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Jacqueline Edwards President

Richard Ross
Vice President



Jonathan Fiore
Steve King
Rick Surprenant
Traci Welch
Janet Wroblicki

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM – 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Ms. Jacqueline Edwards, Mr. Richard Ross, Mr. Jonathan Fiore, Mr. Steve King, Mr. Rick Surprenant (arrived at 5:35 p.m.), and Mrs. Traci Welch

ABSENT: Mrs. Janet Wroblicki

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Kathy Houghton, Mr. Michael Spost, Mrs. Lisa Stamboly, Mr. William Lachut, Mrs. Paula Ann May and 10 visitors and guests

1. Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.1 Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Acceptance of Agenda

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

Yes 5 No 0 Motion carried.

1.3 Executive Session – to discuss the employment of a particular person(s)

Mr. Ross made the motion to go into Executive Session at 5:32 p.m. to discuss the employment of a particular person seconded by Mr. Fiore.

Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session 6:32 p.m.

1.4 Student Council's 2015-2016 Plans — Ms. Viel with students: Shawn Essafi, Madison Cudhea, Jordyn Keeck-Beach, Brianna Fuccillo, Cassidy Albright

Students: Shawn Essafi, Jordyn Keeck-Beach and Cassidy Albright presented the Student Council Plans for the 2015-16 school year. The Student Council update included:

- Creating a school flag
- Purchasing a spirit trophy to indicate year after year which class wins Spirit Week
- Dissolving hallway decorating in lieu of floats and spirit boards

- Homecoming Parade Friday evening, October 16th, 6:30 start culminating with a bonfire and ending at 9:00 p.m.
- Homecoming Mascot Run during Halftime intermission
- Homecoming Semi-Formal for grades 7-12 with a color/song-themed decoration scheme
- Powder Puff Game on Sunday afternoon junior girls vs. senior girls
 - a. Charging admission
 - b. Creating clearer game rules
- Fall community Clean-up: Saturday, October 24th, pending supervision
- Blood Drive Friday, October 30th
- Emmaus House Collections for Thanksgiving
- $\bullet~$ NAWD (National Association for Workshop directors) in Niagara Falls, New York December $4^{th}-6^{th}$ for Ms. Viel
- Annual Breakfast with Santa
- 1.4 Capital Project Update Hunt EAS Jeffery Robbins, Lead Architect and Chad Snowburg

Jeffery Robbins and Chad Snowburg shared the following PowerPoint Update on the Capital Project:



Current Project Status

Received Arch Comments From SED Response to Comments Anticipated Mech Comments From SED Response to Comments 7/14/15 8/26/15 3/1/16 3/15/16

Anticipated Bid Period Expected Construction Schedule 4/1/16 - 5/1/16 6/1/16

Current BCS Status

BCS Field Work - Complete Rough Draft Owner Review Meeting Board Presentation

HUNT

Beekman Gymnasium

- •Recoat Roof
 •Replace Exterior Doors and add security features
 •Repair deteriorating foundation wall
 •Upgrade sinks in gang tollet rooms

Site Improvements

- •Refurbish track surfacing •Repair Marquee •Provide new Elementary parent drop off loop •Widen sidewalk from Burrstone Road

HUNT

K-12 Building

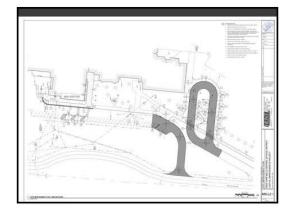
- •Add intruder locksets on classroom doors and assembly spaces

- *Add intruder locksets on classroom doors and assembly spaces
 -Security film at main entrance
 -Replace Boiler Room exterior door
 -Replace Boiler Room exterior doors
 -Replace exterior doors by music rooms
 -Upgrade house and stage lighting in auditorium
 -Redundant A/C in server rooms
 -Redundant A/C in server rooms
 -Redundant A/C in server rooms
 -Reve ceilings and lighting in classrooms second floor classrooms
 -New ceilings and lighting in district office and high school office
 -New kitchen and cafeteria
 -Combine spaces 167A and 167B to create a larger CSE/Instructional space

Technology Upgrades

- Data Closet Improvements
 Access control on exterior doors
 Hore Optic Connection to Beelman Gym and the Bus Garage
 Add SMART Boards in classrooms
 Wireless network upgrades throughout the main building

HUNT













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Mr. King questioned the signage.

2. Communications

2.1 From the Floor

Brenda Mitchell parent wanted to discuss an issue with a school employee.

Ms. Edwards explained that she could not use names of employees in open session.

Mrs. Mitchell said he wanted to speak about an employee using their cell phone. There was an incident with her child. The employee was on the cell and does not witness injuries or fights. She has hear common complaints from other parents. She wanted to bring it to the Board's attention. Why is this employee is able to use their cell phone? The school policy needs to be addressed.

Ms. Edwards referred this to the High School Principal, Mr. Spost. Follow up with Ms. Houghton if you don't get the answer you need.

2.2 President's Messages

Ms. Edwards presented Certificates of Participation to Jonathan Fiore and Steve King for attending "New School Board Member Academy".

Ms. Edwards read aloud letter about participating in the 9-11 Memorial and reminded all Board Members about the SBI General Membership Meeting on September 17th with Regent Bottar.

- a. Committee Report(s)
 - 1. Facilities Health & Safety Committee D. Ross

Nothing to report.

2. Policy Committee – J. Wroblicki

Mr. Fiore reported that the District Credit Card Policy was revised to be a little more adept. The committee trimmed it down and attached forms to be filled out any time the credit card is used.

3. Transportation Committee – R. Surprenant

Mr. Surprenant reported that the Committee met on August 11^{th} to discuss pupil bus ratios and seating capacity. They are scheduled to meet again on September 22^{nd} to see how the routes are. Mrs. Price made clear arrangement to clear one of the bays to keep buses clean from salt and minerals in order to help the buses last longer.

4. Survey Committee – T. Welch

Ms. Edwards said in light of the work we've been doing and looking at financials she is formalizing an Audit Sub-committee chaired by Mrs. Welch with Mr. Fiore and Mr. Ross as members. Ms. Edwards

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asked Mrs. Stamboly to work closely with them on it on as needed basis to get the ball rolling so things make a little more sense. They will be meeting in September.

- b. Board Calendar N/A
- c. BOCES Representative Report Dr. Porcelli, BOCES Board President Ms. Edwards shared the minutes below from Dr. Porcelli with all Board Member to review at their leisure:

The July 8, 2015 Cooperative Board meeting was called to order by the Board Clerk at 4:32P.M.

The Board met in re-organizational session. Members to the Cooperative Board elected by their respective component schools were recognized and given the Oath of Office by Mrs. Deb Kimball, the Board Clerk. Included in this group were:

Ms. Margaret Buckley representing Utica City School District

Mrs. Doreen Corbin representing Brookfield School District

Mrs. Elaine Falvo representing New Hartford Central School District

Mrs. Charlene Hartman representing Westmoreland Central School District

The Officer Nominating Committee chaired by Mr. Michael Moore of Clinton reported out the committee's recommendations regarding the Offices of Board President and Board Vice President. With no nominations being voiced from the floor, the Nominating Committee's recommendations were accepted unanimously as follows and the Oath of Office was administered by the Board Clerk to:

Dr. Gary W. Porcelli representing New York Mills UFSD will serve as Cooperative Board President Mrs. Elaine Falvo representing New Hartford CSD will serve as Cooperative Board Vice President.

Following the election of officers, the Cooperative Board proceeded to appoint the various support personnel, make the necessary authorizations, and establish the committee assignments for the 2015-2016 school year.

Moving next into the regular business of the Cooperative Board, the Board approved the minutes of the June 10,2015 meeting, accepted the Treasurer's reports for May 2015, approved several contracts and lease agreements and dealt with several personnel issues (hiring, resignations, summer school appointments, etc.)

The Cooperative Board also:

- 1) approved its membership in the Rural Schools Association
- 2) appointed new members to the CTE Consultant Committee
- 3) passed a resolution supporting William Miller as Area 5 Director to NYSSBA

Lastly, the Board received the Report of the Mr. Mettleman, the District Superintendent, as well as an update on Legislative Issues. This was followed by information regarding the Board Retreat scheduled for October 2 (Radisson) and October 3 (OHM BOCES).

The Cooperative Board meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted to the NYMills Board of Education

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3. Consent Agenda

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

- 3.1 Board of Education Minutes for July 7, 2015
- 3.2 Business Office Reports for Month ending June 2015 Withdrawn by Mrs. Stamboly
- 3.3 CSE Reports
 - a. Minutes of Meeting held 5/28/15
 - b. Minutes of Meetings held 6/22/15
 - c. Minutes of Meeting held 7/1/15
 - d. Minutes of Meeting held 7/15/15
 - e. Minutes of Meeting held 7/23/15
 - f. Minutes of Meetings held 8/1/15
 - g. Minutes of Meeting held 8/13/15
 - h. Minutes of Meeting held 8/15/15
 - i. Minutes of Meetings held 8/20/15
 - j. Minutes of Meetings held 8/21/15

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

4. Old Business - N/A

5. New Business

5.1 Personnel Report – Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the following personnel report seconded by Mr. Ross:

NAME	TENURE AREA/CIVI L SERVICE TITLE	ASSIGNMENT	CERTIFICATIO N	SALARY/RAT E OF PAY	EMPLOYE E REPLACIN G	EFFECTIV E DATE	ANTICIPATE D TENURE DATE
I. Summer B	Bus Run Revisio	ns					
Furmanski , Tom	Bus Driver	1.5 hrs. AM run, 1.75 hrs. PM run Total 16.25 hrs./week			Kurgan, John	7/17/2015	
Kurgan, John	Bus Driver	7.0 hrs. Friday/Sunday Total 14 hours/week			Furmanski, Tom	7/17/2015	

II. Resignation

Jarosz, Melissa	Teacher Assistant	Y	7/27/2015
Pastorella, Amy	Teacher Assistant	Y	8/31/2015
Woods, Kurtis	Head Modified Football Coach	TCL	7/6/2015
Griffith, Mark	Assistant Modified Football Coach	TCL	7/7/2015
Szkotak, Samantha	JV Girls Basketball Coach	TCL	8/18/2015

III. Coaching Appointments

Curtis, Bruce	Head Varsity Football Coach	TCL	\$5,827	Anthony Ricco	2015-16 School Year
Fowler, Daniel	Assistant Varsity Football Coach	TCL	\$4,066	James Futscher	2015-16 School Year
Griffith, Mark	Head Modified Football Coach	TCL	\$3,067	Kurtis Woods	2015-16 School Year
Reif, Robert	Assistant Modified Football Coach	TCL	\$1,813	Mark Griffith	2015-16 School Year
Allen, Joel	Modified Cross County	c	\$1,748	New Position	2015-16 School Year
Dziekan, Andrea	Modified Field Hockey	СРЕ	\$1,530	Shelby Reardon	2015-16 School Year
Fowler, Daniel	Varsity Volleyball	TCL	\$3,786	Aileen Viel	2015-16 School Year

IV. Instructional Appointments

Bara, Mandy	Teacher Assistant	Elementary AIS/Title I Reading Teaching Assistant (8:20 a.m 3:20 p.m.)	С	\$21,313.00	Amy Pastorella	9/1/2015	9/1/2019
Ciaccia, Laura	Teacher Assistant	Elementary AIS/Title I Math Teaching Assistant (8:20 a.m 3:20 p.m.)	C	\$21,313.00	Melissa Jarosz	9/1/2015	9/1/2019
Powers, Jessica	Teacher Assistant	Jr Sr. High School Special Education Teaching Assistant (7:40 a.m 2:40 p.m.)	CTA/III	\$18,532.00	Brittney Millis	9/1/2015	9/1/2019
Smith, Jennifer	Teacher Assistant	Elementary/Primary Special Education 12:1:1 Teaching Assistant (8:20 a.m 3:20 p.m.)	CTA/I	\$17,310.09	New Position	9/1/2015	9/1/2019
Greico, Nicolle	Teacher Assistant	Elementary/Intermedi ate Special Education 12:1:1 Teaching Assistant (8:20 a.m 3:20 p.m.)	CTA/I	\$16,809.00	New Position	9/1/2015	9/1/2019

V. Non-Instructional Appointments

Diskin, Ellen	School Monitor	Elementary Special Education 1:1 6.75 hours Monday-Friday	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Anna Grossi	9/1/2015	
VI. Daily Sul	ostitute Appoi	ntments					
Darling, Linda		School Nurse RN	Civil Service School Nurse RN	\$16/hour		9/2/2015	
Pietruch, James		Cleaner	Civil Service	\$8.75/hour		9/2/2015	
Mackos, Linda		Office Specialist I/School Monitor	Civil Service	\$8.75/hour		9/2/2015	
Eikeseth, Dayna		Substitute Teacher	Masters in Special Education applying for Certification	\$60/day		9/2/2015	
Czarnocki, Lisa		Social Studies 7-12	Social Studies 7- 12 Initial Certificate	\$80/day		9/2/2015	
Barry, Dana		Teaching Assistant, Level 1	CTA/I	\$60/day		9/2/2015	
Barry, Dana		School Monitor	Civil Service	\$8.75/hour		9/2/2015	
Cole, Laurie		Teaching Assistant, Level 1	CTA/I	\$60/day		9/2/2015	
St. James, Cynthia		School Monitor	Civil Service	\$8.75/hour		9/2/2015	
VII. Adminis	strative Intern	ship					
Kelley, Kristin		Elementary/High School	Administrative Intern	Unpaid		1/26/16 - 4/13/2016	
IX. Authoriza	ation of Famil	y Medical Leave Act					
Borek, Steve		Building Maintenance Worker	Civil Service			6/8/15 - 8/28/15	
X. Unpaid M	edical Leave						
Borek, Steve		Building Maintenance Worker	Civil Servce			8/31/15 - 9/4/15	
XI. 2015-16 S	School Monito	r Hours					
Ferrara, Sharron	School Monitor	6.75 hours per day Monday-Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Fitzgerald, Eliesa	School Monitor	1.5 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	

Hill, Laura	School Monitor	7 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Houle, Debra	School Monitor	7 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Janicki, Betsy	School Monitor	6.5 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Joswick, Marie	School Monitor	6.75 hours per day Monday-Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Lachut, LouAnn	School Monitor	7.25 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Maciol. Tammy	School Monitor	6.5 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Schmelche r, Melinda	School Monitor	6.75 hours per day Monday-Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
Soja, Lisa	School Monitor	6.25 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
West, Kelly	School Monitor	7 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service			2015-16 School Year	
XII. Long-te	erm Substitute	8 hours par day				9/1/2015 -	
Neil	Cleaner	8 hours per day Monday - Friday	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Steve Borek	9/1/2015 - 10/6/15	
St. James, Cynthia	Temporary School Monitor	Elementary Special Education 1:1 6 hours per day Monday-Friday As determined by the Administration	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Temporary	9/2/15 - 10/6/15	
Sroka, Mary	Temporary School Monitor	Elementary Special Education 1:1 6 hours per day Monday-Friday As determined by Administration	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Temporary	9/2/15 - 10/6/15	
		3.5 hours Elementary Special Education 1:1			•		
Edwards, Bernice XIV. Resig	Temporary School Monitor	and 1.5 hours Jr Sr. High School 5 hours per day Monday- Friday As determined by Administration	Civil Service	\$12.68/hour	Temporary	9/2/15 - 10/6/15	

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Mr. King stated that he has a problem voting for 'TBD' positions. All Board Members were in agreement. TBDs were removed from the personnel report and will be removed from all future personnel reports.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.2 Resolution to Set Tax Levy – Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the following resolution to Set the Tax Levy seconded by Mr. Surprenant:

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Mills Board of Education authorizes the School Business Official to collect taxes in the amount of \$3,835,899.31 from the town of New Hartford and \$3,645,275.69 from the town of Whitestown totaling \$7,481,175.00

THEREFORE, the tax rate for the 2015-16 school year will be \$27.36 per one thousand dollar of assessed value for the Town of New Hartford and \$32.44 per one thousand dollar of assessed value for the Town of Whitestown.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.3 Resolution to Approve Substitute Rates – Action

Mr. Fiore made the motion to approve the resolution for the following Substitute Rates seconded Mr. Surprenant:

Be It Resolved that the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education approve the following substitute rates:

Teachers: Certified \$80.00/day

Uncertified \$60.00/day

Curriculum: \$22.00/hour Tutor: \$25.00/hour

Teaching Assistant: \$60.00/day

Nurse: \$16.00/hour Bus Drivers: \$13.00/hour Clerical: \$10.50/hour

School Monitors: \$8.75/hour Maintenance: \$8.75/hour

Mr. Surprenant asked why a substitute maintenance individual makes \$8.75 and a temporary employee makes \$12.68.

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Ms. Houghton explained that a temporary employee works each day for a specified amount of time while a substitute is called in on a day to day basis.

Mr. King asked if these rates have to be negotiated.

Ms. Edwards said we may want to have a conversation about certified and non-certified substitute teacher rates.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.4 Resolution to Approve Overnight Field Trip – Action

Mr. Surprenant made the motion to approve the following resolution seconded by Mr. Fiore:

BE IT RESOLVED upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the New York Mills School District approves an Overnight Field Trip for the Boys & Girls Varsity Basketball Teams to attend and play in the Coaches vs Cancer in Glens Falls/Lake George, New York on December 4-5, 2015.

Mr. King said that it is an inconvenient date because it is the date of the PTSO Craft Fair. We should lobby for a better date. It is just a comment.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.5 Building Use Request from PTSO for Craft Fair December 5-6, 2015-Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the Building Use Request from the PTSO for the December 5 – 6, 2015 Craft Fair seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Mr. Ross asked if we provide the maintenance staff.

Ms. Houghton answered "yes, as they are school-affiliated group and the Craft Fair earnings are used to fund school activities, events, and materials."

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.6 Resolution to Repeal June 2, 2015 Bus Acquisition and Purchase Bus – Action

Mrs. Welch made the motion to approve the following resolution seconded by Mr. Ross:

The expenditure of \$116,680.57 from General Fund for the purchase of bus is hereby authorized, and the previously approved Board authorization for such purpose, adopted by bond NYM Board of Education Minutes
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resolution, dated June 2, 2015 is hereby rescinded and repealed and is supplanted by this authorization.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.7 Non-Resident/Non-Tuition Students

Withdrawn

- 5.8 1st 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
- 5.9 Resolution for Civil Service to Create 3 Temporary School Monitor Positions Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the following Resolution for Civil Service to create three Temporary School Monitor Positions seconded by Mr. Ross:

Be it resolved that the New York Mills U.F.S.D. Board of Education create three (3) temporary School Monitor positions not to exceed 7 hours per day from September 1, 2015 through October 7, 2016 for Oneida County Department of Civil Service.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.10 Transportation request to transport student to Notre Dame Jr. – Sr. High School – Action

Mr. King made the motion to approve the Parochial Transportation Request to transport a student to Notre Dame Jr. – Sr. High School seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

5.11 Accept \$1,400 donation from the NY Mills/Whitestown Lions Club

Mr. Ross made the motion to accept the \$1,400 donation from the NY Mills/Whitestown Lion Club to purchase eye exams and glasses for students who can't otherwise afford them seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Mr. King asked if we could consider another venue because the Lions Club is suggesting Walmart.

Ms. Houghton said that our school nurses will work with eligible families to find the best possible eye care/eyewear prices.

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Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

6. Building Reports

- 6.1 Elementary Building Report
 - a. Report Card Guide
 - b. Opening of School

Dr. Wilson could not be present because of a death in her family but will report on these at the next meeting.

- 6.2 Secondary Building Report
 - a. Opening Days

Mr. Spost said along with the entire district wide training and presentations that Ms. Houghton will discuss our High School building agenda will be quite full. We will have an extensive faculty meeting to go over numerous policies, guidelines, and procedures. Along with the general meeting, our Departments got together to go over curriculum, best practices, syllabuses, etc. Every teacher is scheduled with me to review their student learning outcome (SLO) during the first two conference days. We set mutually agreed upon targets of growth and achievement for students at this time that will later determine how many points teachers will earn for up to forty percent of their evaluation. On the afternoon of the second Superintendent's Conference day we will have our 7th grade orientation beginning at 12:30 p.m. Many seventh graders are already familiar with the high school layout and as you know as 6th graders they joined us for lunch 5th period as part of a transitional model. However, few of them have a good understanding of exactly where they can find specific rooms, what teachers look like, who to go to if help is needed, etc. Because so much will be new we hold this brief orientation. It will give students an idea of where to go on the first day of school. A major new thing is a locker assignment with a lock and this will allow them time to practice before the first day. They are also were welcomed to come in during the last two weeks of summer if they were concerned or anxious about it. We do provide transportation for this program and students who ride the bus will be picked up at the regular stops on the main routes.

b. Parent Night

Ms. Spost said Parent Night for the Jr. Sr. HS will be on Monday, September 14th. We will again have a 7th grade parent orientation beginning at 6:30 p.m. and then get right into having parents precede through their child's schedule shortly after 7 p.m. The expectation is that they learn 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. Most importantly, it will hopefully establish a connection in which communication is encouraged and sets us up to work together as team to support students. Our goal is to make each and every student the best of whatever they are.

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7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 September 2 & 3, 2015 Superintendent Conference Days

Ms. Houghton shared with the Board a copy of the Welcome Back letter sent to all faculty and staff, as well as the schedules for the conference days on September 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} . She reported that both days were successful and included a variety of activities to complete our plans for a successful 2015-16 school year

All faculty and staff attended on September 2nd. There were several trainings presented by BOCES staff: Aesop, our new substitute calling service; Dignity for All Students Act, Right to Know hazardous materials, and building emergency plan procedures. Our School Resource Officer provided an update regarding building safety, our Bus Dispatcher provided Blood Borne Pathogens training to drivers, cleaners, and paraprofessionals; and our Committee on Special Education Chairperson conducted two Special Education meetings that included training on specific student needs.

The scheduled sessions on September 3rd were for teaching staff only; including a district update regarding required changes to our Annual Professional Performance Review Plan, faculty meetings, grade level and department meetings, a K-2 Professional Learning Community meeting, individual teacher Student Learning Objectives meetings, and 7th grade orientation.

7.2 K-12 Enrollment

Ms. Houghton shared our current K-12 enrollment, which shows 572 students; down from 587 last fall. She cautioned the Board that this number may change in the next month as the school year gets underway. She will keep the Board posted.

7.3 2013-14 School Report Card

The Board of Education was provided with a complete copy of the 2013-14 School Report Card; the most current report card available when she and Mrs. Wroblicki attended New School Board Member training at BOCES on August 12th. Ms. Houghton offered to provide a full presentation at a future meeting, including principals' school level reports if the Board would like to take time to delve into each section. She also suggested that a Board workshop may be helpful if more time is needed for this topic.

7.4 2015 Test Refusal Media Attention

Ms. Houghton shared with the Board that New York Mills UFSD had a great deal of media attention during the spring and summer regarding our New York State grades 3-8 test refusal rates. The attention began with the Board's passage of a Resolution to Support the Opposition to High Stakes Testing on April 7 2015; causing a flurry of attention from the NYS Allies for Public Education, Optout CNY, WKTV on April 9th and the Utica Observer-Dispatch on April 20th. This summer after the test scores and test refusal rates were officially released by the NYS Education Department, the

district was contacted by WSYR-TV on 8/13, WUTR and The New York Times on 8/14, and Syracuse.com and the Syracuse Herald/Post-Standard on 8/15. On 8/20 & 21 New York Mills parent Kate Despins was quoted in a story on Syracuse.com, then re-quoted in the blog "Faultlines" and a NYM Board of Education Minutes September 1, 2015 Page 16 of 17

national "Voxatatis blog. I was then contacted by the NYS education blog, Politico on 8/25 and quoted in a story in NYSSBA's On Board on 8/31. With a 74% test refusal rate, one of the higher rates in the state and the highest in Oneida County, it is not a surprise that there was a keen public interest in our story. I will keep the Board updated regarding any loss of state and/or federal funding, as well as any other sanctions the district may receive as a result of the decision to respect and support parents' right to refuse these assessments on behalf of their children.

8. Board Discussion

Ms. Edwards said that she was happy and pleased with such great participation at the recent School Board training event. Would we like to continue in this venue? We should be looking at goal setting. Do we have a new vision for the district? There is always room for change. Maybe sometime during the fall we can do a training module or dinner someplace in order to work on these things.

Mr. King said that Dr. Porcelli is the new BOCES Board President. It is a great achievement, something positive about our district.

9. Visitors Comments

Mrs. Marley read a letter written by the Superintendent of Schools of the Patchogue Medford School District. She said that the School Board and Administration believe these sentiments. Teachers appreciate the support to serve students to the best of our ability thanked the School Board for their hard work.

Mr. Lachut wanted to make a comment that the side door to the stage is a vital part of plays and pageants. He feels that the door should not be removed. We need it.

Mr. Ross said he doesn't think the present door meets codes.

Mr. Lachut said we used the door for 57 years. He would hate to see it go.

Ms. Houghton said that we can discuss this topic with the architect at our next meeting.

10. Executive Session

Mr. King made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a particular person at 8:10 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Welch. Ms. Edwards asked for a five-minute break before entering Executive Session.

Yes 6 No 0 Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ann May District Clerk

Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at 8:40 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Fiore made the motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Yes 6 No 0 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Houghton Clerk Pro-tem