

**Superintendent's Report
Rye School Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
5:30 PM**



Agenda Overview

At this meeting there you will hear from Brian Helfrich and Chriss Russo on Facilities and Technology. In addition to the usual approvals of manifests, minutes, transfers and policies, you will be asked to approve the FY 27 General Assurances and three staff tuition requests.

Welcome Ellen!

Ellen and I have been having conversations about the transition of leadership. She visited the SAU office this week and Dave and I have been keeping her up to speed with our two principal openings. She will be more and more involved in any decisions that affect next year and beyond. I will also be introducing her to the administration in Portsmouth, including the central office, the high school, and the middle school.

Summer Retreat Planning

Ellen has confirmed her availability for your summer retreat on Wednesday, August 5th. She has a conflict in the morning and asked if a 10 AM start time would be possible.



Portsmouth Budget and Open Enrollment

The Portsmouth School Board has been talking with their City Council about the SchoolCare assessment bill. They have recently approved substantial reductions within the current FY 26 budget as well as adjustments to the FY 27 budget. They don't anticipate any large impact on current programming, but the Board asked administration to report back on the effect of the reductions.

Also, the Board recently approved a very limited open enrollment policy, which will only apply to the high school and not interfere with the AREA agreement. See this story on [Portsmouth open enrollment](#). As referenced, the legislature is still considering a broader bill, which in its current form would limit financial impact on districts. See story on [SB 101](#).

Policy

You have one policy coming to you for additional input:

JBAB: Transgender and Gender Nonconforming

Changes to this policy are driven by recent legislation defining what information parents are entitled to if they inquire on their child's gender identity. The policy committee has had extensive conversations on how to further improve this policy to support all students. They would ask that you hold off adopting it until May and use this meeting for any additional feedback you would like the committee to consider.

FUTURE PLANNING DATES

- Wednesday, May 20, 2026 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School
- Wednesday, May 27, 2026 6:00 PM at Maude H. Trefethen (SAU 50 Jt. Board)
- Wednesday, June 17, 2026 5:30 PM at Rye Junior High School