



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2022**

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 Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Adjournment of Executive Session and Opening of Public Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the executive session be adjourned and the Public Meeting be opened.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

II. Opening of Meeting

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

III. President’s Report

President Golle began by thanking all those who made Rye Neck’s Homecoming Weekend a huge success.

Next, she advised that our Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction will be giving the first curriculum presentation of the year. She will be discussing the results of our state assessments and future plans for promoting higher achievement. The presentation will be available on Rye Neck’s website beginning tomorrow.

Finally, Mrs. Golle reminded the community that they can communicate with the Board anytime by email or by scheduling office hours which are held once a month before the

planning sessions. This is where you can meet with two designated trustees to discuss any issues you may have.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lutinski began by informing the community about a threat that was made on social media yesterday and talked about the challenges associated with responsible social media and cell phone use. He stated that in addition to the nine-point list of security improvements he spoke about last month, there are things that can't be put on a list, but are still safety factors in our favor. Students spend significant time in schools with peers and staff in addition to the time spent at home with family and friends. To our advantage, Rye Neck is a school community with students of good character staffed by caring adults and supported by invested families. When a mistake is made we address it honestly and help each other learn, and we continue to promote citizenship, digital or otherwise.

Next, Dr. Lutinski reminded the community that school board members are groups of volunteers who oversee the education of the community's youth. They work year-round for students and are not compensated for their service. He stated that the New York State School Boards Association recognizes this week as School Board Recognition Week, and each of our board members have been given a certificate of recognition.

V. 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 October 6, 2022 Planning Session
2. Awarding of Bid for Electrical Work
3. Adoption and Approval of Settlement Agreement
4. Appointment of Fiscal Advisor
5. Approval of Transportation Contract
6. Acceptance of Donation for Scholarship
7. Approval of Personnel Appointments and Leaves
8. Approval of Disposal of Equipment
9. Approval of Updated District Consultant List
10. Approval of CSE Recommendations
11. Approval of Homebound Instruction
12. Approval of Budget Transfers
13. Approval of Financial Reports

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

VI. Financial Reports for Information

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

VII. Communications to the Board

President Golle reported that the Board received 3 communications regarding the Middle School and school safety.

VIII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

IX. Reports - Community and School Groups

Student Senate

Student Senate President Tomas Fernandez reported that October was filled with exciting events. Last week was Senior/Spirit Week. Seniors enjoyed a field trip to Chelsea Piers; the freshman went on a field trip to the Bronx Zoo; two Rye Neck alumni visited and showed their new film "The Brink Of"; the sophomores took the Pre-ACT test while the juniors took the PSAT; there were themed days; and a pep rally on Friday.

Lastly, Tomas announced that the play *PUFFS* will be showing on October 27th and 28th, and seniors have begun to apply for college and are finishing up their application.

Student Athletic Council

There was no report made by the Student Athletic Council.

PTSA

PTSA representative Farrah DiMaggio reported that they concluded their largest fundraiser of the year, Ribbons for Rye Neck. They raised just over \$38,000 and delivered almost 500 ribbons to families and businesses throughout the community.

In addition to organizing class photos at the Middle School, F.E. Bellows and Daniel Warren, there were several PTSA sponsored events at the elementary schools. There was an after school playdate and costume exchange and Daniel Warren; a walk, bike and scoot to school week at both schools, and a family fitness night at F.E. Bellows. At the Middle School, they are sponsoring Steps to Success every Monday after school where students can get help with homework, projects and study skills.

Mrs. DiMaggio advised that the first SEAC meeting was held last night; STEAM programming is getting started; and the PTSA partnered with the High School to fund various academic programs such as the American Mathematic Competition registration and MathCon fees.

Lastly, Mrs. DiMaggio stated that they are planning upcoming events such as the RNIC Potluck Dinner on October 21st, the Middle School Spooktacular on October 28th, and Parents' Night Out on November 10th.

Booster Club

Booster Club President Patrick West reported that Homecoming was a fantastic event. The Booster Club coordinated with the PTSA and the schools to organize theme days, varsity athletes visiting the elementary schools, a kids playzone on Saturday, a decorating contest, an autograph contest, and running of the concession stand. In addition, he reported that they will be partnering with the PTSA to run an online spiritwear store, will be supporting the fall play, *Puffs*, and are brainstorming for a winter event.

RNTA

RNTA representative Elizabeth Leifert reported that there were many successful events in the schools over the past few weeks. Last week was Senior Week at the high school, and the Seniors went on their annual trip to Chelsea Piers. They celebrated Buddy Day with the 6th grade on Friday, which ended in a pep rally for the Middle/High School campus, and the Seniors and 6th graders were given t-shirts by the Booster Club and PTSA. On Wednesday, Freshman went to the Bronx Zoo as part of their group building activities while Sophomores and Juniors took the PreACT and the PSAT. After the tests, the students participated in focus minicourses on subjects from knitting to painting to board games.

Meanwhile, teachers in the Middle/High School are preparing progress reports and report cards as we approach the end of the first quarter, while the early decision college applications deadline approaches. Teachers are spending extra time with students revising essays and supplements and generating letters of recommendation.

In the elementary schools, teachers are piloting math programs, preparing for parent conferences, report cards and Halloween celebrations. In F.E. Bellows, all grades have enjoyed various field trips.

Finally, Mrs. Leifert stated that Rye Neck is preparing for a full day of professional development on November 8th, which will be focused on new programs in Math, Science and word study in the elementary grades, and curriculum and instruction in the Middle/High School.

X. Reports - Board of Education

Office Hours

Trustees Nashelsky and Yong will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, November 2, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, October 28th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Rubin reported that members of the Board and Dr. Lutinski participated in the WPSBA Roundtable on October 3rd, along with many other districts in the area. Discussions were had regarding school mental health, board committees, board of ed and superintendent relationships, code of conduct and restorative justice, DEI, contract negotiations, community engagement and budgeting. The next advocacy meeting is scheduled for October 24th, and she will report back at the next board meeting.

Audit Committee

Trustee Nashelsky reported that the Committee met on October 4th with its external auditor who reviewed the audited financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2022. The financial statements, along with the district's response to the auditor's Management Letter, are being approved at tonight's meeting. The audited financial statements were filed with New York State on October 6th.

Policy Committee

Trustees Nashelsky and Rubin stated that policies will be discussed later in the meeting under New Business.

XI. New Business

Acceptance of External Audit and District Management Action Plan

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District accept the annual external audit report from Nawrocki Smith LLP dated June 30, 2022; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the attached district management action plan prepared in response to the external audit.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Approval of Change Order

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Nashelsky and seconded by Trustee O'Reilly, 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-39 for a decrease of \$5,000 related to reimbursement of costs related to debris cleanup and site restoration for Project D at the Middle/High School campus.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Approval of Amendment of Policy 1500 - Public Use of School Facilities

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 1500 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 September 21, 2022 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 1500 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 Mansell and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 1500.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Approval of Amendment of Policy 9505 - Meals and Refreshments

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 9505 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 September 21, 2022 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 9505 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 Nashelsky and seconded by Trustee Rubin, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of amended Policy 9505.

AYES: **All Present**

NAYES: **None**

Approval of Removal of Policy 4317 - Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco

WHEREAS, Policy 4317 was 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 September 21, 2022 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4317 has 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 O'Reilly, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the removal of Policy 4317.

AYES: **All Present**

NAYES: **None**

Approval of Removal of Policy 9505-R - Meals and Refreshments Regulation

WHEREAS, Policy 9505-R was 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 September 21, 2022 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 9505-R has 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 Rubin and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the removal of Policy 9505-R.

AYES: **All Present**

NAYES: **None**

XII. Curriculum Presentation - Data

Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, shared with the community the results of the grades 3-8 assessments that were taken in May and the Regents that were administered in June. She explained that the ELA assessment is given to all students in grades 3-8. The only students excused from taking it are those who have been in the country for less than a year. The math assessment is given to all students in grades 3-6 and 7th and 8th graders who are not taking Regents level math. 56% of 8th graders took the Algebra or Geometry Regents, and all those students passed. The science assessment was given to 4th graders last year. Our 8th graders did not take the intermediate assessment because they either sat for the Living Environment Regents or the Earth Science Regents.

Next, Mrs. Ryan explained that these assessments are scored on a scale of 1-4, 3 or higher are considered to be proficient. She reviewed the results of the assessments and stated that, based on the results, the District has to do more to strengthen these scores, and we need to have a higher participation rate, particularly at the Middle School level given the number of students that “opted out”. If a student does not take the test, they are refusing to take it and the District has to report it as such. We are required to test 95% of the students and if we do not, it is held against us in our accountability report to the State. Most importantly, if we don’t test all of our students we cannot get a reliable understanding of where they excel and where we need to boost their skills when it comes to meeting State standards and improving scores.

However, Mrs. Ryan reported that our Regents results are better than our 3-8 results and reviewed a chart with the percentage rates of students who passed. As with the 3-8 assessments, she stated that we need to take a look into the data and see what we are doing well and where we need to improve, and that work has already started. Unfortunately, there are some issues with the data that is provided by the State in that it is not timely. Assessments are given in the spring and the results are populated in early fall. Additionally, this year the 3-8 assessments are changing again. It will be the first administration of the next generation standards so the 3-8 assessments will be different this year than in the past. The State has provided us a great deal of information on the format of the tests by grade that the teachers will need to explore, adjust their teaching, and share with the students.

Mrs. Ryan advised that the fall administration of i-Ready to grades 1-8 will finish this week. Kindergarten students are not tested until the winter. She cautioned families of 1st and possibly 2nd graders that these students are not accustomed to working on computers so the fall scores may be lower than the classroom based assessment scores in these grades. She explained that i-Ready is the K-8 universal screening for reading and math. It is a computer based assessment which allows students the ability to practice taking an exam on the computer. This is important because in the spring of 2024, grades 5 and 8 will be required to take the State assessments on a computer. In 2025, grades 4 and 6 will be added and by spring of 2026 all 3-8 assessments will be computer based. The PSAT and SAT will also be digital in the near future.

Lastly, Mrs. Ryan advised that i-Ready assessments are adaptive, which means that the program adapts to the student’s ability level. After the first round of testing, i-Ready assigns students individual instruction based on how they performed on the test. This

option is available for all students in grades K-5 and select students in grades 6-8. The results from i-Ready are used as a data point for data teams which meet regularly during the year to review all students' progress. This helps determine future interventions that students may need. It provides “real-time” data as it relates to progress towards State standards. Families will be receiving family reports when the first round of administration is completed.

XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public.

XIV. Executive Session

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby agrees to move into executive session to discuss a particular person.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

X. Adjournment of Executive Session, Reopening of Public Meeting and Adjournment of Public Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the executive session be adjourned and the Public Meeting be reopened; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board and upon motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee O’Reilly, it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education Meeting of October 19, 2022 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk