Rye Neck Schools

RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JUNE 16, 2026

Present: President Erica Wagner
Trustee Jason Carmel
Trustee Gabriella Danza
Trustee Halli Gatenio
Trustee Ruth Homberg
Trustee Alex Rainert
Student Representative Spencer Elliot
Mr. Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. President's Report

President Wagner began by offering gratitude and thanking the exceptional educators at Rye Neck for their years of devotion to education, commitment to leaving the Rye Neck community better than they found it, and for the positive influence they have had on the students' lives.

She stated that tonight the District will celebrate the tenure candidates and thanked them for their ongoing pursuit of knowledge, for always being there for our students, and for committing to explore best practices for growth. In addition, the Board will celebrate outgoing board member, Jason Carmel, and thanked him for his volunteerism and stewardship.

Lastly, President Wagner reported that the Rye Neck Board of Education is pleased to announce the extension of Superintendent Michael Burke's contract through June 30, 2030. During his first year as Superintendent, Mr. Burke demonstrated exceptional leadership, an appreciation for what makes Rye Neck special, a clear vision for the future, and always kept student success at the center. The Board's decision to proactively extend Mr. Burke's contract reflects its confidence in his leadership and its commitment to maintaining stability and momentum as the District advances its goals. The Board is grateful for Mr. Burke's service and leadership, and looks forward to continuing their work together to build upon Rye Neck's tradition of excellence.

III. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Burke began by reporting that the second phase of our Strategic Plan is underway, with deeper dives into the three robust goals created just two years ago. The 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. They continue their 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. For the third goal, they have created a system that encourages intervisitation for staff, refined the mentorship program, and initiated a healthy internal review through collaboration with other schools, with upcoming opportunities through the RNSF-funded participation in the Tri-State Consortium. He stated that the District is positioned well to attack Phase II with vigor next year. He thanked Assistant Superintendent Corinne Ryan for orchestrating the Strategic Planning efforts with the help of the administrators and staff, and recognized the community for supporting the District with the critical gift of time for professional learning.

Next, Mr. Burke stated that the Rye Neck schools have celebrated, and will celebrate, many memorable moments such as the 2nd grade Flag Day Celebration at Daniel Warren, the 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, the 8th grade and High School graduations, the scholarship assembly and yearly sports awards, and the Metro Awards. He congratulated the cast and crew of The Prom who earned 10 nominations, and two incredible wins including the entire cast for Outstanding Performance By A Chorus and Ms. Cyndi Feinman for Outstanding Achievement in Direction.

IV. Recognition

Yearbook - Class of 2026

Senior George Santa presented Class of 2026 yearbooks to the members of the Board.

Retirees

The following faculty and staff were recognized for their retirement from the District:

Pat Carolini - Senior Custodian
Linda Costelloe - Teacher/Media Specialist
Vanessa Dioguardi - Psychologist
Leslie Kane - Office Assistant
Angelo Labrusciano - Head Custodian
Lori Penesis - Science Teacher
Fortunato Tempesta - Custodian
Cathy Toolan - English Teacher
MaryAnn Tucciarone - Teaching Assistant

Tenure Candidates

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Samantha Amar** in the Teaching Assistant Tenure Area, effective 09/01/2026.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Alexandra Campana** in the Art Tenure Area, effective 08/30/2026.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Michael Marino** in the Special Education Tenure Area, effective 09/25/2026.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Philece McCoy** in the Special Education Tenure Area, effective 08/30/2026.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Megan Pepitone** in the Elementary Education Tenure Area, effective 07/01/2026.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Anneliese Rosen** in the Special Education Tenure Area, effective 07/01/2026.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Jessica Salierno** in the Special Education Tenure Area, effective 08/07/2026.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants tenure to **Mary Lanza** in the Tenure Area co-extensive with her title as Director of Technology and Communications, effective 07/01/2026.

Board Trustee - Jason Carmel
Mr. Burke thanked Trustee Carmel for his service on the Board.

Ex-Officio Student Representative - Spencer Elliot
Mr. Burke thanked Spencer Elliot for his service as the Ex-Officio student representative and wished him well at college.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

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 approves the following consent agenda:

Approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2026 Board of Education Planning Session

Approval of the Minutes of the June 5, 2026 Board of Education Special Meeting

Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignation

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoints the following certified personnel:

Name	Effective Date	Type	Assignment/Location
Rachel Paquette	**07/01/2026**	**1.0 FTE**	**Teacher/F.E. Bellows**

and it was

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

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
Spring	Coed Track	Varsity	Assistant to Program	David	Golden

WHEREAS, at its meeting held on May 19, 2026, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, appointed **Karl Drexler** to the position of Custodial Worker for a probationary term commencing 06/08/2026 and ending 06/07/2027; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to said appointment, Westchester County Department of Human Resources advised that **Karl Drexler** may serve in the position only in a temporary capacity until the retirement of the incumbent employee, effective 06/25/2026.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby amends its May 19, 2026 appointment of **Karl Drexler** as follows:

- **Karl Drexler** shall serve as a Temporary Custodial Worker from 06/08/2026 through 06/25/2026; and

- Effective 06/26/2026, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Karl Drexler** to a probationary position as a Custodial Worker effective 06/26/2026 and ending 06/25/2027. Civil Service requires a probationary period of a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks.

WHEREAS, at its meeting held on May 19, 2026, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, appointed **Christopher DeJesus** to the position of Custodial Worker for a probationary term commencing 06/08/2026 and ending 06/07/2027; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to said appointment, Westchester County Department of Human Resources advised that **Christopher DeJesus** may serve in the position only in a temporary capacity until the retirement of the incumbent employee, effective 06/30/2026.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby amends its May 19, 2026 appointment of Christopher DeJesus as follows:

- **Christopher DeJesus** shall serve as a Temporary Custodial Worker from 06/08/2026 through 06/30/2026; and

- Effective 07/01/2026, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Christopher DeJesus** to a probationary position as a Custodial Worker effective 07/01/2026 and ending 06/30/2027. 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 appoints staff members to the following positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

<u>Team Leaders - DW</u>
Kindergarten - Monique Santoro
1st Grade - Dawn Drace
2nd Grade - Deena Winchenbach

<u>Team Leaders - FEB</u>
3rd Grade - Ann Cullagh
4th Grade - Joan Spedafino
5th Grade - Susan Combs

<u>Team Leader - MS</u>
8th Grade - Eric Rudolph

MS Class Advisors
6th Grade - Allison Reynolds
7th Grade - Matthew Magnani

HS Class Advisors
9th Grade - Jennifer Dallow
10th Grade - Rosina Martinelli
11th Grade - Linette Milo
12th Grade - Mark Lauten

Department Chairs
English - Kara Slattery
ENL - Ivan Martinez
Enrichment - Leigh Ann Kowalchick-Porphy
Mathematics - Veronica Faraci
PDC - Linette Milo
Physical Edu. & Health - Christopher Shawn Lincoln
School Counseling - Susan Hannon
Science - Matthew DeBellis
Social Emotional Learning - Meegan Lawlor
Social Studies - Thomas Graziano
Special Services - Kristina Schlote
Visual and Performing Arts - Jennifer Dallow
World Languages - Davide Bianco

HS Testing Coordinator - Davide Bianco

District Wide PA System Coordinator - Davide Bianco

Early College Experience Coordinator - Davide Bianco

Enrichment Coordinators
Leigh Ann Kowalchick-Porphy (DW)
Jessica Finney-Trotta (FEB)

PAC Manager - Cynthia Feinman

AV Coordinator - David Golden (Spring & Fall)

District Wide Student Activity Treasurer - David Grazioli

Science of Reading Coordinator - Christopher Macli

Chemical Hygiene Officer - Anne Palombo

Assistant Chemical Hygiene Officer - Kelly Cappa

IDEA Grant Writer and Coordinator - Kristina Schlote

IDEA Grant Financial Support - Maria Gigi

IEP Checker - Laura Finkelson

McKinney Vento Liaison - Ana Crivorot

ACT Special Services Coordinator - Sandra Siegel

MS/HS Transition Services Coordinator - Christopher Macli

Opioid Overdose Prevention Program Director - Sandra Signorelli

HS Musical Director - Cynthia Feinman

HS Fall Play Director - Cynthia Feinman

MS Musical Director - Caitlin Clarke

Absence Management - Concetta Maresca

Extended School Year Teachers, District Wide
Diana Attilio
Jessica Salierno
Brian Pinto
Jennifer McCue
Ivy Millman
Kim Duque

and it was

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescinds the appointment of **Jessica Cuevas** as the Hispanic Coalition Advisor; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board rescinds the appointment of **Jessica Cuevas** as the SOAR Club Advisor; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Mendije Perkovic** a paid FMLA leave beginning on May 19, 2026 through June 26, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Isil Schwartz** an unpaid FMLA leave beginning on May 21, 2026 through June 26, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Kelly Ceci** a paid sick/FMLA leave beginning on or about November 3, 2026 to December 28, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grants **Kelly Ceci** an unpaid FMLA leave beginning on or about January 4, 2027 to February 1, 2027; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board accepts the resignation of **Annette Bird** effective June 25, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby rescinds the previously accepted resignation of **Pasquale Carolini** effective June 30, 2026, and hereby accepts his revised resignation effective June 29, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board acceptS the resignation of **Lori Penesis** 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 accepts the resignation of **Leslie Kane** for the purpose of retirement effective July 31, 2026.

Approval of Contracts and Salaries of Confidential Employees

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the confidential employee salaries as per the attached Statements of Benefits.

Approval of Transportation Piggybacking Contract with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District

WHEREAS, on or about May 24, 2021, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District issued a Request for Proposals for home to school student transportation to resident students including those attending schools outside of the Mamaroneck School District's boundaries for the 2021-2022 school year (including summer).

WHEREAS, on or about June 22, 2021, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District awarded a contract to Royal Coach Lines, Inc. for the Home to School Transportation Contract for the 2021- 2022 school year (including summer).

WHEREAS, on or about March 22, 2022, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District authorized an extension of the Home to School Transportation Contract for an additional five (5) year period.

WHEREAS, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District Home to School Transportation Contract includes a provision which allows other school districts to piggyback onto the Contract for purposes of transporting students to a location outside of the students' school district of residence in accordance with Education Law section 305.

WHEREAS, the Rye Neck Union Free School District wishes to use the Mamaroneck Union Free School District's Home to School Transportation Contract to transport Rye Neck students to certain out-of-district locations to which the Rye Neck and Mamaroneck School District are already providing transportation in order to recognize cost savings for the Rye Neck Union Free School District.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby consents to and authorizes the use and sharing via piggybacking of the Mamaroneck Union Free School District's Home to School Transportation contract to the out-of-district locations to which the Mamaroneck Union Free School District is already providing transportation, pursuant to the terms and conditions thereof for the 2026-2027 school year (including summer) as per the attached Schedule A.

Approval of Extension of Superintendent's Contract
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, approves the extension of the Superintendent's contract as per the attached Agreement.

Approval of Stipulation Agreement with the CSEA
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the attached 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 June 4, 2026 and covering the period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2030

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

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

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**

VI. Financial Reports for Information

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

VII. Communications to the Board

President Wagner reported that the Board has received 13 new communications since the last meeting, 1 regarding temperature of the buildings, 1 regarding the referendum, 4 regarding boys tennis, 1 regarding transportation, and 6 regarding technology.

VIII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

IX. Adjournment of Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Rainert seconded by Trustee Gatenio, it was

RESOLVED, that there being no further business that the Board of Education Meeting of June 16, 2026 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk