

BOE Meeting, October 18th, 2023

Superintendent's Remarks

Thank you President Mansell, and good evening.

The week before Homecoming is always busy and that was true this year as students in all four schools enjoyed spirit activities. One of my favorites is Buddy Day, part of Senior Week, which pairs 6th graders with 12th graders. At Daniel Warren and FE Bellows, student athletes visited to include our younger students in the excitement, and blues skies helped give us an energetic pep rally for the MS/HS on Friday afternoon.

We had outstanding community turnout last weekend, regardless of the soggy weather on Saturday. The Booster Club did a tremendous job of creating spirit and a festive environment for teams, athletes and coaches. And, significantly, our Homecoming teams were undefeated.

Also last week, Rye Neck's HS/MS Video teacher, David Golden, was honored by LMC Media on October 11th at their 40th Anniversary Gala. Attendees including local municipal leaders, and local and national media figures gathered at the Mamaroneck Cinema to celebrate educators and filmmakers from our area. Please see more in the Latest News section on our website. And, thank you to LMC Media, including this crew that comes to all of our board meetings, for their work that supports our district.

This week is Digital Citizenship Week. Ensuring our students are well equipped with the necessary tools to navigate the digital landscape is increasingly important. Just as good citizens contribute positively to their communities, digital citizens should contribute positively to online communities. These skills are vital for educators, students, parents, and all internet users. In our schools this week, students are participating in lessons built around digital citizenship, such as online responsibility, the power of words, the importance of media balance, and the impact of artificial intelligence. If parents want to continue discussions with their children at home, CommonSense Media has wonderful resources to support these conversations.

Within the last two weeks we have sent information and applications for two opportunities for community participation in part of our processes.

The Facilities Planning Advisory Team will help with activities such as reviewing maintenance projects as proposed by the district architect based on the 2022 Building Condition Survey, identifying designs that enhance student learning, and crafting recommendations to the Board of Education for project work and a corresponding five year capital project plan. That includes identifying projects for potential bond referendums as well as use of the 2022 Capital Reserve Fund.

The Technology Planning Advisory Team will similarly help with a review of the new website template and enhanced Rye Neck app, help with prioritization of our equipment buying cycle, help recommendations on technology infrastructure upgrades, and review technology security enhancements.

Descriptions and applications for both teams on our website: applications for the Facilities Team close this Friday, October 20th while the Technology Team's close next Friday, October 27th.

School board members oversee the education of the community's youth, one of the most important things adults could do with their time. School boards are volunteers who don't receive compensation, yet they work year-round for students.

School boards help create a shared vision for education; they help ensure positive outcomes and the success of all students; they set the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance; they support a healthy school district culture in which to work and to learn; and they develop a budget aligned with those aims.

The New York State School Boards Association recognizes October 16th through the 20th as this year's School Board Recognition Week. Rye Neck is joining all public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to our community and its children. Each of our board members has been given a certificate of recognition; please join me in congratulations and thanks.

Tenure preface

We are about to present three candidates for tenure. Tenure is the process by which a teacher, assistant, or other professional staff member earns a status that ensures that they are free to advocate for their students above any other consideration. Each candidate earns tenure after a collaborative review process that takes several years.