

Jacqueline Edwards  
President

Richard Ross  
Vice President



3.1

Rick Surprenant  
Traci Welch  
Janet Wroblecki

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016  
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY – 6:30 P.M.**

**Present:** Ms. Jacqueline Edwards, President, Mr. Richard Ross, Vice President, 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. Debbie Price, Mrs. Paula Ann May and 74 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 New Staff Introductions– Maria Souza, School Monitor and Dominick Stewart, BOCES

Mr. Stewart introduced himself and said that he is the BOCES School Social Worker. He has over 20 years' experience working with students. Prior to coming here he worked for Adirondack.

Ms. Maria Souza introduced herself and said she is working at the Elementary as a School Monitor. She is originally from Connecticut. She worked for the state for 30 years with the multiply disabled from birth to senior citizens.

1.4 Update from Hunt Architects – C. Snowburg  
1. Capital Project

Mr. Snowburg said the Capital Project, including cafeteria and kitchen plans is being reviewed by New York State. Our plans were in before a lot of other schools and we should hear something by the end of February or March at the latest. A third party has been hired to provide independent estimates of project costs for us to ensure accurate bidding. He will bring the information back to the committee for review as soon as the estimates are complete.

2. Capital Outlay Projects

Security cameras are a high priority for our Capital Outlay project. June 30<sup>th</sup>, which is the end of the fiscal year and is the deadline to have the entire Capital Outlay project closed out. The State is expediting reviews for smaller jobs. We would like to use the money this year to procure the cameras and get the money back the following year.

### 3. Smart Schools Bond Act Investment Plan

There was a meeting with the Facilities Health & Safety Committee two weeks ago to get the process rolling for a third quarter submission for the Smart Schools Bond Act Investment Plan, which is another source of funding for all schools. We are going to hold off on this until we can bring information back to the Building Health and Safety Committee to make sure we are coordinating the plan to work hand in hand with the Capital Project.

Mr. Fiore made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 6:40 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at 7:08 p.m.

## 7. **Superintendent's Report** (moved to this portion of the Agenda)

### 7.1 Legislative Advocacy Efforts

#### a. BOCES Superintendent Cabinet Legislative Meeting (1/15/16)

Ms. Houghton told the Board and public that she and the rest of our OHM Superintendents' Cabinet conducted a legislative meeting with our legislators and senators in order to advocate for fair and equitable funding for education, a tax levy limit floor of 2%, full restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, elimination of unfunded mandates, and the elimination of the \$30,000 cap on aid for BOCES CTE and itinerant salaries. She provided materials from the presentation to the Board members; including a regional view of state funding for education and a depiction of "The Perfect Storm: from Rightsizing to Capsizing."

#### b. Genesis Community Forum with StuCo (1/22/16)

Ms. Houghton also told the Board of Education that our Student Council, along with advisor Ms. Aileen Veil accompanied her to the Genesis 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Forum, where local, county, state, and federal lawmakers met with community members and students to discuss the state of our local communities, counties, state, and nations regarding important topics such as business development, issues around poverty, and public education. A copy of the program participants was provided to the Board

#### c. MRASDA (Mohawk Regional Association of School District Administrators) Advocacy Event (1/25-26/16) held a two day advocacy event in Albany local, state and federal

Superintendents from the Herkimer, Madison-Oneida, and OHM BOCES gathered in Albany on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to meet with Senator Joseph Griffo, Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney, Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi, and other state legislators to discuss the educational opportunity gap, Foundation Aid, and shared services; along with the items shared in 7.1 (a).

#### 7.2 Media Access to Army Reserve Exercise

Captain Dan Crowell of the Army Reserve and The Chinook and Blackhawk helicopter units have scheduled their mission for March 13<sup>th</sup>. A press release from the Army will be available at the beginning of March, approximately 10-14 days prior to this drill. Ms. Houghton questioned the Board regarding their wish to publicize this event in our District Newsletter, on our Website, in a letter to parents of our K-12 students, and through a school district news release to local media outlets.

#### 7.3 District Report Card Workshop

Ms. Houghton reminded the Board that on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., Mr. Marc Crouse, MORIC (Madison-Oneida Regional Information Center) Data Analyst will provide for the Board a review of our 2014-15 District Report Card, Home & Careers Room.

#### 7.4 Comptroller's Audit Update

We were informed by the Comptroller's Office that our NYS Comptroller's Audit was concluded on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. They will contact us when they have prepared a draft report in order to schedule an exit conference, which will provide the district with the chance to meet with the auditors and clarify any issues or concerns included in the draft report prior to the final report being released to the public. Within 30 days of the draft report, the school district must formally respond with our official position regarding the findings, including any facts that we feel should be added. According to Education Law, we must then prepare and file with the Comptroller's Office and State Education Department a corrective action plan in response to each finding and/or recommendation. That plan must then be implemented by no later than the end of the next fiscal year.

#### 7.5 Enrollment

Ms. Houghton reported that our current K-12 enrollment, including students that our placed outside the district is 562. A year ago, we had 587 K-12 students enrolled; and in the fall of the 2014-15 school year, there were 594 students enrolled. Our current number of students per grade at the elementary level ranges from 35 to 51, with 39 as the average; class sizes are 17-26, with an average of 19-20. At the secondary level, the number of students per grade ranges from 32 to 54 students, with 44 as the average. We will I have a slide showing our previous enrollment fluctuations as well, which we will need to keep in mind as we plan for the future of the school district. She thanked Mrs. Patty Klimacek, HS/CSE Secretary for the list of outside placements included in the Board packet.

#### 7.6 Items of Interest for 2016-17 Budget Consideration

The following items of interest were given to the Board

Program/Position	Approximate Cost
Capital Outlay project	\$100,000
Pre-K Program	\$250,000
.5 FTE Maintenance Position	\$18,460
1.0 School Social Worker	\$22,702

(instead of BOCES .8 FTE)	
New Elementary Reading Program	\$70,000
Teacher Training to support implementation	\$30,000
Rotating Bus Monitor – PM (Elementary)	\$3,748
Senior Seminar (New elective, BOCES .2 FTE)	\$16,078
Middle School Keyboarding Class	\$20,485
Administrative Restructuring	\$4,561
Special Patrol Officer (Peace Officer Status)	- \$24,000
(instead of \$74,000 SRO)	

Ms. Houghton asked the Board to refer to a list of items for possible addition to the coming year's budget. These items included an annual Capital Outlay Project, the implementation of a half-day pre-K program, an additional .5 maintenance position to assist with cleaning, maintenance, and grounds work, the return to a 1.0 School Social Worker, a new elementary reading program, a rotating bus monitor to assist with elementary student management on the afternoon bus trips home, a new secondary elective, "Senior Seminar," a middle level Keyboarding class, the restructuring of our elementary and Jr.-Sr. HS Principal positions to a K-12 Executive Principal and K-12 Principal. The final item for consideration is the addition of two part-time Special Patrol Officers with Peace Officer Status in lieu of our current full-time School Resource Officer. Both of these positions are available through the OCSO. Both provide full-time security to the school district, but the Special Patrol Officers come at a reduced cost to the tax payers of \$50,000, which is a \$24,000 savings.

#### 7.7 Focus District Identification

Ms. Houghton said she received preliminary notification from NYSED yesterday that New York Mills UFSD has been identified as a Focus District, pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations Section 100.18. We are currently in discussions with our Data Analysts through the Madison-Oneida Regional Information Center to review all data that was used to determine this status, but she strongly believes based on a quick review of the data that our Focus Status is due to the fact that we did not make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) on our 2013-14 or 2014-15 Gr. 3-8 NYS Assessments. This is the result of extremely low participation on these assessments by our students. She absolutely respects parents' rights to make choices for their children, but is extremely disappointed that our test refusal rates may result in extra state oversight of our schools, increased reporting and paperwork for our administrators and teachers, required Comprehensive District Educational Planning (CDEP) under NYSED's supervision of approval planning, extra training requirements, and the potential, if this status continues, that the state would be given additional control over the leadership and instructional programs of our school district. She is offering to provide an educational forum regarding the Focus District Designation, just as soon as she completes the review of data and confers with regional and state officials.

## 2. Communications

### 2.1 From the Floor

Mr. Comenale said that he spoke to more than 100 people who were dead set against the combination of a K-12 Principal. He wanted to remind the Board Members that as a group they do not condone this by showing up tonight even though you could put it to a vote. You should consider letting the voters decide.

Mrs. Chaffee said she found out about this motion at a Science Fair and had it not been announced there she would not have heard about this. She asked what model you are following. What is going on behind this plan? We as taxpayers are asking what's going into this thought process. She thinks they are being blindsided. Our students are happy. They are with one principal and the teachers are reporting to one person. She wanted to see something that you modeled this around.

Mrs. St. James said she is a triple threat: a parent, a taxpayer, and an employee. She is absolutely astonished about this plan. Mr. Spost does an amazing job with the high school and Dr. Wilson does an amazing job with the elementary. You have to think about the children. The number one thing you have to think about is the children. You did not take that into account when you cut hours you messed with two kids. You need to focus on the children and not the money.

Mrs. Despina thanked the parents, teachers, administrators, and students for coming out tonight showing support for Dr. Wilson and Mr. Spost. She has worked very closely with people in this room and did have a high level of respect for the Board Members. She is losing that respect. She is hurt, disgusted, and confused. She desperately wants to keep an open mind about this. Tell her why you think this is going to work. It doesn't matter we're going to save \$5,000. She will write a check. Your reorganization is saving \$5,000.

Ms. Despina was corrected that the school would be spending approximately \$5,000.

We are one building but we are two schools. When you put up an award of recognition for the high school and one for elementary, how will you do that? Is there one Student of the Month for the whole school? The only school that has this setup is Old Forge with a K-12 Principal. How will she know who to go to? Talking about other things, they have degrees and you have a School Board voted by the tax payers. How does she know if Mr. King graduated high school? Jonathan just graduated. How does the school board have so much power? Normally there are only 2 or 3 people at your board meeting. She just wants to ask, talk to us, explain; make us understand. She cannot find the good. We have no idea who we are going to end up with. Please don't take them away from us. Please listen to them. She said not that this means anything, but she produced a petition that will be presented to the Board to show their concern.

Michelle Hartmann spoke against the proposed plan. She suggested cutting class size. Teachers would have more impact on students. If the Board is concerned over a cross over curriculum for Grades 3 – 8 we have the best in-house that we currently employ. You are radically restructuring a building with no proof that it could help. She asked if we were so desperate.

Amy Mahardy said she is nothing but overly pleased with the school district. She was welcomed by Dr. Wilson and Mr. Spost. She has nothing bad to say. She did purchase a house out of the district but she dragged her feet because she wanted to stay here. She is an educator at a larger district. Normally when we do things that don't make sense they come from Albany. This comes in house. K-6 is right where it should be. It is married through a hallway with the Jr. Sr. High School. There is a great connection between the two. To have to hear about this third hand seems beneath you. She politely asked the Board to reconsider. If something isn't broken don't fix it.

Frank Calhoun said he works in the Utica City School District. They have the good, the bad, and the ugly. He said when he sends his kids to school here he has piece of mind. He is confident and comfortable. His children have made a connection with Dr. Wilson and he trusts her hands down.

Greg Auffrey said he loves to work with children. To be given the opportunity to mold and develop and shape a human being is a wonderful thing. He has never seen two individual do it finer than Dr. Wilson and Mr. Spost, in the role that he served. He has the utmost respect for Superintendent Houghton and those on the Board. He is trained as a School Climate Specialist at BOCES which is for Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). He has worked with 150 plus principals. He is here to tell everyone that there aren't two better principals. If it isn't broke it doesn't need to be reconfigured. Please reconsider.

Aileen Viel shared that in the fall the Executive Board of the Student Council wanted to change homecoming traditions with a parade and big bonfire. They put it into motion without sharing with the student body. We had an open forum and student spoke and they spoke about tradition. They liked hallway decorating. It was something really important. Leadership comes from the top down. This is a great idea, but people don't want to buy into it. It was really a humbling experience for her. She had to set examples for her students. Looked at their concerns and then went back to hallway decorating. Over 200 students came to our dance and they were pumped. When we make these decisions it affects our kids. If you make this decision it will have adverse effects. Learn a lesson from me, if the people don't support it will generally hurt our reputation and morale.

Candice Cornish has a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grader at this school. She is disappointed on how she had to hear about this. She is equally disappointed that the Board did not expect this. A conversation without public present, no one likes to be surprised. It would not have been a surprise if this had been written about in a letter, e-mail website, or any other way parents are notified. Why not share it if it is questionable and haven't done your research. Maybe you should have gotten everyone's opinion. She does believe that the district has our children in your heart. It just seems very like a very insufficient amount of money; under \$6,000 for the difference this brings. You have people taxed to their limits and asking them to try to identify with every student. In closing she doesn't understand that one, that our numbers are going down. A parent educator is questioning whether or not to buy a house out of district. Maybe it should be looked at again.

Melissa Tallman just moved into the area because of a small school district. There are two sides to a story. We're only hearing one side. She has seen Dr. Wilson going to every student making them feel special. She said she has a small business and she is exhausted at the end of the day managing four employees. Her biggest concern is why hasn't the community been told. She said if she doesn't tell her kids what's going to happen the next day they are miserable. The community needs to be told.

Donald Wroblicki said when he heard about this he was fairly neutral. He believes we will have the same two administrators with a different organization. Each has their own strengths. Where one is strong the other isn't and vice versa.

Jean Marley expressed her concerns. Teachers and student rely on continuity. What impact will this have on the kids we work with? Change is difficult. There should be an easier way to make change. There were a lot of great questions raised tonight. When anyone wants to make change needs to be done. Nothing is set in stone. That is the thing; we are dealing with humans looking to us for support

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and consistency. We are pulling the rug out from under them. This is a huge disservice. It would be really good to get more information. What this does mean? It feels like the blind side effect. Let's see how this will affect everybody. She appreciates the concern and support of our administrators. You are taking someone from the position they have embraced; this something so much different then what they signed on for. What is your rationale and reasoning? She said she thinks that the Board has heard and seen that we don't have an issue, its working and it is. Point us in the right direction. You have the people in the right positions.

## 2.2 President's Messages

Ms. Edwards presented Mr. King & Mr. Fiore with Certificates for 75 hours of Leadership Development, Mr. Ross received a Certificate for 75 hours as well at 150 hours, Mrs. Wroblecki received a Certificate for 250 hours and Ms. Houghton then presented Ms. Edwards with a Certificate for a Lifetime Achievement award with over 500 hours of training. These Certificates came from New York State School Boards Association.

### a. Committee Report(s)

#### 1. Facilities Health & Safety Committee - R. Ross

We will meet after a third party person looks at the project to see if it is within budget.

#### 2. Policy Committee – J. Wroblecki

Mrs. Wroblecki said the committee met on the January 22<sup>nd</sup> and they will meet again on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### 3. Transportation Committee – R. Surprenant

Mr. Surprenant had nothing new to report.

#### 4. Finance Committee – T. Welch

Mrs. Welch said the committee met on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. The committee reviewed the purchasing flowchart as they continue to understand the process. They do believe the process is working and next meeting is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 5. Survey Committee – S. King

Mr. King will be scheduling a meeting and he asked everyone about considering two board meetings a month.

Ms. Edwards said she will entertain that thought.

### b. Board Calendar

### d. BOCES Representative Report

Dr. Porcelli read the following BOCES Report:

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services met in a weather-shortened session on Wednesday January 13, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. and due to weather conditions it was agreed to postpone until the February meeting Board's recognition of students from the Middle Settlement Academy program as well as a presentation from Working Solutions.

Along with other regular business, the Board spent considerable time considering a

proposed refinancing of bonds issued for capital improvement. The purpose of this refinancing would be to save a significant amount of money with respect to the cost of the recent BOCES capital program. After a presentation by both Mrs. Elaine Falvo, Chair of the Audit committee, and Mr. Tom Dorr, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance, the Cooperative Board agreed to the of refinancing and in a roll call vote authorized the Board President to sign / approve any new bonds that may be issued.

In the District Superintendent's report, Mr. Mettleman presented the Service Plans for 2016-17 so that budget work could be initiated by staff for next year. Mr. Mettleman also discussed the Governor's "State of the State" address and its implications for our educational community.

Lastly, Mr. Mettleman introduced the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation, but the Board chose to delay discussion until the February meeting.

On January 28th, five members of the BOCES Board along with board members from throughout the region met in an SBI presentation of area legislators. All State Senators and most area Assemblymen were present and answered questions from the Board members in attendance.

On February 6th (Saturday) the Career Technical Education program will host a Saturday Showcase. The program will begin at 10 am and each of the CTE programs will offer an overview of their work. This showcase is recommended for those who may have questions regarding the various career programs offered to Districts through BOCES.

On February 9 the CTE program will hold a job fair beginning at 9 am in the Learning Center.

The NYSSBA Capital Conference - an opportunity for area Board members to meet with their local legislators in their Albany office – It will run Feb 28 / 29.

The next Cooperative Board meeting will be held at 4:30 on February 10, 2016.

At the conclusion Mr. King nominated Dr. Porcelli to represent New York Mills School District on the BOCES Board seconded by Mrs. Wroblecki.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

Mr. King made the motion to approve 3.1 and 3.2 seconded by Mr. Fiore.

- 3.1 Board of Education Minutes held January 5, 2016
- 3.2 Business Office Reports for Month ending December 2015
  - a. Internal Claims Auditor Report – C. Radomski



Mrs. Radomski gave the Board Members a list for the last eight months from May to January of the 957 items she checked totaling \$8,604,278.07 .

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

### 3.3 CSE Reports

Mr. Fiore made the motion to accept the CSE Reports seconded by Mrs. Wroblicki.

- a. Meetings held 12/10/15
- b. Meetings held 12/21/15
- c. Meetings held 12/22/15
- d. Meeting held 1/5/16
- e. Meetings held 1/7/16
- f. Meeting held 1/8/16
- g. Meeting held 1/11/16
- h. Meeting held 1/12/16
- i. Meeting held 1/19/16
- j. Meetings held 1/25/16

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

## 4. Old Business

- 4.1 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Regulation # 6100.07, Class Advisor Grade 6; 6100.08, Class Advisor Grades 7, 8, 9; #6100.09, Class Advisor Grade 10; Class Advisor Grade 11; #6100.11 Class Advisor Grade 12; and #6100.12, School Yearbook Advisor; #6100.13, Newspaper Advisor; #6100.14, National Honor Society Advisor; Delete #6100.15, Teacher/Cafeteria/Playground/Special Education Aide Job Description; #6100.17, Student Council Advisor - Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the about policies, regulations and deletions seconded by Mr. Fiore.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

## 5. New Business

- 5.1 Personnel Report – Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the Personnel Report Roman Numeral I, II, III, and V seconded by Mr. Fiore.

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NAME	TENURE AREA/CIVIL SERVICE TITLE	ASSIGNMENT	CERTIFICATION	SALARY/RATE OF PAY	EMPLOYEE REPLACING	EFFECTIVE DATE
<b>I. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement</b>						
Brady, Dianne	Science 7-12					3/1/2016
<b>II. Resignation</b>						
D'Alessandro, Erik	Varsity Baseball Coach					1/17/2016
Clark, Diane	Substitute School Monitor					2/26/2016
<b>III. Coaching Appointments</b>						
Curtis, Bruce		Varsity Football	TCL	\$5,827*	B. Curtis	7/1/2016
Fowler, Daniel		Assistant Varsity Football	CPE	\$4,065*	D. Fowler	7/1/2016
<b>V. Unpaid Medical Leave</b>						
West, Kelly		School Monitor	Civil Service			1/28/16 - 4/4/16

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

Mr. King made the motion to move Roman Numeral IV into Executive Session seconded by Mr. Ross.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

5.2 Building Capital Reserve Resolution – Action

Mrs. Traci Welch presented the following resolution and duly moved that it be adopted and was seconded by Mrs. Janet Wroblecki

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law there is hereby established a capital reserve fund for the New York Mills Union Free School District, New York, which shall be designated as the “2016 Building Capital Reserve Fund” of said School District.

Section 2. Such 2016 Building Capital Reserve Fund is hereby established for financing, in whole or in part, the following objects or purposes of said School District:

Construction, reconstruction and improvement of school buildings and facilities, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus incidental thereto, and the purchase of furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus separately; provided that such capital costs are an object or purpose that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law, and costs incidental thereto.

Section 3. The ultimate amount of such Fund shall be \$5,000,000 plus earnings thereon.

Section 4. The probable term of such Fund shall be ten (10) years, after which time no further funds may be transferred to such Fund, unless previously extended by the voters, but such Fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted.

Section 5. The source from which the funds for such Fund will be obtained is as follows: (i) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all to the extent permitted by law.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect upon the approval thereof by a majority of the qualified voters of said School District voting on a proposition therefor submitted at the annual district meeting of said School District, the details of which shall be specified by a further resolution of this Board of Education. Upon such approval, no further action of this Board of Education will be required to perfect the establishment of such Reserve Fund.

Section 7. The form of proposition to be so submitted shall be substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION #2

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the "2016 Building Capital Reserve Fund"), with the purpose of such fund being to finance construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipping of school buildings and facilities; such capital costs being of a type that would be eligible for financing under the local finance law, and costs incidental thereto, the ultimate amount of such fund to be \$5,000,000 plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be 10 years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted, and the sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are (i) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board

of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

### 5.3 Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Resolution – Action

Mr. King presented the following resolution and duly moved that it be adopted and was seconded by Mr. Surprenant:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law there is hereby established a capital reserve fund for the New York Mills Union Free School District, New York, which shall be designated as the “2016 Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund” of said School District.

Section 2. Such 2016 Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund is hereby established for financing, in whole or in part, the following objects or purposes of said School District:

The purchase of school buses, vehicles and equipment that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law, and costs incidental thereto.

Section 3. The ultimate amount of such Fund shall be \$2,000,000 plus earnings thereon.

Section 4. The probable term of such Fund shall be ten (10) years, after which time no further funds may be transferred to such Fund, unless previously extended by the voters, but such Fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted.

Section 5. The source from which the funds for such Fund will be obtained is as follows: (i) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all to the extent permitted by law.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect upon the approval thereof by a majority of the qualified voters of said School District voting on a proposition therefor submitted at the annual district meeting of said School District. Upon such approval, no further action of this Board of Education will be required to perfect the establishment of such Reserve Fund.

Section 7. The following notice shall be added to the notice of annual meeting and election:

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at such time:

PROPOSITION #3

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to establish a Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the "2016 Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund"), with the purpose of such fund being to finance the purchase of school buses, vehicles and equipment that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law, and costs incidental thereto, the ultimate amount of such fund to be \$2,000,000 plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be five years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted, and the sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are (i) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

5.4 Agreement with Sitrin for Concussion Testing - Action

Mr. King made the motion to enter into an Agreement with Sitrin for Concussion Testing seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

5.5 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policy #1500, Senior Citizen Involvement in District Activities

**6. Building Reports**

6.1 Elementary Building Report  
a. Kindergarten Registration/Readiness

Dr. Wilson said about 30 students have registered so far. At our last principals' meeting we dedicated the focus to kindergarten readiness as charged by Mr. Mettleman and headed by Dr. Futchter and Dr. Wilson. She would like to thank Ms. Davis and Mrs. Kohn for their collaboration on gathering materials and collaborating on their thoughts. Mrs. Kohn in particular attended the meeting, and we worked with other schools in our region to define kindergarten readiness in the areas of social emotional development, academic and cognitive development, and physical development. We are excited for future meetings where we further delve into our k readiness assessments to see if they accurately measure our current definitions of kindergarten readiness and what that means for organizations and resources in our region.

b. DARE Graduation Ceremony

Dr. Wilson said under the direction of Deputy Nichol and with the support of Mrs. Grogan and Mrs. Kehrli we are the only school in the region who offers Drug Abuse and Resistance Education or DARE. Prevention curriculum has been designed around an effective, diverse and accountable program that focuses on drug and alcohol resistance but also anti-bullying and internet safety. Dr. Wilson said she is looking forward to seeing you there; it is important for our students, school and community. Please join us on Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. to celebrate our students' commitment to being leaders amongst their peers and committing to making healthy and positive life choices.

Dr. Wilson said she was so proud of all of her students who participated in the Elementary Science Fair. Their projects were well thought out, focused on hands on constructivist learning, and problem based learning that brought joy and excitement to what is in our essence and purpose: scholarship, knowledge, and education. It is her most favorite event of the year, and it couldn't happen without the love and support of our families, community, and amazing and dedicated teachers and staff. You know we may not always get along or agree on how to solve a problem, but we are a family, and she couldn't ask for a more intelligent, and loving family with whom to work... and of course the brilliant students. She hopes to see some of you there next year, because it is an amazing event.

## 6.2 Secondary Building Report

### a. Safe Social Media Practices Parent Night

Mr. Spost said as a follow up to our student "Everybody Thinks" Assembly, we are going to host a Safe Social Media practices night for Parents and students on February 10, 2016 at 7pm in the HS Auditorium. It will be facilitated by our PBIS Specialist Mark Zalocha. The goal of assembly is to maintain a positive school climate as well as remind students to act responsibly at all times when on social media. Essentially we want students to act as good human beings to each other even when they are acting behind a screen or in anonymity online. It will hopefully make us all a little bit better as a community and overall more socially and emotionally healthy.

### b. Dual Credit/Possible Electives Update

Mr. Spost said he strongly feels that a Senior Seminar is something we should offer to our students. It will focus on things they will encounter after High School and give them a foundation to make prudent decisions. Mortgages, credit cards, loans, financial literacy are all crucial to learn, but not part of any course with the exception of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Home Economics Class which is too far detached from when the students will need to apply these skills. What would happen if you had a biweekly payment of your mortgage or an extra payment to principal versus once a month on a 30yr mortgage? It would cut eight years of your mortgage. That is the kind of thing that can make a huge difference in life, but never gets discussed. Skills applicable to college, work habits and expectations, interviewing, etc. are all things students can benefit from learning. We could also use this as a venue for the school counselor to actively engage with seniors. He could certainly continue to convey the benefit of this course, but is hopeful you will see the value of offering this course as compared to the minimal cost. If we ran the course all year the cost would be \$16,078 for a BOCES .2 itinerant. If we ran it only for one semester it would be half the cost or \$8,039. If we choose to run it one semester, we could run it every other day on an odd or even schedule to get more students through it, but that will depend on demand for the course. Essentially it would be a 10 week course in semester based format.

Another enhancement to our Middle School, Intermediate, or Elementary program would be in the area of technology. Specifically we would look to develop a structured keyboarding/word processing instruction program prior to ninth grade. This will build the skills, competencies, and proficiencies in keyboarding/word processing before reaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade. If students enter high school more proficient in keyboarding, it can allow us to add things like presentation and publication software like Microsoft power point and publisher in the Introduction to Computers course that is typically taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. If we implement this course, it will cost approximately \$20,000 for a BOCES.2 Itinerant. He is not certain if BOCES could provide this to us based on his conversation with the BOCES itinerant supervisor, but it warrants further investigation if you would consider approving.

Another area we are exploring is electives through distance learning. Currently, we participate in three of the five courses offered by our local BOCES. They are American Sign Language I, Psychology (Dual Credit), and Sociology (Dual Credit). The two courses we do not take advantage of through our local BOCES are American Sign Language II and American Sign Language III. There are many other courses across the state offered by local BOCES via Distance learning. However, since they come from different regions, many do not line up with our schedule like the ones from our region do. We can accommodate a few minutes either way coming or going to the class, but once it gets beyond a few minutes, it is very detrimental. Additionally, he firmly believes that if you can offer the course through brick and mortar means that is the best option to achieve the greatest amount of learning and benefit to students. We have an excellent instructional staff and program that upholds the tradition of excellence in NYM that allows our students excel and become the best of whatever they are. Only in the situation in which we have no option to offer a class, should we then look to use Distance Learning. It should also never be used to supplant or compete with a similar course here; it should only act to supplement them.

Mr. Spost said he sat with our Guidance Counselor, Deb Ellis, and reviewed all the courses available through Distance Learning. A couple of courses we could consider are American History through Film, Vet Science, and Consumer Math. Of these courses, he believes the best option to consider is Consumer Math. Our secondary program offers an elective, Conceptual Science that allows students to get the third year of a Science if they might not be the right fit for Physics or Chemistry. This would give students the option for a third year of Math if they are not inclined to take Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry.

One additional option to consider programmatically would be to consider adding Driver's Education. He always considers this very common sense and logical. He thinks it is worth exploring as possibly an option even if it is only during the summer, but he is not for a lottery approach to this offering. If it ever did become an option, he would like to offer it to all students.

Dual Credit Update - We currently have some staff that are exploring and evaluating whether or not dual credit courses offerings through MVCC would be a fit for their current courses. The Dual Credit director is currently facilitating a review of their credentials.

- a. Michelle Hartmann - English AP Language – possibly EN101
- b. Aileen Viel - English AP Literature – possibly EN102
- c. Kevin Getman - AP Calculus – possibly MA151
- d. Virginia Davis -AP Global – possibly Western Civilization.
- e. Joel Allen –Participation in Government – possibly American National Government
- f. Jeanie Chambrone – Principals of Accounting and/or Personal Finance

## 8. Board Discussion

Mrs. Wroblicki said enrollment is no longer 900 or over 1000. It is roughly 560 and dropping. Her parents sat where you are sitting right now when their Superintendent recommended change. She sat there when our Superintendent recommended change. She knows how most of you feel. Some here actually attended our school during those transitions or even taught here. She knows how previous board members felt during those Superintendent recommendations and changes. She would be the first to admit she does not necessarily like change. We have evolved over time from a from her knowledge from a:

Supervising Principal and Elementary Principal  
from two buildings to one  
from a High School Principal, Superintendent/Elementary Principal,  
Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent/High School Principal, Elementary  
Principal/PPS/CSE  
Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent/Elementary Principal/High School Principal  
Superintendent, High School Principal, Elementary Principal

We've evolved over time during her lifetime. New York Mills has always evolved to benefit their district children's education.

Mr. Fiore said he thinks this is really an opportunity to specialize in what they do best. This would allow them to enjoy what they do. There is going to be a lot to handle and they are more than capable and doing it exceptionally well. Raises and promotions got them to this point. It allows children from grade K to 12 to know them both. He said when he went into 7<sup>th</sup> grade he was never able to develop a relationship with both individuals in those jobs. We tailor made them for both principals. Being a Focus School is a major issue. You'll like it a lot less if we don't address it. Regardless of your stance in Common Core, it is the law of the land. You are obligated to deal with it one way or another. He hopes the community will understand and he believes this to be a great benefit for the students.

Ms. Edwards agreed with a lot of what Mr. Fiore said. She is going to ask the Superintendent to post the two job description so you can visualize and see collaboration, assisting, developing; all positive words. The strengths will be brought together in a wonderful manner. Mr. Spost has his philosophy on Common Core and Dr. Wilson has her philosophy. There should not be a disconnect, they can reach a point in unity on where they are going and how we are going to meet the needs. Nothing in there is bad for kids. This Board would not allow that to happen. We are enhancing our school and the whole community will benefit. She could understand this if we were taking away but we are giving you more. It was not done in secret. She has been in this district and seen a lot of change. It is all about the kids. She is mindful of the taxpayers. There are two sides to every story. We have to sort out how we represent the whole tax paying base. It is a difficult balancing act.

Mrs. Welch said it was not the Board's intention to blindsides or sweep under rug and we were going to discuss it tonight. Our Agenda and Minutes are posted on the website. You can read and ask questions. It's hard to take that you say we did not give you an opinion. We have to discuss this in a manner that's legal for us to do so and don't want you to feel we were not doing that. It is hurtful to me as an elected board member.

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Mr. King wanted to thank you all for coming. He appreciates and invites you all for coming to help guide us. If you want to be involved, come to a meeting. It is important to know what is going on, important for the different board members to hear what you have to say. He applauds you all for coming.

Mr. King made the motion to take a brief recess at 8:45 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Wroblecki.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at 8:50 p.m.

## **9. Visitors Comments**

Discussion continued regarding the proposed K-12 Executive Principal and K-12 Principal positions. Some of the comments are as follows:

Mrs. Clements had a concern; if they take this position is their tenure going to be effected? These are new positions and if the position is abolished when does tenure start for that position. Tenure is not the same as it used to be. Their tenure should be when they signed on. She did not see why their tenure should be affected.

Ms. Linaker said the Superintendent mentioned the "Focus District identification". Do you understand what that means? It is a really big concern. The board has the information. Will we be told if the appeal does not work? Why is this occurring and an explanation of what that means so parents can make a fully informed decision. She then commented with her administrative college hat. She is in support of classes for real life. She thanked the Board for the Concussion Agreement that you approved tonight. It is important for students.

Mr. Comenale would like Dr. Wilson and Mr. Spost to say. How do they feel about this?

Dr. Wilson said she had a lot of thoughts about it. Things like her strength in curriculum and Mr. Spost's strength in discipline. It is not the number of students but the breadth as an educational leader. We know where our niche is and we chose that purposely. The job descriptions were written with us in mind? It is a slap in the face.

Mr. Spost echoed and endorsed Dr. Wilson's comments about making effective and large decisions and navigating through complex situations. He asked the Board to do that before moving forward with your decision.

Haley Simon, a junior asked if the Board had the students in mind when making this decision. She disagrees. You are taking away a relationship and she asked the Board to reconsider if you have the students in mind. The students here are happy. Don't take away what's working for us.

Mrs. Milone asked if these two people are going to reapply for the jobs and will the Board say yes. Ms. Houghton may be retiring in the next two years. These two administrators, who we respect, may not

even get a chance to apply. What is handed down and constantly changing is destabilizing the school district. She said she is adequate to teach a foreign language but she is at the High School Spanish Level. It is not her strength to teach 5<sup>th</sup> graders, it is not what she signed up for. The principals both have powerful jobs and now you are blurring the lines.

Mr. Shrey said he that he can't help drawing a parallel to refer to APPR, Acute Parental Protective Reflex. He thinks we hear about these tests imposed on our kids started by a governor. It is well funded and distributed in states. Parents are here tonight for the same reason; they don't want their kids to be part of somebody's unproven experiment. You can put a description of a job on a screen and it's all conjecture, all guess work, all predictions. If it doesn't work out, then what? You're going to think it's not a big deal but for these people it is a big deal. What happens, you're doing to us is disruptive without any evidence on what we know already works. The people that want our kids to take these tests don't subject their kids to it. The people imposing these tests send their kids to private schools.

Rob Mahardy doesn't know who said it, "Good leaders are great listeners." I just charge you all to be good leaders.

Ms. Despina said she posted 60 flyers in Beekman Gymnasium and went out 1/2 hour later and was told they were taken down. Was someone trying to hide something and did not want people to know? She challenged the Board to tell her of other districts ranging in age from 5 – 18 that is set up this way. The only district that comes close is Old Forge. Again, it is one building but definitely two schools. She also mentioned that she has been to past meetings where she had listened to these professional ask you to please don't take away our Social Worker, but you did. She said she feels very frustrated towards the Board. It bothers her here that we are all here tonight and you wanted to slip this under the rug and not tell us. You all felt the need to award each other. She then presented the principals with an award saying they are loved and appreciated.

Mrs. Hartmann she is looking for leaders who don't speak out of both sides of their mouth, like Ms. Houghton has. Mrs. Hartmann said what you are proposing would be taking two amazing individuals away. You are taking away leadership by bullying.

Ms. Edwards said Ms. Houghton bleeds orange and blue. Any decision she has ever made has been about the children. Those of you who had her as an immediate supervisor, any recommendation that she makes she is fully committed in moving this district forward. She has never steered this board wrong. She is all about the kids and for that you cannot fault her. You may not agree, but every decision she makes is about the kids.

Mr. Fiore spoke about the kids, the teachers, and the faculty. The board is thinking about the kids, teachers, faculty, and the whole village. Plenty of taxpayers support our children. We owe them some consideration.

Mrs. St. James said she can see the decision has already been made.

Ms. Edwards said the Board will adhere to the Superintendent's recommendation. The Board would have discussed this tonight in open session and then the Board would have acted on it in March.

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Mrs. Schmidt said to sum it up; this has been a great discussion. You as profession are changing the dynamics of our school. No one was informed until you told our administrators. Her concern was that if this was to be discussed in open session today, February, it is a little backhanded in the sense you are trying to have a discussion and make a decision. You are changing the entire dynamics of the school. You didn't expect us to have concerns. We put our trust and faith in you. You are not making a good decision and that is why we are all here. She said she is unclear as to what the rationale is. You say that grades 5-8 need. Nowhere in the job description does she feel that we are a focus school. That information wasn't available until yesterday. If you want to make that decision we as teachers are forced to give data. We are smart educated people. We are not getting the full picture. It seems sneaky for lack of a better word

Mr. Fiore said these are all good points but we are always trying to improve.

Mrs. Clements said she thought that was a slap in our faces. She is not afraid to take a step forward. We will take on anything we have to. What we are asking is why are we doing this? We are not broken, our scores are right up there. What is the justification? We are here asking you tell us the reason you are doing this. We are not afraid to take a step forward, we are afraid to take 10 steps backward. We want to know why.

Ms. Houghton said she can repeat what she said earlier, it is a K-12 focus on curriculums and assistance with transition.

Mrs. Clements said this isn't that Common Core forced on us by the state. Instead of doing Pre-K, let's get a curriculum specialist, someone who can do the job for the school district.

Ms. Houghton said that is another staffing discussion that the Board would have to have.

Mr. Wroblecki said a lot of the arguments have been about the individual principals. You have to feel great that everyone holds you in such high esteem but nothing lasts forever. Both of you may move on to bigger and better things. The quality here is not reliant on individuals. The district will go on

Mrs. St. James asked if he has children in this school. She does and feels that her second grader can go to Dr. Wilson any time.

Mrs. Despina said when someone has a fantastic idea they shout it from the roof tops. You've gone crazy saying this is how it is and accept change.

**10. Executive Session – CSEA Negotiation and Individual Contracts – D. Pellow**

Mr. Fiore made the motion to go into Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. to discuss Roman Numeral #IV of the personnel report and CSEA Negotiations and Individual Contracts seconded by Mr. King.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

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

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Ann May  
District Clerk

Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at 11:01 p.m.

Mr. King made the motion to approve Roman Number IV of the Personnel Report seconded by Mr. Ross.

**IV. Non-Instructional Appointments**

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Plizga, Dianne	School Monitor	6.5 hours each Friday for a weekly total of 6.5	T	\$12.68/hour	B. Edwards	2/3/2016
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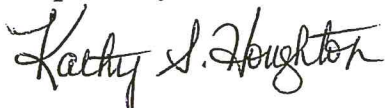
Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

**11. Adjournment**

Mr. Fiore motion to adjourn at 11:02 p.m. seconded by Mr. Surprenant

Yes 7 No 0  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Houghton  
Clerk Pro-tem