BOE Meeting, July 1, 2026 Superintendent's Remarks

Good Morning,

It is exciting to turn the page to the 2026-2027 school year. It is hard to imagine a more perfect ending to the school year than with the sunlight cascading over the stadium field as our band introduced Valedictorian Grayson Findlay, Salutatorian Julian Russo, and the rest of our Rye Neck High School Graduates on the evening of June 24th. Continuing our tradition of inviting ten-year graduates as our keynote speakers, Rye Neck Class of 2016's Connor Sexton's speech stressed the importance of embracing flexibility, as the path to our future is rarely straight. Principal Melinda Folchetti praised our students for recognizing the importance of empathy through the inaugural Panthers with a Purpose Volunteer Day. She also quoted author Mary Shelley, and reminded our graduates of remembering that, "The beginning is always today." Congratulations to the Class of 2026.

I would also like to welcome Laurel Ryan to our Board of Education and thank all of our board members for their volunteerism and dedication to the students and schools of the Rye Neck school district. I especially appreciate the leadership of President Erica Wagner during my first year here in Rye Neck. Here intellect, empathy for others and critical-thinking skills were instrumental to such a smooth transition. I am extremely grateful for all of your support. I am excited to welcome Halli Gatenio to the presidency, and look forward to collaborating with her this year. We are in a position of strength as a district, but must always strive for improvement and push forward. I'm excited to investigate and analyze topics such as appropriate technology integration, diversity celebrations here in Rye Neck, and of course, focusing our efforts on the upcoming bond referendum on October 1. It is a fantastic opportunity to provide our students and community with comparable resources to all neighboring schools and those throughout Section I.

To our community, please enjoy the summer with family and friends. Our maintenance and custodial staff are already hard at work preparing for next

year, and new staff members are excited to join our Rye Neck family. I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday, September 2nd.

Thank you.