



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

Present: President Rebecca Mansell

Trustee Jason Carmel

Trustee Gloria Golle

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

Absent: Trustee Patty Nashelsky

I. Adjournment of Executive Session

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

RESOLVED, that the executive session be adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

II. Opening of Meeting

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

III. President's Report

President Mansell began by informing the community about the creation of a Technology Advisory Committee to allow the district to gain additional clarity around the use of technology by utilizing community expertise to help guide technology decisions and foster community support. Dr. Lutinski is working with his team to refine the details of the committee, and the Board will share updates with the community in the coming weeks.

President Mansell then reported that the Board will be voting on a resolution to retain independent counsel to review processes and timing around technology proposals. The review will result in recommendations to be considered as the district's best practices around vendor selection, vendor management, competitive bidding, and year-end spending are refined. The Board will consider proposals from multiple sources and will appoint counsel after complete diligence. It is expected that the review will take several

weeks, and the Board is hopeful that any recommended improvements will be outlined to the community before the Thanksgiving holiday. Finally, President Mansell advised that the Board is eager to move forward from this discussion and focus on the important work ahead of them this school year.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lutinski began by reporting on the activity taking place throughout the district in September. He stated that K through 5 teachers are implementing the Eureka2 Math curriculum; Special Services has expanded integrated co-teaching opportunities at Daniel Warren and the district now has ICT across all grade levels. There are new enrichment opportunities for Daniel Warren students; new science courses for Middle School students; new course offerings at the High School; and new after school clubs for both middle and high school students. In addition, the Library Cafe will be returning in October for Middle/High School students; the Athletic Department held its Hall of Fame Ceremony on September 9th honoring Class of 2014 athlete Thomas Pipolo; and there are currently 275 varsity and JV athletes participating in fall sports.

Next, Dr. Lutinski advised that strategic planning is underway. The district has partnered with Judy Wilson LLC as an education consultant and planning facilitator to help with the process. The process will be conducted during the first semester and will include professional staff, administrators, trustees, parents, students and community members as well as surveys for various groups. The end product will be a strategic plan that will help guide how the district develops and supports students over the next several years. As a set of aspirational goals, the plan will inform future decisions that will impact all levels of the district. The community will be updated on planning activities.

V. Building Condition Survey Presentation

Danielle Farrell, Assistant Vice President and Architect at LAN Associates reviewed for the Board their observations, findings and opinions with regard to the Building Condition Survey (BCS) they conducted of the district. She explained that NYSED requires public schools to perform a BCS every five years to collect information on the district's infrastructure and prioritize facility needs on a district-wide basis. They began by reviewing past BCS and Annual Visual Inspection reports, identified work deferred from previous reports, and scheduled site visits for each facility. Physical inspections of each facility including site, building exterior, roofs, interiors, mechanical, electrical and plumbing were performed, and photos were taken. The team analyzed the data and met with the district to discuss preliminary findings. They prepared and submitted NYSED BCS forms for each building, and everything was found to be satisfactory. In addition, they prepared written reports with photographs and preliminary cost estimates for each building.

Next, Ms. Farrell stated that their reports provide detailed descriptions of the building systems and components along with corresponding photographs and opinions of probable cost for the work items identified, reviewed the findings and cost estimates and answered questions from the community.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Wagner and seconded by Trustee Golle, 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 September 6, 2023 Board of Education Planning Session
2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 15, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 18, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Education
4. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
5. Adoption and Approval of Stipulation Agreement
6. Approval of SEQRA Determination for Rye Neck Middle/High School Parking Lot
7. Approval of Disposal of Furniture, Equipment and Instructional Materials
8. Approval of Updated District Maintenance List
9. Approval of Updated District Consultant List
10. Approval of Tax Certiorari Settlements
11. Approval of CSE Recommendations
12. Approval of Homebound Instruction
13. Approval of Budget Transfers
14. 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 Mansell reported that the Board has received 19 communications since the last Meeting, 4 regarding Board relations, 10 regarding technology, 1 regarding a hold-in-place, 1 regarding a particular person, 1 regarding the heat, 1 regarding accessing minutes and 1 regarding programs and priorities.

IX. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

One community member addressed the Board regarding the IT purchasing process and the formation of a technology advisory committee.

**X. Reports - Community School Groups
Student Senate - Dylan Schneider**

Student Senate President Dylan Schneider reported that the High School students have spent the last few months creating their schedules. The election for Senate officers takes place tomorrow. This year, the Senate representatives will focus on having students' voices in the High School heard. In addition, they will be asked to lead by example and look out for all students.

PTSA - Ruth Homberg

PTSA President Ruth Homberg reported that the PTSA hit the ground running. They sponsored a Kindergarten Playdate at Daniel Warren; an Afterschool Playdate for 1st and 2nd Graders; Organize Your Sixth Grader for sixth grade parents; and they organized Welcome Back breakfast trays for all staff on the first day of school. The Rye Y Recess Program is up and running; registration for afterschool clubs at the elementary schools opened this morning; Steps to Success for 6th graders started last week, and the first parent social event of the year takes place this Friday night.

Next, Mrs. Homberg noted that the first General Membership meeting of the year was held this morning. There were approximately 50 attendees, and they approved this year's budget. The PTSA plans to spend over \$100,000 on enrichment programs for all Rye Neck students.

With regard to fundraising, Mrs. Homberg announced that the PTSA's largest fundraiser of the year is underway and, to date, they have received over 200 donations and raised over \$18,000 of their \$40,000 goal.

Additionally, Mrs. Homberg announced upcoming events for the next month: class photos at the Middle School, F.E. Bellows and Daniel Warren; the elementary walk/bike/scoot to school week; spirit week; a family kickball night at F.E. Bellows; an after school playdate and costume exchange at Daniel Warren; the Middle School Spooktacular; RNIC Potluck dinner; and RNIC and SEAC meetings.

Finally, Mrs. Homberg noted that the PTSA is working with the district and Booster Club to try to streamline communications

Booster Club - Jocelyn Donat

Booster Club President Jocelyn Donat stated that the Booster Club is a parent-run organization which focuses on programming and scholarships for sports and theater. They provide senior signs and gifts, Homecoming t-shirts, and partner with the PTSA on Senior Buddy t-shirts. They will be hosting an annual fundraiser at Rye Grill & Bar on September 30th and an online auction. Homecoming weekend is October 13 and 14, and the Booster Club is working to get younger students to attend. In addition to selling spirit wear on their online store, they will be selling it at Homecoming. Lastly, she reported that the Harlem Wizard fundraiser will return on January 26th. Mrs. Donat encouraged everyone to join the Booster Club or volunteer to show their support.

RNTA - Kathy Offner

RNTA President Kathy Offner began by congratulating Melinda Folchetti in her new role as Interim Principal of the High School and thanked her for her many years of service as RNTA President.

Next, Mrs. Offner reported that many of the staff had a busy summer with summer school classes here at Rye Neck, workshops for teachers involved in co-teach and push-in programs, and unpacking and preparing rooms for the first day of school. In addition, the RNTA hosted a luncheon for all new teachers, TA's and the new security staff members in August.

Mrs. Offner stated that Open House at both the Middle and High School proved to be successful. F.E. Bellows and Daniel Warren Open Houses are coming up and should be equally informative.

Finally, she announced that F.E. Bellows and Daniel Warren launched the new Eureka Squared Math Program, as well as the continuation of the Mood Meter Ruler program.

XI. Reports - Board of Education

Office Hours

Trustee Nashelsky and Trustee Yong will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, October 4, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, September 29th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Wagner reported that the Westchester-Putnam School Board Association met regarding the 56 resolutions that are up for review.

Audit Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5th, and the Board will report back at its October meeting.

Policy Committee

Trustee Yong reported that the Policy Meeting met this morning with Counsel and discussed green purchasing, the safety policy, hybrid meeting procedures, policy 2410, and various NYSSBA recommended updates. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st.

XII. New Business

Appointment of Special Counsel

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Carmel and seconded by Trustee Wagner, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education shall retain the services of Special Counsel for the purpose of exercising an independent review of the process and all related matters associated with a recent proposed technology procurement, along with possible recommendations for amending the district's procurement policies. The Board of Education designates the Board President to research and recommend Special Counsel to the Board of Education as soon as practicable.

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 Wagner seconded by Trustee Golle, it was

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board, that the Board of Education Meeting of September 20, 2023 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk