



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
300 HORNIDGE ROAD  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 16, 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. Opening of Meeting**

President Golle called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**II. President's Report**

Trustee Golle began by reporting that the board and administration are continuing to work collaboratively on committees including WestPut, and the policy and audit committees. Some of our trustees will be providing updates later in the meeting. In addition, this morning Mr. Scarantino and Mrs. Goldberg will be providing our next curriculum presentation - elementary reading. They will share how they are welcoming back in-person professional development in the school buildings, ways teachers will focus on K-5 students as writers, and how they are incorporating the latest research on the science of reading and the full implementation of the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards.

Finally, Mrs. Golle reminded the community how to best communicate with the Board.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Lutinski began by reporting that the elementary principals will be sharing information today about their reading and writing approach. One of things he finds most rewarding is the celebratory aspect of students and the important work they do, and all four schools are adorned with artwork and evidence of student interest. Evidence of student accomplishments is seen in other ways. Honor roll letters will soon be generated, and high school students were inducted into the Thespian and Music Honor Society last night.

Finally, Dr. Lutinski announced that today we are celebrating Rye Neck student athlete Joe Lavelle, and introduced Cross Country Coach, Marcela Scalise. Ms. Scalise reported that Joe had a 1st place victory at the Sectional race, took 2nd place out of 131 runners in the Class C Championship race, was a member of the Section 1 team that captured the combined team State Championship, and qualified for the New York State Federation meet this weekend. Mr. Ceglia added that Joe will continue his athletic career at Elon University next year.

**IV. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Nashelsky 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 November 2, 2022 Planning Session
2. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
3. Nomination of NYSSBA Area 10 Representative
4. Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Development Calendar
5. Approval of Disposal of Unused Ballots
6. Approval of Financial Reports

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**V. Financial Reports for Information**

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

**VI. Communications to the Board**

President Golle reported that the Board received 2 communications regarding board Meetings and planning sessions.

**VII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor**

There were no comments made by the public.

**VIII. Reports - Community and School Groups**

**Student Senate**

Student Senate President Tomas Fernandez reported that the High School Senate brought back, for the first time in over 20 years, "Character Day" on Halloween. Rules were sent home to parents, and students were allowed to dress up in costumes. He stated that it went well and they are hoping to make it a tradition every year. In addition, he reported that winter sports started yesterday, auditions for this year's High School Musical, Anastasia, are being held this week, the first quarter marking period ended on Monday, and the Thespian Induction ceremony was held last night.

Finally, Tomas stated that the Senate believes that a sense of community is very important, so they are working to create a bulletin board in the High School where they will post a weekly question such as "What are you thankful for?" and "Name a person

that made you smile today and makes you happy.” Their goal is to make Rye Neck the best place for everyone.

### **PTSA**

PTSA Representative Celine Dujoux began by reporting that STEAM programming has been going strong. Third graders will participate in a Path to Rhythm assembly; weatherman Rob Marciano is speaking to 8th, 9th and 10th graders about extreme weather; the National Air and Space Museum will give a virtual planetarium presentation to 6th graders; Dr. Jason Carmel will speak to the 10th and 11th grader Bio/AP Psych & Anatomy students on brain function and what injuries teach us; and a Holocaust survivor from the Holocaust and Human Rights Center will speak to the 9th and 11th graders.

Next, Mrs. Dujoux advised that the PTSA brought in and helped fund the 4th Grade Circus, held a candy drive for the troops at the elementary schools; and are sponsoring a coat drive at the elementary schools. They are running various health and wellness programs. Tony Hoffman will speak to middle and high school students about his journey from addiction and homelessness to the Rio Olympics; Heard in Rye will present on student anxiety and living with loss; and the Rye Y Recess Program continues at Daniel and F.E. Bellows.

In addition, Mrs. Dujoux reported that they started a newcomers club this year as a resource for families who are new to Rye Neck, and continue to host social events for the Rye Neck community. The Rye Neck International Committee held its potluck dinner last month; the Middle School Spooktacular also took place last month; and Casino Royale was held last week.

Mrs. Dujoux then stated that none of the programs or events would take place without fundraising and support from the community. The most recent fundraiser was the second merchandise store of the year. This was run with the Booster Club. In addition, they are trying a new fundraiser this year - Square 1 Art. Students at Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows will create artwork that is put on items such as mugs, keychains and ornaments, and families can order these items in time for the holidays. Finally, she advised that planning has begun on this year’s Spring Event/Fun Run, which is scheduled for April 29th, and the theme will be Panther Party.

### **Booster Club**

Booster Club President Patrick West reported that the Booster Club joined with the PTSA on an online holiday store for spiritwear merchandise. They had more orders this year with the combined store than alone in past years. The fall concessions delivered over \$1,200 to the Junior class - the Booster Club splits the profit. On December 2nd and 3rd, they will be sponsoring the Boys Varsity Basketball Tournament. They will be adding a lot of community-wide elements to the tournament this year. In addition, Mr. West stated that plans are being finalized for this year’s winter event on January 27th, and the end-of-year scholarship program is already fully funded based on fundraising efforts from the Fall Fest and Homecoming.

### **RNTA**

RNTA representative Lauren Wolman reported that the first marking period has ended at the Middle/High School and teachers are finalizing their first quarter grades, and early

decision and early action deadlines have come and gone. F.E. Bellows and Daniel Warren teachers are holding parent conferences at the end of the month and early December. In addition, teachers had a full day of professional development on Election Day, conducting safety drills and working on various aspects of the curriculum.

**IX. Reports - Board of Education**

**Office Hours**

Trustees Golle and Mansell represent the Board at the next Office Hours, November 30, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, November 25th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

**West/Put Report**

Trustee Mansell reported that at the last advocacy meeting they addressed advocacy priorities such as funding, the tax cap, State Ed requirements, and extending free school meals for all. In addition, she reported that she and other trustees participated in the Regional Symposium entitled “Stressbusters: Flexibility in the Learning Environment”, which focused on school based stressors, student mental health, and how we can reduce the pressure.

**Audit Committee**

Trustee Yong stated that there are no new updates from the Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2023.

**Policy Committee**

Trustee Nashelsky stated that there are policies up for a first reading during New Business.

**X. Approval of Balance of Consent Agenda**

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee O’Reilly and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approves the following consent agenda:

1. Approval of Disposal of Furniture and Equipment
2. Approval of CSE Recommendations
3. Approval of Homebound Instruction
4. Approval of Updated District Consultant List
5. Approval of Budget Transfers

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**XI. New Business**

**First Reading - Amendment of Policy 8330 - Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment**

Trustee Nashelsky advised that this policy is already a part of the District’s policy manual, and amendments were made to incorporate Board Policies 8332 and 8332-R.

**First Reading - Amendment of Policy 8636 - Personal Use of Electronic Devices**

Trustee Nashelsky advised that amendments were made to this policy to address changes in technology.

**First Reading - Removal of Policies 8332 and 8332-R - Use of District Owned Cell Phones and Cellular Telephones Regulation**

Trustee Nashelsky advised that these are not legally required policies and may be removed because the contents will be incorporated into Policy 8330.

**Approval of Change Order**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following change order for the Daniel Warren Slate Roof Replacement project:

- **Niko K. Construction Corp.** – Change Order 001 for a decrease of \$25,000 related to reimbursement of the project allowance.

**AYES: All Present**

**NAYES: None**

**Approval of Use and Transfer of Insurance Proceeds**

**WHEREAS**, the District has received \$118,563.27 (\$107,776.77, \$6,704.85 and \$4,081.65) of insurance proceeds during the 2022-2023 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the expenditure of such unexpected insurance proceeds constitutes a reasonable and contingent expense for which voter authorization is not required; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's Superintendent of Schools has recommended that the unexpected insurance proceeds be transferred from the District's general unappropriated fund balance to the capital portion of the District's budget in order to permit such funds to be applied towards various capital improvements.

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby authorize the transfer of \$118,563.27 of insurance proceeds from the District's unappropriated fund balance to the capital portion of the District's budget; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorize a corresponding increase in the capital portion of the District's 2022-2023 budget; and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorize the District's administration to expend up to \$118,563.27 of such insurance proceeds to correct the damages for which

such proceeds were received, as well as additional capital improvements, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

**XII. Curriculum Presentation - Elementary Reading**

Mr. Scarantino and Mrs. Goldberg addressed the community regarding the Balanced Literacy elementary reading program. They explained that students participate in reading and writing workshops, mini lessons, guided reading groups, strategy groups, shared reading, shared writing, word study, and interactive read-alouds. They explained what each building would be working on this year, what the program looks like, and that teachers will begin working with consultants this week. Finally, they explained that when teaching literacy, what is important is how reading comprehension begins, phonemic awareness, how they teach phonics, high frequency word instruction, the way they use MSV (Meaning, Structure, Visual Information), and the texts chosen for beginning readers.

Lastly, they reported that the Foundations phonics program is being rolled out to third graders this year.

**XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above**

There were no comments made by the public.

**XIV. Adjournment**

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

**RESOLVED**, that there being no further business before the Board, the Board of Education Meeting of November 16, 2022 be adjourned.

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

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ellen Chiera  
District Clerk