



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
300 HORNIDGE ROAD  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MAY 17, 2023**

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**

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Mansell and seconded by Trustee Nashelsky, it was **RESOLVED**, that the executive session be adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

**AYES: All Present**  
**NAYES: None**

**II. Safety Presentation**

Dr. Lutinski and Mr. Scarantino presented the District’s 2023-24 Safety Plan which complies with New York State guidelines for all threats and hazards (natural, technological, biological and adversarial/incidental). They advised that the District plan, which will be revised during the summer, will be posted publicly on the website while the three building plans are kept secure.

Mr. Scarantino explained that there are three safety teams. The District Safety team is made up of Board trustees, teachers, administrators, parents, and school safety personnel. The Building Level Emergency Response Team (BERT) is made up of teachers, administrators, parents, school safety personnel, local law enforcement, ambulance & fire, and the Board of Education. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) are building specific teams made up of school personnel, law enforcement officials, fire officials, and representatives from local, regional and/or State organizations. He explained the staff’s responsibilities, and what is expected of students and parents, and explained the purpose of the safety drills.

Next, Dr. Lutinski explained the different emergency situations - shelter in place, hold in place, evacuation, lockout and lock down - and the procedures for each one. He then informed the community of the many types of training the District participates in.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski explained that the Board is amending the District's Student Health Services policy to allow for the administration of Naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose. In addition to being part of the SWBOCES Regional Crisis Response Team, the District will be working with Effective School Solutions to provide in-house therapeutic support for students, professional development for staff, and parent resources, and to improve our threat assessment capabilities.

Following the presentation, Dr. Lutinski entertained questions from the community.

### **III. Opening of Meeting**

President Golle called the meeting to order at 7:53 p.m.

### **IV. President's Report**

President Golle began by thanking those community members who came out to vote for the budget which had an 82% passage rate, the highest passage rate in 2 decades. She stated that because of the support Rye Neck will be able to focus on mental wellness to ensure access and social emotional resources for all students, continue to have the breadth and depth of course offerings, maintain commitment to favorable class sizes, maximize efficiencies in scheduling, and continue the offering of extracurricular opportunities.

Lastly, President Golle thanked Dr. Lutinski, Mrs. Mahar and those who worked to ensure election day ran smoothly, and welcomed the two new Board members, Erica Wagner and Jason Carmel.

### **V. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Lutinski began by congratulating the two newly elected Board members, Jason Carmel and Erica Wagner, and announced that we will be celebrating, at the June Board meeting, the retirement of Trustees Jennifer Rubin and Devina O'Reilly whose terms end on June 30th. He congratulated the district on the passage of the 2023-24 budget, and stated that the Board and administration put great preparation into creating a plan that will make Rye Neck successful. A key ingredient was the care and effort of our Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Carolyn Mahar, District Treasurer Maria Gigi, and the entire business office.

Next, Dr. Lutinski stated that in athletics, every one of Rye Neck's varsity sports teams qualified for the postseason in some way, as well as individual athletes in tennis, golf and track & field. Olivia Tobin just won the ConEd Scholar Athlete Award for her achievement in softball. She is the third Rye Neck athlete to win the award this year, and the 68th overall. Additionally, we recently learned that our High School musical production of *Anastasia* earned eleven nominations for the Metro Awards. These nominations comprise seven student awards, two staff awards, a chorus award and a nomination for best overall production. The awards ceremony will take place on June 12th.

Dr. Lutinski then announced that the second Programs and Priorities meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle/High School Dining Hall. The first one, which was held on May 3rd at Daniel Warren, was oriented toward the K through 5 age group. The next one will focus on middle and high school, but the elementary parents are still welcome. He stated that the meetings are opportunities for parents to provide input on what we should include in our long-range plans and future budgets.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski advised that the last few weeks of spring are the busiest times of our school with athletics, field days, a dance, a prom, award ceremonies, concerts, a car parade, moving-up ceremonies and a graduation. Information regarding these events can be found in our school newsletters, on social media, and on our website.

**VI. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee Mansell, 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 May 3, 2023 Planning Session/Final Budget Presentation
2. Approval of the Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Annual Meeting and Election of District
3. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
4. Ratification of WPSBA 2023-24 Budget and Slate of Officers/Directors
5. Approval of 2023-2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule
6. Approval of Reserve Fund Plan
7. Approval of Authorizing Appropriations from the General Fund to the 2022 Capital Reserve Fund
8. Approval of Authorizing Appropriations from the General Fund to the Retirement of Contribution Reserve Subfund
9. Approval of Disposal of Ballots
10. Approval of Disposal of Furniture and Equipment
11. Approval of Updated District Consultant List
12. Approval of CSE Recommendations
13. Approval of Homebound Instruction
14. Approval of Tax Certiorari Settlements
15. Approval of Budget Transfers
16. Approval of Financial Reports

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**VII. Financial Reports for Information**

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

### **VIII. Communications to the Board**

President Golle reported that the Board has received 18 communications since the last Meeting regarding safety and security, residency and athletics.

### **IX. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor**

Four community members addressed the Board regarding safety and security, and PE exemption for athletes.

### **X. Reports - Community and School Groups**

#### **Student Senate**

Student Senate President Tomas Fernandez announced that this year's Valedictorian is Chelsea Wang and the Salutatorian is Nathaniel Findlay. The Model UN and International Club are hosting International Night tonight and the Rye Neck Art Exhibit is going on at the Mamaroneck Library through June 23rd. He stated that AP exams have taken place; the budget vote took place last night; seniors have started their internships; and the Senior Awards Ceremony and prom will be held on June 25th.

#### **Student Athletic Council**

SAC representative Clare Picone reported that they discussed plans for the fall at the May meeting. She congratulated the Spring teams for their successes and announced that the Sports Awards Ceremony will take place at 5 p.m. on June 12th in the MS/HS Dining Hall. Finally, she announced that the fall sports season begins on August 21st.

#### **PTSA**

PTSA President Megan McFarland reported that the PTSA is focusing on a few remaining events as well as the end-of-year celebrations. She thanked those who helped in planning the Panther Party event which raised close to \$14,000 through sponsorship, raffles, bake sales and crafts. Besides the Panther Party, they hosted Teacher Appreciation Lunches at all four schools, and are wrapping up Spring after-school clubs in the elementary schools.

Additionally, Mrs. McFarland stated that STEAM programming is happening in all the schools. At Daniel Warren, Tanglewood Marionettes will perform *Sleeping Beauty* for all students on June 1st, and Mobile Ed will give two presentations of *Forces and Motion* on May 25th. On May 22nd - 24th, third graders at F.E. Bellows will learn about animal adaptation with Rye Nature Center. At the Middle/High School, Broadway actor Robert Ariza will present an after-school workshop for all students interested in acting. Students at Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows have also received author visits from Darren Sardelli, Jenna Gavigan, and Bonnie Gleicher, and were treated to a performance of *Addy & Uno*.

Next, she advised that the Environmental Committee started a crayon recycling program, the Daniel Warren Book Fair was held at the beginning of the month, and the F.E. Bellows and Middle School Book Fairs will take place at the end of the month. Additionally, the Elementary School Theater Club will begin rehearsing next week for *Little Mermaid, Jr.* Forty-two 1st and 2nd graders and Forty-five 3rd through 5th graders will perform on June 10th in the Middle/High School Performing Arts Center.

Mrs. McFarland then announced that at the May General Membership Meeting the PTSA voted to approve a \$39,672.49 Year-End Grant to the District. It will be used to purchase

two large concrete games and six benches for Daniel Warren; nine concrete benches to be used as phase 1 in building an outdoor classroom at F.E. Bellows; six outdoor benches, sound upgrades to the PAC and furniture for the lounge in the Middle/High School science wing; various items for the Special Services Department; and four indoor curling sets for the Athletic Department.

In addition, end-of-year celebrations are being planned. The Bubble Bus will entertain 2nd graders in late June; the 5th grade affairs team has been putting together a yearbook and organizing the 5th grade lunch; the 8th grade dance will take place on Friday; the Senior Send-Off will take place at Rye Town Beach, and yearbooks will be handed out at that event; and they working with the Booster Club on the Senior Love Letter Project.

Finally, Mrs. McFarland announced that Ruth Homberg is the new PTSA President, and Jennifer Karlan, Elizabeth Gilespeie, Kristen Lindberg and Piper Stevens will be joining the Executive Committee. She thanked those whose terms have ended, the Nominating Committee who helped fill the open spots, and those who supported her during her tenure as President.

### **Booster Club**

Booster Club President Patrick West began by thanking all the volunteers who helped the Booster Club this year. He stated that the Booster Club is busy with year end events and activities. They have wrapped up the scholarships which will be announced at the award ceremonies. They are giving out 9 in total. The Booster Club has supported Senior Days for athletes; held the Spring Barbeque last week; launched the graduate law sign campaign for 5th & 8th graders and seniors; will be supporting the 8th grade dance on Friday, the Middle School musical on June 1st and 2nd, the Theatre Award Ceremony on June 6th, and Athletic Awards Ceremony on June 12th. Lastly, they will be holding a spirit wear sale in mid June. Lastly, Mr. West announced that Jocelyn Donat will be the new Booster Club President next year.

### **RNTA**

RNTA Representative Kathie Offner began by congratulating the Board and administrative team on the passing of the budget, and welcomed Jason Carmel and Erica Wagner to the Board.

Next, Mrs. Offner advised that the Senior Awards Ceremony and the junior/senior prom both take place on May 25th. The Awards Ceremony will be held in the morning in the PAC, and the prom begins at 5 p.m. at Greentree Country Club with over 260 students and some 34 teachers attending. She stated that the next few weeks focus on celebrating students of all grades - from assemblies to field days to field trips. In addition, students are preparing for the last days of instruction, including assessments, exams or hands-on projects, and teachers are finishing up this year's work and getting ready for placements and scheduling for next year.

## **XI. Reports - Board of Education**

### **Office Hours**

Trustees Mansell and Golle represent the Board at the next Office Hours, June 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Thursday, June 1st to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

### **West/Put Report**

Trustee Mansell reported that she and Trustee Gollee attended the WestPut community conversation last week which focused on school safety, mental health, substance use, cyber security and data privacy, and gun awareness.

### **Audit Committee**

Trustee Yong stated that there is nothing new to report. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for May 24th.

### **Policy Committee**

Trustee Rubin stated that there will be a first reading during New Business, and the Policy Committee will be meeting tomorrow.

### **Safety Committee**

Trustee Nashelsky reported that there was a safety team meeting on May 15th which was attended by the Rye and Mamaroneck Police Departments and the Mamaroneck Fire Department in addition to the other members of the team. She stated that safety is not a one-time only conversation. Conversations take place all year long. She assured the community that safety and security is a top priority for the Board.

## **XII. New Business**

### **First Reading - Amendment to Policy 5420 - Student Health Services**

Trustee Rubin advised that Policy 5420 is the Board's Student Health Services Policy. Amendments were made to include language permitting the administration of naloxone in the event of an opioid-related or suspected opioid-related overdose.

### **Acceptance of Donations**

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 accept the PTSA Grant to the Rye Neck Schools, as per the attached letter; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accepts a donation of seventy-three custom Rye Neck knit blankets from the Booster Club to the Athletic Department; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby accept a donation from C&C Baseball & Apparel, Inc. of fifteen tennis uniforms for the Modified Boys Tennis team and coach.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

### **Approval of Change Orders**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following change orders for the 2018 Capital Bond:

- Icon Construction Group, Inc. – Change order PC-01 for a decrease of \$28,705.93 related to reimbursement of oil costs at the MS/HS campus.
- Icon Construction Group, Inc. – Change order PC-02 for a decrease of \$28,928.07 related to credit of allowance balance and uncompleted contract work at the MS/HS campus.
- Icon Construction Group, Inc. – Change order PC-03 for a decrease of \$30,000.00 related to credit for uncompleted work at the MS/HS campus.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above**

There were no comments made by the public.

**XIV. Adjournment of Meeting**

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

**RESOLVED**, that there being no further business before the Board, that the Board of Education Meeting of May 17, 2023 be adjourned.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera  
District Clerk