



Rye City School District

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Superintendent of Schools

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September 18, 2014

Dear Rye City School District Parents and Members of the Rye Community:

We are about to launch a very exciting new initiative called the Rye Fund for Education. It is an educational foundation established to raise and distribute tax-free funds for the use by the Rye City School District.

As you may be aware, several New York communities have school foundations, including Scarsdale, Bronxville, Chappaqua, Harrison and Mamaroneck. We also had a very successful one in my former district of Montclair, NJ. To my mind, what we have in common with all of these districts is a serious, community-wide commitment to excellence in public education; so it's critical that Rye should also have a foundation in order to continue to be a leading school district.

The impetus for the foundation came about with the implementation of the 2% tax cap. While we can all agree that managing our community's finances is important, a tax cap can be very challenging for school districts. What it causes them to do is to spend their time playing fiscal "catch up" – focusing almost entirely on maintaining the status quo. In sum, it can hamper innovation and make it harder to do the things that great school districts do.

The foundation will enable donors to contribute to the school district, and to have those monies remain entirely separate from the school budget. The foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization, has its own Board of Directors, and will operate separately from the school District and the Board of Education. The Rye Fund for Education will be used to support three main areas, which we are calling "the three As":

1. Academics
2. Arts
3. Athletics

Donations to the Fund might be used as seed money to get an educational program off the ground. Project Lead the Way at the High School began in this way. Or they could be used for capital projects, for example, a new turf field at the high school. Other uses might include the purchase of classroom resources, such as technology or professional development for staff. The Rye City School Administration will help guide the foundation as to which

programs are most in need of funding. Donors will be able to designate that their donations be earmarked for a particular area or project, or may request they go to the greatest needs of the District.

We are very excited about the future prospects of the Rye Fund for Education. We are hoping the entire Rye community will rally behind this very important cause and that the foundation will be a means of forging greater unity and support for our public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Alvarez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Frank Alvarez
Superintendent