BOE Meeting, June 16, 2026 **Superintendent's Remarks**

Good Evening,

It has been a fantastic year filled with so many accomplishments across all parts of Rye Neck School District life. The second phase of our Strategic Plan is underway, with deeper dives into the three robust goals created just two years ago. Our staff has embraced Artificial Intelligence resources, by identifying tools and an internal starter kit for staff, and attending training on how to prompt refinement and promote student inquiry. We have continued our work toward a common SEL vision and language through district-wide wellness days, the continued development of social emotional screeners for students, and impactful dream projects across our community. Finally for our third goal, we have created a system that encourages intervisitation for staff, refined our mentorship program, and initiated a healthy internal review through collaboration with other schools, with exciting upcoming opportunities through our RNSF-funded participation in the Tri-State Consortium.

The district is positioned well to attack Phase II with vigor next year, as we solidify our multi-year foundation of a sustained culture of inquiry, nurturing environments, and professional growth. I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Assistant Superintendent Corinne Ryan for orchestrating our Strategic Planning efforts with the help of our administrators and staff, as well as recognize our community for supporting the district with the critical gift of time for professional learning. It is initiatives such as these that allow our school to continue supporting our students as they move forward on our educational journey.

Whether it was our 2nd grade Flag Day Celebration at Daniel Warren, today's beautiful 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, or next week's 8th grade and High School graduations, the Rye Neck Schools are proud to celebrate these memorable moments with our community. I enjoyed our scholarship assembly and yearly sports awards, with last night's Metro Awards being a special highlight. Congratulations to the cast and crew of The Prom with a staggering 10 nominations, and two incredible wins including our entire

cast for Outstanding Performance By A Chorus and our own Ms. Cyndi Feinman for Outstanding Achievement in Direction. For our program to find this level of success against school districts that are three and four times our size, with more resources and much larger budgets, is precisely why our students, staff and community is so very special.

It's been an honor to have a front-row seat for so many moments over this school year, and I can't wait to start it up again…in just 78 days from today.

Thank you.

Yearbooks

I'd like to thank Mrs. Jen Dallow and her student team for the year-long effort that makes this segment possible. On behalf of our seniors, I'm happy to present the Board with their own copy of the 2025-26 Rye Neck High School yearbook.

Tenure preface

We are about to present candidates for tenure. Tenure is the process by which an educator earns a status that ensures that they are free to advocate for their students above any other consideration. Each candidate earns tenure after a collaborative review process that takes several years and our administrative team will now summarize the strengths of each.

Board Trustee - Dr. Jason Carmel

Serving on a school board is truly a thankless job. It requires long hours, late-night meetings, and incredibly tough decisions. Yet, for the past 3 years, Dr. Jason Carmel has stepped up to that challenge with thoughtfulness, class and an unwavering focus on what matters most: our

students. Jason's impact is felt throughout our district, highlighted by his tireless contributions to our Budget Committee. In the challenging current landscape of public education having his insight as we make critical decisions is invaluable. We will miss your wisdom and guidance at our Rye Neck Board of Education meetings, and I would like to personally thank you for your support and willingness to be an active listener during my first year in Rye Neck. On behalf of the administration, the staff, the parents, and most importantly, the students of this community, thank you for your service to our district.

Ex-Officio Spencer Elliot

Many superintendents expressed concern about having a student serve in the ex-officio role on the Board of Education. Well, many superintendents don't have Spencer Elliot in that role. Serving as our student council president, Spencer brought unique insights and a fresh perspective to our meetings. I remember his helpful thoughts during my mid-year Entry Plan presentation where he offered insight into some new courses for middle school, as well as an important perspective as we were navigating challenges for our 2026-2027 school schedule. Spencer is a great student, athlete, and leader, but is genuinely a great person. It was no surprise to see multiple universities fighting over him, with Cornell University being the lucky winner. Thank you Spencer for setting a high bar, being a great role model for your fellow students, and wish you nothing but the best in Ithaca as the new member of the Big Red.