Rye Neck Schools

RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2026

Present: President Halli Gatenio
Trustee Gabriella Danza
Trustee Ruth Homberg
Trustee Alex Rainert - Joined meeting at 9:03 a.m.
Trustee Laurel Ryan
Trustee Erica Wagner
Mr. Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Gatenio called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. President's Report

President Gatenio began by stating that the Board is beginning this school year with a clear sense of purpose and a shared commitment to making it an exceptional year for every student. They will be setting their goals for the school year. Their focus remains on strengthening teaching and learning, supporting students and staff, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and continuing to meet the needs of the community. They are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

III. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Burke began by welcoming back the entire community to the 2026-2027 school year. He reported that the campus has been bustling with activity all summer to prepare for the students' return. Over the last two months, administrators have coordinated schedules, while the clerical staff worked on welcome activities and communications. He thanked the maintenance and custodial teams for their hard work in preparing the facilities ready for day one. The team went above and beyond for the students. Carl Mangone and his grounds team deserved to be specifically mentioned as they were able to cut, line, and prepare the fields despite the excessive amount of rain this summer. Additionally, he thanked new head custodian Brian Crawford and the Daniel Warren crew for coordinating the work done to the new floor and walls in the gym. The physical upgrades

hold particular significance for the community this year as we approach the upcoming Bond Referendum vote on Thursday, October 1st.

Staffing remains a top priority each year, and the District has successfully filled 17 vacancies ahead of the first day of school. The group of incoming professionals includes teaching assistants, school psychologists, teachers, office assistants, a school social worker, a media specialist, a school nurse, and a reading teacher. New Staff Orientation is scheduled for this Wednesday. The veteran staff will return on August 31st for two dedicated days of professional preparation, ensuring we are fully ready to welcome the students back on Wednesday, September 2nd.

He stated that educators constantly walk a fine line of adaptation, continuously absorbing new insights, experiences, and methodologies, weaving them into their professional identities. Navigating this shifting landscape, especially against the backdrop of cutting-edge technology like AI, is both incredibly exciting and deeply complex. Despite these shifting dynamics, the fundamental mission of the Rye Neck School District remains absolute. For years, our educational framework has been anchored by the pillars of "Learn, Achieve, Lead." To fully embrace the continuous innovation required in today's world, we are proud to launch the new district tagline: Think Deeply. Care Greatly. Act Boldly. This message perfectly aligns with the core objectives of our three-year strategic plan, which culminates at the end of this school year in June 2027. He thanked Ms. Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, for her brilliant and dedicated leadership. Working collaboratively with the entire administration and staff, her efforts continue to drive lasting, meaningful change for students. He reminded the community that the three guiding goals are:

- ***Empower Critical Problem-Solvers:*** Equip all learners to approach challenges by asking questions, exploring unique solutions, taking definitive action, and reflecting on outcomes.
- ***Foster Empathy & Connection:*** Build transformative environments that cultivate empathy, compassion, and global connection, creating learning experiences that instill a sense of purpose inside and outside the classroom.
- ***Cultivate Professional Excellence:*** Design collaborative systems for our professional learning community to develop cutting-edge practices and expertise, leading to transformational experiences for both educators and students.

The new tagline will be proudly displayed across school district communications throughout the year.

Next, he advised that the Athletic Department has kicked off the year, with over 330 student-athletes and 33 coaches actively preparing for the fall season. This includes more than 200 varsity and JV competitors, alongside an additional 130 modified athletes. This transition into the season would not be possible without the dedicated nursing staff, who worked tirelessly to clear all critical sports medical registrations.

Mr. Burke stated that we are entering the second year using ParentSquare, the primary communications platform. This tool ensures families receive timely, consistent updates

regarding their child's education and school activities. He thanked Mary Lanza, Director of Technology & Communications, for her ongoing dedication to helping both new and returning families seamlessly adopt this platform.

He stated that he is grateful to the entire Rye Neck community for an incredible welcome during his first year. The thoughtful conversations, discussions, and insights have been instrumental in guiding the district forward. Later today, he will meet with the Board to establish district goals for the upcoming school year, ensuring community feedback is directly reflected in their vision.

The district remains deeply indebted to the PTSA, Booster Club, and the Rye Neck School Foundation for their unwavering support of the students, teachers, and district. Their tireless work, dedication, and immense generosity enrich our schools daily. It is this unique spirit of collaboration and community investment that truly makes Rye Neck such a special place to live and learn.

Mr. Burke then expressed his deepest gratitude to the members of our Board of Education, who volunteer their time, energy, and heartfelt insight to serve Rye Neck at the highest level. Serving on this Board is an incredibly demanding role. He thanked President Halli Gatenio for her willingness to lead the Board this year, and Ms. Erica Wagner for her exceptional, ongoing leadership as outgoing President and current Vice President. He thanked Trustees Ruth Homberg and Alex Rainert for their incredible insight and support as they enter their second year, Ms. Laurel Ryan for bringing a wealth of experience and years of dedicated volunteerism to her first term as trustee, and Ms. Gabby Danza, whose enthusiasm and impressive professional background provide fantastic insight across multiple areas of our district operations.

Lastly, he emphasized the critical importance of the upcoming Bond Referendum vote on Thursday, October 1st. This multi-year initiative is the direct result of extensive community feedback, meticulous planning, and the exceptional short- and long-term fiscal management of Ms. Carolyn Mahar, our Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance. Because of this careful preparation, Rye Neck is perfectly positioned to provide the students, families, and entire community with the modern resources necessary to remain highly competitive with neighboring school districts.To learn more, please join the final live stream this Wednesday night at 7:00 PM. During this concise, ten-minute information session, we will outline the project's scope from both a resource and financial perspective. Additionally, please keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities throughout September to learn more about how this bond project will benefit our schools.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

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

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 4, 2026 Special Board of Education Meeting

2. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Sarah Carpenito** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 08/31/2026 and ending 08/30/2030; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Concetta Maresca** to a probationary position as Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems), effective 09/01/2026 and ending 08/31/2027. 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 appoint **Lesly Rios** as a part-time Teacher Aide, effective 08/31/2026 and ending on 08/30/2027. 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 appoint **Anthony Maraglino** to a probationary position as a Custodial Worker effective 09/01/2026 and ending 08/31/2027. 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, that the Board of Education hereby appoints **Robert Scatenato** to the position of Senior Custodial Worker, effective 08/14/2026. This appointment shall have a delayed start with the start date and corresponding probationary period commencing 09/01/2026 and concluding 08/31/2027 in accordance with Civil Service, which 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 **Madison Crane** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 08/31/2026, and ending 08/30/2030; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint the following coach for fall sports:

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
Fall	Field Hockey	Varsity	Asst. to Program	Samanantha	Maresca

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint the following personnel:

Name	Effective Date	Type	Assignment/Location
Leslie Kane	**08/17/2026**	**Per Diem Clerical Sub**	**RNHS**
Julia Degen	**08/31/2026 - TBD**	**Leave Replacement Teacher**	**F.E.B.**
Lauren Rende	**08/31/2026 - 09/30/2026**	**Leave Replacement Teacher**	**F.E.B.**
Jon-Paul DiBernardino	**08/31/2026 - 12/31/2026**	**Long Term Substitute**	**RNHS**

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Melinda Folchetti** an intermittent FMLA leave beginning on **August 5, 2026** to be used intermittently in accordance with applicable FMLA regulations. As per her CBA, Ms. Folchetti may utilize sick days toward the first twenty (20) days of said leave. Thereafter, the remainder of FMLA leave will be unpaid; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Anne Palombo** an intermittent FMLA leave beginning on **August 31, 2026** to be used intermittently in accordance with applicable FMLA regulations. As per her CBA, Ms. Palombo may utilize sick days toward the first twenty (20) days of said leave. Thereafter, the remainder of FMLA leave will be unpaid; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Phoebe Burstein** a paid sick/ FMLA leave beginning on **August 31, 2026** through **October 30, 2026**; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant **Phoebe Burstein** an unpaid sick/ FMLA leave beginning on **November 2, 2026** through **November 22, 2026**.

3. Approval of Standard Work Days for Appointed Officials

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby establishes the following as standard work days for appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based upon the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the District Clerk:

Title	Name	SS# (Last 4 Digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs/Day)	Term Begins/ Ends	Participate in Employer's Time Keeping System	Days/Mo (Based on Record of Activities)	Tier 1 Check only if Member is Tier 1	Not Submitted (Check only if no record of activities is completed or if participates in timekeeping system)
District Clerk	Mary Ellen Chiera	XXXX	XXXXXX	7 Hours	7/1/26 - 6/30/27	No	22	_____	_____

4. Approval of 2026-2027 District Wide School Safety Plan and Building Level Plans
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approve the District Wide School Safety Plan and building level plans for the 2026-2027 school year.

5. Approval of Contract for Natural Gas Interruptible Rates
RESOLVED, that as a result of a bid performed by M&R Energy Resources with bids received on August 7, 2026 for natural gas supply rates for both interruptible 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:

Interruptible Accounts:
Vendor: NRG Business Marketing LLC
Term: December 1, 2026 – November 30, 2027 (12 months)
Supply Rate: $0.68190 per therm

6. Awarding of Contract for 2026-2027 School Year Transportation Routes
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the Request for Bids opened on August 19, 2026, award the following transportation contract for the 2026-2027 school year:

Route	Awarded Vendor	Monthly Cost ($)
PNW BOCES - Lincoln Titus Elementary School 10 Lincoln Ave Crompond, NY 10517	Astra Transportation Corp	$9,810

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, award the following routes through the piggyback arrangement with Mamaroneck Schools:

Route	Awarded Vendor	Monthly Cost ($)
The Bridge School 1186 King St. Rye Brook, NY 10573	Royal Coach Lines	$7,900
Winston Preparatory School 57 West Rocks Road Norwalk, CT 06851 AM & PM	Royal Coach Lines	$9,594

7. Approval of Rejection of Bids for MS/HS Performing Arts Center Sound System Upgrade

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the District has endeavored to enter into a certain contract for work related to upgrading the MS/HS Performing Arts Center Sound System (the "Contract"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has solicited bids through an invitation to bid for the Contract in accordance with all applicable laws, including, the General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education received six (6) bids for the Contract (the "Bids"), which were duly opened and read aloud on May 29, 2026; and
WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the Bids; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the Bids received, the Board of Education has determined that contractors cannot comply with the terms of the bid and/or the bid prices are higher than anticipated and therefore not in the best interests of the District, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the District and serves the public's interest in the economical use of public moneys to reject all bids received in response to the invitation to bid for the MS/HS Performing Arts Center Sound System Upgrade Project.

RESOLVED, pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Education Law and the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education is authorized to, and by this Resolution does hereby reject all of the Bids, received, opened, and read aloud on May 29, 2026 by the District for the MS/HS Performing Arts Center Sound System Upgrade Project and authorizes the District administration to readvertise for said Project rebid when appropriate.

8. Authorization to Negotiate and Approve Data Privacy Agreements

WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-SchoharieSchenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor

management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC and its attorneys to negotiate Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;"

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs;

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted.

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District authorizes the use of DPAs negotiated by the RIC ROC and its attorneys, consistent with its needs and the needs of its students; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District reserves to itself the right to make determinations regarding the use of such DPAs and the software and/or technology resources to which they relate and to consult with its own legal counsel to review any specific issues or concerns before executing any DPA.

10. 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.

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

V. Communications to the Board

President Gatenio reported that the Board has received 2 communications since the last meeting, one regarding first period at the High School and one regarding a safety concern.

VI. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

VII. Adjournment of Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board, that the Board of Education Meeting of August 24, 2026 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Gatenio adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk