Rye Neck Schools

RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Present: President Halli Gatenio
Trustee Gabriella Danza
Trustee Ruth Homberg
Trustee Alex Rainert
Trustee Laurel Ryan
Trustee Erica Wagner
Student Representative Charlotte Picone
Mr. Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Corrine Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mary Lanza, Director of Technology and Communications
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Gatenio called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the October 21, 2026 Board Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the Minutes of the October 21, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

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

III. Discussion

Technology Town Hall Update

Mrs. Lanza explained that the District will be conducting three Technology Town Halls this year. The purpose is to have broad community conversations about what is to come in district technology, ask questions and share immediate concerns, provide feedback on emerging technologies, and identify future focus areas for the District. There will be three events throughout the year which will rotate across each of the school buildings. The agenda topics be AI use in the schools, elementary technology and screen time, and

topics driven by community feedback. The first meeting is scheduled for November 18th from 6 - 7 PM in the MS/HS Dining Hall.

Mrs. Lanza reviewed with the Board the District's approach to AI, what it might look like in the future, and the initial plan for AI integration. She reviewed feedback received from staff, preliminary MS/HS draft guidelines on the use of AI, and what has been done so far to address concerns.

She stated that a Board-approved policy is not the right approach since technology is developing too rapidly. Instead, the District will collect feedback from the technology town halls and staff on piloting programs and create District guidelines that provide direction for students and staff. It is the goal to have the guidelines completed by the end of the school year.

Board Committee Overview

Mr. Burke reviewed for the Board the various Board Committees and who is on each team. He explained what each committee does, who is on it, the selection process, and the meeting schedule. The committees are as follows: Special Services, BOCES Board/NYSSBA/WestPut, Audit Committee, Safety Team, Policy Committee, Facilities Advisory Committee, Technology Advisory Committee, Community Partners, and the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee.

Axon Fusus MOU Update

Mr. Burke asked the Board if they are comfortable with him moving forward with requesting more information from the Rye Police Department regarding the Axon Fusus System which the District is considering using on its exterior cameras.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board is in favor of Mr. Burke obtaining more information from the Rye Police Department regarding the Axon Fusus System.

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

Moving Forward with STEPS

Mrs. Ryan updated the Board on STEPS (Standards-Based Educator Evaluation and Professional Support Plan), the new evaluation system for educators that is coming down from New York State. The District will be transitioning from APPR to STEPS. NYSED's vision for STEPS is to encourage reflection and goal setting, foster collaboration among educators, provide timely, actionable feedback, and identify personalized professional learning. She stated that the District has until June 30, 2032 to make the transition.

She reviewed the differences between APPR and STEPS, the measures by which teachers will be assessed, the evaluation cycles for both probationary and tenured teachers, the scoring levels, teacher support plans and scaffolding, and professional learning plans. She stated that STEPS provides the framework, but the District gets to create the plan.

Finally, Mrs. Ryan advised the Board that she will provide an update on NY Inspires at the next Planning Session.

Multicultural Celebrations

Mr. Burke reported that this week is Multicultural Week throughout the District. There are many events going on in each building, and the PTSA RNIC Potluck Dinner will be held Friday night.

IV. Adjournment

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board, the Board of Education Planning Session of November 4, 2026 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Gatenio adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera