

BOE Meeting, December 20th, 2023

Superintendent's Remarks

Welcome to our happy holiday meeting!

Strategic Planning

Our Strategic Planning Group's two-day session with consultant Judy Wilson was productive. Based on community, staff, and student feedback, the group of board trustees, parents, alumni, students, teachers, and administrators set three goals for the district, extending into 2025. Generally, goal one is to embrace the mind by focusing on our ability to approach problems by asking questions, exploring solutions, taking action, and reflecting on outcomes; goal 2 is to embrace the heart by building environments that foster empathy, compassion and connection to the world, extend our sense of purpose outside the classroom, and fuel our curiosity and passion; and goal three is to build a professional learning community that ensures teacher growth leading to enhanced student outcomes. In other words, the head, the heart, and the staff development to support it all.

We are now forming staff Action Plan Teams for each goal which will get started right after the break. Their mission is to determine what needs to be done to accomplish each goal during a period from the end of this year to the end of the 2025 calendar year. Along the way we will refine revisions to our Mission Statement and our new Portrait of Rye Neck Learner to make sure they are properly integrated.

Symposium

Last week we attended a symposium entitled *Addressing Anti-Semitism & Other Forms of Hate*. It was attended by superintendents and school personnel from around the county and guests such as state senator Shelley Mayer. The format was a series of presenters that included the host Westchester Jewish Council, the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center, the Anti Defamation League, and others. The foundational discussion was about recognition and collective identification of antisemitism, but there was also a broad theme about humans treating humans with dignity and respect. As we continue dialogue and education within our schools, I'd like to echo the message of peace on Earth and wish our Rye Neck community a wonderful holiday recess with family and friends.