

Jacqueline Edwards
President

Richard Ross
Vice President



Jonathan Fiore
Steve King
Rick Surprenant
Traci Welch
Janet Wroblecki

**BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET WORKSHOP & MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY – 6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Ms. Jacqueline Edwards, Mr. Richard Ross, Mr. Jonathan Fiore, Mr. Steve King, Mr. Rick Surprenant, Mrs. Traci Welch and Mrs. Janet Wroblecki

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Kathy Houghton, Mr. Michael Spost, Dr. René Wilson, Mrs. Lisa Stamboly, Mr. William Lachut, Mrs. Paula Ann May and 38 visitors and guests

1. Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.1 Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Acceptance of Agenda

Mr. Fiore made the motion to accept the Agenda seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

1.3 Genesis Excellence in Education Honoree - Ms. Sandy Pearsall,

Ms. Edwards presented Ms. Pearsall who was recently honored as a teacher of distinguished excellence with a certificate Anthony Picente.

**1.4 2016-17 Budget Workshop Presentation – K. Houghton & L. Stamboly
a. Budget Worksheet**

Ms. Houghton presented the following slides and there was discussion between the Board Members on the slides shown.

**NEW YORK MILLS
 UNION FREE
 SCHOOL DISTRICT**

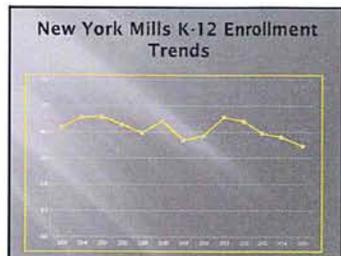
2016-17
 Public Budget Workshop #1
 Tuesday, March 1, 2016

**Budget Decisions Driven
 by District Goals**

Provide programs, resources, and facilities that will ensure all students are given equal opportunities to achieve higher district, state, and national standards.

Provide staff development to all employees that will enable them to elevate their skills, knowledge, and attitude in order to help our students achieve excellence.

Promote school pride and spirit through a partnership with the community.



**Items for Board
 Consideration:
 Currently Included in
 2016-17 Budget**

**Pre-Kindergarten
 Program**

\$250,000

.5 FTE Maintenance Position

\$18,460

**1.0 FTE School Social
 Worker
 (instead of current BOCES
 .8 FTE)**

\$22,702

**Phase in of New Elementary
 Reading Program
 \$45,000**

**Training to Support
 Implementation
 \$3,000**

**Elementary Rotating Bus
 Monitor (PM only)**

\$3,748

3/7/2016

Senior Seminar
(New Elective, BOCES .2 FTE)



\$16,078

Middle School
Keyboarding Class



\$16,195

Curriculum Specialist
(BOCES .2 FTE)



\$15,000

Administrative Restructuring



\$7,561
(Add \$2,248 to 2016-17 contract increase)

SRO currently in Budget
\$74,000



Special Patrol Officers
(Peace Officer Status)
\$50,000

Driver's Education



\$ 26,500
(NYSED Approval Required)

Additional Financial
Commitments for
2016-17



\$100,000

Capital Outlay Project

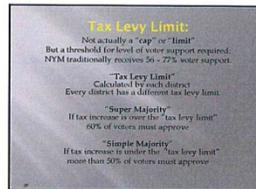
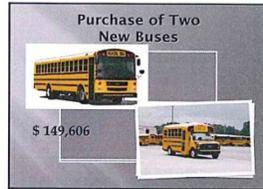


\$100,000

BAN (Bond Anticipation Note)
Interest for School Construction

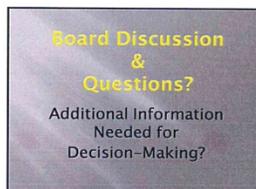


\$90,507



Budget & Tax Levy Limit:

2015-16 Budget	\$13,518,387
Proposed 2016-17 Budget	\$14,215,100
Budget to Budget Increase	5.15%
State Aid	777
Projected Tax Rate Increase	777
Allowable Tax Levy Limit	2.0021%



2. Communications

2.1 From the Floor –

Ms. Edwards reminded everyone present that all comments must be limited to 3 minutes.

Ms. Marley, NYMTA President gave an example: She is going to hire a contractor to build a house. Every day, she is going to take tools away from him, change the measurement unit, ask for a weekly plan of what he's doing and interrupt him every step of the way. She is going to have frequent meetings where he'll need to report what he's done and why he hasn't put up sheetrock before framing the walls. Then she is going to threaten to fire him if he can't quickly, "Build my house in 70 mph

winds!” Seriously! Why couldn’t he? If he cared about his job he would. (Quoted from Wendy Alberson).

There are feelings about education with changes coming down that may not be the best for our students. Last meeting there was frustration coming out. You are seeing a result and people are feeling their voices are lost. Teachers are not afraid of change; they are afraid of making moves of putting our most vulnerable students at risk. These tests are flawed and harmful.

Sheriff Maciol said he was asked to provide a proposal for Special Patrol Officers. The Sheriff’s Department hired 15 part time retired officers for Whitesboro Central School District security at the doors. They do that in addition to their SRO positions. By law, Special Patrol Officers can only perform about six things that the SRO does. They are not able to provide DARE. New York Mills is the only District in county that still has that. The Special Patrol Officer and the SRO are two totally different jobs; they serve different functions. One is not designed to replace the other.

Ms. Despina said apologies do not always mean that you are wrong. At the last meeting she recognized there was frustration at both ends. Everyone felt they were being blindsided. Many feelings carried out of this room on to social media. She made a public apology for anything she said or did that anyone did not agree with. She said it came directly from my heart to what she fully believes to be true. She will fight for her kids, the district and these individuals. We all came in here wanting to hear what was being presented. By putting us in the hall we felt we were not able to hear what you had to say rather than gathering our thoughts; and attacked you guys. It is frustrating that the decision for principals was already made.

2.2 President's Messages –

Ms. Edwards said that she and the Board had a conversation about the negativity and disrespect at the last Board Meeting and read the following statement:

It is no secret that at the last board of education meeting that there was a lot of negativity and disrespect directed at the school board as well as our superintendent. I believe in the constitutional right of free speech however I think that it should be done in a constructive manner. To have of meeting begin by Mr. Comenale referring to us as “this arrogant board” set the whole tone of negativity that remained pervasive throughout the meeting. We as a board feel it is important to hear what the community has to say. Therefore we extend the opportunity for the community to provide input during our meeting, not just once, but twice so they can be heard. The board is not required to do this but we extend this courtesy as we feel it is important for opinions to be heard. While we understand it was an emotional issue for some, we do not appreciate the disrespect and condemnation shown to this board. To add insult to injury many of the accusations and interpretations of those in the audience were laden with fallacy. Information was inaccurate at best.

*This meeting was to explain what we were doing, and I believe that the superintendent tried and was interrupted and then told by many that they didn’t get answers. The community **did get answers**, just not the ones that the small subset who came in to berate us wanted. Let me state for the record, this is a Personnel issue that does not warrant community or subordinate staff input. We do not check with the community every time we create or abolish positions and in this case it is no different. As with all personnel issues, the board examines with an unbiased*

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and unemotional lens and determines what is best for our district. The children are our top priority, but we also need to be considerate of the taxpayers. Unfortunately all of our decisions are not going to be popular with everyone. I point to the issue of the Veteran's exemption. We decided to grant it and the Veterans were pleased but those of you who were opposed to it were unhappy with the board. This is going to happen from time to time. As much as we would like to, we are never going to please everyone at once, and that is ok as long as we can provide a sound rationale for our actions.

That being said first of all let me again reiterate what we are doing is an enhancement to NY Mills UFSD. Currently our administration is not balanced in a way that is adequate for our district. What once worked, no longer does given the new APPR and curriculum demands. We have an 11 month administrator on the Elementary side of the building. It had its place when the board at the time made the decision to do so, but now this board recognizes a change needs to be made and we have made the provisions to do so.

We also have a 12 month HS principal. Now I ask is it fair that the HS side of the building get more administrative oversight than the Elementary side? Are those students and teachers in 7-12 worthy of more? So what the board is doing is providing two twelve month administrators to provide accessibility to all staff and students. We were accused of not caring about the children when clearly they were being prodded into action because of the dissatisfaction of the Administrators and a personal preference of the teachers. How dare any of you exploit children in the manner and then accuse the board of this. This was an issue that the children should not have been brought into as it was an oversight issue and not a day to day classroom issue. This realignment will provide more accessibility to parents, teachers and staff to administrators at any time.

We do not tiptoe around issues. If something needs to be said we will say it, we do not do things secretly. Unfortunately we were at an extreme disadvantage given that our board policy is not to engage but to listen and have the superintendent respond to appropriate concerns. We listened and we were threatened, coerced and degraded yet did not respond because that is our policy.

There has also been much misinformation about a school social worker needing to be fulltime. Not many of you realize that schools twice and three times our size do not have that nicety and it is a nicety not a necessity because if it were the state would mandate it. Another issue brought up was that we intend to get rid of the Resource officer. Every year we look at this \$74,000 expense when so many surrounding districts have gone in other directions to provide safety. We explore this option every year and have been in conversations with the Village of NYM as well as reaching out to Yorkville in the past. No one has definitely said that we were cutting that position.

It is true we recently learned that we are a Focus district, yet some will ignorantly say it will never happen. Well its happening and none of us want this. I am used to the criticism of me because of the nature of the chair I am sitting in, however I take exception to the criticism of my hard working fellow board members. To criticize their intent and their abilities is uncalled for. (Especially when putting hurtful comments personally directed at us on social media) Look at the makeup of this board. Jon Fiore, 2014 graduate and someone who had the most recent inside look and experience in these halls and classrooms. Rick Surprenant, class of 1980, married to a Tammy, also a NYM graduate, two siblings that were graduates and chose to raise his children in this district. (Both graduates that went on to college) Dick Ross, Class of 1971, lives in the same house he was raised and brought up his

*children in this district, Traci Markowitz Welch, daughter of a former board member and class of 1962 graduate, Tracie graduated in 1993 and has raised both of her sons in this district. Janet Wroblecki class of 1971 married to her high school sweetheart Don, whose roots go back in this village as far as my own family, raised 4 children also graduates of NY Mills. Steve King, from the moment he entered this Village 25 years ago, he has embraced this community and immersed himself in the culture and climate. He chose to raise his children and grandchildren here. As for me my family has been here for generations. These are your board members, their roots run deep and we are highly offended when someone who has been in the district 10 minutes professes to be the Voice of the district. We love our community and school or we would not be here. We embrace the whole district, the senior citizens, the veterans, those with and without children all the same because the school belongs to **all** not just a small few that yell the loudest. We must state firmly that we are here for the community and preservation of this district even when some do not agree with us.*

a. Committee Report(s)

1. Facilities Health & Safety Committee - R. Ross

Mr. Ross said he had nothing to report on the Facilities Health & Safety Committee but wanted to say that he was appalled when some said that this Board of Education is hurting our students and our District. There isn't a Board Member up here who doesn't want what is best for our District. That being said, he would like to encourage everyone to attend the Focus Forum on March 9th.

In today's paper it was stated by a resident that the State is using scare tactics and he said he was told by a staff member here that the State is playing chicken with us. He hopes you will attend the Focus Forum to find out what and who really is hurting our students and this District.

2. Policy Committee – J. Wroblecki

Mrs. Wroblecki said the Policy Committee met on February 9th and another meeting is scheduled for March 3rd. We will be continuing with the job descriptions.

3. Transportation Committee – R. Surprenant

Mr. Surprenant said there is nothing new to report.

4. Finance Committee – T. Welch

Mrs. Welch said the committee was able to meet with department heads and building supervisors. They were able to share their plans for next years. Also discuss was a large bank fee and Mrs. Stamboly is working on that. Another meeting has not been scheduled.

5. Survey Committee – S. King.

Mr. King said a meeting of the Survey Committee is scheduled for March 14th. He will be forwarding three topics to the Committee. He would also like the Board of Education to do a self-evaluation. He went to a training in New York City and he would like to develop a survey using Survey Monkey.

b. Board Calendar

c. BOCES Representative Report

3. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Wroblecki made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda seconded by Mr. Surprenant which includes:

- 3.1 Board of Education Minutes from February 2, 2016
- 3.2 Business Office Reports for Month ending January 2016
- 3.3 CSE Reports
 - a. Minutes of meeting held 1/7/16
 - b. Minutes of meeting held 2/3/16
 - c. Minutes of meeting held 2/4/16
 - d. Minutes of meetings held 2/8/16
 - e. Minutes of meeting held 2/9/16
 - f. Minutes of meeting held 2/11/16
 - g. Minutes of meeting held 2/12/16
 - h. Minutes of meeting held 2/21/16
 - i. Minutes of meeting held 2/22/16
 - j. Minutes of meetings held 2/24/16

Yes 6 No 0

Mr. Fiore stopped out of the meeting at 8:05 p.m.
Motion carried.

4. Old Business

- 4.1 2nd Reading of Policy #1500, Senior Citizen Involvement in District Activities

Mr. King made the motion to approve the second reading of Policy #1500, Senior Citizen Involvement in District Activities seconded by Mrs. Wroblecki.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion carried.

5. New Business

Mr. Fiore returned to the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

- 5.1 Personnel Report – Action

Mrs. Wroblecki made the motion to approve VI of the Personnel Report seconded by Mr. King.

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NAME	TENURE AREA/CIVIL SERVICE TITLE	ASSIGNMENT	CERTIFICATION	SALARY/RATE OF PAY	EMPLOYEE REPLACING	EFFECTIVE DATE	ANTICIPATED TENURE DATE
VI. Tenure Recommendation							
Michael Spost	Jr.-Sr. High School Principal	Jr.-Sr. High School Pr School District Administrator				7/1/2016	

**Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.**

Mrs. Wroblecki made the motion to approve the remaining items on the Personnel Report seconded by Mr. Fiore.

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NAME	TENURE AREA/CIVIL SERVICE TITLE	ASSIGNMENT	CERTIFICATION	SALARY/RATE OF PAY	EMPLOYEE REPLACING	EFFECTIVE DATE	ANTICIPATED TENURE DATE
I. Long Term Instructional Substitute							
1 Matorella, Albert	Earth Science & Science 8		Biology 7-12 and Earth Science 7-12	\$225/day	D. Brady	3/1/2016	
II. Coaching Appointments							
1 Gilbert, Terrance		Varsity Boys Baseball	TCL	\$3,818	E. D'Allessandro	2015-16 School Year	
2 Ross, Donald		Volunteer Baseball Coach	TCL	-0-		2015-16 School Year	
III. Substitute Instructional Appointments							
1 Crowley, Megan		Teacher	Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)	\$80.00		3/2/2016	
2 Matorella, Albert		Teacher	Biology 7-12 and Earth Science 7-12	\$80.00		2/22/2016	
3 Marie White-Davis		Teacher	English 7-12/Social Studies	\$60.00		3/2/2016	
4 Thomas Ashmore		Teacher/TA	Uncertified	\$60.00		3/2/2016	
IV. Substitute Non-Instructional Appointments							
1 Rosanne Kurpiec		Clerical		\$10.00			
2 Amie Pinchney		School Monitor		\$9.00/hour		3/2/2016	
3 Thomas Ashmore		School Monitor		\$9.00/hour		3/2/2016	
4 Rudwall, Robert		School Monitor		\$9.00/hour		3/2/2016	
V. Administrative Appointments							
1 Michael Spost	Executive Principal (co-extensive with Jr.-Sr. HS Principal)	K-12 Executive Principal	School District Administrator	\$99,000	New Position	7/1/2016	7/1/2016
2 Rene' Wilson	District Administrator (co-extensive w/ Elementary Principal)	K-12 Principal	School District Administrator	\$89,000	New Position	7/1/2016	
VII. Unpaid Medical Leave							
1 Furmanski, Thomas		Bus Driver	Civil Service			3/12/16 - 6/20/16	
VIII. Intern							
1 Keenan, Patrick	Nurse RN		Registered Professional Nurse		Clinical Rotation for Bachelors Degree Unpaid	N/A	3/2 - 6/1/2016

Yes 7 No 0
 Motion carried.

5.2 Resolution to Abolish Elementary Principal and Jr.-Sr. HS Principal Positions and Create Executive and K-12 Principal Positions

Mrs. Wroblecki made the motion to approve the following resolution seconded by Mr. Firoe:

RESOLVED, that effective June 30, 2016, the administrative positions of Elementary Principal and Junior-Senior High School Principal are hereby abolished; and be it further

RESOLVED, that effective July 1, 2016, the twelve (12) month administrative positions of Executive Principal in the tenure area of Executive Principal (co-extensive with the tenure area of

Junior/Senior High School Principal) and K-12 Principal in the tenure area of District Administrator (Co-extensive with the tenure area of Elementary Principal) are hereby created; and be it further

RESOLVED, that effective July 1, 2016, Michael Spost is hereby appointed to the position of Executive Principal in the tenure area of Executive Principal (Co-extensive with the tenure area of Junior/Senior High School Principal) holding certification as a School District Administrator at an annual salary of \$99,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that effective July 1, 2016, Rene' Wilson is hereby appointed to the position of K-12 Principal in the tenure area of K-12 Principal (Co-extensive with the tenure area of Elementary Principal) holding certification as a School District Administrator) at an annual salary of \$89,000.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.3 Resolution to Nominate Richard Ross for NYSSBA "Champion for Change" Award

Ms. Edwards made the motion to approve the following resolution seconded by Mrs. Wroblecki:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District hereby nominates first term Board of Education member, Mr. Richard Ross of the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education for the NYSSBA (New York State School Boards Association) "Champion for Change Award".

Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 1
Mr. Ross Abstained
Motion carried.

- 5.4 1st Reading of Regulations # 6100.33, Job Description: Custodian Bus Driver; #6100.34, Job Description: School Bus Mechanic; #6100.36, Job Description: Building Maintenance Mechanic; # 6100.37, Job Description: Building Maintenance Worker; #6100.38, Job Description: Groundswoker; #6100.39, Job Description: Custodian; #6100.40, Job Description: Cleaner; #6100.41, Job Description: Laundry Worker

6. Building Reports

- 6.1 Elementary Building Report
a. Standards based Grading Update

Dr. Wilson said we have been exploring the shift to standards based grading. What this means is that we are looking at more authentic assessment of our students so that we can look at their performance with relation to the grade level standard.. This has allowed us to have honest conversations at school based inquiry team meetings about a student's "true" cognitive ability with relation to where they are

with the grade level expectations... recently we had a regional informational representative facilitate this discussion... it is something theoretically the team is passionate about but we need given all the district level changes, we are culturally not in a position to impose a top down decision and therefore will be exploring small, doable, research based and sound steps that bring us closer to more authentic recording of student learning.

b. 6th Grade Skit Club

Dr. Wilson said under the facilitation of Marc Zalocha sixth graders came to me and asked if they could continue with their acting experiences. They had such a good experience under the direction of Mrs. Goodfriend during the musical: and wanted to continue exploring different opportunities to express themselves creatively... so as young Ethan Hurst... wrote and directed "character shorts" managing anywhere between 10 and 13 sixth graders, who perform skits that highlight issues that directly affect New York Mills Elementary School. Last month the skit club performed for the k-6 student body, they demonstrated a potentially common bullying situation and then further expounded on the theme by explaining the moral of the story and ways to improve the situation. They meet during their lunch recess and perform at our monthly character assemblies. I am proud of the leadership of this group, and how they have not only internalized the marauder way, but demonstrated a willingness to implement it into the everyday culture of our building.

6.2 Secondary Building Report

a. New York Mills Student Success

Mr. Spost said it was his honor to advise the Board of Education that 47% of NYM students in grades 7-12 were able to achieve recognition as Honorable Mention, Honor Roll, or High Honor Roll Students. It is important to point out that 47% represents a culture of excellence by having nearly half of the students in grades 7-12 earn this distinction. This is consistent with our performance on Regents exams and corresponding state report card at the HS level. Evidence shows that overall academic average is one of the best measures to assess readiness for college along with evidence of challenging coursework. We offer the opportunity for all students to achieve excellence while being mindful that the pathway to success and measures of success may look differently for students. We currently have 22 students attending a Career Tech program. Nine of them achieved Honorable Mention, Honor Roll, or High Honor roll in their respective programs at BOCES. That is 41%. He can think of no better predictor of success in a future trade than current performance in the program you are training for. Congratulations to those students.

He firmly believes that New York Mills School District is helping students to become motivated, responsible, and caring individual that encourages all students to pursue excellence. He agrees with Ms. Houghton's statement today in the Observer Dispatch that our district is not a failing district. However, we should be concerned about the designation as a Focus District. He would urge the Board and public to be cautious prior to forming judgments about this Focus District designation. It was just a little over a month ago when the OD covered a story that ranked us number three out of thirty in our region, or in the top ten percent of preparing our students for college level work. These two headlines are very contradictory.

The decision to assign the label of Focus District to my knowledge was partly due to lack of participation on the grades 3-8 test over a number of years and also because of a sub group of students with disabilities performance over a number of years. Using state assessment scores to evaluate students with learning disability and their school comes with some challenges. In fact, the Chancellor of the NYS Regents said “Personally, I would say that if I was the mother of a student with a disability, I would think twice before I allowed my child to sit through an exam that was incomprehensible.”

Additionally, very low numbers of students in a sub category can skew results. Last year we had three students with disabilities in our district take the ELA exam in grades 7 & 8. Two of the students did not attend school here in our building, but rather in a placement outside the district. It is extremely important that we look at the data in context and make sound decisions before moving forward and making judgments. Mr. Spost said he invested about two hours today reviewing data with data analysts from the Regional Information Center and Ms. Houghton invested the entire morning. He can assure you the process is like dumping a jigsaw puzzle on the table and then piecing it together. He is looking forward to working further with the Data Analyst staff from the RIC to gain a deeper understanding of what exactly garnered us this distinction as a Focus District and what exactly will need to be accomplished to get this designation removed. I encourage all to attend the Focus District Forum on the 9th this month to learn more.

b. Jr.-Sr. High School Musical

Mr. Spost said let us set the scene, the year is 1962 and Baltimore is full energy, music and a lot of big hair! The local dance troupe is looking to fill a spot on the dance show and times are about to change as a not so typical television personality is about to break the stereotypes of TV. The New York Mills drama club is ready to bring Baltimore to our stage in this year’s drama club production of “Hairspray!” The fast paced musical is full of real life issues and modern day concerns about integration, discrimination, and every stereotype you can imagine.

This year’s cast has been working very hard since December to transform our stage to bring you vivacious dancing with a modern musical flair. You are cordially invited to come and enjoy an evening of entertainment as the drama club presents Hairspray on March 18th and 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The cost of the show is \$9 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. A senior performance will be offered on March 17th at 4 p.m. The cost of the show alone is \$7 if you would like to enjoy a pasta dinner after the show the cost of a delicious spaghetti dinner and the show will be \$8. All tickets are available in the high school office and of course they are always available at the door the nights of the performance.

The musical is directed by Teresa Lovecchio, choreographed by Juliana Muirhead, assistant choreography by Kaitlyn Kulawy, and the orchestra is directed by Steve Shrey. Mr. Spost had one additional noteworthy fact and that is that the NYM Drama club performed at the Stanley this past Sunday, 2/28/16 in their Local High School Musical Preview. The gentleman responsible for putting this event together commented that he enjoyed our performance so much he would have made it the finale of the entire showcase if he was allowed to. That is a huge compliment in musical theatre. Congratulations to all for a well-earned comment!

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Annual Professional Performance Review Hardship Waiver Status

Ms. Houghton reported that she received written notice from NYSED on February 23rd that the district has been granted “automatic renewal” of our 3012-d APPR Hardship Waiver. However, we are still required to have a state-approved 3012-(d) compliant APPR Plan in place by September 1, 2016 in order to be eligible for an increase in State aid for 2016-17. She assured the Board that our

PEC (Professional Education Committee) meets regularly each month to discuss the APPR and APPR training regarding 3-12 (d) is continually offered through BOCES and in district. In fact, there is a session scheduled for all faculty during our upcoming March 18th Superintendent’s Conference Day.

7.2 State Budget Advocacy Efforts

Ms. Houghton shared that both the Superintendent and members of the Board of Education have been taking an active role in advocating for the district in the areas of fair and equitable funding; increase in Foundation Aid, elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, approving a 2% floor for the tax levy limit, and increasing or eliminating the \$30,000 cap on aid for BOCES salaries; as well as reducing under-funded and unfunded mandates. The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) hosted their annual Capital Conference & Lobby Day on February 28 and 29; the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) Winter Institute & Lobby Day is scheduled on March 6-8. She shared the advocacy information from NYSSBA and told the Board that she would forward NYSCOSS’ advocacy packet to them once she returned from the Winter Institute.

7.3 Focus District Forum & Institute

Ms. Houghton reminded everyone that a Focus District Forum will be presented for all parents, staff, and community members on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. She told the Board that Deb Duffy MORIC Data Team Leader and Marc Crouse, MORIC Data Analyst will present the data to participants and assist with explanation as to how we were designated as a Focus District. She also told the Board that there is a Focus District Institute she will attend on March 10-11 in Albany. Once she has learned more about the requirements for Focus Districts, she will report back to the Board and will plan an additional Forum session if that would be helpful.

7.4 March Superintendent’s Conference Day

A copy of the draft schedule for our upcoming March 18th Superintendent’s Conference Day was shared with the Board. Ms. Houghton told the Board that not only will the teachers discuss APPR under 3012 (d), but they will also hear a presentation about our Focus District designation from Deb Duffy, MORIC Data Team Leader and work with Mrs. Duffy to further analyze our 2014-15 state test data on that day.

8. Board Discussion

Mr. King encouraged everyone to come to the musical. He found the Focus District article in the paper horrid. It was poorly written. A few weeks ago we were doing great. The article is

inflammatory. We are on a slippery slope as a Focus District and they will go after a little district like ours.

9. Visitors Comments - All comments must be limited to 3 minutes

Mrs. Cudhea said she did not speak at the last meeting. She said she assumes when Ms. Edwards speaks on behalf of all of you. Ms. Marley apologized, Ms. Despina apologized for personal attacks to any of you. She said she was disgusted the way you have address this room makes her very sad.

When someone apologizes you were so rude. She is so sad. She is friends with almost everyone. When people apologize you accept their apology. Tonight she was disappointed.

A parent of a student said she is homeless and sleeping in her car. For a time she did move in with her sister. Ms. Belmar was helping her but she is no longer here. She tried to speak to Ms. Houghton because she does not have an address. Do you want her son to drop out of school? She said she has nothing. The only person helping her is Mr. Spost. Mrs. Cudhea took her child in. She said the love in this school is empowering but sending a Private Investigator to take pictures of her sleeping in her car is an embarrassment. She does need help as a single parent working her hardest. She is doing the best I can.

Other parents spoke and said that Ms. Edwards was very rude when she spoke to everyone.

Mrs. Talerico asked about the "Focus District". Do we let the kids take the test?

Ms. Houghton said the best thing is to have our kids take the test. It is not the test itself that is a traumatic experience, but what the state is doing with the result, that is so upsetting to teachers and parents. The test does not affect their grade.

Other parents spoke and said their child was traumatized or freaked out.

Ms. Houghton asked parents to come to the Focus District Forum.

Ms. Despina said we must show growth. If you don't show growth you fail. She used her son as an example.

Ms. Houghton said the thing to do is to have your kids take this test.

Mrs. Wroblecki said Focus District is new to her. She will be learning too with everyone in this room.

Mr. Spost Everyone should attend this Focus Forum, it is going to take time to understand it.

Mrs. Moore wanted to know if the faculty and staff will be told before the forum?

Mr. Spost said the data is overwhelming.

Ms. Houghton said we will try. To hold faculty meetings before the Forum if at all possible

10. Executive Session

Mr. Fiore made the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

Ms. Edwards appointed Ms. Houghton Clerk Pro-tem.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Ann May
Districts Clerk

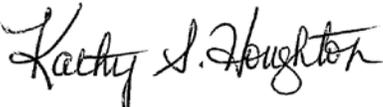
Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at 9:02 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Mr. King made the motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. seconded by Ms. Edwards.

Yes 7 No 0
Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Houghton
Clerk Pro-tem