

RyeNeck Schools

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**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
OCTOBER 4, 2023**

Present: President Rebecca Mansell

Trustee Jason Carmel

Trustee Gloria Golle

Trustee Patty Nashelsky

Trustee Erica Wagner

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. Opening of Meeting

President Mansell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2023 Board of Education Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Golle and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held September 20, 2023, as submitted.

AYES: Trustees Carmel, Golle, Wagner and Yong, President Mansell

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Trustee Nashelsky

III. Discussion

Tech & Facilities Advisory

Dr. Lutinski explained that the district is forming the Technology Planning Advisory Team (TPAT) and Facilities Planning Advisory Team (FPAT) as a collaborative measure for stakeholders to help advise the district with technology and facilities related issues. He reviewed the composition of both teams and explained that each team will pick set dates to meet throughout the school year. The application for the FPAT team will go out this week and the application for the TPAT will go out next week. A Statement of Purpose and Application for each team will be posted on the district website.

Education Foundation

Trustee Wagner, along with community member Jennifer Soussa, informed the Board that they have been researching education foundations with the purpose of creating a Rye Neck School Foundation (RNSF). The mission of the foundation would be to accelerate innovative learning, extend educational, arts and athletic opportunities, and expand initiatives beyond what is covered by the district's annual operating budget. They explained that it is a charitable organization comprised of a board of directors with officers and committees. It is separate from the district and board of education and would work in conjunction with Rye Neck administration to help meet the district's goals. Guidelines would be developed for teachers, administrators and students to apply for grants.

Discussion followed with regard to rules and regulations, the composition of the board, where the money will come from, who can apply for grants, and how the grant money can be spent. In addition, it was noted that the RNSF should work with the other school organizations in being mindful of not overburdening the community when requesting donations.

The Board stated that it would like to see them move forward with the creation of this foundation.

Unified Arts Participation

Dr. Lutinski discussed the different course offerings for students through the Unified Arts department.

HS School Elective Data

Dr. Lutinski reviewed the list of electives currently running at the High School, and explained that students have to pick and choose because there are only so many periods in a day and they also have to take their required classes. The district is always looking at new offerings, but sometimes elective classes are closed due to lack of enrollment.

Discussion was had regarding the decision making process for keeping a class with low enrollment open. Mrs. Ryan explained that they use historical data, sometimes combine classes that have multiple levels, and sometimes offer independent study. Lastly, she advised that they are in the process of starting the curriculum council meetings again this year.

Student Exit Interview Data 2023-24

Dr. Lutinski explained that he, Dr. Barker and Mr. Doerr conduct exit interviews with small groups of 8th graders in May and June. He and Mrs. Merkel conduct the senior exit interviews, with groups of 10-12 students, in March. He reviewed the questions presented to the students in past years and the feedback received. He stated that based on feedback from the students, courses have been added; discussions are had with individual departments on specific feedback; and administration discusses how the district can help students deal with stressors. It was suggested that the results of interviews be shared at a future planning session or board meeting.

Policies

Trustee Golle reviewed with the board the various policies that were addressed at the September 20th Policy Committee meeting. Discussion was had regarding the history behind Policy 6700 (“Green” Purchasing) and why it was on the September 20th agenda; the history behind the hybrid meeting procedures and the requirements if we adopt these procedures; and the process for deciding which NYSSBA policy updates are reviewed. In addition, Dr. Lutinski stated that he wants to add the language required by NYSED regarding door barricading into the district’s Safety Plan.

Board Communication

Trustee Nashelsky stated to the Board that we have to be mindful and respectful of the amount of time that is set aside for meetings, and trustees need to stay focused so important business gets done. In addition, discussion was had with regard to transparency of communications from community members.

IV. Executive Session

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Carmel and seconded by Trustee Wagner, 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 appointment of independent counsel.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

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

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee Wagner, 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 Carmel and seconded by Trustee Nashelsky, it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education Planning Session of October 4, 2023 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Mansell adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk