



**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2022
5:30 PM - NEW YORK MILLS UFSD LIBRARY**

- Jacqueline Edwards
- Kristin Hubley
- Michelle Jordan
- Scott Carman
- Steve King
- Alicia Albright
- Kimberly Gyore

Agenda Item	Who	Information Distributed	Action	Notes
1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER				
1.1 Pledge to the Flag	K. Hubley		Procedural	
1.2 Reading of the New York Mills UFSD Mission Statement.	M. Jordan		Procedural	
1.3 Acceptance of Agenda	J. Edwards	Yes	Action	1 st A. Albright 2 nd S. King / Yes <u>7</u> No <u>0</u> Abstain <u> </u>
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President's Message	J. Edwards		Information	

1) *Reminder to the BOE to get their calendars to Mrs. Hubley letting her know their availability if they have not already done so.*

2) *Kudos to the BOE for not responding to the negative comments as of late regarding the board, and she commends the Board of Education for taking the high road and following our policy of not engaging on social media despite the fact that some may want to correct the misconceptions. She stated that the community does not always understand our role as Board members. The role we play is to deal with financials/budgetary concerns, setting policy and the hiring of capable people to deal with the everyday happenings in this district. She suggested/offered to get together for another work session to see how to communicate that Board members do not deal with sports uniforms, whose turn it is to have them, whether a teacher gives too much homework or whether or not a child is missing articles of clothing. Ms. Edwards stated that she and Mr. King have been on the Board a long time and she has tried to educate people in the public as to what the board does, and if anyone has any new ideas they would be welcome. She feels the unnecessary bashing of this Board and*

the administrators is uncalled for and she appreciates the Board of Education for not feeding into that and making us subject to liability by saying the wrong thing or giving personal opinion.

Mrs. Hubley wanted to acknowledge the members of the community that stick up for the Board of Education and try to communicate the correct information and try to direct the public to the appropriate people to get the correct answer.

2.2 Presentation by Dr. Rick G. Timbs

R. Timbs

No

Information

(See Attachment)

Dr. Timbs addressed the Board of Education on the strategic considerations and future of New York Mills. Ms. Edwards spoke to the goal of keeping our students globally competitive while making our finances stretch. There are bills to be paid and payroll to be met, but it will take everyone working together. Are all the children being challenged? She knows we have a great teaching staff; but we are limited by the electives we can offer in comparison to our neighboring districts. She spoke of visiting a neighboring school where the students were getting real life skills. That district was preparing the students for life; they were running a radio show in the morning and the students were running a store on school grounds, they were working in a credit union which was set up next to the office. They were doing amazing things. These are things we could replicate but our hands are tied due to the financial constraints we have.

Dr. Timbs spoke to Ms. Edwards concerns and made suggestions to the Board of Education on how to improve these concerns and face these challenges and that it will take courage, bravery, determination and discipline to impact this change and it is a great deal of work.

Ms. Edwards appreciated his coming and addressing the board during budget season, with all of the anxiety that it causes. She inquired as to what he might suggestions he might make going forward.

Dr. Timbs suggested hiring a strategic planner from the outside to come in and review what needs to be done going forward, someone who will come with a fresh look. Someone who could speak the truth, perhaps telling them things they may/may not want to hear. If we know what we can do to help the kids out long term even with our budgetary constraints. Change may be unpleasant but may be necessary in certain areas doesn't and mean, we will need to flip everything upside down. It's a matter where of you put your energy.

Ms. Edwards made the statement that it is always about children first. She mentioned Mr. Mettleman speaking about letting children thrive where they want to be. She stated that this does not seem to be the case any more.

Dr. Timbs responded the demographics are changing. There are regional high schools across the state, there are p-tech programs across the state, there are college preparedness classes, there are classes that help kids, summer school classes that actually work rather than occupy kids during summer school.

2.3 BOCES Representative Report

G. Porcelli

Information

(No Report at this time)

2.4 Committee Reports

Information

Policy Committee – K. Gyore, S. Carman, A. Albright - *They had a meeting yesterday and there are a few policies they reviewed and will be addressed at the next meeting. They have another meeting scheduled later this month.*

Survey/Communications Committee – K. Hubley, K. Gyore - *We decided to forego the meeting tonight due to the full schedule, but we are going to be meeting prior to the next meeting.*

Transportation Committee – S. Carman, A. Albright – *Nothing at this time.*

Health & Safety Committee – S. King, M. Jordan – *Nothing at this time.*

Facilities Committee – M. Jordan, K. Hubley, J. Edwards – *Deferring to the Superintendent who will address this later in the meeting.*

SBI Committee – S. King – *There is an Executive Committee meeting on Monday (7-March), They will be talking about programming items and legislative priorities. We just had two meetings via zoom with our state senators and our state assembly people which was very informative. Dr. Timbs actually had a session about a week ago speaking about the funding cliff (which is scary.) He stated that he does not know where the state is coming up with their magic pile of money, that they claim to have. The foundation aid formula is ridiculously old and outdated and needs to be fixed. He stated that it met our needs for twenty years but not our current needs.*

Ms. Edwards pointed out that we are considered a wealthy district due to Consumer Square. Realistically the free and reduced priced lunch it might be a much better indicator of poverty in our district, rather than looking at property values of this district. Our combined wealth ratio is .736%.

3. CONSENT AGENDA				
3.1 Approval of 3.2/3.3 Consent Agenda	J. Edwards	Yes	Action	1 st A. Albright 2 nd K. Gyore / Yes <u>7</u> No <u>0</u> Abstain <u> </u>
3.2 Business Office Reports (Consent)		Yes		(Treasurer’s reports were missing for this meeting)
3.3 CSE Reports (Consent)		Yes		
3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	2.1.2022	Yes	Action	1 st K. Hubley 2 nd A. Albright / Yes <u>7</u> No <u>0</u> Abstain <u> </u>
4. OLD BUSINESS				
4.1 Capital Updates	J. Shelmidine	Yes	Information	

We most recently had a page turning session with the contractors and the company that will be doing our energy performance contract. Financing is being put in place as we speak and it will include some weatherization, new doors, lighting for every classroom with the ability to dim the lights, so they can use the smartboard easier (which is something our teachers have been asking for), plus some controls, so that Mr. Fatata can get a boiler alarm at 2am instead of walking in at 6am and finding out there is something wrong with the boiler. So between all of those things this is certainly a very good project. It is

something that may start hopefully as early as April break and much of it will be done after school. The univents that will need to be done will be done during the summer as well as the compressors up on top of the roof.

The Capital Outlay is getting scheduled, the bids came in pretty high as you know things are costing more, so it's been a bit of back and forth and we finally have it worked out. They will mostly be focusing on the cot rooms and separating those and making sure it's a working space for all of our students so K-12. Some of the doors and framing work that we have been waiting for this capital project will be happening; hopefully starting in April break.

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5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Personnel Report (Minus III.1)	J. Shelmidine	Yes	Action	1 st A. Albright 2 nd S. Carman / Yes <u>7</u> No <u>0</u> Abstain <u> </u>
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The Board (Mr King/Ms Edwards) stated that line I is definitely with regret. Motion was revised to approved the report minus III.1 due to an abstention.

Personnel Report - III.1		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd K. Hubley / Yes <u>6</u> No <u>0</u> Abstain <u>1</u>
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5.2 Presentation by Patricia N. Kilburn, Ed.D, Superintendent of BOCES	Dr. Kilburn		Information	(See Attachment)
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Dr. Kilburn came to address the Board of Education and community with regard to the process of searching and selecting a new District Superintendent.

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5.2 (A) Vote to Approve Dr. Kilburn as the Search Consultant for the upcoming Superintendent's Search.		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Albright / Yes <u>7</u> No <u>0</u> Abstain <u> </u>
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The BOE has agreed to meet with Dr. Kilburn again on March 23 at 5:30pm. Dr. Kilburn asked that Mrs. Hubley scan and send her BOE member availability calendar to her as soon as it is completed.

*** While Dr. Kilburn was here Ms. Edwards inquired about the New Visions Performing Arts Program that was for seniors only; the Drama Program. It's interesting she said they had not advertised for that program this year because they have not had enrollment in about three years running, but Ms. Edwards is actually the second person who has made a point to ask about that program. Three weeks ago she spoke to her Assistant Superintendent Mr. Hill and he said if we do have kids interested, we can probably make that happen because it's an internship placement in a local performing arts venue. Ms. Edwards stated that it is a lack of information because we do a musical every year, and the kids look forward to that, and they get involved behind the scenes getting the sets ready and if they knew that was an option that was available to them, you would see higher participation. Ms. Edwards stated that it might not be marketed really well. She said once senior year is reached and most of the student's work is done, they might participate more knowing they could go for this after having been in the plays for years. Dr. Kilburn stated she would bring that information back to BOCES.*

Mr. King questioned the BOCES Calendar and it showed that we are doing the BOCES Herkimer Showcase on March 24th, is that still happening? Dr. Shelmidine noted that on the calendar/meeting list today it showed Oneida BOCES. She believes it will be at Herkimer.

The BOE took a 5 min break before the budget presentation.

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5.3 Initial Budget Discussion	Shelmidine/ Stamboly	Yes	Information	
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Dr. Shelmidine addressed the BOE with a powerpoint. The Board asked questions of Dr. Shelmidine and Mrs. Stamboly and made inquiries and statements with regard to the following:

- 1) **Mr. King asked about account 1010-490, he inquired as to why we are going down 4,000 in BOCES services.** *Mrs. Stamboly responded that was due to our no longer utilizing Boarddocs and she left a buffer, and adjusted the budget accordingly.*
- 2) **Mr. King also addressed personnel services, 1430-490, we are saving quite a bit of money on those two things.** *Ms. Stamboly said that you can take every 490 code that you see where their might be significant ups or downs or swings for the most part it has to do with COSER codes being realigned through SED budgetary codes. There was a big initiative push through BOCES with the districts to try to align with the COSER's to be where they needed to go. A lot of ours is technology related. The District had an increase in technology costs, special education costs on top of realigning costs. Overall the BOCES budget accounts for a good majority of what is increasing through the budget altogether.*
- 3) **Mr. King asked: how are we able to in 2110 see no increase of the dollar difference from last year to this year in teacher salaries from K-3 and 7-12?** *Mrs. Stamboly responded that we had a huge staff turnover and we realigned some of the cost. There was money that was in that code that could be readjusted. There was fund balance that was actually built towards that code. There is no increase when you have a great turnover in staff, rather you have breakage.*
- 4) **Mr. King wanted to note that our increase in health insurance this year, is \$49,425 (increase).** *Dr. Shelmidine noted that it is 5%. Mrs. Stamboly made note that the same is passed on to the staff too.*
- 5) **Mrs. Jordan noted that we did see an increase in students over the last two years since COVID perhaps because of the smaller school mentality, she was curious what this did to our budget and if those kids were higher need and if we were anticipating that, what did it to the last year's budget and how we are addressing it?** *Dr. Shelmidine stated that Mrs. Stamboly is very good about leaving a cushion there, but we had a lot higher needs children move in that we would have every anticipated. Mrs. Stamboly stated she did not have to increase the tuition line which does not account for BOCES but does account if they are at a facility like UCP. She still believes there is enough in that code to not have to adjust through this budget. Dr. Shelmidine noted that we had some higher needs children that moved out of state, and just as quickly some moved in. Mrs. Jordan noted that there seems to be a larger population of the new incoming students being higher need. She thought that some coming in during the middle of a budget year could potentially "break the budget." Mrs. Stamboly touched on something that Dr. Timbs eluded to earlier, because of the wealth ratio the district is responsible for \$48,000 right off the top before it runs through any aid projection. So the cap with the aid ratio means that we never get a dollar for dollar match. We receive some excess cost aid. But, think about that times 20 students and the cost is extremely high.*
- 6) **Mrs. Jordan additionally inquired if there is anything coming off the properties that are not paying taxes?** *Mrs. Stamboly said the tax cap that is a fraction of 1%, that is directly due to a pilot which is ParCo (ConMed). Without that PILOT calculation the calculation was at 2.24 and then once we received the information from the county, and put that pilot into formula for the tax cap, it knocked our cap levy line down to less than 1%. The impact of that pilot is \$103,000 and that is a great amount of assessed value that comes off the books. So it gives you the inability to raise the taxes and it spreads out the rest of your levy over the existing assessed value that was on the rolls. So in part the agreement is the same as last year they paid \$103,000. The pilot, was off for two years and thny went back on.*

7) Mrs. Hubley inquired about any accommodations or anything we foresee for support for students that have been struggling because of COVID and we have to catch them up? *Mrs. Stamboly stated that we have basically paid that through pandemic money. Dr. Shelmidine stated she has brought in extra teaching assistants, we brought back everybody who was laid off. We are always looking at that and trying to make sure that we have enough support. We brought on a social worker which was huge. Dr. Shelmidine made a side note that she would like to bring the counselors in to do a presentation; she feels it is important for the BOE to hear what their caseload has been like and all of the work they have been doing.*

8) Ms. Edwards (under 1240 - 150), school administrators, she felt the salary amount was not accurate, so she is hoping it's not the Superintendent because it may give a false narrative. *Mrs. Stamboly noted that this is the anticipation of. Mrs. Stamboly reminded the BOE that there are contract obligations that are over the top of the salary. Mrs. Stamboly stated these were items such as paid vacation days, anything like that it evolves into that code. There are other contractual obligations that are in the Superintendent's contract, so the salary is in there and anything else that would be paid through payroll.*

9) Ms. Edwards noticed there is no increase on 1620 for electricity for 416 and 417 and natural gas. All of us get our national grid bills and we know that there has been an increase. *Mrs. Stamboly noted that we are in a consortium. So Ms. Edwards inquired that it won't change regardless? Mrs. Stamboly stated they have contingencies, and they have a buffer. That contingency was built into the prior budget.*

10) Ms. Edwards mentioned that the BOE talked before when the subject of the Zamboni came up, the unnecessary need for a Zamboni in a school this size, yet she sees that it is under the maintenance budget. *Mrs. Stamboly, stated that the Zamboni will save us in man hours. It is additionally a safety issue. Ms. Edwards said there used to be one at Beekman and one here in the School. Mrs. Stamboly stated she could only speak to the one here, that is taped together. She stated that with the wet floors we have through winter and spring, it really will save on the man hours. The proposed one will be easier to maneuver through the halls. Ms. Edwards believes that is \$13,500 vs a mop, and she doesn't want that money taken from the kids. Mrs. Stamboly said, it's the hours (payroll) pushing that mop. We have already cut the department down. She doesn't see it as an unreasonable request. Dr. Shelmidine made the point that we had cleaners that we did not replace.*

11) Ms. Edwards made a point that someone said we added on an extra person, the BOE is supposed to know that. *When we have created or abolished positions, the BOE is supposed to be notified. We went through this with the four monitors that were hired on the weekend by a previous superintendent. The BOE followed out after the fact they abolished the positions only to find out they were still working. So we need to know when positions are created or abolished, or if you bring new people on. That position that is not already there. Mrs. Hubley stated that the Monitors that we laid off through COVID, we never abolished them, they were still there. Ms. Edwards said they were teaching assistants. Mrs. Jordan stated it was the same thing for monitors. We decreased their hours. Mr. King made the point that we decreased the hours, but when they came back, we increased the hours, there wasn't a new position. It was never abolished. Mrs. Stamboly noted that we highlight those things. Ms. Edwards just wants to be certain that a new superintendent needs to be keenly aware that when people come on board there must be an actual position for that person.*

Dr. Shelmidine wanted to note, BOCES Services is down roughly \$69,000 (2010 - under instructional support curriculum), that is due largely to our finally being designated a "School and District in Good Standing. Mr. King said, there's \$70,000 we can give back to our children! She wanted to point this out as a point of pride for all of the hard work everybody did.

12) Ms. Edwards additionally brought up interscholastic sports, she noted helmet reconditioning etc. but wondered if we don't have a football team, we don't need reconditioned helmets. It would be nice to know where we fall out on that. She noted under uniforms, the BOE did request a uniform schedule some months ago, and inquired what we have spent year to date on uniforms so that we are not just continually doing that. We did request

that and we have yet to receive that. *Dr. Shelmidine noted that Marissa Treen (Athletic Director) is working on that and largely we found uniforms everywhere. Dr. Shelmidine noted that is why we are focusing on modified because those were the uniforms that have not been purchased.*

13) Ms. Edwards asked what is the 22 Bus and Suburban replacing? *Dr. Shelmidine stated that the Suburban replaces the van, and the 22 passenger replaces another small passenger bus that is up. It is inefficient for us to take a big bus to Waterville or Sauquoit, so the suburban was a way to make that a bit more efficient and economical. Mrs. Stamboly has met with Patty Ward and George David in the Bus Garage and they came up with a schedule that will keep your cost even now and in the future. The replacement schedule should now be even. Ms. Edwards referenced that she thought we had to have the public revote on maintaining the current transportation policy. Our attorney, Susan Johns has advised that this is no longer the case.*

14) Ms. Edwards also brought up diesel fuel, it's only going up by \$5,000? *Mrs. Stamboly noted that line may be a problem but we can carry if there is any overage through the budget. She took the lock price and she put an escalation factor in there. That is what she came up with. Mrs. Stamboly noted that it is difficult to get a usage picture because we have been off on the usage these past few years.*

Ms. Edwards noted that Mrs. Stamboly is very good about counting pennies etc. and she wants to make sure our budget has us utilizing what is benefiting the most and not a small subset.

5.4 NYM 185 Day Calendar 2022-2023	Shelmidine	Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd K.Gyore / Yes __7__ No_0__ Abstain __
5.5 Combined Contract – Notre Dame and New York Mills Varsity Softball.		Yes	Action	1 st A. Albright 2 nd K. Hubley / Yes _6__ No_0__ Abstain _1__
6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 K-6 Report	B. Dodge		Information	

Mr. Dodge addressed the BOE:
*1) We just finished PARP, and the kids were really excited and talking about it.
 2) Today pales in comparison to anything we have experienced in two years. The kids without the masks are a whole new level of energy in the building.*

6.2 7-12 Report	M. Facci		Information	

Mrs. Facci addressed the BOE:
*1) It was so nice to see the smiles from the minute you walked through the door.
 2) Semi-formal is this weekend, Saturday 7-10pm, they are still looking for a chaperone. (Mr. King said he would check with his wife).
 3) We have a lot going on in March. On the 22nd and 23rd, the Center For Family Life and Recovery is going to spend two days visiting every PE class 7-12 and talk about vaping and the risks.
 4) The Musical is the 24-26th, and there will be three performances this year so that we can spread out and make sure that everyone can still attend as have in the past.*

5) *The NY State 7/8 ELA Exams will be on March 29th and 30th. We are going to start tutoring for the 7/8 grade math exam twice a week starting in about a week or so, we are just looking for students who are interested.*

Mrs. Jordan inquired if they will be doing a performance for the elder community as they usually do, or is that not happening because of COVID still? Mrs. Facci said they are doing three nights to ensure that all of the families can see it and it may not be a good idea for the elderly to be out in the population. Ms. Edwards stated they may like to. Mrs. Facci said they may still buy a ticket, but there is not an evening reserved for the elder population. Mrs. Jordan referred to Dr. Timbs and his suggestion of including this part of the population, and she thought perhaps we could do a daytime performance? Dr. Shelmidine suggested that perhaps we could take some of the kids to the Senior Center and have them sing a couple of songs. Mr. King noted, it is not well attended. Mrs. Jordan said perhaps then it might be good idea to go to them. Mrs. Hubley mentioned that in the past we used to even host a spaghetti dinner, which then turned to a brown bag. It was said that the spaghetti dinner didn't have enough draw. Ms. Edwards and Mrs. Jordan both agreed, it might be nice to find a way to get these kids to the Senior Center for community outreach.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

7.1 Enrollment Update	J. Shelmidine	Yes	Information
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7.2 Superintendent's Update	J. Shelmidine	Yes	Information
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8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 From the Floor -	District Clerk		Information
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Persons wishing to speak should first be recognized by the President, then identify themselves, any organization they may be representing at the meeting, and the agenda topic or other matter of public concern about our schools that they wish to discuss. Topics must be addressed one at a time with each individual's comments limited to three (3) minutes for a total of twelve (12) minutes designated for the public comment agenda item.

1) Mrs. Marley took a moment to thank two women present from the PTSO to thank them for what they have done for the kids and how the kids benefit from all their work.

2) Mrs. Marley said she missed the news on Dr. Shelmidines retirement and she wishes her well.

3) Ms. Scharf read a letter from Ethan Hurst with the Drama/Musical department requesting the BOE place an advertisement in the Program. We agreed to do a half page ad at \$10 each, anything additional will be a donation. Money is due to Ms. Scharf by Friday. Mrs. Lovecchio has our previous ad and will use that.

8.2 Board Discussion	BOE		Discussion	<i>Mrs. Albright noted that it was very nice to see faces in the crowd this evening and people showing an interest. Ms. Edwards mentioned that Dr. Porcelli is seeking our support to be our BOCES representative again. She asks that we continue to support him.</i>
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8.3 Approval to Nominate Dr. Porcelli as our candidate for the BOCES Board of Education.	BOE		Procedural	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes __7_ No_0_ Abstain __
9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)	BOE	8:03pm	Procedural	1 st S. King 2 nd K. Hubley / Yes __7_ No_0_ Abstain __
9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE	8:07pm	Procedural	1 st M. Jordan 2 nd S.King / Yes __7_ No__0_ Abstain __
10. ADJOURNMENT				
10.1 Adjournment	J. Edwards	8:12pm	Procedural	1 st S. King 2 nd K. Hubley / Yes __7_ No__0_ Abstain __
Respectfully Submitted,				
Stefany Scharf District Clerk				
**§105. Conduct of executive sessions.				
1. Upon a majority vote of its total membership, taken in an open meeting pursuant to a motion identifying the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered, a public body may conduct an executive session for the below enumerated purposes only, provided, however, that no action by formal vote shall be taken to appropriate public moneys:				
a. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;				
b. any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;				
c. information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;				
d. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;				
e. collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;				
f. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;				
g. the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and				
h. the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.				
2. Attendance at an executive session shall be permitted to any member of the public body and any other persons authorized by the public body.				