at HS Gymnasium: Armor-Tite Construction Corp., change order #2 for a decrease of ($30,000.00), which is a credit for the entire allowance for the project which was not used.

Award of Contract for Various Services through Sound Shore RFP

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of a Request for Proposals dated December 26, 2023 by the White Plains City School District on behalf of the districts in the Sound Shore Consortium Cooperative, award contracts for the following services based on the attached ratings matrices:

Tutoring/Home Instruction Services

Kidz Educational Services PLLC
1400 Old Country Road Suite C103N
Westbury, NY 11590

Please see attached rate sheet

Bilingual Evaluations Psychological

Achieve Beyond
1311 Mamaroneck Ave #150
White Plains, NY 10605
Please see attached rate sheet

HTA of New York Inc.
1053 Saw Mill River Road, Suite 101
Ardsley, NY 10502
Please see attached rate sheet

Somos Bilingues
50 Hamilton Street, Suite 9
Dobbs Ferry. NY 10522
Please see attached rate sheet

Bilingual Evaluations Educational

Achieve Beyond
1311 Mamaroneck Ave #150
White Plains, NY 10605
Please see attached rate sheet

HTA of New York Inc.
1053 Saw Mill River Road, Suite 101
Ardsley, NY 10502
Please see attached rate sheet

Somos Bilingues
50 Hamilton Street, Suite 9
Dobbs Ferry. NY 10522
Please see attached rate sheet

Bilingual Evaluations Psycho-Educational

All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology PLLC
255 Executive Drive, Suite 101
Plainview, NY 11803
Please see attached rate sheet

Somos Bilingues
50 Hamilton Street, Suite 9
Dobbs Ferry. NY 10522
Please see attached rate sheet

Approval of Disposal of Furniture and Equipment
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the disposal of furniture and equipment no longer in good working condition as per Schedule A.

Award of Contract for Natural Gas Supply
RESOLVED, that as a result of a bid performed by M&R Energy Resources with bids received on April 13, 2026 for natural gas supply rates for firm service for the Rye Neck Union Free School District, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District make the following award of the contract as per the below: Firm Accounts: Vendor: NRG Business Marketing LLC Term: November 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027 (six (6) months) Supply Rate: $0.5735 per therm

Approval of Disposal of Ballots
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the disposal of the unused ballots from the May 20, 2025 Budget Vote and Trustee Election.

Approval of CSE Recommendations
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District agree to arrange for special education placement as recommended by the Committee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-School Education and Committee Recognition of Disabilities under American Disabilities Act (504), as per the attached memorandum

Approval of Homebound Instruction
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District agree to arrange for homebound instruction as recommended by the Committee on Special Education, as per the attached memorandum.

Approval of Financial Reports
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report, Appropriation Status Report, Bank Reconciliation Report, Claims Auditor Report, Extra-Classroom Activity Fund and Revenue Status Report.

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

VIII. Financial Reports for Information

The Board was presented with the Budget Transfers and Warrant Schedule - All Funds for information purposes.

IX. Communications to the Board

President Wagner reported that the Board has received 4 new communications since the last meeting, 1 regarding parking, 1 regarding curriculum, 1 regarding anti-semitism and racism, and 1 regarding the trustee election.

X. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

XI. Reports - Community School Groups

Student Senate - Owen Wagner

Student Senate Vice President Owen Wagner reported that last week was eventful with Panthers with a Purpose Volunteer Day on Thursday where juniors and seniors went all across Westchester to help out the community. In addition, Junior/Senior Day took place on Friday where the Superman Seniors edged out the Joker Juniors to take the win. It was a great day of school spirit for everyone. On Saturday, the track and field team hosted the 4th annual Panther Palooza. Schools from all over Section 1 showed up to compete. Rye Neck's track team took home 10 medals. This week is Walk-to-School week. Every day, members of the staff have been walking with students from CVS to the high school, and the Eco Club has been running daily raffles for students who walked or biked.

With regard to the Student Senate, they hosted an ice cream social last Wednesday, a Spring pep rally on Thursday, and worked with the Booster Club to sell concessions at the Panther Palooza. This week will be their last Senate meeting of the year where they will discuss next year's senate elections which will take place from the end of May through early June.

Rye Neck School Foundation - Jennifer Soussa

Mrs. Soussa began by thanking the community and administration for its support this year. Since August, the RNSF has funded 23 grants across the District. At the High School, that includes new programs like the Panthers with Purpose community service day and fall college tours for juniors and seniors. In the Middle School, they supported the Written Out Loud storytelling program and the second annual Binary Bingo. In the elementary schools, a few of the many grants funded include flexible classroom furniture, book club materials, phonics resources and tools, and a new virtual reality learning platform for the library program. In addition, there is one grant on the tonight's agenda: the second annual Student Directed Theater Troupe, which was created by High School junior, Dalia Mansell. This year, students will organize and direct a musical revue, which will be performed at various locations throughout the community.

Finally, she stated that the RNSF is getting ready for its Denim & Drinks Fundraising event on Monday, May 18th at 25 North in Mamaroneck. It's a chance for our community to come together to socialize, catch up and support new grants across athletics, the arts and curriculum. Tickets are available on their website and through Cheddar Up.

PTSA

PTSA President Elizabeth Gillespie shared a video highlighting this month's events which included Pasta Night, the Nearly New Sale and Family Game Night. In addition, this Saturday is the Panther Party at the Middle/High School gym from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

XII. Reports - Board of Education

Office Hours

Trustees Homberg and Wagner will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Daniel Warren Library. Please email or call the District Clerk by Friday, May 1st, to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

Technology Committee

Trustee Rainert reported that the Technology Advisory Committee held its second meeting on March 23rd. It focused on AI in the workplace and how it should inform what we're preparing students for. Highlights of the meeting included:

- **Source review and alignment.** Committee members shared research on AI in education and the workforce. There was some encouraging overlap between the committee's discussions, the district's teacher AI PLC, and the state technology plan.
- **Workforce skills.** Committee members discussed what skills employees need when AI tools are widely available: effective prompting, discernment, understanding bias, and ongoing curiosity and initiative. They discussed the deeper thinking skills - complex problem solving, brainstorming, in-person collaboration - that AI can't replace and that risk eroding if we're not intentional about protecting them.
- **"High protection zones."** There's was a lot of energy around identifying areas of the curriculum to explicitly protect from AI reliance - brainstorming, in-class discussion, first drafts of writing, peer feedback. These are places where the human element is non-negotiable.
- **Controlled AI environments.** Committee members discussed introducing students to AI in supervised, age-appropriate settings rather than having them find it on their own. The concept of phased exposure - more constrained in elementary, gradually opening up through high school- was well received.
- **Teacher readiness.** Teachers need to be comfortable with AI themselves before they can teach students to use it responsibly. The district's AI PLC is already working on this, and the committee's input will help inform it going forward.

Going forward, committee members will bring back a proposed set of AI-related skills they believe students should have when they graduate, informed by what is being seen in the workforce.

Policy Committee

Trustee Homberg reported that the Policy Committee met on March 23 and reviewed Policy 2150 regarding the filling of Board vacancies. The upcoming election is somewhat unique, with three seats open and varying term lengths. In preparation, they consulted legal counsel on best practices.

Based on that guidance, candidates will select term lengths in order of vote totals, with the highest vote-getter choosing first, followed by the next highest, and so on. The Board supports this approach, and the Policy Committee will update Policy 2150 accordingly. The revised policy will be presented for a first reading at the May 6th meeting to allow for adoption in advance of the election.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on April 28th at 9:00 AM. Following the May meeting, the Committee will transition to a quarterly schedule aligned with NYSSBA updates, unless more urgent matters arise.

XIII. New Business

Adoption of 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District adopt the proposed budget or estimate of expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year, July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of $53,812,226.

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

Approval of Property Tax Report Card

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the annual New York State Property Tax Report Card, attached, which has been prepared pursuant to the regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

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

Acceptance of Donation

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accepts a donation from the Larchmont Mamaroneck Little League (LMLL) in the amount of $1,000 for the benefit of Rye Neck Baseball.

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

Acceptance of Rye Neck School Foundation Grants

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 Grants to the Rye Neck Schools, as per the attached letter and chart.

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

XIV. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public.

XV. Adjournment of Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Carmel seconded by Trustee Homberg, it was

RESOLVED, that there being no further business that the Board of Education Meeting of April 21, 2026 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk