

Jacqueline Edwards
President

Dr. Gary Porcelli
Vice President



Gary Markowicz, Sr.
Gail Rice
Richard Ross
Rick Surprenant
Traci Welch

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY – 6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Ms. Jacqueline Edwards, President, Dr. Gary W. Porcelli, Vice President, Mr. Gary Markowicz, Sr., Mrs. Gail Rice, Mr. Richard Ross, Mr. Rick Surprenant, and Mrs. Traci Welch

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Kathy Houghton, Dr. Rene Wilson, Mr. Michael Spost, Mrs. Lisa Stamboly, Mr. William Lachut, Mrs. Paula Ann May and 8 visitors and guests

1. Meeting Call to Order

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

1.1 Pledge to the Flag

Dr. Porcelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Acceptance of Agenda

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

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

1.3 Teacher/Leader Report – Laurie Noll, Educational Data Analyst

2. Communications

2.1 From the Floor

Mrs. Wroblicki said that she was on the website this past week to see what's going on with the school. She said she was both discouraged and disappointed that the Board of Education Minutes from May or June of this year weren't posted. She also went to print the board packet and it wasn't there. She did find that it was there later this afternoon. She said that in February of 2011 State Ed Law said that Board of Education Packets must be available for the public.

2.2 President's Messages

Ms. Edwards said that Monday, December 9th SBI will host "Legislative Lobbying and Budget Strategies as You Prepare Your 2014-15 School District Budget". There is a flyer for a Holiday Party in

your folder. The PTSO Craft Fair is this weekend. There are many interesting vendors. The School District Foundation meeting has moved to Sunday, December 15th at Sumos.

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

Mr. Ross reported that there has not been a meeting since the last Board Meeting. We received four RFPs from architects and interviews are scheduled for December 11th and 16th. The final interviews will be in January at a separate Board Meeting.

2. Policy Committee

Ms. Edwards said that the Policy Committee is submitting policies to tonight for a 1st reading. They have not heard any comments from the Board so the committee assumes the policies are okay.

3. Survey Committee

Dr. Porcelli reported that the Survey Committee has not met yet. He will speak to Mr. Ross and Mr. Surprenant to schedule something relatively soon.

- b. Board Calendar
- c. BOCES Representative Report –

Dr. Porcelli said he has met with Mrs. Tenney and was present during the ribbon cutting in November at her office in BOCES. He said that he met with Assemblyman Brindisi, Regent Botar, Commissioner King, and manufactures about pathways to a diploma. BOCES also had a flu clinic for faculty and staff. Dr. Porcelli spoke about the presentation from Ms. Jane Goodwin and Mr. Mettelman to support anti bullying and how he reported to BOCES on the workshops he attended at the New York State School Boards Convention.

3. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Rice made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda that included:

- 3.1 Board of Education Minutes for a meeting held November 5, 2013
- 3.2 Budget Transfer
- 3.3 CSE Reports
 - a. Minutes of meetings held 11/1/13
 - b. Minutes of meeting held 11/4/13
 - c. Minutes of meetings held 11/7/13
 - d. Minutes of meeting held 11/13/13
 - e. Minutes of meeting held 11/14/13

Mr. Surprenant seconded the motion.

Yes 7 No 0
 Motion carried.

4. Old Business

- 4.1 2nd Reading of Policy 1103, Disclosure of Annual Professional performance Review (APPR) Data to parents/Legal Guardians; Regulation #1103.1, parent & Guardian Information Guide; #1103.2, Disclosure of APPR Scores to Parents, Background Information Concerning Requests for Teachers and principals Rating Information; #1103.3, Disclosure of APPR Scores to Parents, parent or Legal Guardian Request Form for composite Effectiveness Score and Rating for Teacher or Principal; #1103.4, Report of Classroom Teacher or Principal Overall Final Quality Rating and Composite Effectiveness Score; #7500.1, Education Records

Mr. Ross made the motion to approve the second reading of the above policies. Mrs. Welch seconded the motion.

Yes 7 No 0
 Motion carried.

5. New Business

- 5.1 Personnel Report – Action

Mr. Markowicz made the motion to approve the following personnel report seconded by Mrs. Welch.

EMPLOYEE	CERTIFICATION AREA	CERT	SALARY*	EFFECTIVE DATE
I. Coaching Resignation				
Ferguson, Timothy	Volunteer Assistant Basketball Coach			11/25/2013

II. Substitute Appointments

Sigal, Richard	School Monitor	N	\$7.25	12/4/2013
Kistner, John	School Nurse RN	N	\$13.00	12/4/2013
Cooney, Raymond	Math K-12	Y	\$80/day	12/4/2013

Dr. Porcelli inquired about the certification for nurses.

Ms. Houghton said that they have a nursing license .

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.2 Standard Work Day

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to approve the following Standard Workday seconded by Mrs. Welch.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York Mills Union Free School District hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Title	Name	Social Security Number (Last 4 digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/Month (based on Record of Activities)
Elected Officials – N/A							
Appointed Officials							
School Physician	William Ryan	XXXX	33944083	8	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	N	2
Treasurer	Lisa Stamboly	XXXX	35894567	8	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	Y	N/A
District Clerk/Secretary to the Superintendent	Paula Ann May	XXXX	36502128	8	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	Y	N/A

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

5.3 Building Use for Dancemania, June 13 & 14, 2014 – Action

Mrs. Rice made the motion to approve the Building Use for Dancemania on June 13 and 14th seconded by Mr. Markowicz.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

5.4 Return of Uncollected Tax Resolution

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to approve the following Uncollected Tax Resolution seconded by Mr. Ross:

Whereas: The Tax Collectors have returned their uncollected tax report which needs to be returned to Oneida County

Resolved: that the Board President of the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education is authorized to sign the return of taxes to the Oneida County Office of Finance and application for corrected tax roll and directs the Business Office to process the necessary paperwork.

Uncollected Taxes for Oneida County for Tax Year 2013-2014:

Whitestown:	\$178,197.30
New Hartford:	\$117,374.78

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried

- 5.5 1st reading of Policy 4506, Student Fundraising Activities; Regulation #7100.1, concussion Guidelines and Procedures; Policy #7200 Student Health Examination, Policy 7201, Student Medications; Regulation #7201.1 Student Medication Authorization Form; Regulation #7201.2, Parent/Guardian Authorization of Another Adult for Administration of Medication; Regulation #7201.3 Self Medication Permission Form; Policy #7202, Student Alcohol and Drug Abuse; and Policy #7203, Student Pregnancy

6. Building Reports

6.1 Elementary Building Report

a. Professional Development

Dr. Wilson reported that throughout the year all of her teachers have attended micro-workshops by grade level on common core. Nancy Sommer from BOCES came to our building to work with grade level teachers to discuss best practices within the modules. An ambassador teacher from Clinton

came to New York Mills to work with 3-6 teachers on dissecting modules and discussing pacing and pedagogy. Dasa training: Michelle hall and I attended this, which was a six hour course: talked about NYM Board of Education Minutes

December 3, 2013

Page 6 of 12

the definition of bullying, staff responsibilities, perceptions from different stake holders and that information was shared at faculty and staff meetings.

b. Grade 4 Veteran's Day Project

Dr. Wilson said that under the direction of Mrs. Sroka and Mrs. Schmidt the fourth grade took flags off of the graves of veterans, learning about civic learning and leadership

c. Grades 5 & 6 "There's No Magic in Drugs" Assembly

Dr. Wilson said that Mr. Karvel brought "There Is No Magic In Drugs " to the 5th & 6th graders in November . Mr. Karvel states " I felt the assembly was very well received. The students were focused, attentive and expressed their enthusiasm appropriately." This assembly was made available at no cost to us thanks to a local sponsorship from the Kowalczyk Funeral Home in New York Mills.

d. Grade 1 Book Publishing

Dr. Wilson said that Mrs. Pearsall and Ms. Robertson created and published hard cover books entitled "I am thankful for..... " Every student participated in the creation of this book and we have ordered them for the classrooms and the elementary library. This project allowed student to participate in all aspects of the writing and publishing processing from brain storming, editing, illustrating, publication and distribution. Kudos to Mrs. Pearsall and Ms. Robertson and the students for meeting common core learning goals, while at the same time incorporating creativity and excitement for learning.

6.2 Secondary Building Report

a. Professional Development

Mr. Spost said that he was scheduled to go to training at BOCES for Data Warehouse - What's New and What Should I Focus On, but was unable to attend due to the urgency of a matter requiring an investigation. Our teachers impacted by the changes in ELA & Math continue to attend both formal and informal training to unpack and prepare the new Common Core Modules. This will continue to be an ongoing process throughout the year. Also Mrs. Chambrone completed the QR Codes in the Classroom – Ideas and Activities webinar. She is still in the process of the three-date 'A Walk in the PARCC' series training as well. There are still two more sessions (this Thursday and one more in February). From the first session she was directed to, and now uses, the typing web program with my Introduction to Computers classes. It is free and teacher interactive! The students seem to like it and can access it from home as well.

d. Student Council Breakfast with Santa

Mr. Spost said that Student Council Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th, from 9am-11am. This is a great tradition here at New York Mills and we are hopeful to have a strong response from Elementary. Tickets were sold at both the Turkey Trot and at the Elementary Musical.

e. The Student Voice

NYM Board of Education Minutes

December 3, 2013

Page 7 of 12

Mr. Spost said that the school has a Newspaper that is up and running. This is coordinated by Mrs. Hartmann. You should all have a copy of the first issue. This gives our students another extra-curricular opportunity and hope that it will continue to be a successful year.

f. Common Core – What We Know and What We Don't Know

Mr. Spost spoke about the Common Core. He read excerpts from the NYS Principals' Letter which is shared below:

- 1) ***NYS Testing Has Increased Dramatically:*** We know that our students are spending more time taking State tests than ever before.
- 2) ***The Tests were Too Long:*** We know that many students were unable to complete the tests in the allotted time.
- 3) ***Ambiguous Questions Appeared throughout the Exams:*** We know that many teachers and principals could not agree on the correct answers to ambiguous questions in both ELA and Math.
- 4) ***Children have Reacted Viscerally to the Tests:*** We know that many children cried during or after testing, and others vomited or lost control of their bowels or bladders.
- 5) ***The Low Passing Rate was Predicted:*** We know that in his "Implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards" memo of March 2013, Deputy Commissioner Slentz stated that proficiency scores (i.e., passing rate) on the new assessments would range between 30%-37% statewide. When scores were released in August 2013, the statewide proficiency rate was announced as 31%.
- 6) ***The College Readiness Benchmark is Irresponsibly Inflated:*** We know that the New York State Education Department used SAT scores of 560 in Reading, 540 in Writing and 530 in mathematics, as the college readiness benchmarks to help set the "passing" cut scores on the 3-8 New York State exams. These NYSED scores, totaling 1630, are far higher than the College Board's own college readiness benchmark score of 1550. By doing this, NYSED has carelessly inflated the "college readiness" proficiency cut scores for students as young as nine years of age.
- 7) ***State Measures are Contradictory:*** We know that many children are receiving scores that are not commensurate with the abilities they demonstrate on other measures, particularly the New York State Integrated Algebra Regents examination. Across New York, many accelerated eighth-graders scored below proficiency on the eighth grade test only to go on and excel on the Regents examination one month later.
- 8) ***Students Labeled as Failures are Forced Out of Classes:*** We know that many students who never needed Academic Intervention Services (AIS) in the past, are now receiving mandated AIS as a result of the failing scores.
- 9) ***The Achievement Gap is Widening:*** We know that the tests have caused the achievement gap to widen as the scores of economically disadvantaged students

plummeted, and that parents are reporting that low-scoring children feel like failures.

NYM Board of Education Minutes
December 3, 2013
Page 8 of 12

- 10) ***The Tests are Putting Financial Strains on Schools:*** *We know that many schools are spending precious dollars on test prep materials, and that instructional time formerly dedicated to field trips, special projects, the arts and enrichment, has been reallocated to test prep, testing, and AIS services.*
- 11) ***The Tests are Threatening Other State Initiatives:*** *Without a doubt, the emphasis on testing is threatening other important State initiatives.*

Here's what we do not know:

- 1) ***How these Tests will Help our Students:*** *With the exception of select questions released by the state, we do not have access to the test questions. Without access to the questions, it is nearly impossible to use the tests to help improve student learning.*
- 2) ***How to Use these Tests to Improve Student Skills or Understanding:*** *Tests should serve as a tool for assessing student skills and understanding. Since we are not informed of the make-up of the tests, we do not know, with any level of specificity, the content or skills for which children require additional support. We do not even know how many points were allotted for each question.*
- 3) ***The Underlying Cause of Low Test Scores:*** *We do not know if children's low test scores are actually due to lack of skills in that area or simply a case of not finishing the test — a problem that plagued many students.*
- 4) ***What to Expect Next Year:*** *We do not know what to expect for the spring. Our students are overwhelmed by rapidly changing standards, curriculum and assessments. It is nearly impossible to serve and protect the students in our care when expectations are in constant flux and put in place rapidly in a manner that is not reflective of sound educational practice.*
- 5) ***How Much this is Costing Already-Strained Taxpayers:*** *We don't know how much public money is being paid to vendors and corporations that the NYSED contracts to design assessments, nor do we know if the actual designers are educationally qualified.*

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Common Core Parent Workshop

Ms. Houghton reviewed the information given to parents at the November 12th Common Core workshop: An Introduction to the Common Core State Standards and the Parent's Backpack Guide to the common Core State Standards. She also spoke about the "Don't Send Your Child to School Day" that local anti-Common Core group Opt Out CNY organized on Monday, November 18th.

NYM Board of Education Minutes
December 3, 2013
Page 9 of 12

7.2 Professional Development

Ms. Houghton attended the following workshops for Professional Development:

- 11/14 - SBI, "School Districts Fiscal Health and Other State financial Issues, NYS Assistant Comptroller, Nathaalie Carey (ACT FFAST State Fiscal Stress Monitoring System)
- 11/15 – Ferrara Firm Legal Briefing, BOCES – Crisis Communication Planning
- 11/20 – Utica National Insurance Group – Top Tips for Effective Message Management
- 11/19 – Statewide School Finance Consortium conference – State Aid (eliminate GEA, new Foundation Aid formula 2015-16), Legislative Advocacy
- 11/19 – PLC "Mindset", Carol Dweck, Fixed & Growth mindset, fulfilling our potential – Copies of books presented to Board of Education

7.3 – Budget Construction/Parameters

Ms. Houghton reported that we ha an administrative budget planning meeting for 2014-15 was held earlier last month, with memos/requisition forms sent out to teachers/staff prior to Thanksgiving (equipment, transportation, maintenance, textbooks, consumables/workbooks, supplies, and contractual items).

7.4 – Turkey Trot Results

Ms. Houghton thanked Megan Carpenter, Turkey Trot Coordinator and the entire Dever family for 40 wonderful years of New York Mills Turkey Trots. She also thanked the NYM Optimists Club for annually donating Turkeys, t-shirts, and refreshments for this event. Our PTSO purchases the ribbons each year and they also resurrected the Santa's Secret Shop on Turkey Trot Saturday, 11/23. They were also commended for their long-standing support of this great local tradition.

7.5 – Disability Awareness Day

Disability Awareness Day took place on Monday, November 25th, with Committee on Special Education Chairperson Kim Zogby in charge of the planning and implementation of this yearly event. In the morning, our elementary students enjoyed grade level presentations from Utica College students, therapy docs, wheelchair basketball, Occupational Therapy, and Resource Center for Independent Living. This year, our secondary guest speakers were Retired Army Sgt. Rick Yarosh, a war hero that suffered burns and scars over 60% of his body when he was injured in an explosion while serving in Iraq and Jennifer Fitzgerald, a Sergeant also deployed to Iraq that suffers from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. Kim Zogby is to be commended for her consistent efforts to provide our K-12 students with meaningful educational experiences that will increase their awareness of and sensitivity to various disabilities.

7.6 – PTSO Holiday Craft Fair

This coming Saturday, December 7th from 10-5 and Sunday, December 8th from 10-4 is the 36th annual Craft Fair organized by our dedicated and energetic Parent-Teacher-Student Organization. There are 111 total vendors, with 30 new crafters joining the show. This year, the PTSO has expanded the vendor area to our new science wing. The PTSO is also sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair at the NYM Board of Education Minutes

December 3, 2013

Page 10 of 12

craft fair and during the following week between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Thank you to our PTSO for their continued support of our school programs through events like the Craft Fair.

7.7 – NYM Holiday on Main Street

The Village of New York Mills is sponsoring the 13th annual Christmas on Main Street from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. There will be a Parade of Lights, a bonfire, and visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and hay rides. The NYM Jr.-Sr. HS Chorus and Jazz Band will perform at 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. Ms. Houghton also said that “we appreciate this wonderful yearly holiday gathering for our community.”

7.8 – Holiday Concerts

Thank you to our music department for the upcoming holiday concerts we are sure to enjoy:

- Tuesday, 12/10 – Elementary Band and Chorus Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, 12/12 – Jr.-Sr. HS Holiday Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 12/17 – Grades K-3 Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.

7.9 Annual Giving Tree

Ms. Houghton thanked the PPS staff members Nina Belmar and Amanda Woodward, who are coordinating teacher/staff efforts to “adopt” students in need in order to provide them with winter clothing and toys. There is a holiday tree in each faculty room, there staff and take an ornament and purchase the item listed. The PPS staff will coordinate delivery prior to the holiday vacation.

7.10 Centennial Celebration

Ms. Houghton shared that the next planning meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night, Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. The School District Foundation is the umbrella organization that is organizing the committee to plan the 100th year events. She reviewed the events that are planned:

- February 13th – 100th day of 100th Year school-wide celebration, opening of building time capsule at assembly
- March 29th or April 5th – Alumni Basketball game(s) in afternoon, Centennial Dinner Dance in evening at local venue
- April 25th – Presentation/Dedication of Centennial Time Capsule prior to afternoon Kindergarten Tree Planting ceremony

Other activities include a Facebook page and a centennial t-shirt. Ms. Houghton also attended both faculty meetings and sent out invitations to attend the meetings to all faculty and staff.

Some of our parents have concerns and parents had the opportunity to share concerns reviewed and discussed concerns share backpack guide and although we have mixed level of support want to make sure parents

8. Board Discussion

NYM Board of Education Minutes

December 3, 2013

Page 11 of 12

Mr. Ross said that he had concerns about the attendance office. He was curious and asked if we are doing the elementary attendance there. He has concerns that we put a person in place to protect children and to alleviate the workload on an overtaxed staff. He was confused.

Mr. Markowicz asked how do you know if a 9 – 12th grade student is in school?

Mr. Surprenant asked if we had only one person doing attendance, will that jeopardize our students?

Dr. Porcelli had concerns because we are talking without the individuals here. He wanted to propose that before we take action, perhaps let the Superintendent find out and talk to the parties involved rather than taking action this evening.

Ms. Houghton agreed to meeting with attendance clerical staff and principals and then report back to the Board.

9. Visitors Comments

Mr. Lachut expressed his concerns about private groups that use our school. In the past we have had issues with sound system and lighting. Recently we had three blown speakers. The parts are still on order and if a group is using the equipment June 13 and 14 it could wreck the equipment and then we cannot provide a wonderful graduation for our kids.

Ms. Edwards suggested that Mr. Lachut get with the Superintendent and maybe some oversight might be provided to rethink how we do things and come back to the Board with a solution.

Mr. King said the Craft Fair is coming up and there are many opportunities for people to fill in and help out. The MAD Boosters are looking for assistance. Part of the Foundation is covered. Any help that anyone can give to those organizations would be greatly appreciated. He then said that he felt the discussion between the Board in open session was inappropriate. He felt a line was crossed.

Mrs. Wroblecki agreed with Mr. King and then said as a past member it is nice to see most our our administrators do not use their cell phones at inappropriate times.

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss NYMTA negotiations and a possible litigation seconded by Mrs. Welch.

10. Executive Session

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss NYMTA Negotiations and a possible litigation seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion carried.

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

NYM Board of Education Minutes
December 3, 2013
Page 12 of 12

Respectfully submitted



Paula Ann May
District Clerk

Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at

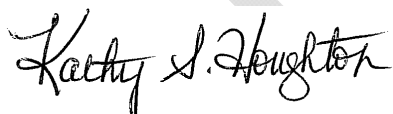
Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at 9:41 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Mrs. Rice made the motion to adjourn at 9:42 p.m. seconded by Dr. Porcelli.

Yes 7 No 0
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Houghton
Clerk Pro-tem