

Good evening and happy new year. Thank you for joining us at our January meeting. Now that we are in 2024, our administration is working on the calendar for our next school year, identifying NY State holiday dates and testing dates, and ensuring we meet the required number of days for students and staff. The board will review the proposed calendar at the January 31 planning session. Barring unforeseen issues, we will plan to adopt the calendar at our February 14 board meeting. The draft calendar will be available to view on Board Docs on January 26.

In late November, I had the privilege of being part of Rye Neck's strategic planning group. In our opening session, Judith Wilson introduced us to the idea of schools as learning organizations. This concept has echoed in my mind since we began our strategic planning work, and I thought it was a fitting topic to anchor our first board meeting of 2024.

In his book, *Schools that Learn*, Peter Senge explains: "Institutions of learning can be designed and run as learning organizations. In other words, schools can be made sustainably vital and creative, not by fiat or command or by regulation or forced rankings, but by adopting a learning orientation. This means involving everyone in the system in expressing their aspirations, building their awareness, and developing their capabilities together. In a school that learns, people who traditionally may have been suspicious of one another—parents and teachers, educators and local businesspeople, administrators and union members, people inside and outside the school walls, students, and adults—recognize their common stake in each other's future and the future of their community."

Rye Neck is dedicated to being a school district that learns. Our strategic plan will detail ways in which our community will come

together to support students and teachers as they identify and develop their talents, interests and skills.

Though we are almost mid-way through our school year, the fresh calendar year invites us to communicate where we are as a district. Tonight, Dr Lutinski will deliver a report on the “state of our schools,” taking stock of what we have achieved so far and forecasting our goals for the coming months. Dr Lutinski, your report please...