



**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
 FEBRUARY 7, 2023
 6 PM - NEW YORK MILLS UFSD LIBRARY**

- Kristin Hubley
- Kimberly Gyore
- Jacqueline Edwards
- Jonathan Fiore
- Michelle Jordan
- Steve King
- Robert Mahardy, Jr. (6:25pm)

Agenda Item	Who	Information Distributed	Action	Notes
1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER				
1.1 Pledge to the Flag	K. Gyore		Procedural	
1.2 Reading of the New York Mills UFSD Mission Statement.	S. King		Procedural	
1.3 Acceptance of Agenda	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd K. Gyore/ Yes <u> 6 </u> No <u> 0 </u> Abstain <u> </u>
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President’s Message	K. Hubley		Information	Mrs. Hubley wanted to publicly thank Mr. Brent Dodge and wish him well in his new position and give a warm welcome to Mrs. Denise DiSpirito.
2.2 BOCES Representative Report	G. Porcelli		Information	None
2.3 Committee Reports			Information	

Policy Committee: Kimberly Gyore/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards – *The committee will be meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2023.*

Facilities Committee: Michelle Jordan/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards – *The group met yesterday, had a fairly detailed conversation with the architects going through all of the closed and still remaining open projects and items. Dr. Timbs was there who gave them another lesson regarding the next capital project. They had a good conversation about Beekman and the challenges that Beekman is giving us now that SED will no longer allow us to derive state aid and everything we will now do will be at full cost to the district. We will need to come up with the next capital project and the architects are coming up with some scopes and some ideas and we will move forward because our timeline for the next project because it takes about a year to get things moving. Thought Exchange – one of the thoughts is we would get the information out about Beekman Gym because anything we do is going to be at the cost of the school district it will impact taxpayers and so we want to get their input as to what their thoughts are about Beekman and what other options we have because it is going to be a high impact to our community. We are going to put together a “Thought Exchange” and Mrs. LaGase is going to construct that to come up with direct questions to get some feedback before we go out and decide what to do. There are some major things in Beekman that need to be addressed very soon. Mrs. LaGase added that they had some preliminary discussion in addition to the Thought Exchange about possibly some community forums so that we can try to enlist as much feedback from the whole community as possible.*

Communications Committee: Robert Mahardy/Chair, Michelle Jordan – *We met a week ago and discussed the survey results which we are going to put out publicly. We did not have a very good turnout of the results, and the survey was not completed as much as we would have liked but we did get some good information about what people want from the website. As we also find a new template for our website because the old website has been taken over by another company. Mrs. LaGase indicated there will be a communication that will be coming out shortly from the administrative offices requesting student information verification. There is a cover letter that will go out with that and then we will be looking at communicating our communication plan moving forward so that parents have an idea what ways we are going to communicate and the types of platforms we are going to use for certain communication. Mrs. Hubley indicated that changing that platform will also be changing our call system. They are all connected. The problems that we have seen are issues that arose with the last emergency call system. We are not really exploring that right now because it is going to a new platform. That is another reason for the verification. Once they get this information they will migrate our parent data and our guardian data from our current system to the new platform. Prior to that process happening, we are going to ask parents to verify and confirm the information they want in the system so that we can have a mechanism for ensuring that this is seamless.*

Transportation Committee: Steve King/Chair, Jonathan Fiore – *We will be meeting but we have not determined a date yet but we will be talking more about electric buses and perhaps what we want to do as a district as well as a community to talk about why electric buses wouldn't work for upstate New York.*

Safety Committee: Steve King/Chair, Rob Mahardy, Jonathan Fiore - *We will have a safety meeting tomorrow night (2.8.23) and we will be primarily looking at the incidences that have happened recently about locking the building after hours and how we get access for example, tonight's meeting, games, etc.*

Finance: Jonathan Fiore/Chair, Kimberly Gyore, Jacqueline Edwards – *We had a meeting this evening with one issue that will be discussed in Executive Session, outside of that we found a great way to maximize our cash. Mr. Fiore and Mrs. Stamboly met with folks from BNY Mellon and they have a way to invest in the money market fund with earning 4.5 percent interest which over the course of the year is a significant increase over what it was a few years ago.*

SBI: Steve King – 1/24 there was a meeting with local legislators over at BOCES and we had some great conversation with them. Mr. King inquired “Will you support legislation to increase this cap over a period of several years” and most of them were on board, but because it is two house democratic the democratic legislators were pretty much on board. The republican’s said it would be tough. The first person who answered me was Mr. Griffo and I asked him, when you meet with your Democratic colleagues, ask if they would support that legislation for us. 3/6 is an Executive Committee meeting which I plan on attending, 3/16 will be the school showcase that will be held in Herkimer BOCES, I encourage everyone to go to that. It’s the students presenting the things they are doing in their districts, it’s kind of a great thing and you usually get a great meal with it. 3/28 they will be a “How to Become a School Board Member.” They will have the session over at BOCES. I would recommend that to anyone who has ever thought of being a school board member.

SBI Alternate: Kristin Hubley

2.4 Budget Presentation/Revenues	M.LaGase/L. Stamboly		Information	
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Mrs. LaGase presented budget information to the Board of Education and community. Mrs. LaGase stated that her goal in terms of the superintendent’s perspective on the budget is to keep the district whole and in order to do that we will have to realize some efficiencies. There is no way around that at this point. These will be both short-term and long-term, in order to be able to sustain programming and services. We will have to look very carefully at maximizing our resources including our human resources. The finance committee has some specific line-item issues that will need to be addressed in executive session. We have to look at all efficiencies. She stated that she and Mrs. Stamboly have been looking at this in great depth.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Fiore/ Yes <u> 6 </u> No <u> 0 </u> Abstain <u> </u>
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3.2 Business Office Reports				
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3.3 CSE Report				
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3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	1.10.2023			
	1.19.2023			
	1.25.2023			
	2.2.2023			

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Capital Update				
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Most was discussed during the facilities update. Mrs. LaGase stated that they are looking at how they can best garner feedback and determine what scope is the next step for the district. Mrs. Hubley stated that she felt we do need to get out to the community “why” we are not getting state aid. We got more

information at the meeting last evening from the architects as to why we are in the situation we are in. One of the main reasons is we have 500 students in our district and we have three gymnasiums and according to the state one is sufficient. We learned from the architects about why and where we are. When the school was built, Beekman was our only gym. Then we added on the other two. Mrs. Jordan spoke saying this isn't a new thing, we have been blessed because this was never really allowed; but the state which does not have the funds, is now actually looking at what has been law. This isn't new, it's just been allowed. Thinking about Beekman, it's our basketball gym which can hold the spectators so we can't just easily move to the HS Gym. So there needs to be discussions ... can we somehow make the HS have more seating? This is why we are doing the survey and the possibility of a community forum and the staff inside the building who may have ideas. This is just not our decision, it's not just the superintendent's it's because of the tax burden this is going to be. There really needs to be input from the whole community.

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5. NEW BUSINESS

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5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fiore 2 nd M. Jordan/ Yes _6_ No _0_ Abstain ___
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5.2 Resolution to Approve Donation – Class of 1964		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes _6_ No _0_ Abstain ___
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***Mr. Mahardy entered the meeting at 6:25pm.*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York Mills School District accept a donation to be used for the Elementary Library from The Class of 1964 in the amount of \$892.00.

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5.3 Resolution to Approve the Rental of Voting Machines from Oneida County		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd K. Gyore/ Yes _0_ No __7_ Abstain ___
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There was a great deal of discussion about the rental of the machines and it was unanimously voted against utilizing the voting machines from the county. New York Mills will continue with a hand-count of the ballots, utilizing the poll workers that are hired from Oneida County Department of Elections. The Board decided to let the superintendent decide what type of container we will utilize for the vote. The board suggested the superintendent look into having students at BOCES build the container and possibly our Art Department design it.

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5.4. Resolution to Approve Revised Election Inspectors and Assistant Poll Site Clerks.		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd J. Fiore / Yes _7_ No _0_ Abstain ___
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BE IT RESOLVED, the Board designates the following individuals to serve as Assistant Poll Clerks and Election Inspectors at the School District's Annual Meeting and General Election in May 2023: Mr. Jeff Hartz, Mr. Michael D. Egan, Mrs. Naima Kawam-Egan. The District Clerk is authorized to designate additional or alternate Assistant Poll Clerks and Election Inspectors on the day of the Annual Meeting and General Election in the event an individual appointed under this resolution is unable to serve, and the remaining individuals appointed are unable to efficiently perform the associated duties.

Assistant Poll Clerks/Election Inspectors shall be compensated as follows: Election Inspectors \$225.00 and Assistant Poll Clerks \$200.00.

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6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 Executive Principal K-12	M. Facci		Information	
<p><i>Mrs. Facci said that Friday they had their second quarter assemblies in the High School. They talked about goal setting, the process of setting smart goals. We looked at some data comparing this year to last years first half of the year as far as attendance, behavior, grades and tardiness. The kids were surprised at some of the data. Particularly the behavior, we have double the amount of behavior referrals this year as we had from last year at this time. I awarded 12 students with most improved from the last marking period. They showed a 4-10 point improvement in their GPA. The senior class has made their decisions about their trip, we will be travelling to Boston again this year on June 3rd. They will be going to the aquarium, have some free time, Quincy Market and then they are going on a dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Boston. We also have ordering of sweatshirts on line.</i></p>				
6.2 Principal K-12	D. DiSpirito		Information	
<p><i>Mrs. DiSpirito thanked everyone for the warm welcome from the students and staff. She is in her 5th day and she noted that schools have similar problems, arrival, dismissal, lunch, recess it doesn't change whether you have 750 or 250 students. Everybody has been coming to my door and welcoming me and talking to me. This is both kids, teachers and staff. She has team meetings tomorrow, starting with 6th grade, 30 mins at a time, on their lunch block. We will be discussing scheduling, curriculum, student data, concerns and we will start formulating plans for summer professional development etc. It's been a wonderful transition for her.</i></p>				
7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
<p><i>Mrs. LaGase reiterated that on the enrollment form we are taking a critical look. Although we have students enrolled with us, there are several that are out of district placements so they are not physically in our classrooms as well as at the secondary level, students who leave for a portion of their day to go to an alternate site. So they are not physically occupying our classrooms. So we are taking a critical look at what those actual hard numbers look like sitting in seats in classrooms here. That number can appear to be one set of students but in terms of operation, it's very different in the building, particularly at some grade levels. As we are taking a look at some of the considerations that the faculty and staff have put forward some of the initial observations that I have seen coming from very different perspectives, from day to day operations. Mrs. LaGase just wants to make sure that everybody is apprised of the service provision both within the building and in terms of all the out of district placements. She is looking at modifying the previous enrollment document that has been previously provided so that it is a bit clearer at the grade levels on how many are in the building and how many are out. She believes that we can modify the template so that there will be a clearer image of where students are.</i></p>				
7.2 Superintendent's Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
<p><i>State Ed did release the graduation rate data public on their site. She has looked at that as well as some of the embargoed data that obviously cannot be discussed yet. Our graduation rate right now for all students as of June is 78%. Mrs. LaGase will be meeting with the guidance staff and Mrs. Facci to look at what the reasons for that number are. We had 7 students that were non-completers, and she would like to take a look at what are the obstacles that are impacting our students from completing. This is a definite concern. If there are things that we can do to mitigate that. She reviewed the 5/6 year graduation rates and they are up. It's going up at our 5-year 87% for all students for June. Our 6-year for August is 90%. Obviously we want to look at a 4-year completion rate for our students barring any major needs. Sometime some of our students do need an extra year or two based on them coming from out of</i></p>				

state and they are trying to meet NY State requirements or had other influences that impacted their educational experiences. 78% is an area we need to grow. We need to move up. We will be doing a hard look at our data and tracking with our guidance staff. Also looking at what we can better do to assist the students along the way to increase 4-year completion. There was brief discussion among the board.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 From the Floor -

District Clerk

Information

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.

A letter from Mrs. Marley was read to the Board of Education. Additionally, Mrs. Abbie Taylor addressed the board with regard to her concern over a food pantry.

8.2 Board Discussion

Steve King – thanked Mrs. Jordan for gathering the items for the BOE basket.

Michele Jordan – Highlighted that the boys bowling team won their sectionals and she wanted to give them kudos.

Kristin Hubley – She echoed Mrs. Jordan’s sentiment. Mrs. Hubley spoke about the K-12 model and what it will take to place us in compliance and that it is not an easy task but we are getting there. Ms. Edwards stated here that Mrs. LaGase is trying to point us to what we are truly classified as. This is not a new model, it’s something that just needs to be corrected.

Jacqueline Edwards – Complimented the board on selecting Mrs. LaGase and she stated that she felt what a great choice they made in selecting her and she complimented Mrs. LaGase in her leadership thus far.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION (f.)

BOE

Time 7:05pm

Discussion/Action

1st J. Edwards 2nd J. Fiore / Yes __7__ No_0__ Abstain __

9.1 Return to General Session

BOE

Time 8:40pm

Action

1st S. King 2nd J. Edwards / Yes _7__ No_0__ Abstain __

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 Adjournment

Time 8:40pm

Action

1st S. King 2nd J. Edwards / Yes _7__ No_0__ Abstain __

**§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.**

Respectfully Submitted, Stefany Scharf/District Clerk