



**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 17, 2024**

Present: President Rebecca Mansell
Trustee Jason Carmel
Trustee Gloria Golle
Trustee Patty Nashelsky
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

I. Third Budget Presentation

Dr. Lutinski began by informing the community that the last budget presentation is scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 8th at Daniel Warren, and the budget vote is scheduled for May 21st from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the MS/HS Community Room. He then reviewed the budget goals which are a commitment to favorable class size, a tax cap compliant budget, maximizing efficiencies in scheduling and personnel, strategic planning, extracurricular opportunities, and a continued breadth and depth of core course offerings. He stated that the proposed budget is \$51,127,223, which is a 2.19% tax levy increase and will be at the tax levy cap. In addition, the projected enrollment for 2024-25 is 1,461.

Next, Mrs. Mahar reviewed proposed revenues, the largest amount coming from property taxes (\$43,459,590), then estimated State aid (\$5,192,633). She explained the components of the tax cap and tax cap calculation - this is the thirteenth consecutive year of tax cap compliant budgets. With regard to the State Aid estimates, Mrs. Mahar stated that Foundation Aid is the largest category (\$3,665,676) and reviewed the ten year Foundation Aid history.

With regard to expenses, Mrs. Mahar advised that salaries and benefits are the largest part of the budget totaling \$37,523,651 or 73.39%. She advised that active and medicare health insurance rates are increasing by a composite rate of 10.05%. Employer retirement system contributions are also increasing from 9.76% to 10.02% for TRS and from 13.10% to 15.20% for ERS. Additionally, the District is allocating \$350,000 to capital improvements, renovations and upgrades to the high school entrance and the temporary

parking lot and bike/walking path at the Middle/High School, \$80,000 for the installation of window security film, and \$59,000 for the replacement of the ceiling in the Daniel Warren lower lever.

Dr. Lutinski then reviewed the staffing changes for next year. The District will be adding 3.7 positions and losing 4.7 positions which is a \$28,355 impact on the budget. In addition, he advised that a new \$30,000 budget line has been added to support the Strategic Plan and provide additional professional development opportunities for staff which include a permanent building sub to allow teachers to attend professional development opportunities during the school day.

Next, Mrs. Mahar explained the factors which influence the tax rate change, including changes in the budget, in equalization and in assessments. She reported that the draft 2024-25 tax rate changes are +7.99% for Rye City and -5.43% for Rye Town. Community members can calculate their estimated school taxes using the Tax Rate Calculator on the website.

Finally, Mrs. Mahar reviewed Proposition II - Use of the Capital Reserve Fund. It is anticipated that the balance of the Capital Reserve Fund will be \$2,700,000 on June 30, 2024. Its use does not require any additional levying of taxes, but to use the money for project work, the District needs voter authorization. The District would like to use the money to complete some of the work from the 2022 Building Condition Survey which identified all immediate and future building and site work. Mrs. Mahar then reviewed the specific work that needs to be performed at each building and stated that the estimated cost is \$2,700,000 - the amount in the Capital Reserve Fund.

II. Opening of Meeting

President Mansell called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

III. President's Report

President Mansell began by reporting that the Board will be approving the 2024-2025 proposed budget, another tax-cap compliant budget that prioritizes valuable programs and experiences for students and staff. She reminded the community to come out and vote on May 21st to approve the budget, the use of the capital reserve funds, and to elect two members of the board. Anyone interested in running can pick up a nominating packet in the district office. Completed petitions are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 22nd. Even though school is not in session, the district office will be open.

Next, President Mansell stated that students in grades three through eight sat for the New York State English Language Arts exam last week. Third and fourth graders took paper and pencil tests, while fifth through eighth graders took computer-based tests. Although participation in the exams increased from last year, it was still not 100%. She urged all eligible students to take next month's New York State Mathematics test since these assessments help the staff understand how well students are meeting the New York State Next Generation standards. Participation rates also impact the district's rating on New York State accountability reports. Any questions can be directed to the building principals.

IV. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Lutinski began by reporting that he attended last week's High School Research Symposium where he got to talk with some of the Science Research and Independent Learner Program students. He is continually impressed with the depth of knowledge and level of articulation the students command. He also visited afterschool Binary Bingo, where High School students ran math games for Middle School students. In addition, kindergartners visited the Westchester Children's Museum, the 3rd grade will visit the NY Hall of Science, the 7th grade saw *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, many of the seniors have begun their Senior Internships, and the senior class were the victors on Junior-Senior Day last week.

Dr. Lutinski then stated that it is the beginning of the 4th quarter and students will continue their busy pace throughout the final 41 class days left in the school year. First graders are preparing for their Earth Day Concert this Friday, the K-5 Art Show will take place at F.E. Bellows, both the Middle and High School are preparing for their Spring Concerts, the Middle School will be performing *Matilda Jr.*, and all levels of sports are taking place. Additionally, the PTSA Panther Party will be taking place on April 27th, the Booster Club Spring Spirit BBQ on May 4th, and the Rye Neck School Foundation kick-off event on May 6th.

V. **Recognition - Athletics**

Mr. Ceglia introduced the following students who were selected for the Section 1 All Sportsmanship Team for the winter season:

Riley Donat - Girls Basketball
Davey Ryan - Boys Basketball
Blathnaid Grenouillon - Girls Indoor Track
Abubakar Usman - Boys Indoor Track

VI. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Golle and seconded by Trustee Wagner, 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 April 3, 2024 Board of Education Planning Session.**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the April 16, 2024 BOCES Budget Vote.**
3. **Approval of Personnel Appointments, Leave and Tenure**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint **Julia Blondel** to a four year probationary position as a Teaching Assistant, effective 05/01/2024, and ending 04/30/2028; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint staff members to the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

Costume Manager, MS Musical - Karen Fontecchio
Playbill, MS Musical - Jennifer Dallow
Choreographer, MS Musical - Damiana Carolini
Music Director, MS Musical - Kathryn Krull
Assistant to the Director, MS Musical - Kelly Ceci
Director, MS Musical - Caitlin Clarke
Technical Director, MS Musical - Cynthia Feinman
Track and Field Team Advisor - Marcella Scalise
Business Club Advisor - David Grazioli

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby that the Board appoint the following certified personnel:

Name	Effective Date	Type	Assignment/Location	Salary/Step
David Tobey	04/12/2024	Leave Replacement	Teacher/ FEB/MS/HS	Per Diem Sub. Rate
Emma Brewer	04/15/2024	Leave Replacement	Teacher/ FEB	Graduated Sub. Pay Rate
Sydney Chiera	04/15/2024	Leave Replacement	Teacher/ FEB	Graduated Sub. Pay Rate
Samantha Crecco	04/15/2024	Leave Replacement	Teacher/ DW	Graduated Sub. Pay Rate
Lauren Wolman	05/01/2024	Per Diem	Substitute Teacher/ District Wide	Per Diem Sub. Rate
Andrea Katz	05/01/2024	Per Diem	Substitute Teacher/ District Wide	Per Diem Sub. Rate

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board appoint the following coach for spring sports:

SEASON	SPORT	LEVEL	ROLE	FIRST	LAST
Spring	Boys Lacrosse	Modified	Co-Head Coach	Joseph	Ely

4. **Adoption of Resolutions Concerning the Annual District Meeting and Election of the District**

RESOLVED, that the following resolutions concerning the Annual Meeting and Election of the Rye Neck Union Free School District be adopted:

PROVISIONS FOR DETAILS OF REGISTRATION, ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEE

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the provision of tables, chairs, registration books, voting machines, printing, etc., and to advertise the proper notices required for the conducting of the registration of voters, the annual meeting and the election of school trustees in accordance with the Education Law of the State of New York.

SETTING THE DATE FOR PERSONAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND BUDGET VOTE

RESOLVED, that the Board of Registration shall meet at the Administration Building, 310 Hornidge Road, in the Village of Mamaroneck, County of Westchester, State of New York, on the 16th day of May 2024, from 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 7:00 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of preparing a register of the qualified electors of said District for the annual meeting and election of the members of the Board of Education, and to vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures, or on propositions involving the expenditures of money, or authorizing the levy of taxes, to be held on May 21, 2024, at the Rye Neck High School Library, 300 Hornidge Road, Mamaroneck, New York.

The Board of Registration will also meet during the voting hours for the annual meeting and budget vote and election of school board members on May 21, 2024 for the purpose of preparing a register of voters qualified to vote at meetings or elections held more than thirty (30) days subsequent to such annual meeting and election.

DATE OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AND USE OF VOTING MACHINES

RESOLVED, that the annual meeting of the Rye Neck Union Free School District and election of two members of the Board of Education of said district for two (2) full terms of three (3) years commencing on July 1, 2024 to succeed Rebecca Mansell and Patty Nashelsky, to vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures or on propositions involving the expenditure of money, or authorizing the levy of taxes, shall be held at the Rye Neck High School Library Community Room on May 21, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and 9:00 o'clock in the evening, during which hours the polls shall be open, and that the optical scanner voting machine(s) shall be used at said election to record the votes thereat.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF THE 2022 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that in addition to the budget proposition, the Board hereby adopts and approves the following proposition, pertaining to the authorization for use of the 2022

Capital Reserve Fund, and the Board directs that this proposition be placed on the ballot at the Annual District Meeting and Election as Proposition No. 2, as follows:

Proposition No. 2

Shall the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District (the “District”) be authorized to appropriate funds from the District's “2022 Capital Reserve Fund” in the maximum amount of \$2,700,000, and to expend these funds for the following purposes: (1) paving, fencing and masonry repairs at the District’s elementary schools; (2) a new roof for the lower roof of the High School gymnasium; and (3) architect fees to explore: the athletic field layout at the MS/HS, analysis of adding additional capacity for HVAC at the elementary schools, and a potential energy performance contract?

5. Adoption of Resolutions Appointing Election Personnel

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION INSPECTOR OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoints **Joanna Lord, 211 Melbourne Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY** as Chief Election Inspector for the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 21, 2024.

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint the following Election Inspectors for the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 21, 2024:

1. Yeni Morales-Diaz 550 N. Wagner Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY
2. Michael DiMurro, 525 English Place, Mamaroneck, NY
3. Barbara McCaffery, 1514 Park Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY
4. Adrienne Troupe, 270 Waverly Avenue, Apt. 310, Mamaroneck, NY

at the daily rate of \$250.00.

APPOINTMENT OF POLL CLERKS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint **Carolyn Mahar, Maria Gigi and Mary Beebe-Harrison** as poll clerks to canvass those paper ballots used by persons whose names are not on the Registration Poll ledgers; to meet on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building to canvass those votes.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District appoint **Dawn Yannuzzi** as Chairperson of the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 21, 2024.

6. Modification of Senior Citizens Tax Exemption Income Definition

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District has adopted resolutions in past years with respect to tax abatements of real property taxes in accordance with enabling legislation enacted by the State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, as Part K of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2023, the New York State Legislature amended the senior citizens exemption (RPTL §467) and the exemption for persons with disabilities and limited incomes (RPTL §459-c) in three respects (1) it redefined what is considered income for purposes of the exemptions; (2) it clarifies which income tax year applies when determining income eligibility; and (3) it replaces gender-specific language with gender-neutral language; and

WHEREAS, the new definition of income begins with the Federal Adjusted Gross Income (“FAGI”) and allows for five possible adjustments; and

WHEREAS, local municipal entities have the option to include IRA distributions in the calculation of FAGI; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District finds it in the public interest to adopt a resolution pursuant to Part K of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2023 including taxable IRA distributions in the calculation of FAGI. It was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby modifies the definition of income with regard to the senior citizens exemption and the exemption for persons with disabilities and limited incomes to be the Federal Adjusted Gross Income reported on the applicant’s income tax return and such FAGI shall include any taxable IRA distributions as authorized by Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2023, wherein State Legislatures amended Sections 459-c, and 467 of the Real Property Tax Law; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any gendered language contained within be replaced with gender-neutral language, i.e., “husband and wife” shall be replaced by “married couple”; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that when determining income eligibility for Sections 459-c and 467, the applicable tax year shall be the latest calendar year (e.g., for 2024 exemption eligibility, an applicant’s 2023 income is used); and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that such amendment shall become effective with the 2024 assessment rolls.

7. Approval of Piggyback Contract

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve, as a result of a request for bid process performed by the Bay Shore Union Free School District, the piggyback General Building Maintenance involving New Construction, Reconstruction and Demolition contract with Renu Contracting and

Restoration Inc., located at 1215 Sunrise Highway, Copiague, NY 11726 for the 2023-2024 school year per attached.

8. Approval of Awarding of Contract for Various Services Through Sound Shore Consortium Cooperative

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, as a result of a Request for Proposals dated December 26, 2023 by the White Plains City School District on behalf of the districts in the Sound Shore Consortium Cooperative, award contracts for the following services based on the attached ratings matrices:

Assistive Technology Services:

Marcie L. Klebanoff, MA, ATP
178 Garth Road, Suite 5L
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Please see attached rate sheet

Somos Bilingues
50 Hamilton Street, Suite 9
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Please see attached rate sheet

Westchester Institute for Human Development
Cedarwood Hall, 20 Plaza West
Valhalla, NY 10595

Please see attached rate sheet

Audiology Services:

CRM Audiology, PC
2975 Westchester Avenue, 202
Purchase, NY 10577

Please see attached rate sheet

Listening Partners, Inc.
2975 Westchester Avenue, 202
Purchase, NY 10577

Please see attached rate sheet

Westchester Institute for Human Development
Cedarwood Hall, 20 Plaza West
Valhalla, NY 10595

Please see attached rate sheet

Behavioral Assessment Intervention:

Achieve Beyond
1311 Mamaroneck Ave #150
White Plains, NY 10605

Please see attached rate sheet

All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology PLLC
255 Executive Drive, Suite 101
Plainview, NY 11803
Please see attached rate sheet

Behavior Analytic Consultants, Inc.
152-19 12th Road
Whitestone, NY 11357
Please see attached rate sheet

Program for Little Learners
875 Mamaroneck Ave, Suite 202
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Please see attached rate sheet

The Institute for Children with Autism and Related Disorders – Westchester Inc.
3237 Route 112, Building 6, Suite 1
Medford, NY 11763
Please see attached rate sheet

Nursing Services RN and LPN:
Health Source Group, Inc.
25 Newbridge Road, Suite 312
Hicksville, NY 11801
Please see attached rate sheet

Home Care Therapies d.b.a. Horizon Healthcare Staffing
20 Jerusalem Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801
Please see attached rate sheet

PearlCare Search Group, LLC
1428 W Belmont Avenue, Suite 1
Chicago, IL 60657
Please see attached rate sheet

Occupational Therapy:
All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology PLLC
255 Executive Drive, Suite 101
Plainview, NY 11803
Please see attached rate sheet

HTA of New York Inc.
1053 Saw Mill River Road, Suite 101
Ardsley, NY 10502
Please see attached rate sheet

Kidz Educational Services, SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Audiology, Psychology, PLLC
1400 Old Country Road Suite C103N
Westbury, NY 11590
Please see attached rate sheet

Occupational Therapy (continued):
Rye Therapies of OT, PT & SLP PLLC
150 Purchase Street, Suite 9
Rye, NY 10580
Please see attached rate sheet

Somos Bilingues
50 Hamilton Street, Suite 9
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
Please see attached rate sheet

Physical Therapy:
Achieve Beyond
1311 Mamaroneck Ave #150
White Plains, NY 10605
Please see attached rate sheet

All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology PLLC
255 Executive Drive, Suite 101
Plainview, NY 11803
Please see attached rate sheet

HTA of New York Inc.
1053 Saw Mill River Road, Suite 101
Ardsley, NY 10502
Please see attached rate sheet

Kidz Educational Services, SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Audiology, Psychology, PLLC
1400 Old Country Road Suite C103N
Westbury, NY 11590
Please see attached rate sheet

Speech/Language Services:
HTA of New York Inc.
1053 Saw Mill River Road, Suite 101
Ardsley, NY 10502
Please see attached rate sheet

Kidz Educational Services, SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Audiology, Psychology, PLLC
1400 Old Country Road Suite C103N
Westbury, NY 11590
Please see attached rate sheet

Rye Therapies of OT, PT & SLP PLLC
150 Purchase Street, Suite 9
Rye, NY 10580
Please see attached rate sheet

Somos Bilingues
50 Hamilton Street, Suite 9
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
Please see attached rate sheet

Speech/Language Services (continued):
The RG Health Corp d.b.a. Northern Westchester Center for Speech Disorders
344 Main Street, Suite 402
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
Please see attached rate sheet

Translation Services:
Achieve Beyond
1311 Mamaroneck Avenue #150
White Plains, NY 10605
Please see attached rate sheet

Contreras Translation & Interpretation Services, Inc.
100 New Roc City Plaza, #114
New Rochelle, NY 10801
Please see attached rate sheet

Tutoring/Home Instruction Services:
A+ Tutoring
455 Tarrytown Road
White Plains, NY 10607
Please see attached rate sheet

The Learning Shop, Inc.
219 Harrison Ave, Suite 11
Harrison, NY 10528
Please see attached rate sheet

9. Approval of Tax Certiorari Settlements

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District, hereby authorizes the District to execute settlement in accordance with the consent judgment pursuant to §726 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York in the following tax certiorari proceedings:

Petitioner	Municipality	Parcel ID#	Consent Judgment Amount
LUDVIPOL LLC	TOWN OF RYE	154.76-1-9	\$64,056.58

OAK POINT PROPERTIES INC.	TOWN OF RYE	154.42-1-34	\$49,223.56
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and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to the settlement, the Board of Education authorizes the appropriation of the tax certiorari reserve to increase the 2023-24 budget in the amount of \$113,280.14 in order to refund taxes.

10. Approval of Change to List of Impartial Hearing Officers

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the addition of the following people to the Rotational Section List of Impartial Hearing Officers from the State Education Department which was adopted by the Board of Education at the July 10, 2023 Annual Reorganization Meeting.

**DUSTIN JOHNSON
ANN MARQUEZ
ANNA VIRA**

and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the deletion of the following people from the Rotational Section List of Impartial Hearing Officers from the State Education Department which was adopted by the Board of Education at the July 10, 2023 Annual Reorganization Meeting.

**MERCEDES CESARATTO
DUSTIN JOHNSON**

11. Approval of Disposal of Furniture and Equipment

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the disposal of furniture and equipment no longer in use or good working condition, as per **Schedule A**.

12. Approval of Additional Extraclassroom Activity

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approve the following additional Extraclassroom Activity for the 2023-2024 school year:

Track and Field Team

13. Approval of Athletic Mergers

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the following athletic mergers for the 2024-25 school year:

Varsity Boys Ice Hockey with Harrison, Blind Brook & Port Chester school districts
Modified Boys Ice Hockey with Harrison, Blind Brook & Port Chester school districts
Varsity Girls Ice Hockey with various Southern Westchester high schools
Varsity Boys Wrestling with Rye City school district
Modified Boys Wrestling with Rye City school district
Varsity Boys Swimming with Blind Brook and Rye City school districts
Varsity Girls Swimming with Blind Brook and Rye City School districts

14. Approval of CSE Recommendations

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District agree to arrange for special education placement as recommended by the Committee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-School Education and Committee Recognition of Disabilities under American Disabilities Act (504), as per the **attached** memorandum.

15. Approval of Homebound Instruction

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District agree to arrange for homebound instruction as recommended by the Committee on Special Education, as per the **attached** memorandum.

16. Approval of Budget Transfers

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District allow Carolyn Mahar to complete the following budget transfers for the period March 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024.

17. Approval of Financial Reports

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report, Appropriation Status Report, Bank Reconciliation Report, Claims Auditor Report, Extra-Classroom Activity Fund and Revenue Status Report.

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 4 communications since the last meeting, 2 regarding the Athletic Hall of Fame, 1 regarding the Strategic Plan, and 1 regarding a personnel matter.

IX. Citizens' Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments made by the public.

X. Reports - Community School Groups

Student Senate - Lily Mansell

Student Senate Secretary Lily Mansell reported that the Senate had their last meeting of the school year this week. Last week, they sponsored an Ice Cream Social, and celebrated Junior/Senior Day. They met with Mr. Doerr regarding the school's safety policies, and the High School Spring Concert is taking place tomorrow night. Upcoming events are AP exams and the Prom.

PTSA - Ruth Homberg

PTSA President Ruth Homberg reported that the Panther Party will be held on April 27th and will kick off with a Fund Run on the Middle/High School track. There will be four food trucks, an inflatable ninja course, soccer activities, sewing activities, an international bake sale, a children's book sale, an origami party, an art party, a game party, lawn games, crafts, student performances, a DJ, and a variety of raffles. In addition, the Mamaroneck Police Department will be hosting a bike rodeo, the Fire Department will have a truck for children to explore, and Rye Neck apparel will be on sale.

Next, Mrs. Homberg advised that Daniel Warren and F.E. Bellows are in the middle of Walk/Bike/Scoot to School Week. Someone from the Westchester Department of Transportation came to speak with the students last week about bike/pedestrian safety awareness. Students are invited to bring pieces of nature they find on their way to school this week to create living murals; the committee heads organized a bike helmet decorating activity; and students were encouraged to write appreciation notes to the crossing guards.

In addition, Kickball Night is scheduled for Thursday evening at F.E. Bellows, and Daniel Warren's Family Fitness Night took place at the end of March. Spring after-school clubs started last Tuesday. New clubs offered this session include cooking, woodworking, scratch game design and French for Native Speakers.

Mrs. Homberg then reported that since the last meeting the PTSA organized and funded a few STEAM events. The Shakespeare Company of New Jersey put on performances for grades 7 and 9; Mobile Ed brought their Pop Up Planetarium to Daniel Warren; Steven Goldberg talked with the Middle/High School about "Symbols of Hate"; the NED show presented at F.E. Bellows regarding character education; Rye Neck teacher Kathie Offner spoke to 10th graders about her family's experience during the Holocaust; and on April 30th, author Veera Hiranandani will have a virtual presentation with F.E. Bellows students.

Lastly, Mrs. Homberg stated that they had the final SEAC speaker of the year on April 9th; there was a Heard in Rye talk about the Emotional Lives of Teenagers last night; and the final General Membership meeting of the year will be held on May 9th.

Booster Club - Jocelyn Donat

Booster Club President Jocelyn Donat reported that the Booster Club launched the scholarship applications for senior athletes and thespians, and sold concessions and spirit wear at the Pantherpalooza track meet. In addition, they will be providing signs for senior athletes; supporting coaches in purchasing small gifts for senior athletes; selling spirit wear in conjunction with the PTSA at the Panther Party; hosting the Spring Barbeque for athletes on May 4th; contributing to the Middle School Dance; and providing blankets for senior athletes at the Sports Awards Ceremony.

RNTA - Mark Lauten

RNTA Representative Mark Lauten reported with the start of the fourth quarter there are many big milestones for teachers and students. In the elementary schools, all students attended the NED Mindset Mission Assembly; the 4th graders have a trip coming up to the NY Hall of Science and the 5th grade have a trip to the Bronx Zoo; the PTSA is sponsoring a kickball game at F.E. Bellows; and author Veera Hiranandani will speak to students about her work. In the Middle School, the STEM Club began work on building robotics. In the High School, the Research Symposium was held in the Collaborative Science Center; the third quarter was finished off with a Senate ice cream social; and Junior/Senior day took place on Friday.

In addition, 5th grade students have started visiting the Middle School in preparation for next year's transition and parents attended the Incoming 6th Grade Orientation; seniors have started their internships; and preparation has begun for the 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, High School Graduation, and Prom.

Finally, Mr. Lauten stated that the April 8th solar eclipse brought the district together in a positive way and prompted all sorts of lessons and watch parties across the district.

RNSF - Jen Soussa

RNSF President Jen Soussa explained that the RNSF is a 501c3 corporation, created for the sole purpose of funding innovative and state of the art projects and programs that are not covered by the school district's operating budget. She is a board of director, along with Jaime Santa, Nikki Barker and Debra Cunningham. Erica Wagner serves as the BOE liaison. She stated that each year, the RNSF will accept grant applications from administrators, teachers and HS students to fund projects and initiatives that enhance the educational, artistic and athletic experiences of Rye Neck students. There will be two types of grant applications – Insta-grants, which are intended to fund smaller scale items capped at \$2,500, such as books, supplemental teacher materials, flexible furniture or new equipment for a classroom. Funds for these types of applications will be awarded on a quarterly basis and used within the current school year. They will also accept traditional grant applications for larger scale items valued at over \$2,500. These applications will be accepted and awarded once per year and are intended to be implemented within the following school year. Traditional grants can fund a wide range of initiatives, including pilot programs, playground enhancements, sports field and fitness renovations, technology improvements, etc.

Next, Mrs. Soussa reported that in order to pay for these opportunities, the RNSF will be holding several fundraisers throughout the year. As part of the launch, they are currently running two fundraising campaigns – the Golden Ticket Raffle and our Panther Paver Brick Project. The Golden Ticket Raffle is open until May 6th or until tickets sell out and entrants have the chance to win a 7-night accommodation to one of four destinations of the winner’s choice - Orlando, FL, Lake Tahoe, NV, Steamboat Springs, CO or Blue Ridge Mountains, NC. Raffle tickets are \$100 and only 100 tickets in total are being sold. The winner will be announced at the RNSF’s “Get to Know Us” event, which is a free event open to the community on May 6th at 25 North Restaurant from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All community members are encouraged to stop by for complimentary hors d’oeuvres and drinks and to learn more about the foundation.

The second fundraising campaign is the Panther Paver Brick Project, which is open until June 1. They are selling inscribed brick pavers, the first 300 of which will line the gardens at the main entrance of the High School. They plan to work with the administration on an annual basis to expand the brick project to other locations throughout the HS campus and at the other schools.

XI. Reports - Board of Education
Office Hours

Trustee Golle and Trustee Carmel will represent the Board at the next Office Hours, May 8th, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Please call the District Clerk by Friday, May 3rd to make an appointment and state your topic of interest.

West/Put Report

Trustee Wagner reported that the WPSBA met on April 15th, with the conversation surrounding the subject of civics education. The general feeling was that when everyone became hyper focused on STEAM there was a shift away from civics education, and there is a renewed effort to bring civics back to the forefront. Participating schools shared which civic education extracurriculars they offer, as well as other civic activities that take place in the schools.

Audit Committee

Trustee Carmel reported that the committee met on January 25th and will be meeting again on May 14th with the external auditors for the annual kick-off meeting for the 2024 audit. In addition, they will be meeting with the internal auditor to discuss the risk assessment report and the special review project for 2024-2025.

Policy Committee

Trustee Nashelsky reported that the Board will be adopting three new policies and will be having a first read of four new policies during New Business. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 9th.

XII. New Business
Adoption of 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby adopts the proposed budget or estimate of expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$51,127,223.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Approval of 2024 Property Tax Report Card

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District approve the annual New York State Property Tax Report Card, attached, which has been prepared pursuant to the regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 2410-E - Policy Committee Charter

WHEREAS, Policy 2410-E was presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the March 13, 2024 Board of Education Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 2410-E has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of Policy 2410-E

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 9260 - Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional Appointment - Student Safety

WHEREAS, revisions to Policy 9260 were presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the March 13, 2024 Board of Education Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 9260 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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 hereby approves the adoption of revised Policy 9260.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

Adoption of Policy 9520.6 - Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

WHEREAS, Policy 9520.6 was presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at a public meeting for discussion and a first reading at the March 13, 2024 Board of Education Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Policy 9520.6 has been presented to the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District at this current public meeting for discussion and a second reading.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of Policy 9520.6.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

First Reading - Policy 6710 - Purchasing Authority

Trustee Nashelsky stated that this is a new legally required policy.

First Reading - Policy 4327 - Homebound Instruction

Trustee Nashelsky explained that this is a new policy which addresses homebound instruction for students who are unable to attend school due to an illness or injury. It also reflects changes to the law, which include an increase in hours of instruction for homebound students and suspended students.

First Reading - Policy 8520 - Free and Reduced Price Food Services

Trustee Nashelsky stated that amendments were made to address recent changes in the Law, including notification procedures.

First Reading - Policy 2710 - Board Member Communications

Trustee Nashelsky stated that amendments were made for clarity and to include recommendations from NYSSBA.

XIII. Public Comments Concerning Above

There were no comments made by the public

XIV. Adjournment of Meeting

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

RESOLVED, there being no further business before the Board that the Board of Education Meeting of April 17, 2024 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present
NAYES: None

President Mansell adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk