

Jacqueline Edwards
President

Dr. Gary Porcelli
Vice President



J 3.1 a
Richard Ross
Rick Surprenant
Traci Welch

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ALTERNATE VETERANS' EXEMPTION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY – 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Ms. Jacqueline Edwards, President; Dr. Gary W. Porcelli, Vice President; Mr. Jonathan Fiore, Mr. Steve King, Mr. Richard Ross, Mr. Rick Surprenant (arrived at 6:16 p.m.) and Mrs. Traci Welch

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Kathy Houghton, Mr. Michael Spost, Dr. René Wilson, Mrs. Lisa Stamboly, Mr. William Lachut, Mrs. Paula Ann May and 9 visitors and guests

1. Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

1.1 Pledge to the Flag

Dr. Porcelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Acceptance of Agenda

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to accept the Agenda seconded by Mr. Fiore.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion carried.

1.3 Resolution of the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education in Relation to the Alternative Veterans' Exemption from Real Property Taxation under Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) of the State of New York

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

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Chapter 518 into law amending Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law; and

Whereas, Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law subdivision 2 paragraph (d) authorizes New York State school districts to conduct public hearings regarding the alternative veterans' exemption; and

Whereas, the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District held a public hearing on the 6th day of January, 2015 at 1 Marauder Boulevard, New York Mills, New York, on the alternative veteran's exemption; and

Whereas, thirteen individuals appeared to speak on said exemption; and

Whereas, the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District desires to grant an alternative veterans' exemption in accordance with Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law; and

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

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 2 of Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, the maximum veterans exemption from real property taxes allowable pursuant to Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law is established as follows:

- (a) Qualifying residential real property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of fifteen (15) percent of the assessed value of such property; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed the lesser of twelve thousand dollars or the product of twelve thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization¹ rate for the applicable town within the New York Mills Union Free School District.
- (b) In addition to the exemption provided by paragraph (a) of this subdivision, where the veteran served in a combat theater or combat zone or operations, as documented by the award of a United States campaign ribbon or service medal, qualifying residential real property also shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten (10) percent of the assessed value of such property; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed the lesser of eight thousand dollars or the product of eight thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate² for the applicable town within the New York Mills Union Free School District.
- (c) In addition to the exemptions provided by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision, where the veteran received a compensation rating from the United States Veteran's Administration because of a service connected disability, qualifying residential real property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of the product of the assessed value of such property multiplied by fifty percent of the veteran's disability rating; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed the lesser of forty thousand dollars or the product of forty thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate³ for the applicable town within the New York Mills Union Free School District.

¹ For special assessing units, the latest class ratio.

² For special assessing units, the latest class ratio.

³ For special assessing units, the latest class ratio.

Mr. Fiore Yes
Ms. Edwards Yes
Dr. Porcelli Nay
Mrs. Welch Yes
Mr. Ross Yes
Mr. King Nay
Yes 4 No 2

Dr. Porcelli voted nay and read the following statement about why he voted no:

I have been a member of the NYM Board of Education now for some 12 years; in fact, I am the senior member of this Board having served longer than anyone else present. During that time of service to this community, I have had only one item on the agenda as a Board member: Kids First. With each vote, I implicitly, and sometime even explicitly, ask myself: Is this good for Kids? I believe that is also true for my colleagues on this board.

Despite the fact that it is without doubt that our veterans deserve respect and recognition for their service and, in some cases, for their ultimate sacrifice, to do so in this way is not, in my opinion, good for kids?

One can make a case for almost any group and say that they also deserve a break. I am reminded of a picture in the OD a few years ago of firefighter friend, who may be in the room, standing outside of a burning house absolutely distraught, exhausted, and in much pain because, as I recall it, several children perished in that fire despite his brave efforts and that of others. Does not he and in fact all of our first responders – the police or volunteer firefighters in this community – deserve a similar recognition? How about the family with a special-needs child? Most definitely, given the hardship and extra efforts and sacrifices that they must make, don't they deserve some relief? What about our seniors on fixed income? Even with STAR relief, social security stretches only so far. What about young families just starting out and struggling in this difficult economy? What about the members of this Board, who give up tremendous amounts of time without pay? (and I must add that I believe all of them would refuse pay if it were offered.) Still, certainly one can argue that their service should be recognized. A tax break here, while certainly appropriate, sends us down a very slippery slope and any other group that the governor wishes to court in his reelection bid can make a similar petition.

How about this? We can give everybody a tax break and have a telethon twice a year in NYM.

Secondly, tonight we will consider supporting court action to deny a reduction in taxes from a business in our community. We have done this many times since I have been on the Board. However, consider this: if that business is successful, the tax relief which they would receive must then be distributed among all of the remaining tax payers – the same thing that will happen by granting this exemption to our veterans. I submit to you that to be consistent you must vote no on seeking to fight the tax w=exemption sought by the business.

Thirdly, on its face, this proposal is fiscally unsound and as such for me to vote yes would violate my oath as a Board member. I would be agreeing to something for which we do not have accurate information on its fiscal effect. A young man or woman just returning from Afghanistan may not show up on the STAR roles, but would be eligible for tax reduction. The number we have been given, 255, is a base, not a total and the effect on the remaining ineligible, taxpayers could be much more impactful then it shows now.

Lastly, I believe that the documents which support the founding of this country clearly state that all are created equal. I cannot vote yes on this issue and then look at my young neighbors with their three daughters in the NYM School and say, "Sorry folks, you must pay a bit more now so others can pay less!" to me that says, in the words of George Orwell, "that some are more equal than others," This measure, while deserved, in my opinion, undermines the very group we are trying to attract to NYM to grow this community and this school district. We are saying, in effect, come to NYM and its fine school district, but be advised that unless you served in the military, you will have to pay a bit more than some others in the community.

Mr. King said he had the opportunity to post the question on Facebook to the public that doesn't attend meetings. It was 60 to 40 against. Some concerns were that we passed a building project adding to taxes, we are asking again for a tax increase, and we will be asking again in May.

Motion passed.

Section 2. The school business official is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the town assessors within the New York Mills Union Free School District.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect **immediately for the 2015 tax year.**

CONVENE PUBLIC HEARING

1.4 Public Hearing for Adjustment of the Alternate Veterans' Exemption

SHARED SUCCESS

Veterans' Tax Exemption for NY Mills (@ \$6,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000)

QUESTAR III State Aid & Financial Planning Service
January 6, 2015

Alternative Veterans Exemption - HISTORY

- In December 2013, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that allows school districts to offer the alternative veterans property tax exemption.
- Because action was necessary by school boards prior to March 1, 2014 for the exemption to be available for the 2014-15 fiscal year most school districts postponed consideration of the exemption due to the limited time available for analysis.
- Other municipalities have had this exemption available to them for a number of years. Currently over 95% of other municipalities have adopted the exemption.

Alternative Veterans Exemption – WHAT IS IT

- Provides an exemption for a portion of the assessment on the residential property of veterans, their surviving spouses and potentially "Gold Star" parents;
 - Who served during a time of war (15%)
 - Who served in a combat zone (10%)
 - Who incur service-connected disabilities (up to 50%)
- There are caps on the amount of each exemption level established by the governing body. The caps are multiplied by the equalization rate of the municipality.
 - \$6,000
 - \$10,000
 - \$20,000

Alternative Veterans Exemption – THE IMPACT

- Exempting property does not reduce the overall liability (the tax levy) it simply distributes the liability over a smaller base.
- A smaller base translates to a higher tax rate.
- In the NY Mills school district there are currently 255 properties that receive the veterans exemption.

VETERANS EXEMPTIONS = \$1,243,111*

TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE = \$251,547,472

0.49%

* - Estimate using exemption levels of \$6,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000.

Alternative Veterans Exemption – THE IMPACT

- Exempting property does not reduce the overall liability (the tax levy) it simply distributes the liability over a smaller base.

	Current	With Exemption
Tax Levy	7,388,815	7,388,815
Assessed Value	252,790,583	251,547,472

Alternative Veterans Exemption – THE IMPACT

- A smaller base translates to a higher tax rate.
- Utilizing the 2013-14 exemption figures and applying them to NY Mills' 2014-15 tax calculation the following represents the adjusted rates for each town:

Town	NY Mills Tax Rates		\$ Change	% Change
	Current	With Exemption		
New Hartford	26.577601	26.708944	0.131343	0.49%
Whitestown	32.568631	32.665263	0.166632	0.49%
Tax on True	22.590719	22.702356	0.111637	0.49%

Alternative Veterans Exemption – THE IMPACT

7

Comparison of Tax Bills

Tax bill on home assessed at (\$100,000)	Exemption not Adopted	Exemption Adopted	Change to Tax Bill
Non-Veteran - NH	2,657.76	2,670.89	13.13
Veteran - NH (wartime) 15%	2,657.76	2,534.68	(123.08)
Veteran - NH (combat zone) 25%	2,657.76	2,443.87	(213.89)
Veteran - NH (disabled) up to 50%	2,657.76	2,218.94	(440.82)
Non-Veteran - WTown	3,250.40	3,266.53	16.08
Veteran - WTown (wartime)	3,250.40	3,130.31	(120.15)
Veteran - WTown (combat zone)	3,250.40	3,039.30	(210.90)
Veteran - WTown (disabled)	3,250.40	2,912.40	(437.90)

Alternative Veterans Exemption – STEPS TO IMPLEMENTATION

8

- Hold a public hearing at a BOE meeting prior to March 1, 2015.
- Put forth a resolution for the BOE to act upon to implement the Alternative Veterans Exemption with dollar limits defined.
- Notify Oneida County of the adoption of the Alternative Veterans Exemption by March 1, 2015.

Alternative Veterans Exemption – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

9

- Generally, adoption of this exemption distributes local tax liability differently but still among the local taxpayers. Because the exemption is applied before STAR there is potential to shift some liability currently borne by the State back to the local taxpayers.
- Recent legislation has clarified that school districts may subsequently repeal the exemption if they so choose.

10

Questar III
10 Empire State Boulevard
Castleton, NY 12033
(518) 477-2635
Fax (518) 477-4284
sap.questar.org
@qlisap

Ms. Edwards read the following from Mr. Richard Radomski:

You know they say a veteran is someone who gives a blank check to the United States of America for an amount up to and including their own life.

Many veterans from our school district have given their lives so we can be here today. Also there re many veterans who have had their lives shortened by their injuries and wounds along with other veterans who suffer daily from wounds, injuries and health problems caused by their service.

We are safe today because of our veterans and the less than 1% of the population of this great nation who are currently in military service. Approximately 6% of the population of the United Sates are Veterans while the New York Mills District has over 11% veteran taxpayers – nearly twice the U.S. average.

As a veterans I truly appreciate the response on the Board of Education's survey by our community 2.6 of 4 or 65% in favor of a veterans' exemption, even if it results in a tax increase, and I thank our School Board for its' survey and getting the :pulse" of the community.

Many other school districts have already passed this exemption to show respect and appreciation to veterans and families and to encourage others to serve as well. I would like to thank my fellow veterans for their service and we must never forget all who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our Freedom.

Sincerely, Richard Radomski

Mr. Markowicz showed his three (3) Purple Hearts and said you don't think a veteran deserves it. He said he already gets it from the county and village. They had no trouble doing it.

Mr. Radomski wanted to remind the Board that when he was on the School Board we held retreats locally. He said he didn't know what it costs for a Board Member's room to stay in and meals but Mr. Markowicz offered his home and would even feed everyone, saving taxpayers money. You should seriously think about doing something like that

Mr. Maciol read the following statement:

Good evening and thank you to the members of the School Board for the opportunity to speak before you at tonight's' meeting. In addition thanking you, we all owe a thank you to every veteran of America's Armed Forces, for it was them and what they did that allows public meetings, public votes, and public elections to go on.

I strongly believe that that is the responsibility of every American – especially those in positions such as yours and mine – to make sure our service members are taken care of after their service and sacrifices that they have made for our country. I hope your final decision is one that will send a message to the community that the New York Mills Union Free School District believes in our veterans of today and tomorrow.

The increase in taxes to the non-veterans and those who wouldn't qualify under this proposal would amount to a monthly increase of what one beverage costs at the coffee

shop up the street. I certainly don't think that's too much to ask as we show support to those who ensure for us the rights we take for granted each and every day. Let us never forget that it was not the politician that gave us the right to vote, it was the veteran!

Mr. King commented that veterans do indeed deserve the exemption, no objection to the service provided but this is something that takes away from our kids. Pay for veterans, absolutely they all should be taken care of but he didn't know if this is the place to take care of it.

Mrs. Porcelli said that she is the daughter of a World War II and a sister of a Vietnam veteran, but she is not sure this is the right place. It bothers her about what she has been reading in the paper about veterans' hospitals and either the government at large not dealing with veterans. She has been sending Valentines to vets for years, it is well appreciated. She writes a little note "form a grateful citizen." Sometimes just recognition is grateful. Her brother has said if you see a vet thank them. I think we personally can take the responsibility. Supporting a Veterans' outreach center and giving food for veterans may be more appropriate to thank the veterans who are in need. There are a lot of homeless and hungry veterans.

Mrs. Welch said that everyone knows dad is a veteran. She is well aware of what veterans have done for us and is proud of her father. She doesn't believe in taking the responsibility from one group to another, but more community members have contacted her saying that they support it. This community has always supported our vets so she went with the community voice vs her opinion. That is why she changed her mind and voted yes. She supports the lower cap of this proposal.

Dr. Porcelli wanted to make it eminently clear that he is absolutely in favor of an exemption and cannot thank veterans enough, but cannot get past the softness of the numbers and secondly cannot get past where other people have to pay the freight.

Mr. Fiore said a tide of change begins with a single ripple. If we seek to have change, he can't see why we can't start here. It is only fair to give a little bit more to our Veterans.

Mr. Surprenant said with the new developments he agrees with giving back.

Ms. Edwards said she may be biased as a daughter and a sister of three veterans. Her nephew recently returned and is grateful every day that small 1% gave us our freedom. We are just repaying a debt they already gave us. You cannot put a price tag on what they paid or what they have gone through. She said again that she knows she is biased, but she is trying to put children first. Her nephew took the time to go out and do rallies and programs to support kids in need that extend far beyond his day now that he is home. He is the marine holding the baby, her nephew and grandnephew on the banner in Rome for Toys for Tots. We should do the right thing and acknowledge them.

CONCLUDE PUBLIC HEARING AND RECONVENE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 6:44

- 1.5 Resolution of the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education in Relation to the Adjustment of the Alternative Veterans' Exemption from Real

Property Taxation under Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) of the State of New York

Mr. Ross made a motion to approve the following resolution inclusive of the Gold Star Parent seconded by Mr. Surprenant:

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Chapter 518 into law amending Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law; and

Whereas, Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law subdivision 2 paragraph (d) authorizes New York State school districts to conduct public hearings regarding the alternative veterans' exemption; and

Whereas, on January 6, 2015, the New York Mills Union Free School District held a public hearing to address the adoption of a resolution providing for the base exemption set forth in Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law; and

Whereas, on February 3, 2015, after the public hearing, and at a regular board meeting, the New York Mills Union Free School District adopted a resolution providing for the base exemption set forth in Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law; and

Whereas, said subdivision 2 paragraph (d) requires a public hearing separate from the hearing for the basic exemption to consider whether to adjust the alternative veterans' exemption; and

Whereas, the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District, held a separate public hearing on February 3, 2015, at 1 Marauder Boulevard, New York Mills, New York; and

Whereas, three (3) individuals appeared to speak on said exemption, and;

Whereas, the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District desires to grant an alternative veterans' exemption in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 2 paragraph (d) subparagraph (ii) of Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law.

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

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of subdivision 2 paragraph (d) subparagraph (ii) of Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, the alternative veterans exemption from real property taxes shall be as follows:

- (a) The maximum exemption allowable for the three levels of the basic Alternative Veterans' Exemption in subdivision 2 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of Section 458-a will be, respectively:
 - \$6,000 dollars, or that amount multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less;

- \$4,000 dollars, or that amount multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less; and
- \$20,000 dollars, or that amount multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.

- (b) The exemption levels set forth above shall apply to the primary residence of a Gold Star Parent. A Gold Star Parent shall mean the parent of a child who died in the line of duty while serving in the United States armed forces during a period of war.

Section 2. The school business official is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the town assessors within the New York Mills Union Free School District.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll call vote:

Mr. King, Yes

Mr. Ross, Yes

Dr. Porcelli, Nay for reasons stated earlier

Mrs. Welch, Yes

Ms. Edwards, Yes

Mr. Surprenant, Yes

Mr. Fiore, Yes

Yes 6 No 1
Motion passed.

2. Communications

2.1 From the Floor

Mr. Radomski thanked the Board for the tax exemption as well as Mr. Markowicz.

Mr. Makuszak said he spoke to Mary Blair from Veterans Affairs and she will be pleased. He wanted to say thank you.

2.2 President's Messages

a. Committee Report(s)

1. Facilities Health & Safety Committee – N/A
2. Policy Committee – T. Welch

Mrs. Welch said the Policy Committee met on January 20th. They were discussing Policy #7101, Extracurricular Policy, and invited Mr. Spost, Jr. – Sr. High School Principal, to attend. He met with teachers and they have made a few changes. The next Policy Meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 6:30 p.m. when they will be reviewing the 7000s.

3. Transportation Committee– Dr. Porcelli

Dr. Porcelli thanked the members of the Committee. The committee continues to discuss leasing buses versus purchasing them. A lot of time was put in on the bus lease versus purchase issue by Mrs. Stamboly and Mrs. Price. We can begin purchasing buses over a 10 year period. It is fairly clear that there will be cost savings. The question now is, “Can we switch over to purchasing a bus this year?”

Ms. Houghton recommends that if we are able to purchase, we purchase 1 bus and lease 2, If we continue to purchase only 1 bus per year, we will keep our expenditures level throughout the 10-11 year replacement cycle..

a. Bus Leasing vs. Purchasing

A Straw Poll was taken and all Board Members present were in favor of purchasing buses as a money saving option.

A straw poll is not binding action, however, Ms. Houghton was asked to work with Mrs. Price and Mrs. Stamboly to develop full 10-11 year purchasing cycle for the Board to act on at their March meeting.

b. Board Calendar

Mr. Fiore said that should Coach Adey’s team win the next two varsity basketball game he will be the winningest coach in Section III history. He would like the Board to do something before the next home game to show good faith. It is a sign of progress and it is a good thing to do.

Ms. Edwards suggested that Mr. Fiore present Coach Adey with a plaques on behalf of the Board of Education.

c. BOCES Representative Report

Dr. Porcelli said that he was ill and missed the last BOCES Board Meeting. The next BOCES Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th, at 4 p.m.

3. Consent Agenda

Mr. King made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:

- 3.1 Board of Education Minutes January 6, 2015
- 3.2 Business Office Reports for Month ending December 2014
 - a. Business Office Transfers
- 3.3 CSE Reports
 - a. Minutes of meeting held 12/12/14
 - b. Minutes of meeting held 1/6/15
 - c. Minutes of meeting held 1/7/15

- d. Minutes of meeting held 1/8/15
- e. Minutes of meetings held 1/9/15
- f. Minutes of meeting held 1/15/15
- g. Minutes of meeting held 1/16/15
- h. Minutes of meetings held 1/22/14
- i. Minutes of meeting 1/23/15

Mr. Fiore seconded the motion.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

4. Old Business

N/A

5. New Business

5.1 Personnel Report – Action

Mrs. Welch made the motion to approve the Personnel Report seconded by Mr. Ross:

EMPLOYEE	CERTIFICATION AREA	CERT	SALARY*	EFFECTIVE DATE
I. Family Medical Leave				
Hartmann, Michelle	English 7-12	Y		on or about 5/27/15 - 6/26/15
II. Long-Term Subsidize Teacher				
Montesano, Marilyn	English 7-12	Y	\$225/day	on or about 5/27/15 - 6/26/15
III. Substitute Teachers				
Shevlin, Kathleen	Childhood Education Grades 1-6	Y	\$80.00	2/4/2015
Bliss, Ryan	Childhood Education Grades 1-6	Y	\$80.00	2/4/2015
Spaziani, Alicia	Childhood Education Grades 1-6	Y	\$80.00	2/4/2015
McNamara, Holly	Social Studies 7-12	Y	\$80.00	2/4/2015
Madia, Nicole	Childhood Education Grades Pre-K -6	Y	\$80.00	2/4/2015

IV. Non-Instructional Substitute

Clark, Diane	Office Specialist I	\$8.75/hour	2/4/2015
--------------	---------------------	-------------	----------

V. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

Belmar, Nina	Social Worker	Y	10/9/2015
--------------	---------------	---	-----------

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.2 Move April 21st Board of Education Meeting or Add Meeting April 28th to Vote on BOCES Budget and Board Members

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to add a Board Meeting on April 28th seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.3 Resolution for Appraisal Services for Widewaters French Road Co.

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to approve the following resolution seconded by Mr. Ross:

WHEREAS, WIDEWATERS FRENCH ROAD CO. c/o HOME DEPOT USA, INC. has commenced tax certiorari proceedings challenging the tax assessments located at 545 French Road in the Town of New Hartford, County of Oneida for tax rolls 2013 and 1014; and

WHEREAS, these proceedings present a substantial challenge to the tax base in the Town of New Hartford and an adverse decision would have a significant financial impact upon the New York Mills Union Free School District; and

WHEREAS, the School District has intervened in the proceedings for both outstanding proceedings (Supreme Court; Oneida County; Index Nos. 2013-1495 and 2014-1563); and

WHEREAS, New York Mills Union Free School District Policy #4700 provides for the sharing of legal defenses costs incurred by the Town on a 50% - 50% basis; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is agreeable to sharing an equal 50% share of the legal costs and expenses in defending the above-referenced proceedings, including, but not limited to, the appraisal fees necessary to the defense of such proceedings; and

WHEREAS, proposals from three Real Estate Appraisers have been obtained, and the credentials and proposed fees are similar (with **a**) Mr. Stropp proposing to complete a trial ready appraisal report for both years for the sum of \$6,500, with a preliminary report for \$3,500, and the balance to upgrade to a trial ready report, **b**) Mr. Wicker proposing to complete a trial ready appraisal report for both years for the sum of \$14,400, and **c**) with Mr. Thurston proposing to complete a trial ready appraisal report for both years for the sum of \$7,250, with a preliminary report for \$3,250, and the balance to upgrade to a trial ready report).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District hereby agrees to retain Appraiser Thurston, Casale, & Ryan, LLC and to share 50% of the cost of said Appraiser's fees associated with the defense of these Article 7 tax certiorari proceedings up to \$3,250.
2. In the event that the Appraiser's fee will exceed the established fee limit of \$7,250 School District Counsel will come back to seek approval of additional funds by the Board of Education and will explain the facts and circumstances justifying such additional authorization.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

- 5.4 1st reading of Policy #7001, School Census; 7002, Admission Requirements; 7003, Determination of Student Residency; Regulation #7003.1, Principals and Procedures for Determination; #7003.2, Affidavit of Emancipation; #7003.3, Parent Affidavit; Policy # 7004, Resident and Nonresident Student Policy; #7005, Education of Homeless Children; Regulation #7005.1 , Procedures for Achieving Homeless Children; #7005.2, Stac 202 Form; Policy #7006, Student Attendance; 7007, Student Dismissal; Regulation #7007.1, Student Dismissal Release Form; Policy 7001, Census

6. Building Reports

- 6.1 Elementary Building Report
 - a. Kindergarten Registration/Demographics

Dr. Wilson reported that 14 students enrolled so far, but this process usually happens all year long with an influx in the spring around screening time.

- a. As we register kindergarten students please know that we are continually enrolling and unrolling students, as the landscape of New York Mills is

- changing. We have more transient youth, youth with adverse childhood experiences, youth living in poverty, youth being raised by one parent or an adult other than their parents, or in foster care youth who have incarcerated parents, etc.
- b. adult other than their parents, or in foster care youth who have incarcerated parents, etc.
 - c. At the elementary school 14% of our students are classified with having a disability.
 - d. Approximately 30 % of the students are in Tier 2 or 3 academic intervention programs
 - e. 48% of our students receive free or reduced lunch
 - f. And the amount of students that meet the homeless qualifications has quadrupled

In a study entitled: Demographics, Diversity and K-12 Accountability: The Challenge of Closing the Achievement Gap," with Thomas J. Lasley, II, Education and Urban Society, Volume 34, Number 4, Sage Publication, Thousand Oaks, California, August, 2002, by William L. Bainbridge and Thomas J. Lasley, II

There is evidence that social, culture and educational capital play a major role in students learning. Far more relevant than race or gender in academic achievement are the education levels of students' parents (as well as other adults) and family socioeconomic status. He asserts that the greatest predictor of a child's success in school is the education level of the parents, particularly the mother. Research has shown that a relationship exists between school system effectiveness, the socioeconomic status of families in the community, and the educational level of parents. Recent studies have suggested that early childhood experiences affect learning and development, with children from impoverished environments generally achieving at lower levels than those from more enriching situations. Living in poverty usually means families are less able to afford good health care, nutritious food, or enriching cultural or educational experiences for their children. Variables such as parent education level, quality of diet, and access to stimulating environments are related directly to the ability of individual students to learn.

Environmental factors continue to have a major impact on student achievement. Joseph Murphy at The Ohio State University and his colleagues document a body of findings in the declining social welfare of children and their families: "These data reveal a society populated increasingly by groups of citizens that historically have not fared well in this nation, especially ethnic minorities and citizens for whom English is a second language. Concomitantly, the percentage of youngsters affected by the ills of the world in which they live—for example, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, crime, drug addiction, malnutrition and poor physical health—is increasing." Some surprising findings have indicated that the effects of poverty extend beyond individual families. In schools with 25 percent of the student body living in poverty, all students, whether poor, affluent or in between, tend to do less well than students from schools in affluent communities.

Some argue that school "treatment" effects can override the home environment, and certainly, to some extent we can combat some of these stressors as we all know Teachers do make a difference. But it is irrational and unfair to expect teachers to accomplish the same academic

growth with students who do not have requisite social and intellectual capital when they enter school as they do with those who do possess such personal resources.

In addition, the adverse child experiences study ACE, indicates that the total amount of stress during childhood increases their risk for the following:

- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Depression
- Fetal death
- Health-related quality of life
- Illicit drug use
- Ischemic heart disease (IHD)
- Liver disease
- Risk for intimate partner violence
- Multiple sexual partners
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Smoking
- Suicide attempts
- Unintended pregnancies
- Early initiation of smoking
- Early initiation of sexual activity
- Adolescent pregnancy
-

b. 2015-16 Budget Needs

We are already seeing the negative impact that ACES have on our children. With all of this data in mind Dr. Wilson wanted to inform the Board of conceivable budget needs:

- She would like to run after school programing with bussing
- She would like additional teacher assistants to help with Academic Interventions
- She would like to continue the services of our social worker and guidance counselor
- With regard to curriculum, teachers build their budgets, they submit requests for text books etc. we are still printing resources from BOCES, and using trade books, and as our conversations continue about resources we may look at additional texts or programs
- We are aligning our report card with the standards which will be an additional cost.

6.2 Secondary Building Report

a. "Think First!" Safe Decision-Making

Mr. Spost said that each year about 24,000 people in New York will become paralyzed by traumatic spinal cord injuries or will suffer head injuries. Automobiles, motorcycle, diving injuries are the major causes. Fifty percent of these injuries occur to young people ages 15-24. The Injury Control Subcommittee of the Oneida Health Promotion Coalition and the St. Elizabeth Area Trauma Center is sponsoring a "Think First" injury prevention program which is given to students in area schools. Today we welcome this presentation here in New York Mills. The presentation included a short movie, a talk by a Health Educator, and a talk by a person who has been injured. The program emphasizes tips to prevent head and spinal cord injuries. Some core messages are as follows:

- Always buckle up and drive defensively.

- Don't text and drive
- Always recognize that even a "moderate" amount of alcohol or other drugs can impair your ability to think clearly
- Choose your acquaintances cautiously; avoid those who possess weapons and those situations which might result in violence.
- Use your head, wear a helmet, wear approved safety gear for potentially dangerous sports activities, and know your limits in any sport.
- Be Smart; check the water for depth and hidden objects before diving.

The program emphasizes doing things because it is the safe and right thing to do. Sometimes common sense is not so common, especially when student get together in a pack. The intention of this program was to combat poor decisions and prevent injuries in young people.

b. 2015-16 Budget Needs

Mr. Spost said the cost of the two period Social Studies position for 2015-2016 would be \$28,831.84

($\$15,368$ salary + $\$5,839.84/38\%$ FICA, TRS, Medicare, Comp., etc.+ $\$7,624$ Health Ins.)

The cost for a full year of Senior Seminar would be \$16,200.

(BOCES Projection for an extra .2 FTE of Teacher, no aid factored in because two schools would need to share the service)

The Cost for a half year of Senior Seminar would be \$8,100.

(BOCES projection of an extra .1 FTE of a teacher, no aid factored in because two schools would need to share the service)

Proposal- Eliminate two period position in NYMTA saving \$28,831.84, but add a half year of Senior Seminar costing \$8,100. This allows us to save \$20,731.84 in comparison to last year's staffing model. If we don't add Senior Seminar the saving would be the whole \$28,831.84. He is proposing eliminating the two period position in Social Studies whether or not Senior Seminar is added.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Enrollment

Ms. Houghton shared with the Board a report of our K-12 enrollment as of the end of the second quarter. The total number of student enrolled is 594, which is identical to our enrollment at the end of the first quarter. However, our in-district student number has increased by 4 students, while our outside placements have been reduced by 4 students.

7.2 2015-16 Budget/State Aid

An article from the Observer-Dispatch, "School Aid Estimates Held Hostage: Districts Sweating because Cuomo Won't Release Numbers" was distributed to the Board of Education

by Ms. Houghton. She told the Board and public that the administration is hard at work on the 2015-16 budget, just as they always are at this time. Although we would really like to know what our school aid increase (if any) will be, we are planning for the worst case scenario (0% increase) and hoping for the best. Governor Cuomo has attached the passage of several education reforms to a \$1.1 billion increase in aid, with \$377 million increase without these reforms. We still do not know what our actual percentage increase, if any will be, but our plan is to present the first draft of our spending plan to the Board at our March 3rd Board meeting and budget workshop. We will continue to revise this plan as projected state aid numbers are made available to us. Ms. Houghton reminded everyone that we faced a similar situation back in 2009 and we were still able to adopt our district budget on time. We will plan to do the same thing this year.

7.3 Capital Project Update

Ms. Houghton reported that she is working with Dr. Wilson, our Kindergarten teachers, the class of 1940, and Mr. Lachut to plan a joint tree planting ceremony on Arbor Day in April. She will keep the Board posted as plans progress for this event. All are invited to attend. There is also a third planning meeting for the cafeteria/kitchen expansion scheduled at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12th. Mr. Dick Ross, Chairperson of our District Facilities Health & Safety Committee will attend this meeting.

7.4 Building Conditions Survey

Ms. Houghton shared a draft of the BCS proposal from Hunt-EAS, architect for our upcoming capital project. She reminded the Board that our previous BCS that was completed five years ago was not useful to us at all when planning for our current project. Normally, these documents are used to develop 5-year plans for future maintenance and improvement projects through the prioritization of needs and concerns established through the BCS process. Hunt-EAS has made a proposal to provide the district's BCS at nine cents per square foot, or \$17,270. She asked if the Board would like a presentation of the BCS document from Dave Adams, lead architect during an upcoming meeting. She also shared that OHM BOCES recently put out a Request for Proposal for a BCS on behalf of a number of districts. We did not participate in this process because we are already working with an architect. Mr. Ross made the suggestion that we ask for information about the status of the BOCES RFP and what the price per square foot is coming in at from the responding companies. Ms. Houghton said that 25-27 cents per square foot is aidable at our current aid level. She will contact the BOCES Safety office for more information and use it in her discussion with Hunt-EAS. She agreed to contact the safety office and will provide additional information to the Board.

7.5 Regional Training – Emergency Response Plan

Mr. Mettelman, BOCES Superintendent sent a flyer to all school district superintendents advertising a Regional Meeting Training for Building Level Emergency Response Plan Templates to be held on Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00 a.m. at OHM BOCES. Ms. Houghton told the Board that she will be attending this training, along with Mrs. Nancy Nicholl, School Resource Officer and Mr. Dick Ross, Facilities Health & Safety Committee Chair. Once the

training is complete, we will convene a second meeting of our District Facilities Health & Safety Committee in order to revise our plan to meet the new regulations.

7.6 Alignment OHM

Board members were referred to the tri-fold flyer that was placed in their packets regarding a new collective impact effort that is in development at BOCES. Alignment OHM is an organizational structure that aligns community resources and partners to benefit our K-12 students throughout our OHM BOCES school districts. The model focuses on the “whole child,” not just academics: students must be well educated and well-adjusted in order to succeed. Alignment OHM seeks to provide a solid foundation for our students that will help them to become college and career ready. Our metrics are: Kindergarten readiness, school climate, student attendance, test scores, graduation rate, and college, career & citizen ready. Ms. Houghton and Dr. Gary Porcelli, BOCES Component Board Member will keep the Board apprised future developments.

8. Board Discussion

Mrs. Welch said she was horrified by the Governor’s recent actions regarding teacher evaluating. She is in full support of the teachers and administrator plans to make some kind of improvements, but does not agree with the Governor’s Plans.

Mr. King said he recently went to the Fire Department Installation Banquet. He wanted to mention the longevity of service. Two individuals had more than 57 years of volunteering. Look at the people that have given back to the community all their lives and we appreciate their service.

9. Visitors Comments

Mr. Shrey read the following:

After the Governor’s State of the State Address, I’m sure we’ve all come to the same conclusion: that the Governor’s, the Chancellor’s, the Board of Regents’ approach to their own Reform Agenda is a complete scam. They continue to change the rules while the game is in progress.

This District (and everyone in it) has complied with every mandate, every challenge since the inception of the Regents Reform Agenda and the passing of NY Education Law 3012c.

Personally, after volunteering hour after hour for two years in meetings to develop our Annual Professional Performance Review plan, spending time on the phone, time on the computer, talking with SED, making new friends at SED, approval from SED, acceptance by the Board of Education, acceptance by the New York Mills Teachers Association...the Governor, in his State of the State Address called our work, “BALONEY.” That’s his word, not mine.

What sort of leadership complains about a teaching force which has been determined to be at least 90% effective? Shouldn't 90% effectiveness be the goal? Shouldn't we all be proud of the fact that 90% of our teachers are effective?

What sort of leadership looks at a child and says to that child that his/her test score will no longer account for 20% of their teacher's evaluation. It will now account for 50%. (no pressure)

What sort of leadership ignores the preponderance of evidence which clearly states that the use of Value Added Measures in Annual Profession Performance Review plans is an extremely near-sighted and inaccurate process by which to judge the performance of a teacher? Interesting...the evidence also shows that the most accurate predictor of college readiness is a student's local high school grade point average (GPA). Not the SAT. Not the ACT. Not any assessment test developed by Pearson, Inc. The most accurate predictor of a student's college success is that student's performance through the coursework and activities which he or she has participated in right here.

What kind of leadership looks all of us in the eye and tries to pass off control our professional teaching staff as a 50/50 proposition, yet when you look closely at his plan, he's selling you a package which gives him 100% control of the test scores (because they will manipulate cut scores to whichever values best serve their interests) and taking 35% control of the local classroom observation?

That's not a 50/50 proposition. It's HIS total control of test scores (50%) + (35%) control of local classroom observations, giving the state a total of 85% of your district's decisions with regard to professional instructional staff. The Governor has generously left our schools with a whopping 15% share of the control of its own teaching staff.

If you're ready to hand over that much control to the state, by all means remain silent, remain cooperative, remain compliant. And we will get what we deserve. We will get what we've asked for.

Cooperating with the Governor is helping him to literally destroy the New York State public school system which, until the advent of Common Core and associated testing, was one of the most revered public education systems in the country. I don't know what it is now. Actually, I do know what it is...it's dysfunctional. We've lost our way.

We can't comply anymore, cooperate anymore, bend anymore than we already have.

We can beat these people. But it's going to take every teacher, every board member and every administrator in our respective capacities to reject, in its totality, the Governor's plan for education reform.

Thank you for your time.

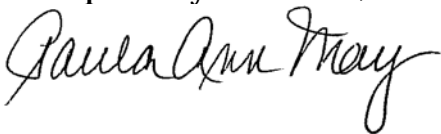
Mrs. Marley asked the Board to consider adopting a resolution to support the "I Refuse" Movement.

Mr. King made the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss NYMTA negotiations seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Ann May
District Clerk

10. Executive Session – to discuss NYMTA negotiations

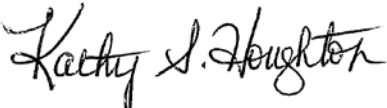
Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into Regular Session at 8:50 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Mr. King made the motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Yes 7 No 0
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Houghton
Clerk Pro-tem