

## **BOE Meeting, November 15th, 2023**

### **Superintendent's Remarks**

Thank you President Mansell, and good morning.

**Advisory Teams** The first meeting of our Facilities Planning Advisory Team was held last Wednesday. Our architect partners from LAN and Gerard Associates outlined the results of their Building Condition Survey that was presented to the Board at our September meeting and we then discussed specific aspects of each of our campuses. Our Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, Carolyn Mahar, is organizing a building walkthrough that will better familiarize the parent representatives of the team with our buildings and grounds. That will also help provide context for the team to make recommendations for a 5 Year Capital Plan for future facilities and infrastructure needs and possible use of our new Capital Reserve Fund.

The Technology Planning Advisory Team is meeting tonight. At our November Board Planning session, our Director of Technology and Communication, Mary Lanza described the need to adopt a new website template. The team's first order of business will therefore be to begin the process of choosing our new look, which will include a community survey. The second half of that project will be to look at an enhanced Rye Neck app. Later, the group will look at our technology infrastructure, security, and buying cycle.

**Strategic Planning** Thank you to our parents who participated in the voluntary virtual forums with our Strategic planner, Judy Wilson yesterday. If you haven't already, I encourage members of our community to take one or more of the surveys that we have sent and are on our webpage under the our district tab. Based on her data, parents are taking eight to nine minutes to complete each survey. If you have students in Bellows and the HS, for example, you can take both the Bellows and the HS version. Judy will be gathering and organizing the survey data for the Strategic Planning Team to work on during their back to back sessions on November 29th and 30th. The team comprises three members of our board, four parents, four high school students, one community member, nine teachers or faculty, and most of our administrators.

The Team will help develop district goals and action steps with measurable benchmarks. When the initial process is complete we will communicate the Strategic Plan to the community, including how it will be implemented and translated into real improvements for the district.

**Honor Societies** On Monday night we held our fourth ceremony this year to celebrate high school students who are members of our five Honor Societies.

- The 81 students inducted into the National Honor Society on October 2nd were recommended for membership based on criteria including commitment to scholarship measured by a three year average of 90% or higher, active service to the community, strength of character, and potential for leadership.
- On October 16th, 33 students were inducted into Rye Neck's chapter of the World Languages National Honor Societies. These are students who have successfully met the requirements of the Level IV language course and are either currently enrolled or have completed their AP Language course.
- Rye Neck inducted 39 members to Mu Alpha Theta, the National Math Honor Society, each of whom has held a 90% average in math and competed in two mathematics competitions. Special guest speaker Dr. Kirstin Tamucci, Rye Neck alum and 2012 valedictorian, came back to share how her math experiences at Rye Neck were not only formative, but play a role in her career in researching neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and ALS.
- In Monday night's dual ceremony we inducted 22 new members into The International Thespian Honor Society. These are students who have earned points based on performance participation and service in school theater.
- The second half of the ceremony featured the The Tri-M Music Honor Society, a program of the National Association for Music Education. Qualifying students in grades 10 through 12 must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and demonstrate participation in and dedication to the Rye Neck Music Program.

**Thanksgiving** Finally, next Wednesday is a half day that begins our Thanksgiving weekend. Each school has a specific half-day dismissal time, but we will have our annual "rapid dismissal" drill when students are released. The rapid dismissal is a way of clearing our buildings quickly and safely. Of course, the rapid dismissal also signals the start of holiday and family time. I hope you enjoy yours.