



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2022**

Present: President Gloria Golle
Trustee Rebecca Mansell
Trustee Jennifer Rubin
Trustee Devina O’Reilly
Trustee Elizabeth Yong
Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

Absent: Trustee Patty Nashelsky

I. Opening of Meeting

President Golle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. President’s Report

President Golle advised the community that the District has accomplished many things so far this year. We welcomed new staff in September, introduced new classes and started the school year in the most normal way since Covid-19 began. Wil Siegel, our new Director of Pupil Personnel Services, brought together the newly created Social Emotional Wellness Steering Committee which will address developmentally appropriate social emotional wellness in our students and community. Our sports programs resumed without restrictions, and the community came together for Homecoming Weekend. In addition, Rye Neck introduced the new musical director, Cyndi Feinman, this fall who directed the fall play, *Puffs*, which was a huge success, and we are looking forward to the spring performance of *Anastasia*.

Finally, President Golle recognized the administrators and staff for their hard work and dedication, and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

III. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Lutinski began his report by advising the community that tonight we are celebrating our new Collaborative Science Center, the design process for which began in 2015. He stated that with research by Dr. Wilson and the science department, planning by his predecessors, coordination and motivation from the Board of Education, with Assistant Superintendent Carolyn Mahar acting as the closer, and support from the Rye Neck

community, we have been able to put the CSC to use. Later in the meeting Science Department Chairperson Anne Palombo will be giving a curriculum presentation and will show how the new facility has improved our level of instruction and student learning.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski asked the community to plan for the thunderstorms and high winds we are supposed to have on Friday when we dismiss the students on our half day before the break, and wished everyone a happy holiday.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Rubin and seconded by Trustee Yong, 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 November 30, 2022 Planning Session
2. Appointment of Advisors to Middle School Clubs
3. Appointment of Advisors to High School Clubs
4. Appointment of 9th Grade Class Advisor
5. Approval of Piggyback Contract
6. Approval of Transportation Contracts
7. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
8. Approval of CSE Recommendations
9. Approval of Homebound Instruction
10. Approval of Updated District Consultant List
11. Approval of Architect Proposal for MS/HS Temporary Parking Lot
12. Approval of Budget Transfers
13. Approval of Financial Reports

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

V. Financial Reports for Information

The Board was presented with the Warrant Schedule - All Funds for information Purposes.

VI. Communications to the Board

President Golle reported that the Board received no communications since the last meeting.

VII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

**VIII. Reports - Community and School Groups
Student Senate**

Student Senate Vice President Tyler Sergio reported that the second half of November and December have been busy. Guest speaker Tony Hoffman spoke to the High School

students; Freshman Orientation took place after the Thanksgiving break; Juniors began their College & Career prep courses; a Holocaust survivor spoke to 9th and 11th grade students; the Junior class held a Chipotle fundraiser to raise money for the prom; Dr. Jason Carmel spoke to 10th and 11th grade students regarding brain function; the High School held its Holiday Concert last week; the Junior class held a candy cane fundraiser; and this week is Holiday Spirit Week. In January, the Counseling Department will hold College Planning Night for Juniors, and students will begin preparing for mid-term exams.

Student Athletic Council

SAC representative Clare Picone reported that the SAC bulletin board has been updated with Winter sports schedules. In December and January, the athletes have been showing their appreciation for the game officials. In addition, students made cards for the residents of the Osborne Home, and sent an ecard to the staff.

PTSA

PTSA President Megan McFarland reported on the PTSA activities since the last meeting. December began with Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows book fairs. Registration for the winter session of After School Clubs at the elementary schools started earlier this month. The PTSA is offering 21 clubs at Daniel Warren and 18 clubs at F.E. Bellows on Mondays through Thursdays. They sponsored a coat drive at the elementary schools; held the second SEAC meeting of the year at which local psychologist Dr. Jen Abbey spoke on coping with heightened emotions, anxiety and discomfort in our post-pandemic world; and are hosting holiday parties at the elementary schools this week.

In addition, the PTSA sponsored many STEAM programs for all the students. Third graders enjoyed Path to Rhythm; the National Air and Space Museum gave a virtual planetarium presentation for 6th graders; Dr. Jason Carmel spoke to 10th and 11th grade Bio/AP Psych & Anatomy students on brain function; and a Holocaust survivor spoke to the 9th and 11th grade students.

Finally, looking ahead to next year, Mrs. McFarland stated that there are many fun activities and events planned. The Rye Y will be in PE classes at Daniel Warren to teach students; the NY Chinese Cultural Center will be performing Dance and Acrobatics for Daniel Warren students; the Met Museum will give an American Art virtual presentation for 7th graders; there will be a General Membership meeting on January 11th; a Middle School Activity Night on January 20th; and Parents Night Out on February 11th. She thanked everyone for their support and wished them a happy holiday season.

Booster Club

Booster Club President Patrick West reported that the Booster Club sponsored its first Rye Neck Invitational basketball tournament, which was won by the home team. It concluded the Holiday Sidewalk Sale at the three schools and staged a custom store for the basketball programs and the public. They are working on the January 27th event and March Madness parents-night-out.

Finally, Mr. West stated that the Booster Club is seeking parents to be team liaisons, Twitter handlers, and photographers for the winter sports teams, in addition to seeking specialists to help out as videographers and social media experts.

RNTA

RNTA representative Linda Costelloe reported that this week is Holiday Spirit Week in the Middle and High Schools, and early decision and early action college acceptances are beginning to filter in. The regular decision deadline is looming and students and teachers are putting finishing touches on essays and writing their final recommendations. In the Middle and High Schools, midterms are coming up in January. Teachers and administrators have been working to make sure that the shape of the midterms is beneficial for teachers and students alike. Finally, Mrs. Costelloe wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

IX. Curriculum Presentation - State of Collaborative Science Center

Science Department Chairperson Anne Palombo began her presentation by stating that science is all about questioning and exploring. Young people love to ask questions, and today we Google information. Unfortunately, the resources we find will offer misinformation, partial information or expert information that can lead to new discoveries. Students need to understand what they see and read and decide which resources are valuable, evaluate claims based on evidence and apply that information in new scenarios.

Mrs. Palombo advised that the Next Generation Science Standards and the New York State Science Learning Standards were developed by the National Research Council, the National Association of Science Teachers, and the American Association of Advancement of Science. They consider three aspects of instruction: What students need to know - which is now reduced; crosscutting concepts - which ask students to think like scientists; and practices - which asks students to model scientific inquiry, questioning, looking for evidence, experimenting, evaluating and communicating. Certain science and engineering practices ask students to mirror the work of professionals on a daily basis. The ability to carry out these practices is influenced by the available space.

The new Collaborative Science Center helps students engage in a few of the science practices. The new space is modern, dynamic and flexible. There are dedicated rooms, reference materials on walls, plenty of storage, safe work spaces, and purpose built spaces for experiments. In addition, the new wing is connected with Gigabit internet for speed with access points in every room, there are promethean boards with touch panels, and they have multiple ethernet jacks for additional connected devices. The technology enables real time data collection and analysis using a variety of digital tools. Mrs. Palombo advised that while the new wing is primarily used by high school students, it has allowed middle school students to have dedicated spaces with proper facilities. The space is also used to host clubs, they hosted the Science and Independent Learner Symposium, American Mathematics Competition, faculty meetings and Board meetings.

Additionally, Mrs. Palombo stated that the science teachers spent the summer revising curriculum to develop new, safe, and engaging lessons to meet the updated Standards. They develop games, support individual research projects, participate in professional development to stay at the forefront of new developments in their areas of expertise, and spend weekends at fairs and competitions where our students shine.

Finally, Mrs. Palombo stated that the students are gaining expertise with questioning, analyzing information and developing solutions based on evidence - all the skills needed

on a daily basis. The new facility allows them to engage and practice for real world problem solving, not just read about it or learn second hand. The Collaborative Science Center demonstrates the district's commitment to build a bright and forward thinking future for the Rye Neck community.

**X. Reports - Board of Education
Office Hours**

Trustees Rubin and O'Reilly represent the Board at the next Office Hours, January 4, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, December 23rd to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Mansell reported that Trustees Golle and Nashelsky attended the WestPut Community Conversation, and she attended the advocacy meeting at which they discussed the advocacy priorities.

Audit Committee

Trustee Yong reported that there are no new updates. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th.

Policy Committee

Trustee Golle advised the community that Trustee Rubin will be discussing the policies up for amendment and removal during New Business.

**XI. New Business
Adoption of Amended Policy 8330 - Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment**

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 8330 were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the November 16, 2022 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8330 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee O'Reilly and seconded by Trustee Mansell, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 8330.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Adoption of Amended Policy 8636 - Personal Use of Electronic Devices

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 8636 were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the November 16, 2022 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 8636 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee O'Reilly, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 8636.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Removal of Policies 8332 and 8332-R - Use of District Owned Cell Phones and Cellular Telephones Regulation

WHEREAS, Policies 8332 and 8332-R were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for removal and a first reading at the November 16, 2022 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policies 8332 and 8332-R have been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for removal and a second reading.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Mansell and seconded by Trustee Rubin, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the removal of Policies 8332 and 8332-R.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Approval of Change Order

Upon motion duly made by Trustee O'Reilly and seconded by Trustee Rubin, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following change order for the 2018 Capital Bond:

- **Piazza, Inc.** - Change order GC-40 for a decrease of \$1,551.62 related to reimbursement of costs related to new roof drain work at the Athletic Facility at the MS/HS campus.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

XII. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public.

XIII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Rubin and seconded by Trustee O'Reilly, it was

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board, the Board of Education Meeting of December 21, 2022 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk