

Jacqueline Edwards
President

Richard Ross
Vice President



Jonathan Fiore
Steve King
Rick Surprenant
Traci Welch
Janet Wroblecki

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015
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, Mr. William Lachut, Mrs. Debbie Price, Mrs. Paula Ann May and 5 visitors and guests

1. Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Edward called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1.1 Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Acceptance of Agenda

Mrs. Welch made the motion to accept the Agenda seconded by Mr. Fiore.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

1.3 2014-15 Audit Report by Moore & Hart – Dave Upcraft (Action needed 5.8)

Mr. Dave Upcraft presented the 2014-15 Audit Report. Moore & Hart gave an unqualified or clean opinion. There were no big changes this year except for GASB-68, which is a change in the accounting for pensions and how they relate to the District.

1.3 Building Conditions Survey – Chad Snowburg, Architectural Designer

Mr. Snowburg presented a “bird’s eye view” of the Draft Building Conditions Survey. Changes to the report still need to be done and the final Building Conditions Survey should be ready by mid-October for SED. The PowerPoint below include a list of the recommendations they developed for the district:

Key Site Recommendations

- Replacement of Asphalt
- Replacement of Bleachers and Press Box
- Provide Concrete Sidewalks At All Athletic Fields To Improve Access
- Replace/Repair Perimeter Property Fencing
- Improve/Upgrade Site Lighting To LED
- Replace Running Track Surface (In Current Project)
- Improve Surface Storage of Storm Water
- Repair/Replace Sidewalks Throughout Site
- Improve Site Signage



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Key Recommendations



MAIN K-12
 EDUCATIONAL FACILITY

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Key Architectural Recommendations

- Update Toilet Rooms To ADA Compliant
- Renovate Outdated Gymnasium Locker Rooms & Weight Room
- Classroom Casework Replacement
- Gymnasium Renovations
- Renovate Cafeteria & Kitchen (In Current Project)
- Renovate Auditorium Finishes & Seating
- Replace Worn Floor Tile and Carpet
- Ceiling Tile Replacements
- Replacement Of Windows



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Key Mechanical & Electrical Recommendations

Mechanical:

- Replace Steam Boilers With Efficient Hot Water Boilers
- Replace Domestic Hot Water Heaters
- Replace Aged Mechanical Equipment
- Provide Carbon Monoxide Monitoring Devices In Areas With Gas Fired Mechanical Equipment



Electrical:

- Replace Fluorescent Lights with Efficient LED Fixtures
- Arch Flash Labeling On Electrical System
- Upgrade/Additional Fire Alarm System To Be Compliant
- Exterior Lighting Improvements and Upgrade To LED Fixtures

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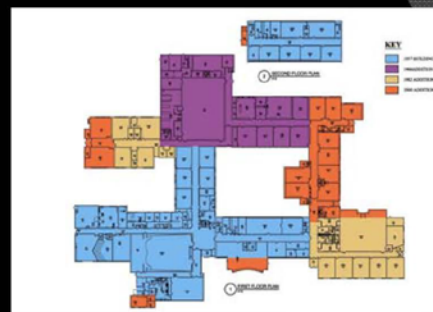
Key Technology Recommendations

- Upgrade Phone Systems To Voice Over IP
- Upgrade & Provide Additional Wireless Access Coverage
- Upgrade Current Intrusion Detection System
- Upgrade & Provide Additional Security Camera Coverage
- Improve instructional technology



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Floor Plans



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Key Recommendations



Beekman Gymnasium



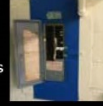
Bus Garage

HUNT

Key Beekman Gymnasium Recommendations

Architectural:

- Upgrade Toilet Rooms To Be ADA Compliant & Provide Elevator
- Replace Bleacher Systems To Be Code Compliant
- Replace Roof System (Recoating in Current Project)



Mechanical:

- Replace Heating System
- Replace Hot Water Tank
- Provide Carbon Monoxide Monitoring



Electrical:

- Provide Emergency Lights At Exterior Egress Exits
- Upgrade Light Fixtures To LED Fixtures
- Replace Electrical Power Distribution Panel

Technology:

- Provide Wireless Access System
- Provide Additional Security Coverage
- Upgrade Phone System to Voice Over IP

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Beekman Gymnasium Floor Plans



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Key Bus Garage Recommendations

Architectural:

- Renovate Office Area
- Upgrade Toilet Room To Be ADA Compliant
- Replace Overhead Door & Window Systems
- Repoint Exterior Concrete Masonry Units



Mechanical:

- Replace Heating System
- Provide Carbon Monoxide Monitoring



Electrical:

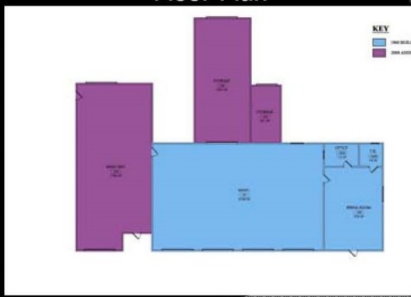
- Provide Emergency Lights At Exterior Egress Exits
- Upgrade Light Fixtures To LED Fixtures
- Provide Additional Electrical Power Distribution Panels

Technology:

- Provide Wireless Access System
- Provide Additional Security Coverage
- Upgrade Phone System to Voice Over IP

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Bus Garage Floor Plan



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Project Summary by Building
 New York State Office of General Services
 12/16/14 10:50:00 AM

FACILITY NAME	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	NET 1 TOTAL	EST. BUDGET (M) (M) (M)	EST. COST (M) (M) (M)	EST. YEAR 1 COST (M) (M) (M)	EST. YEAR 2 COST (M) (M) (M)	EST. YEAR 3 COST (M) (M) (M)
TOTAL	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
ESTIMATED COST TOTAL	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2014	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2015	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2016	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
CONSTRUCTION COST	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2014	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2015	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2016	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
YEAR 1 PROJECT COST	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2014	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2015	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882
2016	1	1	1	3	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882	\$13,288,882

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2. Communications

- 2.1 From the Floor
- 2.2 President's Messages
 - a. Board Meeting Technology

Ms. Edwards said that Ms. Houghton will send out the Technology Survey again on Friday.

b. Board Training Plans

Ms. Edwards said November 3rd at 5:30 p.m. will be the Board Appreciation Dinner. Mr. Mettelman and Dr. Porcelli have been invited. Please bring your calendars to the next meeting to set a date for a Winter Retreat in mid-January for goal setting to reflect some of the work we are doing here.

c. Committee Report(s)

1. Audit Committee – T. Welch

Mrs. Welch said the committee met in September and invited Mrs. Stamboly to answer questions because of miss communications we did discuss credit card and Purchase Order proceedings. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 6:30 p.m. This is a new committee and we are open to any questions or ideas.

2. Facilities Health & Safety Committee - D. Ross

Mr. Ross said there is nothing to report at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Home & Careers Room.

3. Policy Committee – J. Wroblecki

Mr. King reported that we have the 2nd reading of the Credit Card Policy and Regulations. Suggestions about this policy were made by the Audit Committee. The Committee is withdrawing Policy #6204 and the next meeting is scheduled for October 13th.

Mrs. Welch thanked the Audit Committee for their collaboration with the Policy Committee.

4. Survey Committee – T. Welch

Mrs. Welch said she will start to review the 2014 survey and will organize a meeting to start developing a new survey once she has done some research.

5. Transportation Committee – R. Surprenant

Mr. Surprenant said the committee met on September 22nd. The committee went over the quotes for bus purchasing. Moving to purchasing instead of leasing is saving the district about \$40,000. The school truck is on its last leg. We will use it until it is no longer operable. Lisa Stamboly has told us

that there are funds available to replace it when we need a new truck. The next Transportation Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

d. Board Calendar

e. BOCES Representative Report – Dr. G. Porcelli

Dr. Porcelli reported that on September 9th The Cooperative Board recognized two students from the Regional Program for Excellence (RPE): Jenna Pugliese – McNamara from Waterville interned at the Mohawk Valley Systems Surgical Department. Jenna spoke to the Board regarding her interest in forensic pathology and explained how this internship gave her greater insight into that field of stud

Andrew Albert of New York Mills was recognized for his internship work at the Slocum-Dickson medical group where Andrew worked with Dr. Goldliner. This followed along with Andrew's interest in the field of neurology. Andrew had previously completed a similar internship under the School and Business Alliance (SABA) program at BOCES.

Both students received a Certificate of Recognition for their excellent work.

Mr. Russell Stewart represented Waterville / Dr. Porcelli represented NYM along with Superintendent Kathy Houghton and High School Principal, Mr. Michael Spost.

Following the student presentation, Mr. Tom Dorr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Mr. Joe Muller, Safety Coordinator, reviewed the different CoSers within the Safety Program and went into greater depth regarding the areas of the Safety Coordinator's role, as well as the issues of Asbestos, Fire Inspections, In-District Safety Programs, Dignity Act / Bullying Prevention and the function of the Initial Response (IRT) Teams. Mr. Muller spoke about the staff within the Safety Department and shared an overview of the department's credentials. He also spoke on the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) and the DASA services provided by his department to the participating districts.

Some of the 2014-15 highlights were that the Safety Office had provided a Dignity Act Certification course to more than 500 candidates. They also worked actively with the State Police in the development of the new Building Level Emergency Response Team and they coordinated a Request for Proposals for the NYSED mandated Building Condition Survey, resulting in competitive cost / service for component districts.

Mr. Muller also spoke about a 2015-16 initiative to include four newsletters to be distributed to participating districts.

On October 2-3 was the BOCES Component Board Retreat. Board members met with Mr. Mettleman, District Superintendent, and senior staff on Friday evening at the Radisson. Members of the senior staff provided an overview of the various BOCES CoSers (Cooperative Service Agreements), where they originate, how they fit into the BOCES operation, as well as revenue, enrollment, and service projections. The Board met again on Saturday (10/3) at the BOCES and continued in its review of the CoSers before a further discussion regarding each department's activities and how those activities mesh with the Cooperative Board's goals and accomplishments. This was followed by a general discussion concerning the role of the BOCES as a community asset. Finally, the Board took time to review the Board Members' Handbook. Members and also discussed at length the Board's Self – Assessment results.

The Cooperative Board next will meet on Wednesday October 9, 2015 at 4:30pm at BOCES

3. Consent Agenda

Mr. King made the motion to approve the following Consent Agenda seconded by Mrs. Wroblecki:

- 3.1 Board of Education Minutes for September 1, 2015
- 3.2 Business Office Reports for
 - a. Month ending June 2015
 - b. Month ending July 2015
 - c. Month ending August 2015
- 3.3 CSE Reports
 - a. Meeting held 8/20/15
 - b. Meeting held 9/9/15
 - c. Meetings held 9/11/15
 - d. Meeting held 9/15/15
 - e. Meeting held 9/16/15

Mrs. Welch as Chairperson of the Audit Committee asked to withdraw 3.2. a-c until November 3rd.
Mr. King and Mrs. Wroblecki amended their motion to reflect that.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

4. Old Business – N/A

- 4.1 2nd reading of Policy #4600, Use of District Credit Card; Regulation #4600.1, Request for Use of Credit Card; #4600.2, Expense Report for Credit Card – Action

Mr. Fiore made the motion to approve the second reading of Policy #4600, Use of District Credit Card; Regulation #4600.1, Request for Use of Credit Card; #4600.2, Expense Report for Credit Card seconded by Mr. King.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5. New Business

- 5.1 Personnel Report – Action

Mrs. Wroblecki made the motion to approve the following Personnel Report seconded by Mrs. Welch:

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NAME	TENURE AREA/CIVIL SERVICE TITLE	ASSIGNMENT	CERTIFICATION	SALARY/RATE OF PAY	EMPLOYEE REPLACING	EFFECTIVE DATE
I. Coaching Resignation						
Allen, Joel		8th Grade Girls Basketball				10/6/2015
II. Coaching Appointments						
Auffrey, Gregory		Assistant Varsity Football Coach	TCL	\$2,711 prorated	Ross Ricco	September 15,2015
George, Karen		JV Volleyball Coach	TCL	\$2,427	Lauren Heiman	2015-16 School Year
Allen, Joel		JV Girls Basketball Coach	C	\$4,006	Samantha Szkotak	2015-16 School Year
Serley, Megan		Volunteer Girls Basketball	TCL	~0~		2015-16 School Year
III. Unpaid Medical Leave						
Borek, Steve		Building Maintenance Worker	Civil Service			9/5/15 - 10/9/15
IV. Long-term Substitute						
Fattata, Neil	Cleaner	8 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Steve Borek	10/6/15 - 11/3/15
V. Temporary Non-Instructional Positions						
St. James, Cynthia	School Monitor	1:1 Elementary Special Education 6.25 hours per day Monday- Friday As determined by the Administration	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Temporary	10/7/15- 11/6/15
Sroka, Mary	School Monitor	1:1 Elementary Special Education 6 hours per day Monday-Friday As determined by Administration	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Temporary	10/7/15- 11/6/15

Edwards, Bernice	School Monitor	4.5 hours Special Education 1:1 (Elementary/Bus) and .75 hours Jr. - Sr. High School 5.25 hours per day Monday-Friday As determined by Administration	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Temporary	10/7/15-11/6/15
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VI. Probationary Non-Instructional Appointments

Chamberlain, Edward	Bus Driver	1.5 hours every Friday for a total of 1.5 hours per week	Civil Service	\$17.69/hour	John Kurgan	9/11/2015
Staine, Eleanor	School Monitor	6.5 hours Sunday	Civil Service	\$12.68	***Substitute Employees	10/7/2015

VII. Change in Non-Instructional Hours

Hill, Laura		6.75 hours per day on days 1-4 and 7 hours days 5 & 6				9/21/2015
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VIII. Bus Driver Assignments

Boccardo, Michael		2 hours AM run and 2.5 hours PM run M-F for a total of 22.50 hours weekly		Per CSEA Contract		2015-16 School Year
Miller, Douglas		2.25 hours AM run, 1 hour food run, and 3 hours PM run M-F for a total of 31.25 hours weekly		Per CSEA Contract		2015-16 School Year
Green, James		2.25 hours AM run, 3 hours PM run for a total of 26.25 hours weekly		Per CSEA Contract		2015-16 School Year
Furmanski, Tom		2.75 hours AM, 1.75 Mid-Day, and 2.0 hour PM run M-F for a total of 32.50 weekly		Per CSEA Contract		2015-16 School Year
Kurgan, John		2 hours AM M - F, 3.25 hours PM run M - Thur., and Friday/Sunday 7 hours each day for a weekly total of 37 hours		Per CSEA Contract		2015-16 School Year

Frankland, Robert	1.75 AM run and 2.5 hours PM run M - F for a total of 21.25 hours weekly	Per CSEA Contract	2015-16 School Year
Makuszak, Fred	1.75 hours AM run for a total of 8.75 weekly	Per CSEA Contract	2015-16 School Year
Staine, Eleanor	1.25 hours AM run and 1.5 hours PM M-F run for a total of 13.75 weekly	Per CSEA Contract	2015-16 School Year

IX. Non-Instructional Resignations

Nelson, Nina	Bus Driver		9/10/2015
Price, Alexandria	Substitute School Monitor		9/2/2015

X. Substitute Appointments

Nelson, Nina	Bus Driver		\$13.00/hour	10/7/2015
Fowler, Daniel	Physical Education	N	\$60/day	10/7/2015
Bieganowski, Ann	Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6	Y	\$80/day	10/7/2015
Handzel, Kimberly	Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)	Y	\$80/day	10/7/2015

IX. Correction in Yearly Rate

Smith, Jennifer	Teaching Assistant		\$18,316.69 from \$17,310.09
Greico, Nicolle	Teaching Assistant		\$18,018.28 from \$16,809.00

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.2 Shared Transportation Service Agreement – Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the Shared Transportation Service Agreement with Holland Patent Central School seconded by Mr. Ross.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.3 Non-Resident/Non-Tuition Students – Action

Mr. Fiore made the motion to approve the following Non-Resident/Non-Tuition Students seconded by Mr. Surprenant:

Name	Grade
Robert Maciol	9
Sydney Maciol	7

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.4 Building Use Request from Dancenter of Utica, December 20, 2015 – Action

Mr. Ross made the motion to approve the building use request from the Dancenter of Utica seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.5 Transportation Request - Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the transportation request to transport a parochial student seconded by Mrs. Wroblicki.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.6 NYSSBA Voting Delegate – Action

Mr. King nominated Ms. Edwards for NYSSBA Voting Delegate seconded by Mrs. Welch. Mrs., Edwards nominated Mr. King as the alternate seconded by Mrs. Welch. There were no other nominations.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.7 Resolution to Approve Student Council Trip to Niagara Falls – Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the following Student Council Trip to Niagara Falls seconded by Mrs. Welch:

BE IT RESOLVED upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the New York Mills School District approves an Overnight Trip for to the NYS CLSA 28th Annual State Conference, Niagara Falls, New York on November 22 – 24, 2015.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.8 Audit Resolution – Action

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Mrs. Welch made the motion to approve the Audit Resolution seconded by Mr. Fiore:

Whereas: the New York Mills Board of Education has received the audit of fiscal year 2014-2015 from Moore and Hart, Certified Public Accounts and

Whereas: the New York Mills Board of Education has had the opportunity to review said audit:

Therefore: the New York Mills Board of Education accepts the audit from Moore & Hart as presented.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.9 Memorandum of Agreement with Clinton Central School Varsity Girls Ice Hockey Team

Mrs. Wroblecki made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Clinton Central School Varsity Girls Ice Hockey Team seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.10 1st Reading of Policy #0015, Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination; Regulation #0015.1, Report of Possible Harassment, Bullying or Discrimination; Policy #5402, School bus Idling; ~~#6204, Appointment of Athletic Coaches~~; #7100, Concussion Policy; and #7300, Reporting Possible Child Abuse or Maltreatment

5.11 Excess list for bid, sale, or disposal of – Action

Mrs. Wroblecki made the motion to excess the following for bid, sale, or disposal of seconded by Mrs. Welch:

13	Boxes (85 per box) 4' cross tees for drop ceilings
24	24" x 24" 40 watt ceiling lights
20	Old 48" x 30" science tables
59	Miscellaneous chairs
1	Upright piano
1	Bus #34

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

6. Building Reports

a. Elementary Report Cards

Dr. Wilson said this year we are on a trimester reporting system which allows more time for data collection. In addition to the traditional 0-100 point scale, we have also implemented a standard based grading process for the descriptors or standards listed below the average. This allows for a more accurate system for informing parents on how their children are doing with regard to mastering the content, specifically the new York state common core standards. The report card committee will be embarking on a 1-3 yearlong study on how to move the entire building, if we deem in an exemplary model, towards standards based grading, and are working with the regional information center to do so.

b. Fire Safety Assembly

Dr. Wilson said October is fire safety month, and we are so grateful to the New York Mills Fire Department for educating our students on fire safety. Not only is it an important message, but it is a nice bridge between the community and the school.

6.2 Secondary Building Report

a. High School Parent Night

Mr. Spost said the Parent Night for the Jr. Sr. HS was on Monday, September 14th. On the same night we had a 7th grade parent orientation beginning at 6:30 in the HS Auditorium. The orientation included a discussion about new social and emotional things that students would face, the transition to lockers and changing classes, procedures to contact multiple teachers, and other procedures as well as protocols that differ from the elementary. In previous years we would then start Parent Night for all grades with a welcome in the auditorium at 7pm. I revised the procedure this year. Parents of students in grades 8-12 are not really interested in a global address and welcome. They are focused and interested in what will be happening in their child's specific classes. So as soon as parents in grades 8-12 arrive they are free to find their way to their first period class or catch a teacher before the program begins. They then proceed through their child's schedule and are in each class for eight minutes. In that time they learned a little about what is being taught in the class, how their child's grade will be determined, as well as policies and procedures governing the class. We have kept attendance this year and in years past by determining what percentage of parents picked up their child's schedule, but it is not accurate as many already have copies. If we wish to track attendance, we will have to use another method in the future to ensure accuracy.

f. Homecoming

Mr. Spost said StuCo will be keeping track of "spirit" this week by designating specific theme days. Each grade level is encouraged to dress in a specific fashion in order to compete for bragging rights of which class has the most school spirit. Spirit is tallied by the percentage of which grade has the most participation based on each class size.

Friday, 10/9 – Twin Day

Tuesday, 10/15 – Pajama Day

Wednesday, 10/16 – "ER" Day, Dress in something that ends in "-er"

Friday – 10/18 – Blue and Orange Day – Student may wear any Marauder/Mills attire or the colors blue and orange to depict spirit!

After some scuttlebutt within the student body about whether to change to a parade with floats and a bonfire or stick to the traditionally hallway decorating with game night, it was decided in a student forum to have the student body vote on matter. A majority of students chose to continue hallway decorating and game night

The traditional hallway decorating contest will happen on Thursday, October 17th in the evening. Each class is only allowed to spend fifty dollars on decorations.

On the evening of Friday, October 10th, Student Council will host a “Game Night” in the school cafeteria for students in grades 7-12. Prizes are typically candy and gift cards. We have a live DJ to play music. Game night is from 7:00-9:00 pm and is a \$3.00 entry.

On Saturday, October 17th our Marauder football team is playing Waterville! The game will begin at 1:30 pm with free entry for NY Mills Students, a \$1.00 entry for students not from NYM, and \$2.00 for adults. At halftime of the game, we will be honor all fall senior athletes, who will be escorted on the field by someone of their choosing. We will also be hosting our 2nd ever “Running of the Mascots” – other local mascots from colleges and business will be competing in a “race” down the field against our Marauder eagle. Come to watch this hilarious event take place!

After the Homecoming football game on Saturday, October 17th, there will be a semi-formal dance for students in grades 7-12. Ticket sale prices will be \$8.00 presale and \$10.00 at the door. The dance will be from 7:00-10:00 pm at the high school.

Finally, on Sunday, October 18th, Student Council is hosting a Powder Puff football game at 2:00 pm on our home field. It will be the ladies turn to play football – junior girls versus senior girls!

Kudos to Ms. Viel and our Student Council for arranging such vast array of activities for our students!

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Annual Professional Performance Review Plan Status

Ms. Houghton shared with the Board that she has been engaged in continued APPR negotiations through our Professional Education Committee meetings. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet during the summer due to various members' vacation travel, work schedules, and family plans. As soon as we returned to school, however; meetings and negotiations immediately resumed. We have since decided that we must apply for APPR Hardship Waiver #1, which is due by the end of this month; the submission period is October 1 – 30, 2015; with an approval deadline of November 15, 2015. We are also planning to submit our local assessments to NYSED for use with Student Learning Objectives (SLOs); this is one of the conditions that qualifies us to apply for the APPR waiver. Our PEC will be meeting on October 8 to review all components of the APPR and discuss which components we have finalized and which are not yet agreed upon. She will also be attending a NYSED

negotiate in good faith to eventually complete the updated APPR plan. In the meantime, we are evaluating teachers and principals using our current plan, as required.

7.2 Local Assessment Refusal Response

Ms. Houghton informed that Board and public that we have received a few test refusals that include “all pre-assessments, including benchmark exams, standardized assessments connected to SLO’s (such as AIMSweb or STAR), any surveys or field tests, any exam used to formulate an evaluation or score for teachers or the school, and any state assessments.” Unfortunately, this type of blanket test refusal does not allow us to effectively assess our students as a number of these tests are used for multiple purposes so as to reduce the number of assessments our students take. She contacted our school district attorney for guidance on this issue and crafted a response letter that we are using for parent test refusal letters of this nature. The letter was included in your Board packet.

7.3 District Technology Plan

Our District Technology Committee met with Director of Technology Adam Cleveland on October 1st to discuss our technology needs and gain input from the group for our NYSED Instructional Technology Plan Survey. Areas included in the plan are: information technology resources, infrastructure, instruction, professional development, communication, and support. A copy of the executive summary was included in the Board packet.

7.4 SMART Schools Bond Act Planning Process

Adam Cleveland, Director of Technology was invited to the district’s October 8th Facilities Health & Safety Committee meeting, chaired by Richard Ross, Board Vice President. He was asked to review the recommendations of the Technology Committee, present the executive summary of the Instructional Technology Plan, and ask for input into our plans for the district’s use of the \$379,261 of Smart School Bond Act monies allocated to New York Mills. We will be working with our architects, Hunt-EAS to continue our planning in order to make decisions regarding the Smart Schools Bond Act funding that will position the school district for future technology needs.

8. Board Discussion

Mr. King said that he attended both the Jr. – Sr. High School Parent Night and the Elementary Curriculum Night. He was impressed and appreciated the opportunity to meet with the teachers and find out their needs.

9. Visitors Comments

Mr. Spost said since APPR was one of the Superintendent’s comments; he felt he could add a little bit of context to the current state of affairs. Prior to the current law, the previous law imposed using standardized test results in teachers and principals evaluations for 20%, basically leaving the other 80% in local control, 60% of which was principal evaluation based on multiple formal and informal

observations and the remaining 20% through local assessments that were created by the district and approved by the Superintendent. Although the 20% standardized testing in the evaluation is neither
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supported by research or expert study and in fact is directly contradicted as being unreliable and invalid, the state chose to increase standardized test scores of students use by 250% in current evaluations of teachers and principals. They also added other variables which takes 80% of the observation process outside this building and outside of local control leaving just 20% under local control. The current law requires that 50% of teacher and principal evaluations be based on standardized student test scores. Another 20% is based on an approved state measure which is third party vendors if we are unable to get our own local assessments approved through writing narratives to the state about them. An additional 10% will come from an outside evaluator and finally the remaining 20% be done by a local administrator. I find this completely ridiculous that the local administrator who sees the teachers every day, knows their practices, visits their classrooms, talks to parents, talks to students, and unless they have their head in the sand knows the most about each teacher is given just 20% and things calculated and done outside the building will count for 80%. In addition, if the teacher has a VAM score calculated by the state that is low two years in a row, it trumps everything else and they are fired. The problem with the VAM scores are that they are not valid, wildly erratic, not reliable, and do not correlate with direct observations of Principals. The new evaluation law makes teacher evaluation a complete folly. The extortion tactic used by the Governor is that if you fail to agree to this new system, your increase in state aid will be taken from you. There is no amount of money worth destroying public education, local control, and the teaching profession in my opinion. I will gladly ask why punishing children in a district by taking the money their community has paid to the state that the state has also said is needed for your district is justified when the professionals in the school community reject an evaluation system that has no research, expert study, or evidence that it will improve our local public school. Educating by politics is a recipe for failure, not improvement. I will not be coerced through extortion and will continue to do what I believe is in the best interest of our school.

10. Executive Session

11. Adjournment

Mrs. Welch made the motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. seconded by Mr. King.

Yes 7 No 0
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Ann May
District Clerk

