

Jacqueline Edwards  
President

Dr. Gary Porcelli  
Vice President



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**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014  
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 (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), and Mrs. Traci Welch

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ms. Kathy Houghton, Mr. Michael Spost, Dr. René Wilson, Mrs. Lisa Stamboly, Mr. William Lachut, Mrs. Debbie Price, Mrs. Paula Ann May, and 19 visitors and guests.

**1. Meeting Call to Order**

Ms. Edwards called the meeting into regular session 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 Mrs. Welch.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion carried.

**1.3 Teacher/Leader Report**

**a. Welcome New Teacher – Michael Finnerty, Library Media Specialist**

Mr. Michael Finnerty introduced himself to the Board of Education and gave them a brief summary of where he is from, where he went to college, and work history.

**b. “Professional Learning Community” (PLC) – A. Foote & T. Ferguson**

Members of the Professional Learning Community told the Board how they got started. The first year of this group focused on ways to help students study, Common Core and APPR. This year they are reading the book Mindset by Carol Dweck and they are working on changing attitudes. “It is not your aptitude that is going to determine your altitude.” Not just their cognitive ability in school or sports, but the individual that preservers will succeed.

Dr. Porcelli gave the group other references to consider that may be dated but still apply.

## **2. Communications**

### **2.1 From the Floor**

Mr. Tim Ferguson spoke to the Board about a field trip opportunity for our juniors and seniors to take a trip to Washington, D.C. Next November. He handed all Board Members a packet to take a look at, which talks about the tour group, pricing, etc. He also said that he is looking for support because many students may not have a chance to do this on their own. It will be well organized and chaperoned. Students can discover our history and be there in D.C. to see things personally. We are not looking for any money from the Board. Students are responsible to pay their own way. We need several months to organize the trip and do fund raising. After a brief preliminary discussion with students in the classroom, the feedback is almost 95% of students are interested.

Ms. Edwards asked the Board Members if they were in favor of this trip and everyone was. Some of the comments made by the Board Members were: positive experience, absolutely, complaints that Common Core takes away teacher creativity and this is a wonderful creative response.

### **2.2 President's Messages**

#### **a. Committee Report(s)**

##### **1. Facilities Health & Safety Committee – D. Ross**

Mr. Ross reported that the Facilities Health & Safety Committee met on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The top two architects will be interviewed by the Board January 15<sup>th</sup>.

##### **2. Policy Committee – J. Edwards**

Ms. Edwards hopes we can move forward with a second reading on the policies listed on the agenda. The Policy Committee has been working together on an as needed basis. If policies need attention, we get together and modify them.

##### **3. Survey Committee – Dr. Porcelli**

Dr. Porcelli reported that he met with Mr. Surprenant and Mr. Ross last evening to review the survey completed 3 or 4 years ago. They looked at questions that may not be appropriate. Mr. Radomski sent in several questions in to reconsider. Dr. Porcelli said he is going to put together a draft. The committee will look at it and come back to the Board for approval and set-up how we will administer it. The Executive Summary will be given in July.

##### **4. Transportation Committee– Dr. Porcelli**

Dr. Porcelli said that this adhoc committee completed their work and will stand down with permission from the President. We may have to get with the Transportation Supervisor and see what the department needs in the future.

b. BOCES Representative Report – Dr. Porcelli

Dr. Porcelli reported that the BOCES met on December 11<sup>th</sup> and among the items was a report from Jane Goodwin on the sustainability of CORE. Now that the federal funds are expended the program is transitioning to a safety and community partnership.

The Cooperative Board will begin review of service plans and will continue into February. There is another meeting tomorrow at 4:30 p.m.

**3. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Rice made the motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- 3.1 Board of Education Minutes for meeting held December 3, 2013
- 3.2 Business Office Reports for Month ending October & November 2013
- 3.3 CSE Reports
  - a. Minutes of meeting held 12/2/13
  - b. Minutes of meeting held 12/3/13
  - c. Minutes of meeting held 12/4/13
  - d. Minutes of meeting held 12/5/13
  - e. Minutes of meeting held 12/6/13
  - f. Minutes of meetings held 12/10/13
  - g. Minutes of meeting held 12/16/13
  - h. Minutes of meetings held 12/19/13

Dr. Porcelli seconded the motion subject to the following changes: Correct page 2 (change "ribbing" to ribbon and "ant" to anti), page 6 Dr. Porcelli wanted it clarified why the students took the flags off the graves of veterans.

Yes 6 No 1  
Dr. Porcelli voting nay to the minutes because of errors and the financial reports because of confirming Purchase orders  
Motion carried.

**4. Old Business**

- 4.1 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Mrs. Welch made the motion to approve the above mentioned policies seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

**5. New Business**

5.1 Personnel Report – Action

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

| <b>EMPLOYEE</b> | <b>CERTIFICATION AREA</b> | <b>CERT</b> | <b>SALARY*</b> | <b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|

**I. Resignation**

|                   |                  |  |  |           |
|-------------------|------------------|--|--|-----------|
| White, Susan      | School Monitor   |  |  | 2/17/2014 |
| Ryan, William Dr. | School Physician |  |  | 6/1/2014  |

**II. Civil Service Title Change**

|                 |   |  |  |           |
|-----------------|---|--|--|-----------|
| Lachut, William | Director of Facilities I from Building Maintenance Supervisor |  |  | 12/7/2013 |
|-----------------|---|--|--|-----------|

**III. Bus Run (changes)**

|              |  |  |  |            |
|--------------|--|--|--|------------|
| Kurgan, John | Regular P/T Bus Driver 2 runs per day M-F 5.25 hrs. daily; an additional Friday run for 5.50 hrs. and 1 Sunday run for 6.25 hrs. |  |  | 12/17/2013 |
|--------------|--|--|--|------------|

**IV. Substitute Bus Driver**

|                      |                       |  |         |          |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|---------|----------|
| LaFortez, William B. | Substitute Bus Driver |  | \$10.70 | 1/8/2014 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|---------|----------|

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

- 5.2 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policy #1001, Community Use of School Facilities; Regulation #1001.1, Building Use Application Form, 1001.2 School Use Release from Liability (Group); 1001.3, School Use Release From Liability (Individual); Policy #1002, Visitors to the Schools; 1003, School Volunteers; Regulation #1003.1, Volunteer Application Form; Policy #1101, Records Management Program; 1102, School Sponsored Media; 1200, Parental Involvement in Title I Programs; Regulation #1200.1, Annual Notification of Teacher Qualifications; Policy #1300, Policy for Handling and Disseminating Information Received Regarding Sex Offenders; Regulation #1300.1, Notification of Sex Offenders; Policy #1400, Policy on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in the Schools; Regulation #1400.1, Constitutionally Protected Prayer in the Schools Certification; Policy #1500, Senior Citizen Involvement in District Activities; Policy #5006, Tobacco and Nicotine Use

5.3 Resolution to Refund Taxes

Mr. Surprenant made the motion seconded by Mrs. Welch to approve the following resolution to Refund Taxes:

**WHEREAS**, Peter J. Scialdone, IV (the "Taxpayer") instituted a proceeding under Sec. 550(7) if the Real Property Tax Law against the Town of Whitestown (the "Town") in order to obtain refund of taxes on real property owned located in the Town and commonly known as Tax Map Number 317.008-7-8 and

**WHEREAS**, there was a clerical error

**WHEREAS**, the correction will result in a refund of School District taxes of \$1,292, without interest if paid within thirty (30) days.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

5.4 Approval of Non-Resident Tuition Student, Grade 2

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to approve the Non-Resident Tuition student in grade 2 seconded by Mr. Markowicz.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion approved

## **6. Building Reports**

### **6.1 Elementary Building Report**

#### **a. Elementary Community Service**

Dr. Wilson reported that this season our teachers and staff really focused on the theme of giving not getting. Third graders provided gifts and sang at the New York Mills Senior Citizen Center, Second Grade organized the giving tree providing warm clothes, mittens, scarves etc. to Kids Oneida, and the rescue Mission, Mrs. Galime's and Mrs. Moore's classes along with Ms. Balutis, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Grossi, visited a local animal shelter and made toys and treats for the dogs, animal supplies were collected for local shelters, Our counseling office organized a secret Santa effort for needy families in our community, the kindergarten class donated to R-cats a non-profit organization that works with feral cats by trapping/spaying/neutering/vaccinating/and returning them to their safe colonies, and the fourth grade took the flags off the graves of Veterans helping the Yorkville VFW Post 6001 with the expectation that they will be replaced in the Spring. This is a service that Veterans find helpful, as it saves them time and labor at the cemetery, and teaches our students the importance of service and civic duty.

#### **b. Budget Implications of Common Core Implementation**

Dr. Wilson said as we continue to develop the budget we are always closely looking at curriculum needs and how that directly affects student learning. As you know we take a line item analysis approach and Consumable books like student work books make up a large part of our budget. In addition, a new writing series is being investigated which has both a web based and tactile component, and Brain honey, a web based learning platform, is being considered for organization and manipulation of the Common Core curriculum.

### **6.2 Secondary Building Report**

#### **a. Budget Implications of Common Core Implementation**

Mr. Spost said it is going to be a costly process to implement these new standards. An example is just simply the copying costs of using the modules provided by the state. Each grade level has five to seven modules; modules are basically a unit of material or collection of related topics. The modules range from three to four hundred pages. Even at only seven cents per copy the cost of the copying approaches \$15,000 yearly just for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. The modules also require the purchase of several different books that are used in conjunction with them. The supplemental novels are tending to be selections that we had not previously taught at any grade level so we are incurring the cost of purchasing class sets of these different books. Teachers also are attending monthly professional support and implementation groups in the evenings throughout the academic year which they get remunerated for time. We also will definitively need to allocate more funds to summer curriculum development in which teachers will be preparing to teach new Common Core lessons and adapt the content of the modules. The modules, although they are alleged to be best exemplar practice, we are finding them to not always be the best instructional resources available. We will need

to start researching and thinking about an investment in textbooks. As Common Core grow across the grade levels and content areas, so too will the financial impact.

b. Anti-Bullying Assemblies

Mr. Spost said that just prior to break we had two separate Anti-Bullying assemblies presented to us by Greg Auffrey, safe school specialist at BOCES. One assembly was for the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade level students and the other was for our 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. He discussed the dignity act and how it applies at both school and off school sites. Greg also tied in the Disability Day speaker Rick Yarosh and his message to students about the treatment of people. He did an outstanding job of captivating the audience and relating the theme in a way that connected. An analogy he used that stuck with students is stopping at a stop sign. You do it not because it is the law or you don't want a ticket, but because it is safe. The goal of assembly is to maintain a positive school climate and a great community in which students act as good human beings to each other. It will hopefully make us all a little bit better as a community and overall more socially and emotionally healthy in 2014. Along with the bullying assembly, Greg has been very active and has been in computer classes and doing presentations on on-line safety, working with students in PE to maintain a positive respectful environment at the Middle school level, and an array of other activities to build a safe school.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

a. December Performances

Ms. Houghton praised our music department for the high quality of students' performances at our December holiday concerts and Christmas on Main Street:

- Sunday, December 8 – Jr.-Sr. Chorus/Jazz Band @ NYM Christmas on Main Street
- Tuesday, December 10 – Elementary Band and Chorus Holiday Concert
- Thursday, December 12 – Jr.-Sr. HS Holiday Concert
- Tuesday, December 17 – Grades K-# Holiday Concert

b. PTSO Craft Fair

Ms. Houghton thanked our PTSO and all those parents and community members that volunteered to assist with this year's Craft Fair. It was extremely well-organized and this organization earned over \$20,000. Each year, the PTSO assists with funds for the supplies, materials and activities such as: Elementary PARP, Bingo Night, Book Fair, Olympic Day, DARE, Science Fair and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Day/Graduation; as well as Jr.-Sr. HS Career Night, After Prom Party, National Honor Society, High School Musical, Graduation Reception, and scholarships. District-wide, they also help with funding for our Disability Awareness Day, Holiday Giving Tree. The PTSO also donates yearly to each class in order to help fund culminating 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade field trips. We appreciate everything they do for the students of NYM.

c. Centennial Celebration Planning Committee

Ms. Houghton thanked the New York Mills School District Foundation for their efforts to plan and coordinate activities to commemorate our centennial year. On Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Centennial Celebration Planning Committee met to continue planning our upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration:

- On Thursday, February 13 at 1:30 (gr. 7-12) and 2:20 (Gr. K-6) p.m. assemblies to Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of New York Mills UFSD's 100<sup>th</sup> Year of educating the community's children. Will include school district history and time capsule.
- On Saturday, March 29 at 12:00 p.m. – Boys & Girls Alumni Basketball Games, Beekman Gym. If interested in playing or coaching, please contact Scott McGauley at [scottmcgauley@yahoo.com](mailto:scottmcgauley@yahoo.com)
- Also on March 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Centennial Dinner Dance at Twin Ponds Golf & Country Club. Social Hour is at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m... For more information, contact [foundation@newyorkmills.org](mailto:foundation@newyorkmills.org)

d. SRO DARE Training

Ms. Houghton announced that Deputy Nancy Nicholl, our School Resource Officer is scheduled to attend DARE training from Monday, January 20 through Friday, January 24, 2014. This is normally a two-week training, but because Deputy Nicholl has previously attended the full training and has served as a DARE officer in other school district, she is required to attend for only one week in order to be re-certified as a DARE instructor. Nancy will return to school on January 27, 2014 fully certified and prepared to provide the DARE Program to our grades 5 and 6 elementary students this year. This will allow us to provide the program for the current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students that did not receive the program last year as 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

e. Reform Agenda Update

Ms. Houghton reported that:

- On Monday, December 16, the Professional Education Committee met to consider changing our teacher evaluation rubric from NYSUT's instrument to the Danielson 2007 Rubric. We also talked about assessments used as part of the Annual Professional Performance Review process. We will be meeting again on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss further these potential changes to our APPR Plan. Thank you to the members of our PEC for their continued participation at meetings, as well as the reading, research, and collaborative communication with our stakeholder groups about the components of the Regents Reform Agenda.
- Your principals and I have also been discussing Student Learning Objects, Common Core implementation, and as you know, the budgetary implications of the Core's implementation.
- The Superintendent's cabinet has also been meeting regularly at BOCES (12/5 and 12/19 last month; consistently including the 2013-14 NYS Metrics and Expectations during our meetings; including curriculum, instruction and feedback, data-driven instruction, APPR implementation, and building/maintaining a culture of safety and development.



f. K-12 Attendance Staffing

Ms. Houghton thanked the Board for their discussion and feedback regarding the Attendance Office. As requested, she met with all clerical and administrative staff involved in the attendance process in

order to gain their perspective on our current procedures; including work flow. For the most part, those meetings yielded positive responses regarding our present division of duties. At the secondary level, the traffic in the office has greatly diminished as students entering and leaving the district now report to the attendance office. At the elementary level, students are signed in and out at the attendance office, but the elementary office is actively involved due to the age and developmental levels of our younger students. There are lunch counts required for those students, additional supervision needed when traveling in the hallways, and safety issues including complicated custody arrangements that are much more pressing at the elementary level. Therefore, she is recommending that we do not change the present configuration, but allow it to continue this year. She will meet again with the same staff members in the spring to find out if changes need to be instituted for next year.

g. Financing of Potential Capital Project

As requested by the Facilities Health and Safety Committee, Ms. Houghton introduced Mrs. Lisa Stamboly, District Treasurer to talk briefly with the Board about the financing of our possible future capital project.

Mrs. Stamboly said that part of her job is to make sure the school is fiscally sound. A relatively small building project could have a large impact to the tax levy. When the school district moves forward our building project will have little to no impact to the taxpayers over the course of the years. We have set aside reserves to fund the capital project. This money should offset the cost of the local share. Relatively speaking in preliminary, before you can proceed you need to hire an architect. The plan does involve a commitment from the Board and then we can run your numbers. The architect is usually paid up front and you are in a position to do that. You are ready for another project.

**8. Board Discussion**

Ms. Edwards said that a while back the Board made a decision; weighed a lot of options, and after seeing the bus dispatcher in action she feels that she is doing a wonderful job. The Board made a great decision and Mrs. Price has the Board's full support as the leader in that department. Thank you for a nice job.

**9. Visitors Comments**

Mrs. Porcelli spoke as a citizen and concerned non-parent. We have had good publicity through The New Hartford Towne Crier. Regarding the Foundation, there was a presence at the Craft Fair. A booth was manned by Mr. King and Mrs. Porcelli and a number of handouts regarding The Hundred Year Celebration and brick project. She said that she was surprised just how many people go to the Craft Show who weren't from New York Mills. We did get out a lot of information, trying to get our

presence known. There is representation from the three parent groups. Regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration there is another meeting this month on the last Monday of the month, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We also we have a presence on Facebook and have gotten quite a few hits on that. This allows us to get out more information on a broader stroke than what the foundation is doing.

Mr. King said the school support organizations were very well supported but they could use everyone's support. The more you can show your support the more we would appreciate it. Several have helped over the years, but we would love to have more input in all the organization. MAD is kicking into high gear. The Foundation and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee can use more help by getting the word out. Visit a PTSO meeting. The brick project is still ongoing. The musical starts rehearsals tomorrow. They are in need of black paint and there are plenty of opportunities to donate tools and supplies.

Mrs. Marley, President of the Teachers' Association extended an invitation to the Board to join them at the Negotiation table.

Keshia Clukey introduced herself as Education reporter from the Utica Observer Dispatch. She covers 30 school districts. Send any story ideas to her and she will get back to us, even if may not be able to get to them right away.

**10. Executive Session** – to discuss NYMTA Negotiations and Collective Bargaining Implications of Adding New Title

Mrs. Rice made the motion to go into executive session to NYMTA Negotiations and Collective Bargaining Implications of Adding New Title at 7:47 p.m. seconded by Dr. Porcelli.

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Ann May  
District Clerk

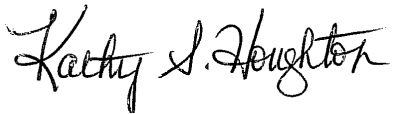
Ms. Edwards called the meeting back into regular session at 9:16 p.m.

**11. Adjournment**

Dr. Porcelli made the motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. seconded by Mr. Surprenant.

Yes 7 No 0  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Houghton  
Clerk Pro-tem

DRAFT