

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840

*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the December 18, 2024, meeting.*

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The Monthly School Board Meeting of the Rye School Board was held in person on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rye Junior High School.

**PRESENT**

School Board Members:     Matt Curtin (Chairperson)  
  Katherine Errecart  
  Susan Ross  
  Michelle Wheeler  
  Laura Belden

SAU 50 Central Office Staff: Stephen Zadavec, Superintendent of Schools  
  Susan Penny, Business Administrator  
  Stacey Kirby, Director of Special Education  
  Rebecca Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

School Administrators:     Anne Gilbert, Principal, Rye Junior High School  
  Michelle Pitts, Principal, Rye Elementary School (Absent)

Visitors:                         Students from RJH, Tom Pfau, Leona Meyer, Arlen Murphy

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Curtin called the meeting to order at 5:34pm. and indicated that today's meeting would begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

*In accordance with RSA: 198:20-c, the Rye School Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 beginning at 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School, 501 Washington Street, Rye NH 03870. The purpose of the hearing is to take public comment on the possible withdrawal of funds from the Wedgewood Farms Expendable Trust Fund.*

Mr. Curtin asked if anyone in the audience would like to make a public comment. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Curtin opened the floor for public comment:  
Tom Pfau, Co-Chair of the Rye Energy Committee addressed the Board regarding the backup battery program that is available through Eversource. Mr. Curtin indicated that for transparency

purposes, the Board does not have all of the information on this program and would be voting on the budget this evening. He noted he would love to have input from the Select Board, if this program has been characterized as being of vital importance to the Town. This item will come back to the agenda at a later date.

### **STUDENT PRESENTATION: ALGEBRA IN 8TH**

Ms. Sarah Harrington, 8th grade math teacher, introduced a group of students from Rye Junior High School. The students made a presentation to the Board on their work with Khan Academy and in their Algebra I class. The students highlighted their work on equations, videos, practice problems, quizzes, and unit tests. It was noted that mastery of these skills is a prerequisite for Algebra 1. Progress emails were sent to families throughout the summer and two summer math help days were offered in July and August. Several students attended either one or both sessions.

The Board and the students engaged in a brief question and answer session after their presentation.

### **PRELIMINARY ACTIONS/ SECRETARY'S REPORT**

#### **o Approval of Manifests**

*On motion by Ms. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to adopt the manifest dated October 31, 2024, in the amount of \$636,923.05. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

*On motion by Ms. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to adopt the manifest dated November 14, 2024, in the amount of \$524,808.54. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

#### **o Budget Transfers**

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Belden, the Board voted to adopt the budget transfer dated November 20, 2024, in the amount of \$13,500.00. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Belden, the Board voted to adopt the budget transfer dated November 20, 2024, in the amount of \$7,263.00. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

#### **o Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2024 and October 29, 2024**

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, the Board voted to approve the public minutes of October 23, 2024 and October 29, 2024. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

### **Communications**

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, the Board voted to approve the donation of \$250.00 to the PHS Project Graduation. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

### **CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATES**

#### **Superintendent**

Mr. Zadravec highlighted that SAU 50 continues to collaborate with SAU 52 in Portsmouth to build strong connections and smooth transitions. He noted that along with Mr. Hobbs, he met with PHS administration last week with a focus on math curriculum and student placement. Mr. Hobbs continues to bring teachers together to focus on curriculum alignment, with a particular focus on Math and continuing the Social Studies work from last year.

Mr. Zadavec noted that the administrative team recently analyzed student success data from PHS. He noted students seemed to outperform their peers when it can to grades in Social Studies in all grade levels at PHS.

Mr. Zadavec highlighted there were a number of quality entries in the student competition to create a visual representation for the Portrait of a Learner. He indicated The PGC sent out a survey to gauge interest in PD offerings and potential in-house mini courses. There has been a very positive response and we will be rolling out a menu of offerings with the new Frontline professional growth module.

### **Director of Special Education**

Ms. Kirby indicated that her report is in the Drive. She highlighted that the Parent Partnership Group is slowly building recognition and there is a core group of parents that has committed to making the group work. The group is looking to invite more people to the monthly meetings, having monthly speakers and holding community engagement events. Ms. Kirby highlighted that this winter in January, the group will be offering a Dyslexia/Specific Learning Disability workshop.

Ms. Kirby provided the Board with an update on In person LEA position at PHS noting that bi-weekly meetings are being held with both coordinators to ensure communication and collaboration. Ms. Kirby highlighted that this coming April, the group will host a Resource Fair, which will highlight a number of different resources for families with children who have disabilities.

### **Principal Reports**

On behalf of both herself and Ms. Pitts, Ms. Gilbert highlighted the Quarter 1 RYE recognition awards that celebrate students who consistently show respect, a positive 'yes' attitude, and empathy. While we see evidence of these attributes from all our students, it gives our community a chance. Ms. Gilbert shared that conferences were held for all families on Tuesday, November 5. She indicated that the eighth grade team held student-led conferences, which were a 30 minute block of time for students to sit with their family members and discuss their achievements in each of their classes.

Ms. Gilbert highlighted the work that the RJH EXPLORE team has put together. This team has created a method for students to use the Portrait of a Learner traits to create a digital portfolio that will follow them throughout their time at RJH. The "Portrait of an Explorer" is set up for students to use one of the overall themes of the Portrait to capture their learning, and reflect on it using the Portrait as a guideline.

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to approve the withdrawal of up to \$2,000.00 in funds from the Wedgewood Expendable Trust Fund. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. FY26 Workshop and Vote**

Ms. Penny and Mr. Zadavec updated the Board on the changes to the FY26 Proposed Operating Budget. The overall budget increase is 3.8% and the adjusted gross total would be

\$18,622,015.00. The Board briefly discussed the Budget Meeting Timeline and agreed to adjust the time of their deliberative session from 5:30pm.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss at this evening's meeting.

## **PERSONNEL**

### A. CBA Consideration and Approval

Ms. Penny and Mr. Zadavec updated the Board on the CBA negotiations.

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to approve the proposed Rye Collective Bargaining Agreement as recommended by the Superintendent and Business Administrator.. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. AREA/Secondary School Advisory
- B. Budget Committee
- C. Community Engagements
- D. Capital Improvements Plan
- E. PTA
- F. Rye Education Foundation

There were no committee reports to share this evening.

## **POLICY**

### **Second Reading/Adoption**

- **DAF:** Administration of Federal Grant Funds
- **EBCH:** Chemical Safety and Chemical Hygiene Plan
- **IGE:** Parental Objections to Specific Course Material
- **IHAM:** Health Education and Exemption From Instruction

### **First Reading**

- **GBGBA/JLCEA/KFD:** Use of Automated External Defibrillators
- **JLF:** Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect
- **JLP:** Parental Notification of and Involvement in Student Welfare

*On motion by Ms. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to approve policies, **DAF, EBCH, IGE and IHAM** for Second Reading/Adoption as recommended by the Policy Committee. IGE will include the adjustments as recommended. Vote: 5-0*

*On motion by Ms. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to approve policies, **GBGBA/JLCEA/KFD, JLF and JLP** for First Reading as recommended by the Policy Committee. The Board discussed policy JLP and indicated it would be helpful to have the advice of the NHSBA on this policy. Vote: 5-0*

## **OTHER**

There was no other to discuss at this evening's meeting.

## FUTURE PLANNING DATES

- Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 5:00 PM at Portsmouth High School (**AREA**)
- Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School
- Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School
- Wednesday, February 19 2025, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School
- Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 5:00 PM at Portsmouth High School (**AREA**)
- Wednesday, March 19 2025, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School
- Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Greenland Central School (**Joint Board**)
- Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School
- Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 5:00 PM at Portsmouth High School (**AREA**)
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Maude H. Trefethen School (**Joint Board**)
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School

## NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3

### ADJOURNMENT

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:38pm. Discussion.*

*Vote: 5-0*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rebecca Dwyer*

*Executive Assistant to the Superintendent*

*November 20, 2024*

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School Board Secretary

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Date