



## **Rye City School District**

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Frank R. Alvarez, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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November 19, 2015

Dear RCSD Parents and Guardians:

During the current school year, the Rye City School District has hosted three TV and film location shoots, a relatively new practice for us. I have heard from a few parents expressing some concerns about the most recent film shoot at the Middle School/High School campus.

I want to assure you that educating our students in a safe and productive learning environment is our highest priority. To that end, the District carefully evaluates filming requests. Approved productions are required to adhere to a set of protocols regarding proper behavior while on campus, as well as all District policies. During the course of a location shoot, signs line the perimeter of the location, physical barriers are erected, and security staff work to keep the production separate and apart from students, faculty and staff.

I understand that District efforts to maintain these protocols may not have been as successful as we would have wished during the most recent production. I appreciate that parents have reached out directly to the Administration and the Board. We strive to be reflective as a school district and to learn from this most recent experience. Parent feedback is an important part of this process. Please join us at the next public meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, November 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Multipurpose Room if you'd like to discuss procedures for production shoots.

The November 24th meeting is our Fall Open Topics Forum, during which community members sit with various Board members to discuss topics of interest in a less-formal setting. If you cannot attend, feel free to communicate with me or the Board via email at [rcsdboard@ryeschools.org](mailto:rcsdboard@ryeschools.org) or via a communication to the Board form, located on the District website and available by clicking [here](#).

In a time of budgetary constraints imposed by the tax cap and unfunded state mandates, production fees are a welcome source of non-tax revenue for school districts. Our proximity to New York City and the beauty of the campus make Rye a desirable filming location. Several other Westchester school districts also host production crews. Filming fees supplement tax dollars and benefit our schools and students. Our District has received approximately \$100,000 in filming revenue this year, all of which goes directly to the District's regular operating budget.

I look forward to seeing you on November 24th to continue the conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Alvarez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "F" and "A".

Frank Alvarez  
Superintendent