Rye Neck Schools

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

DRAFT

Present: President Halli Gatenio
Trustee Gabriella Danza
Trustee Ruth Homberg
Trustee Alex Rainert
Trustee Laurel Ryan
Trustee Erica Wagner
Mr. Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Student Senate Representative Dalia Mansell
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Moment of Silence Honoring Phoebe Burstein

II. Opening of Meeting

President Gatenio called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

III. President's Report

President Gatenio began by thanking the teachers, staff and administrators for their continued dedication to making this a successful school year.

Next, she thanked the community for the recent approval of the bond referendum and for placing its trust and confidence in our district and for supporting this important investment in the future of our schools. The support reflects a shared commitment to providing students with the facilities and learning environments they deserve. She also thanked Superintendent Michael Burke, Assistant Superintendent Carolyn Mahar, Joe Ceglia, Mary Ellen Chiera and the members of the Facilities Committee for their tremendous time, effort and dedication throughout this entire process. A great deal of thoughtful planning, collaboration and hard work went into bringing this proposal to the community and the Board is incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this possible.

She stated that the Board recognizes that there is a great deal of work ahead. As the district moves through the planning and design phases and work toward

breaking ground in 2028, the Board is committed to keeping the community informed, being transparent throughout the process and, most importantly, listening to questions, concerns and feedback along the way. This is an investment in the entire school community and they want everyone to feel included as it moves forward.

President Gatenio then welcomed Dalia Mansell, who is joining the meeting this evening as the student representative to the Board of Education. The Board is pleased to continue providing the students with a voice at the board table.

In addition, she recognized the many opportunities the students have in the coming weeks to connect with one another and demonstrate school spirit during the fall season. These moments, both inside and outside the classroom, help strengthen the sense of belonging and community that makes Rye Neck such a special place.

Finally, she thanked, again, the entire school community for its continued involvement, partnership and support.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Burke began by thanking the Rye Neck community for their support on the recent Bond Referendum. He stated that the athletic complex will be a centerpiece of the Middle School, High School, the district and community for years to come. He then thanked Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, Ms. Carolyn Mahar, for her brilliant leadership. Despite the growing challenges of a 2% budget cap, health insurance costs and general cost of doing business, Ms. Mahar has continued to churn out budgets that have never pierced the tax cap, while creatively reducing our debt to offset the cost of this project. He also thanked Mr. Ceglia for his leadership of the athletic department. He has dealt with more challenges as a result of weather and substandard fields and has juggled many practice schedules, games and events for the students. He is already hard at work at preparing a schedule for the teams and athletes during construction with local towns and colleges. He thanked Mary Lanza for her tireless work on the website and communications platform throughout the process, and all the administrators, staff and community members that helped spread the detailed information to parents. Finally, he thanked Elizabeth Gillsepie and the PTSA who stood outside of schools passing out flyers during the week of the vote.

Next, he announced the District's partnership with three PreK sites for Rye Neck families. He met with the leadership from all three sites: the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck, St. Gregory's of Harrison and the YMCA in Rye. All three are wonderful locations with a great staff in a supportive and caring environment. This program will be in place one full year ahead of Governor Hochul's state initiative starting in the 2028-2029 school year. He acknowledged the hard work of Daniel Warren Principal Tara Goldberg, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Corinne Ryan, and School Psychologist Michelle Bowman who joined him in visiting all three sites and for getting this program up and running in such a short period of time.

Mr. Burke stated that Rye Neck is in the midst of the PTSA Walk/Bike to school week. The Student Council and staff have been supporting walk to school week and thePTSA

have been handing out snacks for kids as they arrive on campus. He thanked Christi Young and the Safe Routes to School Parents who have coordinated his second-annual bike ride tomorrow morning.

He then reported that there will be upcoming Technology Town Hall meetings. Feedback was taken from the Technology committee, staff, parents and students and was extended to three technology town hall meetings this year, where they will provide an open forum for discussion with the administrators and staff. The staff has been providing feedback on AI use in the classroom, where it should be banned, limited or encouraged. They had a great session today during the early-release day and will have a very productive superintendent conference day on November 3rd. The first Town Hall is coming in November.

V. Student Recognition

Mr. Burke recognized the following students for their accomplishments:

Matteo Figliomeni - Outstanding Achievement in Athletics for Boys' Soccer
Lucie Megret - Outstanding Achievement in Athletics for Swimming and Diving
Maddie Rubenstein - Outstanding Achievement in Athletics for Girls' Tennis
Sonali Browning - National Merit Semi-Finalist
Mateo Fernandes - National Merit Commended Student
Karsten Fonss - National Merit Commended Student
Dalia Mansell - National Merit Commended Student
Brooke Marchese - National Merit Commended Student
Maddie Rubenstein - National Merit Commended Student
Daniel Tefera - National Merit Commended Student

VI. Tenure Recognition

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board grant tenure to **Isil Schwartz** in the Teaching Assistant Tenure Area, effective 10/05/2026.

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

VII. Curriculum Presentation - SEL Screener & Wellness Plan

Wil Siegel, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, introduced the District's social workers, Lisa Ramos and Ana Luisa Crivorot.

Ms. Ramos is a Therapeutic Social Worker and runs the PATH program at the Middle/High School. She provides individual counseling, skill building, crisis intervention, safety planning. In addition, she collaborates with teachers and staff, is a community liaison and provides support to families. She stated that the goal of the PATH program is not only to get the students back in the building, but to help them feel safe enough to stay. She explained the techniques in practice and how she collaborates with building staff, family and community-based providers.

Ms. Crivorot is the K-12 District Social Worker. She provides individual and group counseling, bilingual student and family support, access to student opportunities, essential resources for families, and is the McKinney-Vento liaison. She explained the areas targeted during counseling and the additional support she provides. She is multilingual so all counseling services are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. She coordinates weekly activities which are meant to bring students together through fun and low-pressure activities; provides backpacks and school supplies for students in need; organizes a Holiday Gift Program for Rye Neck families in need; acquires summer camp scholarships for students; organizes a free book fair; and collects and provides seasonal clothes. Most importantly, families are given immediate support when a crisis affects their ability to feel safe or meet basic needs.

Next, Mr. Siegel explained the program run by Michelle Bowman, School Psychologist, for the elementary school students. Kindergarten students Kelso's Choice - Conflict Resolution Program. It teaches kindergarten students age-appropriate strategies for handling everyday peer conflicts, recognizing when they can solve a problem themselves, and knowing when to ask an adult for help. Grades K-2 participate in the Second Step Program which helps students to build the skills they need to manage emotions, show empathy, solve problems, and feel ready to learn. Grades 3-5 participate in the CharacterStrong program. This develops students' social-emotional skills and character strengths through intentional lessons, reflection, and opportunities to practice positive choices. Grades 6-8 receive Character Education to support their social-emotional growth and help them develop the values and interpersonal skills needed to build positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and contribute to a safe, inclusive school community.

In addition to the above programs, the District provides additional resources and supports including individual counseling, group counseling, town hall meetings; and wellness weeks.

Finally, Mr. Siegel reported that the District gave a districtwide social emotional screener to all middle and high school students to help identify at-risk students, the results of which showed a low community risk in both the middle and high school.

VIII. 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 October 7, 2026 Board of Education Planning Session

2. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Tenure

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint staff members to the following positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

FEB Club Advisors
Continental Math - **Suzanne Losito**
Math Olympiad - **Eleftheria Speros and Erika Soderlund**
Student Senate - **Joan Spedafino and Janice Tosi**

MS/HS Club Advisors
Aerospace and Rocketry, HS - **Jon-Paul DiBernardino**
Art Club, MS - **Trisha Appel**
Art Club, HS - **Jennifer Dallow**
Art of Letters, MS - **Jenny Theall**
Beyond the Book Club, MS - **Angela DeRosso**
Board Games and Trivia Club, MS - **Maria Bahanovich**
Card Club, HS - **Joseph DePalo**
Comic Book Club, MS - **Adam Johnson**
Crafts and Clay, HS - **Alexandra Campana**
Debate Club, HS - **Marcella Sykucki**
DECA/Future Business Leaders of America, HS - **Rosa Acocella-Ferrante**
Drama Club, MS - **Caitlin Clarke and Kelly Ceci**
English Honor Society, HS - **Kara Slattery**
Famous Writers, MS - **Jenny Theall**
Future Health Professional (HOSA) - **Frances (Frannie) Willsey**
Forensics Club, MS - **Jon-Paul DiBernardino**
Global Finance and Economics, HS - **Susan Hannon**
Hispanic Coalition, HS - **Jessica Cuevas**
Human Rights Club, HS - **Chelsea Hutchinson**
Instrumental Ensemble, HS - **Jessica Yeung**
International Thespian Honor Society, HS - **Cynthia Feinman**
Investment Club, HS - **Chelsea Hutchinson**
Italian Club, HS - **Rosina Martinelli**
Key Club, HS - **Meghan Hyland**
Literary Magazine, MS - **Jenny Theall**
Math Olympiad, MS - **Matthew Macias**
Mock Trial, HS - **Shawn Tedrow**
Mock Trial Jr., MS - **Shawn Tedrow**
Movies and More Club, MS - **Meegan Lawlor and Coleen Sullivan**
Mu Alpha Theta-Math Honor Society, HS - **Veronica Faraci**
Muses–Literary Magazine, HS - **Regina Grace Mackin**
National Honor Society, HS - **Jessica Calvini**
Newspaper, MS - **Gabriella D'Ippolito**
Newspaper, HS - **Jessica Calvini**
Panthers with Purpose, HS - **Regina Grace Mackin**
Programming Club, HS - **Shelley Swick**
Quiz Bowl, HS - **Marcella Sykucki**
Rho Kappa-Social Studies Honor Society, HS - **Marcella Sykucki**
Science Fair, HS - **Kristi Rachiele**
Science Fair Moderator, MS - **Jordan Breslaw**
Science Honor Society, HS - **Anne Palombo**
Science Olympiad, HS - **Anne Palombo and Gwen Hoeler**
Senior Internship Coordinator, HS - **Kara Slattery**

Spanish Club, HS - **Monica Aparicio**
Sports Stats, HS - **Chelsea Hutchinson**
STEM Board, HS - **Anne Palombo**
Student Athletic Council, HS - **Joan Spedafino**
Student Senate, HS - **Amanda D'Addona**
Student Voices for Change, HS - **Amanda D'Addona**
Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club - **Susan Hannon**
Tri-M Music Honor Society, HS - **Caitlin Clarke and Jessica Yeung**
Warm Hearts, HS - **Alicia Sokolofsky**
Women in Business, HS - **Jennifer Carpiniello**
World Language National Honor Society, HS - **Davide Bianco**
Writer of the Month, MS - **Jenny Theall**
Yearbook, MS - **Trisha Appel**
Yearbook, HS - **Jennifer Dallow**

and it was

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

Name	Effective Date	Type	Assignment/Location
Ava Wade Assistant/FEB	10/05/2026	Leave Replacement	Teaching
Aristide Zurbuch	10/05/2026	Leave Replacement	Teacher Aide/DW

And it was

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

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
WINTER			Asst. Athletic Director	Joseph	Carlucci
WINTER	Boys Basketball	JV	Head Coach	Albert	Ciuffetelli
WINTER	Boys Basketball	Modified	Head Coach	Christopher	Mileo
WINTER	Boys Basketball	Varsity	Head Coach	Michael	Denman
WINTER	Boys Basketball		Co-Asst. to Program	Patrick	Wynne
WINTER	Boys Basketball		Co-Asst. to Program	Jakob	Calvini
WINTER	Girls Basketball	JV	Head Coach	Robin	Trigoboff
WINTER	Girls Basketball	Modified	Head Coach	Terell	Iconic
WINTER	Girls Basketball	Varsity	Head Coach	Daniel	Linehan
WINTER	Girls Basketball		Assistant to Program	Ashley	Eklund
WINTER	Bowling	Varsity	Head Coach	Ivan	Martinez
WINTER	Cheerleading	Varsity	Co-Head Coach	Ava	Ferro

WINTER	Cheerleading	Varsity	Co-Head Coach	Samantha	DiTomasso
WINTER	Boys Hockey	Modified	Head	Robert	Iannuzzo
WINTER	Boys Hockey	Modified	Head	Andres	DeFrancis
WINTER	Boys Hockey	Varsity	Assistant to Program	Jamie	Funigiello
WINTER	Boys Hockey	Varsity	Head Coach	Richard	Myers
WINTER	Girls Hockey	Varsity	Head Coach	Jed	Shahar
WINTER	Indoor Track	Modified	Head Coach	Hayley	Graney
WINTER	Indoor Track	Modified	Head Coach	Matthew	DeBellis
WINTER	Indoor Track - Girls	Varsity	Head Coach	Susan	Soohoo
WINTER	Indoor Track - Boys	Varsity	Head Coach	David	Golden
WINTER	Prog. Development	Modified		Bryan	Iacovelli
WINTER	Boys Swimming	Varsity	Head Coach	Katherine	Konopka
INTER	Boys Swimming		Assistant to Program	Lucy	Johanson
WINTER	Wrestling	Modified	Head Coach	Mitchell	Barcus
WINTER	Wrestling	Modified	Assistant to Program	Nicholas	O'Halloran
WINTER	Wrestling	Varsity	Head Coach	Greg	Domestico
WINTER	Wrestling		Assistant to Program	Brian	Scher
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Aparicio	Monica
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Burke	Sean
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Colon	Deana
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Crawford	Brian
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Dimiceli	Dominick
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Gibbs	Gareth
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Graney	Hayley
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Hoeler	Gwen
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Iconic	Terell
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Jaeger	Jack
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Lauten	Mark
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Maresca	Concetta
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	McLoughlin	Stephen
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Meiliken	David
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Peduzzi	Julianna
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Regan	Kathleen
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Smith	Christine
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Smith	Nicholas
2026-2027			Support Staff/Athletics	Smith-Fava	Cathee

3. Adoption and Approval of Settlement Agreement

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District adopt and approve the attached Settlement Agreement between the District and the parent of a student with a disability.

4. Approval Extraclassroom Activities

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approve the following Extraclassroom Activities for the 2026-2027 school year:

High School
Aerospace and Rocketry
Debate Club
Global Finance and Economics
Investment Club
Panthers with Purpose
Quiz Bowl
Science Fair

Middle School Art of Letters
Famous Writers
Movies and More
Newspaper

5. Acceptance of External Audit and District Management Action Plan

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District accept the annual external audit report from NawrockiSmith dated June 30, 2026; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the attached district management action plans prepared in response to the external audit.

6. Awarding of Contracts for Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Services to Community-Based Providers

WHEREAS, the Rye Neck Union Free School District issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) services through community-based providers commencing with the 2027-2028 school year; and

WHEREAS, the proposals received were reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the criteria established in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that awarding contracts to the selected community-based providers is in the best interests of the District and its students.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby awards contracts for Universal Prekindergarten services to the community-based providers identified below, effective with the 2027-2028 school year, at the per-pupil rate established in accordance with the terms of the RFP:

- Rye YMCA
- St. Gregory the Great Early Childhood Enrichment Program
- Westchester Jewish Center, Early Childhood Center

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to execute the necessary contracts and related documents, subject to review and approval by District legal counsel, as applicable, and in accordance with the terms of the RFP and applicable New York State requirements.

7. Awarding of Contract for Post-Referendum Construction Management Services

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of the Request for Proposals dated November 25, 2025, appoint Savin Engineers, P.C. as the District's Construction Management Firm for post-referendum services for a cost of total construction costs as per Schedule A.

8. Approval of Change Orders

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following change orders related to the MS/HS Electrical Upgrade Work:

●ER Electric Corp.:

o Change order #1 for an increase of $42,777.00 for the contractor to furnish and install 15kiloVolt primary switching station, concrete pad, conduits, drag line, etc., for extension of primary electrical service to future athletic field.

o Change order #2 for an increase of $35,077.00 for the contractor demolish two section 480/277V & 208/120V electrical panel, fused disconnect switch, and 15kva dry-type step down transformer. Furnish and install new 480/277V electrical panel, 208/120V electrical panel, and 15kVA dry-type step down transformer. Furnish and install new feeder and branch circuit conduits and conductors, as required. Extend/modify existing branch circuits to remain, as required.

o Change order #3 for an increase of $77,000.00 for the contractor to demolish 800A disconnect switch, and 150kVA dry type step-down transformer, and associated conduits and conductors. Furnish and install new 200A non-fused disconnect switch, 400A fused disconnect switch, 60A fused disconnect switch, and 150kVA dry type step-down transformer. Extend/modify existing feeder conduits and conductors, as required.

9. 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 or obsolete as per **Schedule A**.

10. Approval of Professional Learning Plan 2026-2027

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the District's Professional Learning Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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**

IX. Financial Reports for Information

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

X. Communications to the Board

President Gatenio reported that the Board has received 5 communications since the last meeting, 1 regarding LMC-TV, 1 regarding the sidewalk at F.E. Bellows, 1 regarding athletics, 1 regarding the bond referendum, and 1 regarding enrollment of a visiting international student.

XI. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

XII. Reports - Community and School Groups

Student Senate - Dalia Mansell

Student Senate Vice President Dalia Mansell reported that the main focus of the Senate this fall has been building a strong, inclusive school culture and creating practical opportunities for students to connect across different grade levels.

At their meeting last Wednesday, they finalized plans for Walk and Bike to School Week. This morning, a group of students, senators, and faculty met at the local CVS parking lot and walked to school together. It was a simple, practical way to promote sustainable commuting habits, get outside for fresh air, and start the day on a positive note.

For the rest of October, the Senate is focused on community awareness and building traditions. They organized a schoolwide Pink Out day in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month for October 28th. Today, they began writing and filming the annual Halloween safety video, which highlights straightforward guidelines so students celebrate safely both inside and outside of school. They will be hosting a homeroom costume contest on Friday the 30th, with Starbucks gift cards awarded to the winners.

Looking ahead to the winter, they're organizing a high school pickleball tournament and preparing for the return of Battle of the Grades. In addition, they plan to collaborate with the administration to advocate for the return of the Winter Pep Rally, ensuring the winter

athletes receive the exact same schoolwide recognition and energy as fall and spring sports.

PTSA - Elizabeth Gillespie

PTSA President Elizabeth Gillespie began by reporting that the Ribbons for Rye Neck fundraiser wrapped up last week and raised $26,000. She thanked the 335 families and businesses who donated.

The month of October has been full of events. Picture days, the Color Run at Florence Park, Daniel Warren Costume Exchange, and Daniel Warren Family Fun Night to date.

She noted that upcoming events include: District-Wide Walk To School Week - which is happening now; the annual Fall Family Kickball Night at F.E. Bellows tomorrow night; the Middle School Fright Night this Friday; the RNIC Potluck Night on November 6th; and Family Dance Night for all students K-5 on December 11th.

RNSF - Jennifer Soussa

RNSF President, Jennifer Soussa reported that the RNSF awarded 4 InstaGrants grants in September, which included Stage crew training/mentorship for HS PAC, The Vanishing Tour Movie Premiere for HS Students, the College Tour Fund for HS Juniors and Seniors and Visiting Pop Artist, Michael Albert at DW.

In addition, they will be awarding 4 additional InstaGrants on tonight's agenda including the Seal of Civic Readiness Graduation Awards for graduates who complete the Capstone Project, the Monet Traveling Exhibit, which will be displayed for 2 weeks at the MS/HS, the DEAR Grant reading event for the entire MS, and new Spiderman comics for the MS Comic Book Club.

Next, Mrs. Soussa reported that they are getting ready for the Third Annual RNSF Polar Plunge, which will be held on November 14th. Registration is now open. They will be giving prizes to all plungers who raise over $100, as well as to the top 3 fundraisers.

Finally, she advised that the Panther Pavers bricks that were sold last spring have been installed by the HS entrance.

Booster Club - Heather Harvey

Booster Club President Heather Harvey reported that the Booster Club held its fall event, Bingo, last Friday night at which they made $4,085. On Saturday night, the theater department held a *Clue* themed game night for kids.

Mrs. Harvey stated that the membership campaign went well. The Booster Club now has 127 supporters which brought in $6,125. 12 of the families chose the Platinum membership and received the panther lawn display which moves from house to house.

Upcoming events for the Booster Club is the High School production of *Clue* on November 12th and 13th; Media Day for winter varsity athletes in November; the Booster Club Invitations, varsity boys and girls basketball tournament December 3rd to 5th; and the Harlem Wizards on January 29th. In addition, Rye Neck will be hosting a wrestling match for the merged Rye/Ryeneck team for the first time.

XIII. Reports - Board of Education

Policy Committee

Trustee Homberg reported that the Committee held its first meeting of the school year on October 19. She will serve as chairperson for the school year. The Committee reviewed Policy 8130.2, *Workplace Violence Prevention*, as well as policies in the 5000 series. All policies reviewed were recommended for adoption, either as written or with minor grammatical updates. We recommend bringing these policies forward for adoption at the November Board of Education meeting. The one exception is Policy 5405, *Student Wellness*, which is being revised before adopting. This policy will be up for a first read at the November meeting.

Trustee Homberg advised that the initial plan was to meet quarterly in conjunction with the release of NYSSBA policy updates. Since the Committee is behind schedule, they will meet again on November 9, at 9:00 a.m. to review NYSSBA's second, third, and fourth updates from the previous school year.

Finally, she thanked the administrators and the newest community member, Piper Stevens, for their help and guidance.

Audit Committee

Trustee Danza reported that the Audit Committee met on October 6 with the District's external auditor, Nawrocki Smith, to review the results of the District's annual external audit. The audit resulted in an unmodified opinion with no findings, confirming that the District's financial statements were fairly presented in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

The Committee recommended that the Board accept the annual audit at this meeting tonight. Following Board acceptance, the financial statements will be posted on the District's website.

The Committee also discussed the agenda for its next meeting, scheduled for January, which will include reviewing proposals for external auditing services, discussing a potential internal audit focus area, and meeting with the District's claims auditor.

Finally, the committee voted to elect Alex Rainert as its chair for the 2026-2027 School Year.

WestPut

Trustee Ryan reported that Trustee Danza attended the September West Put Advocacy meeting and she attended the October meeting. The meetings focused on WestPut's legislative priorities and issues with the goal of discussing issues and deciding collectively what deserves attention and advocacy. The following issues were highlighted as priorities: UPK, charter schools, alternative pathways in education and teacher training, EV buses, and AI generated foil requests.

XIV. New Business

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Homberg, 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**

XV. **Public Comments Concerning Above**
There were no comments made by the public.

XVI. **Adjournment of Meeting**
Upon motion duly made by Trustee Danza seconded by Trustee Rainert, it was

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

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

President Gatenio adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk