

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840  
Phone (603) 422-9572 Fax (603) 422-9575

*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the April 23, 2025, meeting.*

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

**\*\*\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*\*\***

The Monthly School Board Meeting of the Rye School Board was held in person on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rye Junior High School, Rye, New Hampshire

**PRESENT**

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

SAU 50 Central Office Staff: Stephen Zdravec, Superintendent of Schools  
David Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Susan Penny, Business Administrator  
Rebecca Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

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

Visitors: Joe Cummins

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Zdravec called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and indicated that the meeting would begin with the reorganization of the Rye School Board.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD**

Nomination of School Board Chair

*On a motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to nominate Mr. Curtin as Chairperson of the Rye School Board. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

Nomination of School Board Vice Chair

*On a motion by Ms. Belden, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to nominate Ms. Errecart as Vice Chairperson of the Rye School Board. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

## Nomination of School Board Secretary

*On a motion by Ms. Belden, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, the Board voted to nominate Ms. Ross as Secretary of the Rye School Board. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

## RECOGNITION OF VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Curtin opened the floor for public comment and recognized Mr. Joe Cummins, who shared his concerns with the board over the state test results from 2023. Ms. Errecart responded to Mr. Cummins' concerns and shared that at the April Rye School Board meeting, Assistant Superintendent Dave Hobbs would be attending to discuss the updates to the SAU 50 Data Dashboard.

## FINANCIALS

Ms. Penny indicated that her report is in the drive and indicated she is in the process of making the first attempt at projecting the fund balance. She recommended the Board should begin thinking about how much money to retain, noting that the Board can retain up to 5% of the net appropriations which is currently at \$845,408.00.

### o Approval of Manifests

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to adopt the manifest dated February 21, 2025, in the amount of \$1,011,262.22. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to adopt the manifest dated March 7, 2025, in the amount of \$2,358,384.17. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

### o Budget Transfer

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to approve the budget transfer dated March 19, 2025, in the amount of \$36,860.00. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to approve the budget transfer dated March 19, 2025, in the amount of \$13,750.00. Discussion. Vote: 4-0-1*

## CENTRAL OFFICE REPORTS

### Superintendent

Mr. Zadavec began his report by highlighting that as indicated in policy [AC](#), the Board is required to approve and review bi-annually the [SAU 50 Anti-Discrimination Plan](#). He shared that this plan has been drafted and reviewed by the administrative team and is based largely on work Mr. Hobbs did in SAU 21. This plan is a required document and outlines processes to prevent and respond to any concern for discrimination. The plan is not intended to encompass all aspects of student programming such as assemblies, presentations and curriculum related to anti-discrimination.

Mr. Zadavec shared that he is pleased to bring forward the nomination of professional staff for you at this meeting. He shared that our SAU has an incredibly talented staff who continue to grow in their practice. At the Joint Board meeting, Mr. Hobbs will be providing the Joint Board with an update on the integration of our Professional Development and Evaluation systems into Frontline.

Mr. Zdravec highlighted that the Portsmouth School Board is coming up to a vote on their proposed FY 26 operating budget. After they approve it, it will go to the City Manager to be presented in her city budget to the City Council. The Council has until the end of June to ultimately approve the budget. You can see the discussion in the video of the recent [meeting](#) on 3/11. At this meeting Dr. McLaughlin presented multiple [budget scenarios](#). Principal Chinosi was able to speak to any impact on PHS. The Board is scheduled for a final vote on 3/25.

Mr. Zdravec shared that the Professional Growth Committee has planned a robust half day of PD for staff on March 11th. Staff in all buildings and central office have stepped up to offer sessions on a wide array of topics including literacy, math, music, wellness, technology, and innovative classroom practices.

### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

The report was in the drive. The report highlighted some recent events that took place earlier this month:

- March 7th: SAU 50 counselors are meeting with Drummond Woodsum to dive into the legal nuances of student 504 plans. Some key topics on the agenda include ensuring access to curriculum, assembling effective 504 teams, understanding policies, and developing common approaches to plan writing. This SAU-wide session will also include school nurses, given their role in health plans.
- March 11th: In addition to the PD sessions, we've set aside dedicated time for our counseling and nursing teams to collaborate SAU-wide. Counselors will be diving into a common curriculum for suicide prevention in partnership with Connor's Climb, while nurses will focus on reviewing forms, procedures, and policies to ensure consistency in practice across the SAU.
- March 12th: Social studies teachers from SAU 50 will be meeting with colleagues from Portsmouth Middle School and Portsmouth High School to align our instructional practices. A key focus of this collaboration is reviewing major units, themes, and topics of study at each school to ensure continuity in instruction and smooth transitions for students as they progress through grade levels.

The report updated the Board on the recent STAR Assessments are a series of computer-adaptive tests used to monitor student progress in key academic areas, such as reading and mathematics. The 2024-2025 SAU 50 Data Dashboard has been updated in its entirety here. [child's strengths and areas for growth](#), offering a clear picture of their current skill levels and helping teachers tailor instruction to meet individual learning needs.

### **Principal Reports**

The Principals Report was in the Board Drive. There were no questions from the board members.

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

- Approval of Public and Nonpublic Minutes: February 19, 2025

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Belden, the Board voted to approve the public minutes of February 19, 2025. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

## **Communications**

There were no communications to share with the Board this evening.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Preschool/Pre-K Program**

The Board had in depth discussion regarding the tuition rate for Preschool/Pre-K program and the resident and staff rate for the Preschool/Pre-K program.

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, the Board voted to set the tuition rate for non resident, residents and staff at \$8,500.00. Ms. Errecart moved to amend the vote to set the tuition rate at \$8,250 for residents and staff and \$9,000.00 for non-residents. Vote: 5-0.*

### **B. Portsmouth High School AP follow up**

The Board had a brief discussion to address the citizens' petition that recently passed requesting an investigation into the offerings surrounding AP/Dual Enrollment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Nomination of Professional Staff**

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to approve the list of Professional Nominations for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

### **B. Facilities/Real Estate analysis**

Mr. Curtin proposed the creation of a subcommittee to investigate the use of the facilities in Rye.

### **C. Top 3 Priorities Discussion**

This item was postponed until the April School Board meeting.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **A. Staff Tuition Request**

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to accept the staff tuition request as required under the CBA. Discussion. Vote: 5-0.*

### **B. Staff Resignation**

*On motion by Ms. Ross, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to accept with regret the staff resignations and wish them the best of luck. 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**

Mr. Curtin will take over as the school board representative to the Budget Committee. The board agreed to revisit this at the April Meeting.

## **POLICY**

### **Second Review: SAU 50 Anti-Discrimination Plan**

*On motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Ross, the Board voted to adopt the SAU 50 Anti-Discrimination Plan as recommended by the Policy Committee. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

## **OTHER**

### **FUTURE PLANNING DATES**

- 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 4:00 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 6:50pm. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Rebecca Dwyer*  
*Executive Assistant to the Superintendent*  
*March 19, 2025*

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School Board Secretary

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Date