



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2024
6 PM - NEW YORK MILLS UFSD LIBRARY

- Kristin Hubley
- Robert Mahardy, Jr.
- Sara DeFazio
- Jacqueline Edwards
- Jeremy Fennell
- Steve King
- Abbie Taylor

Agenda Item	Who	Information Distributed	Action	Notes
1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER		6:00 pm		
1.1 Pledge to the Flag			Procedural	
1.2 Reading of the New York Mills UFSD Mission Statement.			Procedural	<i>Through combined efforts of students, staff, parents and community members, our mission is to foster the confidence, knowledge, cognition, and character necessary to instill a strong work ethic, to create an environment of tolerance and respect, and to ignite an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning that will enable students to become productive, responsible citizens.</i>
1.3 Acceptance of Agenda	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President’s Message	K. Hubley		Information	
<i>K. Hubley – As we gear up for the Holiday season with a lot of school events upcoming. I just want to wish everyone a happy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and I hope everyone stays safe and healthy these next couple of weeks.</i>				
2.2 BOCES Representative Report	G. Porcelli		Informative	

Dr. Porcelli – A couple of things, I apologize for not being here more often. There are many things happening in BOCES, one is looking to clone Dr. Kilburn, she is truly one of a kind. As we advance in the push for the Portrait of a Graduate, the programs we are unveiling I would really like to see more students from NY Mills participate. It is wonderful and encouraging to hear students come back a year later and state they were involved with an internship at Masonic Homes, working at a veterinarian clinic, law offices and partnerships we have with various community organizations. Also, as President of the Shoemaker Foundation, I would like to see the more New York Mills students applying for the Shoemaker Foundation Scholarships through the Guidance Dept., which offers funds towards books at a 4-year college. If I can help in any way, any question, concern or issue with BOCES, feel free give me a call, we will see what we can work out. I will get you an answer. Thank you for tonight.

2.3 OHM BOCES Presentation	Dr. Patricia N. Kilburn		Information	
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Dr. Kilburn needed to be rescheduled due to the weather.

2.4 NYMUFSD Battle of the Books Presentation	D. Howe		Information	
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D. Howe – Library Media Specialist K-12; Middle School Battle of the Books club is open for 6-8th grade students and we have 11 current members with 13; books to read between September – March. The High School Battle of the Books club is open to grades 9-12 with 9 current members, reading 12 books between September - March. Many BOCES students come back for the club. The completion is in March. There are 12 District Schools competing, Clinton and Holland Patient have been NYMUFSD biggest rivals to date, we are determined to win this year. For 7 years we have made it to the final round each year. A competition consists of all the books on a table, judges are reading quotes out loud from any one the titles selected this year and students buzz in to give a correct title and author of the book the quote is from. It is very important to be sharp with the correct pronunciation and titles. The students amaze me from year to year at how good they are at it.

Two students a 12th grader and 7th grader also presented adding it is a very competitive, but very fun and engaging. “It gets you interested in reading outside of the classroom”. There is lot of work involved, the books cover a wide range of topics, teaching very important lessons. This year’s Regional Competition will be held at Utica University, on March 12th with a tentative snow date of March 13, 2025. In February a local battle will be held here at NYMUFSD to see who the top 4 students are for the Middle and High School Clubs. The top four will be who represents our school are the Competition. Last year Clinton won first place and NYMUFSD came in 2nd place. Last year NY Mills Middle School came in 1st place, so our student names are engraved on a traveling trophy. Our goal is to get both Trophies back in our school for a year.

2.5 Committee Reports			Information	
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Policy Committee: *Steve King/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards, Abbie Taylor – S.King - Several policies are up for review tonight and our next meeting on January 14th.*

Facilities Committee: *Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio, Jacqueline Edwards – J.Fennell - Still waiting for SED approval, the timeline is awaiting these approvals. The full scope of specific details will come at a later date.*

Communications Committee: *Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy – A. Taylor - No updated. Meeting in January regarding the roll out of ParentSquare.*

Safety Committee: *Robert Mahardy, Jr./Chair, Abbie Taylor – S.DeFazio – No update at this time.*

Transportation Committee: *Sara DeFazio/Chair, Robert Mahardy, Jr. – No update at this time.*

Finance Committee: *Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Sara DeFazio, Jeremy Fennell – J. Edwards – Today’s meeting has been postponed until we have more information on where we stand with Foundation Aid.*

SBI: *Steve King (SBI Alternate: Jacqueline Edwards) S.King – Two significant events last month; November 19th met with local Regent, he discussed various points some regional and some on the legislative level. A concern about just how many internships would be possible in a region like this, times the number of students looking for them. Dec. 2nd was the Executive Committee Meeting, one major topic was*

the Annual Student Showcase being hosted this year of OHM BOCES, we need to think of something to showcase. Upcoming meetings 12/16/24 zoom Legislative meeting, 1/6/25 canceled. All are welcome. S. DeFazio has attended and found it very informative especially in learning more of the Student Showcase and what different programs the schools are working on or doing, honing in on skills like public speaking and student confidence.

3. CONSENT AGENDA				
3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
3.2 Business Office Reports				
3.3 CSE Reports				
3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	11.05.24			
4. OLD BUSINESS				
4.1 Capital Updates			Information	
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st A. Taylor 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____ <i>J.Edwards - With regrets on 1.1 K.Hubley - Yes, thank you for all the work you have done in that position. It is a lot to do.</i>
5.2 Resolution of Uncollected Taxes		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____ <i>S.King – One comment it always amazes me every year how much that number is in comparison to our budget. It’s awful, those members of the Community that don’t pay their school taxes.</i>

5.3 Resolution to Approve Construction Manager for the NYMUFSD Capital Project		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.4 Approval of Community Use of Facilities Request with Herkimer Originals – Basketball Game 1 of 2		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
				<i>K.Hubley –Commented on the correction of the date has been made to reflect the year 2025.</i>
5.5 Approval of Community Use of Facilities Request with Herkimer Originals – Basketball Game 2 of 2		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.6 Policy 1100 Records Management and Access (Second Read, Adopt) a. Regulation 1100.1 Public Access to Records (Second Read - Adopt)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.7 Policy 2004 School Board Operations; Nomination and Election of Board of Education Members (Second Read - Adopt)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.8 Policy 6404 Rights of Nursing Employees to Express Breast Milk (Second Read - Adopt)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.9 Policy 7201 Student Medications, Allergies and Anaphylaxis – new replacing previous (Second Read - Adopt)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
				<i>M. LaGase – Policy 7201 already exists but is being replaced.</i>
5.10 Policy 2200 Qualifications of Voters (Review)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.11 Policy 2203 Responsibility of Board Relative to Complaints and Charges (Review)		Yes	Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____

5.12 Policy 2201 Annual District Meeting and Election (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.13 Policy 7102 Immunization of Students (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.14 Policy 8600 Accommodation Hearing Impaired Parents (First Read) a. Regulation 8600.1 Accommodation Hearing Request (First Read) b. Regulation 8600.2 Accommodation of Hearing Notice (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.15 Resolution to Approve the 2025-2026 Annual Budget Development Timeline		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 Executive Principal K-12	M. Facci		Information	
<i>M. Facci - Absent due to weather, DiSpirito highlighted a few upcoming high school student events as Brooks BBQ on 12/5/24, PTSO Craft Fair 12/6-8th, Winter Concert on 12/12/24, and Student of the Month Assemblies and Optimus Awards will be in the newsletter.</i>				
6.2 Interim Principal K-12	D. DiSpirito		Information	
<i>D. DiSpirito – A lot happening the season. The Elementary has an Arts in Education Program as well as 12/4/24 Alice in Wonderland for the 3rd graders, Musical auditions Monday and Tuesday 12/9-12/10/24 for Annie Jr., the musical itself will take place May 1st and 2nd. On 12/17/24 we will have our Winter Concert including the 5th and 6th grade Band. Also, on 12/17, grades K,1.2.3 will be going to the Stanley for the Polar Express. Classrooms’ will have Holiday parties on 12/19/24 and 12/20/24, Santa will come to visit in the afternoon right before break. Spirit Week will be that last week of school with lots of fun activities. Plus, the Administration will have a Whoot-Whoot Wagon, as Mrs. Facci and I will be the Elves in the hallways bring a cart full of goodies and prizes to each classroom in appreciation to our awesome faculty. Lastly, I wanted to say I did see the High School Musical it was really, really well done, especially, since we had such a young pool of talent. It was fun and a very fine production.</i>				
7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
7.2 Superintendent’s Update	M. LaGase		Information	

M. LaGase – NYSED has recently shared updates on the Regionalization Initiative, providing options and discretion at the district level. Now giving local Boards of Education the choice to decide on participation and plan development. We will continue our discussion on the Boards’ desire to move forward and if so within what scope. In terms of Testing and Accountability, the Board is aware of our designation - Local Support and Improvement Status (which is the lowest level of state oversight/support), but we need to be very mindful and constantly looking at where we are today, tomorrow and what our long-term plans are to ensure we stay in this position. Chronic Absenteeism and Participation Rate are two indicators we need to keep monitoring. We will also continue our work to increase the percentage of proficiency on all assessments.

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8. COMMUNICATIONS

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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.

J. Roback (student) – Thanked the Board for the nomination of Student Achievement Award, it was a great honor. I didn’t have an opportunity to personally thank you, especially for those who attended with me. Tonight, I am also here to ask the Board of Education to consider allowing these public meetings to be live streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.

J. Marley (NYMTA) Advocating for a couple of things as budget season is upon us. Please keep in mind our smaller class sizes for our young learners to insure a strong start to education and additionally on the other end of the building looking to provide some electives that are relevant to our High School students, preparing them for the diverse features they are going to have.

8.2 Board Discussion BOE Discussion

A. Taylor – The Veteran Assembly was very moving and well received within the community.
 K. Hubley – the Musical was wonderful, I was very impressed with the staging and how it moved along. The timing was not ideal during November, so, Kudos to the small cast on a well done pulled together performance. The Craft Fair is this weekend, and the students are very involved and do a great job all weekend long. Happy Holidays and I look forward to the upcoming school events.
 J. Edwards – Would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, this is our last meeting of the year. And wanted to Thank Mrs. Rys, for her dedication as Athletic Director, your resignation is with regrets but I wish you well. Thank you.
 S. DeFazio – I was excited to see the Musical as well, students did a great job. Hats off to them. Also, as said in the past, it is encouraging to see student presence and participation at our meetings. Talking to us about interests, the clubs they are in and things they do or are passionate about. It is very welcoming, and great to see and hear from students.
 S. King –In repeat, I encourage everybody to volunteer or the visit the PTSO Craft Fair. I would like to echo what S. DeFazio said, the Battle of the Books, student presentation was wonderful. I encourage and would like to see more of the staff and students telling us of some of the good things that are happening, as we spend a lot of time on the other stuff. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and joyous, prosperous New Year and I thank you all.

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9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed) BOE 7:06 pm 7:12 pm - in Discussion/Action 1st S. DeFazio 2nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____

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9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE	7:56 pm	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
10. ADJOURNMENT				
10.1 Adjournment		7:57 pm	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd S. DeFazio / 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.