



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 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. Adjournment of Executive Session and Opening of Public Meeting

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

RESOLVED, that the executive session be adjourned and the Public Meeting be opened.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

II. Opening of Meeting

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

III. President’s Report

President Golle began her report by informing the community that the board will be sending an email regarding free lunches for all students for the 2022-2023 school year asking community members to join the board in advocating for the federal government to reinstate free lunches for all.

President Golle then advised that the board would be giving a presentation to share who the members of the board are and what they do.

IV. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Lutinski began his report by welcoming everyone back to the Community Room and

noting that it is symbolic of the positive start to the school year. In-person open houses have returned. Elementary schools are piloting various math programs, continuing their literacy work, using Science 21, and taking advantage of Social Studies and ELA resources from BOCES. The Middle School has some new course offerings, intramural and modified athletics have begun, extracurricular music began this week, and clubs will begin soon. At the High School, the new Freshman seminar includes a curriculum to build student skills in distress tolerance and emotional regulation, and there are new course offerings available for students. Varsity and JV sports have begun, and the district recently celebrated Rye Neck's inclusive athletic history at the Title IX 50th Anniversary event. In addition, the theater group is currently preparing for their performance of *Puffs*.

Next Dr. Lutinski reported that Rye Neck has been actively making improvements to school security, including working with a safety consultant to improve drill procedures, types and location of signage, communication hardware, and placement of prepackaged evacuation gear. The district hosted a meeting with members of the local police and fire departments to discuss response, cooperation, and evacuation plans, and hosted walkthroughs by the local police and fire departments to reinforce their familiarity with the campuses. We have completed a security camera upgrade; are hardening our classrooms by replacing older door locks; planning for expanded time for training staff; increased the number of security monitors and are conducting regular exterior door checks throughout the day; reemphasized the importance of identifying troubled students with new staff training and participation in a Regional Crisis Response Team; and will be including the Principal's Advisory Committees in the safety process to improve family awareness of our procedures. Finally, Dr. Lutinski advised that we will be sharing information with families throughout the year about further changes that will keep the schools safe.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

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 approves the following consent agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the September 7, 2022 Board of Education Planning Session
- B. Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leaves and Resignations
- C. Approval of Petroleum Bulk Storage Registration
- D. Approval of Disposal of Furniture and Equipment
- E. Approval of CSE Recommendations
- F. Approval of Budget Transfers
- G. Approval of Financial Reports
- H. Approval of Revised June Financial Reports

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

VI. Financial Reports for Information

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

VII. Communications to the Board

President Golle reported that the Board received 2 communications regarding Board of Ed email addresses and the tennis courts.

VIII. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

IX. Reports - Community and School Groups

Student Senate

Student Senate President Tomas Fernandez reported that the students are especially excited to be back at school as it is one of the most “normal” years they’ve had over the past few years. Voting for Senate Representatives will close on September 28th, and the first meeting will take place at the beginning of October. The pep rally is coming soon, so once the Senate meets, there will be more information in that regard. In addition, he stated that there have already been various college visits, and seniors are working on their college applications and securing letters of recommendation from teachers.

Student Athletic Council

SAC representative Clare Picone advised that the first SAC activity of the year was their participation in the Title IX celebration.

PTSA

PTSA President Megan McFarland began by reporting that the PTSA has already held many events this year. At Daniel Warren, the kindergarten playdate took place in August, and the 1st and 2nd grade after school playdate took place on September 8th. During the first week of school, they delivered baskets filled with breakfast treats for all teachers and staff to all 4 schools, as well as the administration and athletic offices. The Organize Your Sixth Grader event took place last night. The Rye Y Recess Program is up and running at the elementary schools. Registration for elementary after school clubs has started, and there are 36 different club offerings between the two schools. Steps to Success for 6th graders will start next week and will run Mondays after school until the holiday break. The first parent social event of the year was held Friday night, and the first general membership meeting of the year was held yesterday, at which the PTSA presented and approved their budget for the school year. They plan to spend over \$100,000 on enrichment programs for all Rye Neck students. Additionally, Ribbons for Rye Neck, the largest fundraiser of the year, is underway, and their membership drive is in full swing.

Next, Mrs. McFarland stated that the PTSA will no longer be using SchoolBee for the family directory. They have moved to Membership Toolkit, which is the application used by neighboring PTA’s. They hope to have it up and running in the next few weeks.

Finally, Mrs. McFarland advised of the upcoming PTSA events: class photos at the Middle School, F.E. Bellows and Daniel Warren; the Daniel Warren Afterschool Playdate and Costume Exchange on October 6th ; the Rye Neck International Committee Meeting on October 12th; Family Fitness Night at F.E. Bellows on October 15th; and the first SEAC meeting of the year on October 18th.

Booster Club

Booster Club President Patrick West reported that this year's Booster Club is comprised of new, as well as veteran, officers, chairs and committee heads, and advised that they have been greeting families at open houses. Members of the Booster Club will act as liaisons between teams, theater and school to connect parents with programs and activities to help them get involved. The Fall Festival, their biggest fundraiser of the year, will take place on September 23rd. In addition, Senior Days have started and will continue through October, and Spirit Week is on the horizon and will culminate with Homecoming Weekend - October 14th and 15th.

RNTA

Middle/High School Librarian and Recording Secretary of the RNTA Linda Costelloe reported that teachers began the school year with four full staff days prior to Labor Day. The summer was busy as well with teachers running summer enrichment and credit recovery courses throughout July and August, working on curriculum, moving classrooms, fixing and organizing equipment, helping new teachers get situated and transitioning veteran teachers to new positions. Mrs. Costelloe stated that teachers are currently working through beginning of school activities like open houses, readying for homecoming, senior week, early decision deadlines and the fall theater production, all while readying students for the challenges that lie ahead.

Finally, Mrs. Costelloe acknowledged that the best part of being back is the nearly "back to normal" feeling everyone is enjoying from seeing the full faces of students and each other, to playing sports, participating in music, eating in the normal spaces, studying and socializing in the usual areas, and looking forward to the milestone events.

X. Reports - Board of Education

Office Hours

Trustees Rubin and O'Reilly represent the Board at the next Office Hours, October 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, September 30th to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Rubin advised that President Golle and Trustee Nashelsky attended the WestPut Community Conversation where discussion was had regarding mental health and school community. Rye Neck was the only district in attendance that has a districtwide mental health committee. Discussion was had regarding ideas and resources pertaining to mental health and mental health supports at home.

In addition, Trustee Rubin advised that she attended this month's advocacy meeting, which focused on NYSSBA's resolutions. There are 43 resolutions recommended by NYSSBA, and the group recommended 32 of them for adoption on topics such as taxes, security, mental health funding, curriculum, and board governance.

Audit Committee

Trustee Nashelsky reported that the first meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2022. She will have more to report at the October Board meeting.

Policy Committee

Trustee Nashelsky reported that the Committee had its first meeting of the year on September 14, 2022. She stated that the Committee is working on updating the District's policy manual to keep it streamlined and up to date. There will be four policies on tonight's agenda for a first reading - two for amendment and two for removal. These policies will be posted on the District's website for the public to view.

XI. New Business

First Reading - Amendment of Policy 1500 - Public Use of School Facilities

Trustee Nashelsky that this is already a part of the district's policy manual. Amendments were made to include language regarding school employees using district facilities for personal use.

First Reading - Removal of Policy 4317 - Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco

Trustee Nashelsky stated that this is not a legally required policy, and it may be removed from the district's policy manual because it is addressed in Policy 5440 (Drug and Alcohol Abuse). Also, pursuant to Education Law Section 804, schools are required to discuss the misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in health education courses. Therefore, the district will continue to provide instruction in this regard in accordance with the requirements of NYS Law, even if Policy 4317 is removed from the policy manual.

First Reading - Amendment of Policy 9505 - Meals and Refreshments

Trustee Nashelsky stated that this policy is already part of the district's policy manual. Amendments were made to incorporate language from Regulation 9505-R to avoid having two separate policies.

First Reading - Removal of Policy 9505-R - Meals and Refreshments Regulation

Trustee Nashelsky stated that this is not a legally required policy, and it may be removed from the district's policy manual because the contents will be incorporated into Policy 9505.

Approval of Hybrid Meeting Option for Board Members

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 approves a hybrid meeting option to allow board members to participate in board meetings virtually should they have a significant reason to do so, including illness, disability or caregiving responsibilities.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

XII. Presentation - Introduction to the Board of Education

The Trustees began by introducing themselves to the community. They explained the qualifications to become a board candidate, which are being able to read and write, being a qualified voter of the district, and being a resident of the school district for at least one year immediately prior to the election. They stated that the job of the school board is to hire and evaluate the superintendent, propose annual budgets to voters, and propose and

adopt policy. They explained that the board starts the school year with its annual reorganization meeting in July, then they have monthly planning sessions (or work sessions) and regular board meetings. The dates for these meetings can be found on the district's website. The board also provides office hours once a month, by request, whereby a community member may schedule a time to come in to discuss their concerns. In addition to the regular meetings, Audit and Policy Committee meetings are held throughout the year. Special meetings are held, as needed.

Next, the board explained the chain of command when parents have a problem or concern. Parents should first reach out to the teacher. If the issue is not resolved, they should then reach out to the principal. If it is still not resolved, they can reach out to the Superintendent, then as a last resort, the Board of Education.

It was explained that the school board's central role in governance is to ensure positive outcomes and the success of all students. They do so by allocating funds, creating policies, and working collaboratively with the Superintendent to ensure that the district's goals are met.

Lastly, the board advised that community members are welcome to participate and contribute by attending monthly regular meetings. There are two opportunities for the public to speak, once at the start of the meeting and once at the end of the meeting. Community members may also attend monthly planning sessions only to observe. Office hours are also available before each planning session for community members to speak to two board members in private. An appointment should be made through the District Clerk. Emails can be sent to the Board of Education at boardofed@ryeneck.org.

XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public.

XIV. Adjournment

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

RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board, the Board of Education Meeting of September 21, 2022 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk