



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
300 HORNIDGE ROAD  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2023**

Present: President Gloria Golle  
Trustee Rebecca Mansell  
Trustee Patty Nashelsky  
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 Beebe-Harrison, Substitute District Clerk

**I. Opening of Meeting**

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

**II. President's Report**

President Golle began her report by advising the community that the district makes clear and consistent communication a priority. A new website and Mass Communications platform was launched last year, and the website is updated frequently with up-to-date information, calendar changes, event details, upcoming parent meetings and other notifications. Additionally, a new section has been added to the website dedicated to pictures from events that take place.

President Golle stated that our principals began using Smore for their weekly newsletters. This program allows them to send important information, links and updates in a manner consistent across all the schools. The program syncs to Mass Notifications so the newsletters are embedded into emails, and they are also posted on the school's website.

Next, she noted that the district is mindful of how many emails families receive from our schools throughout the week. To reduce an influx of emails on a given day, administrators use a communications calendar to schedule when emails are being sent, the content of the email, and to whom they're being sent.

Finally, President Golle reminded the community of the many ways to communicate with the Board.

### III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lutinski advised that Daniel Warren Principal Tara Goldberg will be reporting on the district's DEI activity, the principles of which are compatible with Rye Neck's mission statement. A specific aspect of DEI involves the adults in the school buildings and their relationships with students. The district works hard to put the best educators in classrooms and puts a premium on instructional skill, work ethic, and personality, but would also like the staff to reflect the cultural diversity we have in the student population. In this regard, the district has become part of the Lower Hudson Council of School Personnel Administrators. The LHCSA is hosting a virtual diversity job fair in March which Rye Neck will be participating in. Last year's job fair had 6,000 participants who will also attend career growth workshops and panel discussions.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski advised that the district will begin the transition to budget season. He and the Assistant Superintendent for Business, Carolyn Mahar, will be working with the Board on the planning and presentation of the 2023-24 school budget in preparation for the budget and trustee vote which is scheduled for on May 16th

### IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee Nashelsky, 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 January 4, 2023 Planning Session
2. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
3. Appointment of Advisors to Middle School Club
4. Approval of Standard Work Days for Appointed Officials
5. Approval of CSE Recommendations
6. Approval of Homebound Instruction
7. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the RNTA Assistants/Aides Unit
8. Acceptance of Donation for Scholarship
9. Approval of Budget Transfers
10. 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 receive 2 communications since the last Meeting regarding women's sanitary products and illness protocol.

**VII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor**

There were no comments made by the public.

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

**Student Senate**

Student Senate President Tomas Fernandez reported that seniors are hearing back from their college applications, and many have already committed. Juniors attended a college planning night on January 12th. Midterms and Regents exams are starting next week, and students have begun studying and reviewing in class. The High School held its winter pep rally for the winter sports last week. Activities included an obstacle race and a basketball knockout game. The Senate is working on the winter formal which will take place on February 10th and will be a Valentine's Day themed dance. Tickets go on sale tomorrow.

**Student Athletic Council**

SAC representative Clare Picone reported that the SAC bulletin board was updated with the winter sports schedules, and the winter pep rally was a huge success. The SAC made inspirational videos for the elementary students titled "I Have a Dream" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. where the athletes shared their dreams and aspirations. Upcoming activities include athletes reading to the students at Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows, and a possible March Madness tournament.

**PTSA**

PTSA representative Allison Reynolds reported that afterschool clubs at Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows began yesterday. There are 21 clubs at Daniel Warren and 14 clubs at F.E. Bellows, and there were waiting lists for several of the clubs. In addition to clubs, they continue with many STEAM programs. At Daniel Warren Chinese Dancers and Acrobats are coming this month; the Ancient Egypt: Mummification virtual program will be shown at the Middle School; the Skydome Planetarium will be shown at F.E. Bellows; and a Shakespeare performance will be held for 7th, 10th and 11th grade students. In addition to programming for students, there will be 3 Heard in Rye speaker events for parents, and the SEAC will have their 3rd speaker of the year on February 9th.

Next, Ms. Reynolds advised that planning is underway for the Spring Fair and Fun Run. This year's theme is Panther Party and will be held at Daniel Warren on Saturday, April 29th from 12 - 3 p.m. This year's fair will have food trucks, games, activities and raffles.

In addition, Parents' Night Out is scheduled for Saturday, February 11th at the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club. There will be a raffle and silent auction.

Finally, Ms. Reynolds announced that the PTSA is starting their annual search to fill PTSA positions for the 2023-24 school year. Emails will go out soon listing open positions, and more information can be found on the PTSA website.

**RNTA**

RNTA representative Mark Lauten reported that Midterms and Regents exams are taking place at the high school next week, and after school and extra help support programs have been in place since October. Students have completed college applications and acceptances are steadily rolling in. Teachers and counselors are meeting with parents

planning for the year ahead. In addition, winter sports, extracurriculars and the musical are underway, and conversations are taking place regarding prom, junior-senior day, and end of year celebrations.

## **IX. Curriculum Presentation - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

Daniel Warren Principal Tara Goldberg addressed the community regarding DEI. Mrs. Goldberg reviewed Rye Neck's mission statement which is to provide a strong curriculum that emphasizes opportunities and advancement, offer abundant opportunities for involvement, ensure a supportive learning environment, and develop active, critical-thinking, creative, responsible citizens. This pertains to all students that walk through our doors. She defined what DEI means in Rye Neck. Rye Neck values diversity as the individual identities in our school community; it values equity as the process that provides all students with what they need to succeed; and it values inclusion as a community where all students feel accepted and have a sense of belonging.

Next, Mrs. Goldberg explained that the framework was introduced at a Board meeting in October of 2021, the DEI committee was established and a charter was shared with the community on October 25. The Committee was formed on November 1; the first two meetings were led by Dr. Wilson; and they began to prepare for data collection. This led them into a series of meetings where they looked at data for the district, and had focused conversations which allowed them to interpret the data with a deeper understanding. They reviewed the results of the Middle/High School climate survey and participated in equity walks where they visited the different schools. In June, they shared their findings with the community which now guide their work for this year. The data analysis was used to answer the questions: Do all students feel welcome and supported? Do all students have fair access to programs, classes and needed supports? If equity means fair treatment and opportunity for all, does the data reflect that? The data provided a foundation for where we are and how we can grow.

Additionally, Mrs. Goldberg stated that NYSED provided districts with a roadmap which consists of 3 phases. Phase 3 is defined as full implementation. The work is more ongoing at that point. We are currently between phase 1 and phase 2 - looking at the framework to see what we've done and what we should consider doing. The DEI Committee findings continue to be a resource as we look at the suggested recommendations provided and incorporate them. Some of the suggestions are looking at the language on our forms that go out; participating in diversity job fairs; and providing more professional development on culturally responsive practices. We are addressing this through our participation with Southern Westchester BOCES DEI Leaders Network. We launched the school year with a keynote speaker, Dr. Ghody Muhammad, whose book, *Cultivating Genius*, introduces equity framework efforts. Finally, Mrs. Goldberg announced an upcoming community event on March 14th - a movie night featuring the movie *Wonder*. The purpose is to provide the community with the opportunity to explore a film that empowers us to engage in and learn from diverse voices and to empower students with critical thinking, social emotional learning and empathy building.

### **Booster Club**

President Patrick West reported that the Booster Club is producing custom signs for each senior to help celebrate the Senior Days which are taking place now. The scholarship

program is fully funded, with scholarships set for seniors in both athletics and in theater. The application process will start in the spring. The High School theater program will be performing *Anastasia* in early March. The Booster Club will be providing several meals for the cast and crew between now and when the performances take place. Finally, March Madness parents-night-out has been scheduled for March 24th.

**X. Reports - Board of Education**

**Office Hours**

Trustees Nashelsky and Yong will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, February 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, January 27th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

**West/Put Report**

Trustee Rubin reported that Trustees Nashelsky, O'Reilly and President Golle attended a community conversation where they discussed the status of DEI initiatives in Rye Neck and in surrounding regional school districts. Survey results from the meeting showed that about 60% of districts are involved in the DEI process. 5% responded that there are no current DEI initiatives underway in their district. Key areas targeted for DEI work include diversity in hiring, providing a diverse selection of library books, incorporating diversity and inclusion within the curriculum, conducting school climate surveys, performing equity audits, new course offerings and conducting implicit bias training.

**Audit Committee**

Trustee Yong reported that the next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for February 9, 2023.

**Policy Committee**

Trustee Nashelsky reported that there are two policies up for a first reading during New Business.

**XI. New Business**

**First Reading - Policy 5300.25 - Student Dress Code**

Trustee Nashelsky stated that this policy is a part of the District's Code of Conduct. Amendments were made to foster a more inclusive and equitable learning environment. Since the Commissioner's Regulations require a public hearing for any revisions made to the Code of Conduct, there will be a public hearing prior to the February 15th Board meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to provide comments on this Policy before it is approved by the Board.

**First Reading - Policy 5300.60 - Student Searches and Interrogations**

Trustee Nashelsky stated that this policy is a part of the District's Code of Conduct. Amendments were made to remove strip searches and to replace them with personal searches. Since the Commissioner's Regulations require a public hearing for any revisions made to the Code of Conduct, there will be a public hearing prior to the February 15th Board meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to provide comments on this Policy before it is approved by the Board.

**XII. Public Comments Concerning Above**

There were no comments made by the public.

**XIII. Adjournment**

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

**RESOLVED**, that there being no further business before the Board, the Board of Education Meeting of January 18, 2023 be adjourned.

**AYES:           All Present**

**NAYES:         None**

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Beebe-Harrison  
Substitute District Clerk