



**Education, Fiscal Responsibility and Environmental Stewardship:
Understanding New York Mills Union Free School District's Energy Upgrades**

November 6, 2020 (New York Mills, N.Y.) - As the New York Mills Union Free School District completes and continually monitors the ongoing work of ensuring the safe reopening and operation of our school for all Marauders, we are also preparing to embark on a project that keeps the safety and efficiency of our school foremost in our mind.

At New York Mills, we commit ourselves every day to create an educational and physical environment that instills an enthusiasm for learning in our students that will enable them to become productive, responsible citizens. To deliver on that commitment, we must also ensure that our facilities are best quipped to meet the educational needs of our students and the operational needs of the district. You have seen some of the strides we have made in this regard, including our recently-approved capital improvement project. The district plans to take another important step through the completion of an Energy Performance Contract (EPC), which will be the subject of an upcoming community vote.

The proposed EPC is central to our district's focus on our students and in keeping with our fiscal responsibility to the community in several ways. First, it helps us address important facility improvements in an economically-responsible and environmentally-friendly way. Through a New York State-approved program, the needed upgrades and improvements will be paid for through the savings we will achieve. The estimated annual savings for the district are targeted at more than \$73,000 annually. These cost savings are guaranteed by the Energy Services Company (ESCO) and monitored by New York State. If the projected level of savings is not met, the ESCO for the project must compensate the district for the shortfall. This approach allows for the completion of the needed upgrades without any negative impact to the taxpayer.

The improvements made through the EPC will ensure our ability to create and control an optimal educational environment for our students, while also strengthening the overall operational efficiency of our school and Beekman Gym as important pillars in our community.

It is advantageous to complete these important energy upgrades through an EPC rather than through the capital project. Doing so allows the district to capture additional New York State aid. In the end, completing the EPC helps us realize reduced energy costs, annual savings, and, through a combination of aid and guaranteed cost savings, positive cash flow and increased revenues to the district.

By completing the EPC now, we will take responsible steps to provide more efficient and cost-effective facilities and environments for our students and the community as we move forward.