BOE Meeting, October 21, 2026 Superintendent's Remarks

I would like to start by thanking the entire Rye Neck community for their support on our recent Bond Referendum. Passing this project by over a 2 to 1 margin reinforces the community's commitment to making sure our children have a level playing field against other schools. This athletic complex will be a centerpiece of the HS/MS, the district and community for years to come. I look forward to sharing these opportunities with our feeder programs and future athletes and Daniel Warren and FE Bellows. I would like to thank 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. I also thank Mr. Ceglia for his leadership of our athletic department. No administrator has dealt with more challenges as a result of weather and substandard fields than Mr. Ceglia, who has juggled practice schedules, games and events for our students than Mr. Ceglia. He is already hard at work at preparing a schedule for our teams and athletes during construction with local towns and colleges. I also want to thank Mary Lanza for her tireless work ethic and superb creativity on our website and communications platform throughout the process, and all our admin, staff and community members that helped spread the detailed information to parents. A special shout out goes to Elizabeth Gillsepie and our PTSA who stood outside of schools passing out flyers during the week of the vote. We look forward to providing an athletic complex that makes our students and community proud.

I am also thrilled tonight to announce our partnership with three PreK sites for Rye Neck families. It was a pleasure meeting with the leadership from all three sites: the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck, St. Gregory's of Harrison and the YMCA in Mamaroneck. All three are wonderful locations with a great staff in a supportive and caring environment. Over the last year we have continuously heard from our residents about the need for a preK program, and it is exciting to have this program in place one full year ahead of Governor Hochul's state initiative starting in the 2028-2029 school year. I appreciate the hard work of Daniel Warren Principal Tara Goldberg, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Corinne Ryan, and School Psychologist Michelle Bowman to visit all three sites and get this program up and running in such a short period of time.

We are in the midst of our PTSA Walk/Bike to school week. It's great to see our Student Council and staff supporting the walk to school this week and our PTSA handing out snacks for kids as they arrive on campus. Many thanks to Christi Young and our Safe Routes to School Parents who have coordinated my second-annual bike ride tomorrow morning. Please stop by and say hello if you see us on the route.

I am also excited about our upcoming Technology Town Hall meetings. We took the feedback from our Technology committee, staff, parents and students and extended it this year to three technology town hall meetings, where we will provide an open forum for discussion with our

admin and staff. Our staff has been providing feedback on AI use in the classroom, where it should be banned, limited or encouraged. We had a great session today during the early-release day and had a very productive superintendent conference day on November 3rd. Please be on the lookout for those dates, with the first one coming in November.

All that and I didn't even mention the best part of the month. I wish a happy and safe Halloween to all of our students and families.