

**Superintendent's Report
Rye School Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
5:30 PM**



Expected Votes at this Meeting

In addition to the minutes, manifests and any transfers, you will be asked to vote the bottom line number for the FY 25 Budget. You will be asked to consider a vote to increase the daily sub rate for paras. Additional votes are expected on the RES Solar Agreement and the RESPA CBA. Policies BEDG, IIB, and JFAB are up for second reading and policy ACN for first reading.

SAU Sensation

We have published the November edition of our SAU 50 newsletter for the 2023-2024 school year. You can find it [here](#).

Portrait of a Learner Update

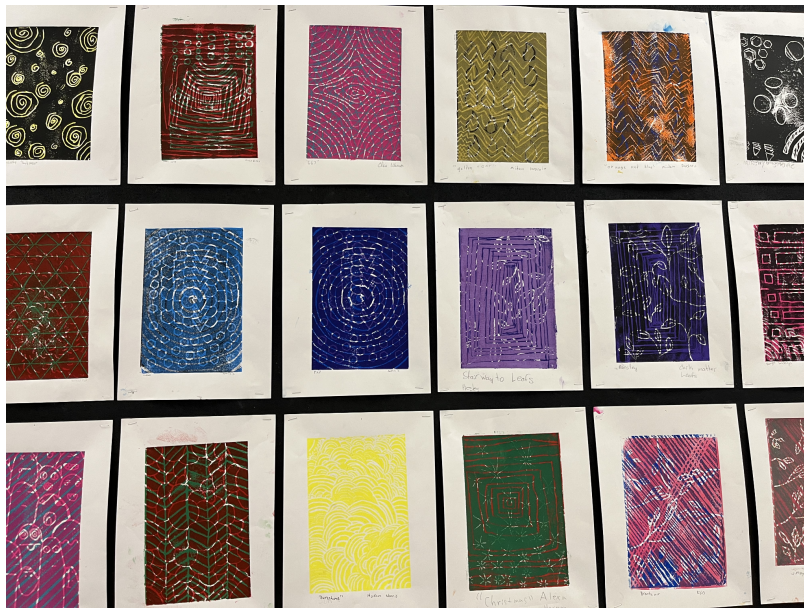
After the last Joint Board meeting we took additional feedback to create this [updated version](#). More information will be shared via email with the full Joint Board soon. The Teaching and Learning Team had to reschedule their last meeting and will take this up for discussion on December 7th.

2024 Presidential Primary Date

As of this report there has been no date set for the presidential primary. No action is therefore needed at the meeting. It is on the agenda as a reminder we will need to communicate the change in the school calendar is coming. Internally we are evaluating if the student day should be made up in June or if the staff should use this as a PD day.

Para Sub Rate

We continue to struggle to fill para absences with anecdotal information that the primary reason is substitutes are choosing to take teaching positions, which are paid at a higher rate. As discussed at a previous meeting, Greenland has equalized those rates (brought para up to teacher) to address the same issue. At that time we were hesitant to add anything to the budget that could impact our end of year position, knowing we already had a teaching position filled that wasn't budgeted. We are at a place now in the budget where we feel confident that the Board could consider this request without great concern for the current budget. Vacant para positions pose a significant logistical challenge as people are moved around regularly depending on where the greatest need is. I would recommend adjusting the para sub rate accordingly for the balance of this current year.



FY 25 Budget

Sue has made the adjustments discussed at your budget workshop session and the budget currently sits at an overall budget increase of 3.83%. We would recommend passage of this budget draft.

RES Solar Agreement

We are recommending the Board move forward with a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the installation of the solar array at RES. This is similar to the arrangement we made for solar at RJH and will help in reducing overall energy costs. The copy of the agreement is in your drive for this meeting and we have vetted it against the agreement made for RJH and also had it reviewed by an attorney. We recommend a vote to move forward with the execution of this PPA.

RESPA CBA

We have reached a tentative agreement with RESPA for a three year successor CBA, which incorporates a wage scale more competitive with regional districts. The cost implications and details are in your drive. There was a significant amount of “clean up” in these negotiations to better match the CBA with current practice and bring greater consistency across various groups. The union membership has ratified the contract and we would recommend the Board does the same to send it to a warrant.

Bus Discussion

I met last week with David Fairweather, the Area General Manager from First Student, and our new Location Manager, Chandra Welch. We discussed recent and persistent bus issues involving routes and timing. We also discussed timely communication in any event there are changes necessary due to driver shortages. We have a communication plan going forward and they have been responsive in addressing any issues with the routes.



Curriculum Update

On November 2nd, we had a very productive meeting in Portsmouth with teachers from Greenland Central School, Rye Junior High School and Portsmouth Middle School. We spent the first half of the day discussing the Social Studies curriculum across the three schools and teachers shared some exciting resources. As a reminder, this is an area of focus for this year on the Teaching and Learning Team as each school presently approaches Social Studies differently. For the second half of the day, we discussed the Math curriculum with a focus on how each school provides pathways of challenge for students who are ready and interested in it. We will continue this work with the goal of establishing a pathway in each school for some students to finish Algebra 1 by the end of 8th Grade.

Rye School Board 2023-2024 Meeting Dates

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, Review Budget with the Budget Committee, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Public Hearing, 6:30 PM, Rye Junior High School

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Rye School District Deliberative Session, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, Voting Day

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting Dates

March 27, 2024, 6:30 PM at Greenland Central School

May 22, 2024, 6:30 PM at New Castle (MHT)