

Good evening and welcome to our September board meeting.

I want to speak about emerging technologies and how they can impact students, staff, and families. The board must ensure that we use effective and financially prudent technologies that do not infringe upon privacy or otherwise compromise students or staff. At our planning session on September 6th, the board and Dr. Lutinski discussed the formation of a Community Technology Advisory Committee. The committee will allow the district to gain additional clarity around our use of technology by leveraging community expertise to help guide technology decisions and foster community support through dialogue. Dr. Lutinski is working with his team to refine the details of this committee and we look forward to sharing updates with the community in future weeks.

Formation of the technology advisory committee is also driven by the process used at the end of the last school year to consider technology purchases. As Dr. Lutinski has stated in prior meetings, the process – both its timing and disclosure of information – was insufficient. We are all working together in the best interests of our students, families, and broader Rye Neck community, driven by public confidence in the laws, policies, and practices we use.

In addition to forming an advisory committee, the board will be voting on a resolution to retain independent counsel to review processes and timing around technology proposals. The review will result in recommendations we can consider as we refine our best practices, including those around vendor selection, vendor management, competitive bidding, and year-end spending. The board will take the next two weeks to consider proposals from multiple law firms. We will appoint specific counsel after we complete appropriate diligence. Once counsel is appointed, we expect this review to take several weeks, and we are optimistic that any recommended improvements can be outlined to the community before the Thanksgiving holiday.

We see this process as an opportunity to learn and evolve. We are eager to move on from this discussion and to focus on the important work we have ahead of us this year, including our strategic plan.