



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2025
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 S. DeFazio 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (Needed)	BOE	6:01 pm	Discussion/Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
Return to General Session (time)	BOE	6:25 pm	Action	1 st _____ 2 nd _____ / Yes ____ No ____ Abstain ____
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President's Message	K. Hubley		Information	

K. Hubley – I will talk quickly about the upcoming budget vote and we do have one open seat on our Board. Anyone interested in running for the Board seat, the packet information and deadline to get that back in is April 21, 2025. Again, you would get that information from our Board Clerk and our budget vote is May 20th. We will be talking about budget tonight. We do have a budget workshop scheduled for March 18th, but we don't believe we are going to need that. So, that may be canceled. I also want to talk about quickly, we are having a Board working session, on March 29th I want to thank everyone for your responses to that. We are working on an agenda with James Van Wormer from SBI, so we are looking forward to that working session, on Saturday, March 29. I know that we have a lot of sports achievements, so I'm looking forward to Mrs. Facci giving us some of that information. So, with that I'm going to move on to our BOCES representative report Dr. Porcelli. Welcome!

2.2 BOCES Representative Report	G. Porcelli		Informative	
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Dr. Porcelli - Madame President did you mention the BOCES Budget Vote on the 29th? I'm sorry my ears don't work so well. K.Hubley – I did not, when is it?

G.Porcelli – I'm just checking, but I believe the vote on the BOCES Budget Vote is April 29th. M.LaGase – That is correct.

G.Porcelli – The report I can give you folks, is things at BOCES are fairly busy at this point in time. We are dealing with our budget which will be presented to you and how things are working out. If I remember correctly, it is a 90 million dollar budget. So, when I sat on your Board I use to say I was a trustee for a corporation of whatever your budget is, now it is a \$90,000,000 upscale. We are trying to balance a lot of things that are happening for us. We just completed a negotiation with our BOCES Teachers Union, right now I am participating with the Administrator and just completed one with the UPCS or custodial staff, so that is happening. At the same time, we are trying to work our way through the State of New York, talking about some fairly seriously changes in the educational program for our students, with something they are calling the Portrait of a Student and setting up various different ways other than classroom stuff. Different pathways to graduation, internships and so forth. At the same time, of course, we are running our programs at the Lincoln Academy and our relationship with Indium Program and the CTE Program. The other thing particularly with the budget, I'm sure you will recognize is there are a lot of changes at least potentially coming down from the Federal level that will affect us and effect BOCES and of course it will filter through the State of New York. So, we have been trying to work our way through that. One particular issue, you folks are very familiar with is the health insurance issue and trying to find ways for cost savings. So, it is a busy time. Okay? K.Hubley – Okay, thank you. S. Defazio – Thank you. G.Porcelli – Thank you.

K.Hubley – And with that report we do have our Resolution tonight, because our BOCES representative is up for vote during that Budget Vote and Dr. Porcelli has shown he is still interested in keeping that seat. And, I would like to open it up at this time for discussion, but we do have it as a Resolution, as item 5.2. So, at this time do we have any discussion we would like to have on the BOCES Representative? S.Defazio - I would like to bring something forward, I know we started this discussion before. I want to thank Mr. Porcelli for being here tonight, I think that it is great to get a report out on what is happening. However, I would like to recommend we move forward in, changing out that position for Mr. ... Doc I should say excuse me, to somebody who is currently sitting on our Board. I think it is beneficial to have somebody that has their ear to the ground in terms of what's happening among us here, that can also bring some issues back to the BOCES Board and have further conversations. So, with that being said with the most experience I feel like I would like to look towards Mr. King or Mrs. Hubley. Someone that if interested might want to pursue that position. K. Hubley – Thank you. Steve, do you want to... ? S.King – I was going to say that I believe that doc is doing a great job for us as a BOCES Rep. on the BOCES Board. One thing I would say is Doc we would like to hear from you more often. [Dr.Pocelli – Thank you.] Otherwise I would personally vote for Doc to continue in this position.

R.Mahardy, Jr. – I would like to echo the communication piece of that we would definitely like to be more in the loop as to what is going on at BOCES. We haven't had a lot of BOCES reports and this is my 3rd year and I think this is maybe 3 or 4 reports. So definitely the communication end of things. Um, if we are being represented we need to be represented as a district. That's just my two cents on it. K.Hubley- Anyone else? Um, so I do agree and appreciate the work you have done of the BOCES Board Doc. But I do agree that we need more communication. Do you see that? Is that something you can do, or can commit to us, that we have this communication? Like I love seeing you here today and I know you've been through a lot.

Dr.Porcelli- if I could respond. I understand that point and it is a valid one. However, I think the Board needs to realize is that the things we are dealing with when I'm in a Board meeting, I think your best source of information is the Lady, the Superintendent sitting to your side. She is on the Superintendents Cabinet up at BOCES she gets information that is most pertinent to things that are happening here. The thing I'm dealing with for the most part are fairly global and

how they mesh with the other school districts. So, um that is one thing to be considered. What the gentleman says and what the lady says, yeah, and if this board wants me to be more communicative, if I am the person you select, I can do that. Again, the information I think that is most pertinent to you comes from the Superintendent because she is aware of what is happening here. As far as the Lady is concerned about having someone with their ear to the ground and what is happening at NY Mills, may I remind the board I served on this board for 14 years as Vice President and President and I do keep an eye on what is going on and particularly argue up at BOCES about the taxes and the cost of things. Ah, I have also served on the BOCES board for quite a number of years 14 or 15 consecutive. The time commitment is tremendous, but I have been on BOCES board both as Vice President and President and I am very much aware of what is happening in the school district. I talk with a number of you on an occasion and met with Michele. So, the issue Madame President is you want more from me? I will be here more.

K.Hubley- Okay. Do we have any other discussion from the rest of the board? Okay, so at this time I want to poll the board to see where we stand on this because we do have to make the resolution. So, at this point we have Dr. Porcelli that we are considering for the position. Steve did you have anything else that you would like to add? S. King- just that I had a conversation with Jackie via text earlier today and Jackie also feels that Dr. Porcelli should be our representative. K.Hubley- I had the same text message with Jackie to as well. Sara did you have anything else to add?

S.DeFazio- No, I think that I made my statement known. I respect Dr. Porcelli. I agree with Robs sentiment that we would like to see you here more, but I stand firm that I feel like I would like to nominate someone that is currently sitting her on this board as a representative at BOCES.

A.Taylor- Um, with so many changes you know on our horizon. I do feel it would be beneficial to have someone, you know, more in touch with the school, our students and the challenges they face. J.Fennell – yeah, I can see that argument to. I think it might, probably be beneficial to have potentially a different outlook or perspective on that. I can definitely see that point. I could probably lean towards that if that is what....

A.Taylor- And when we attending what was that? Steve you remember that meeting at BOCES, (S.King – SBI), yes, when you were talking with or about the Portrait of a Student and they were talking about what that might look like for our future in terms of like our Seniors needing mentorship. And I just think of New York Mills how we are really unique in the sense where we are really small in a big city. And how is, is NY Mills going to in a sense compete with other internships within this area, the geographical area with NY Mills, you know against these other larger school districts who are also going to be looking for internships? Um, so, we are small, and I think we have a unique set of challenges that other school districts doing really face. With that I just really hope it is really voiced at that level. K.Hubley – okay. So, part of my discussions with Jackie because we wanted to know who would be interested in the position if we did go to a different route with this. Jackie said she would be interested in the position if we did want to change our representative. So, I am putting her name out there as well, if that is the route we want to take. So, at this point we have Dr. Porcelli and Jackie, if we want to take a vote at this time. S.DeFazio – I would like to consider either you (Hubley) or Steve (King), I don't know if anybody else has a feedback as well. I would like to consider Steve or you, If you are interested, I don't want to put you on the spot like that. K.Hubley - Steve do you want to speak? S.King – I would be my 3rd choice. It would be Doc, Jackie, then me. I would be my 3rd choice so if you are not interested as a Board with the other 2 candidates then I would be ready and willing to take that position.

K.Hubley – I too fall in that same position if it was the decision of the Board then I would take that position. So now we have 4 names in the mix. So, I guess we will take a vote; all those in favor or DR. Pocelli remaining as the BOCES representative. We have Steve, R.Mahardy – I will say yes right now, and Myself, I am a yes (3/6). All those in favor of Jackie taking the position (0/6). Okay, all those in favor of myself, Kristin taking the position (3/6), so we have a tie. S.King – well then, we have two choices now, we can either take Jackie's proxy vote that she expressed that she wanted Doc though it would be an official vote. Or we do have a meeting scheduled, that we don't really need in 2 weeks and come back for the 7 of us to meet. K.Hubley – how do you feel about revisiting this on March 18th ? We don't need the meeting for its as it stands right now, so like a one topic vote and leave. What do we think is going to change between then and now? S.King – Jackie's vote. K.Hubley – alright, so we will table this until March 18th, when we can have our full board here to vote. Dr. G.Porcelli – Madam President, if you will permit me, I would just like the Board to be aware that on the current BOCES board it's a relatively new board, with 4 people who have been there over a period of time and are familiar with how it operates. So, if the board were to bring a new person in they would have quite a learning process. The 4 people, Michele please correct me if I am wrong. Myself of course, Mr. Nelson, Mrs. Falvo, and um, there is another that slips my mind right now. We are the anchor people. If the Board wishes to change it will have situation where someone will have to learn a new process. Okay? K. Hubley – Yes, thank you for that input.

Dr. Porcelli – pardon me Madam President I do apologize, but the board is very soft spoken and it is very hard for me with my ancient ears to hear what is going on, so can you please advise me? K.Hubley – So at this point unless someone wants to change their vote we are at a 3 or 3 vote for you and myself. We are going to table this until our March 18th scheduled meeting for the Budget workshop when Ms. Edwards can be her to give her vote.

Dr. Porcelli – May I ask one more question please? {K.Hubley – yes.} I appreciate your kindness to me. I don't know who runs parliamentary procedure for the board but I do believe if the Board has voted you can't table after the fact. S.King – We didn't do an official vote we did a um...

Dr. Porcelli – oh it was a pole? R.Marhardy – yes it was a pole, she did say pole earlier. S.King – and actually just to cover the parliament piece of it I would like to make the motion to table the 5.2 resolution to the meeting in 2 weeks. R.Mahardy – yes. K.Hubley – okay then I have a second, Mr. Mahardy. All those is favor to table 5.2? Thank you. Dr. Porcelli – Thank you for your kindness and consideration, goodnight.

2.3 Committee Reports			Information	

Policy Committee: Steve King/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards, Abbie Taylor ; Mr. King – We had several policies that you will see tonight for first read and second read. The one we spent the most time at last week was Student member of the board which is now required to start on July 1. We discussed several ideas on how that Board member would be selected and as a committee we would like to recommend or propose the Executive Principal go out to Social Studies classes and ask those students to sign up , starting next year as we already did that process this year. Starting next year, we are going to limit it to 10th and 11th graders who will be in 11th and 12th grade when they are eligible. Then those students will be brought up to student council so it will be student selection of the person serving as the Exofficio Member of our board. S. Defazio – can you repeat that last part? The student council part.

S.King – the student council will have the final vote on the lead candidate from the list. And I am assuming we will have that as a first reading at the next meeting. M.LaGase -Yes. This was a discussion point. I just want to add to that, just so the board is clear. Obviously, we know that the Governor has legislation regarding the addition of the student ex-officio member of the board .The Board does not officially have to adopt a policy but the selection process must be defined. However, the policy committee felt that formalizing the process within a policy was best.

S.King – yes. One last thing we will be meeting on March 11 Policy committee to talk about that and also talk about conversation we held at the last meeting with the job descriptions and the policy about who makes them. K.Hubley – I also want to make the part of our agenda at our Board workshop that it would be a good time to discuss that. So yes, definitely have your preliminary conversations about that policy but it would be a good time for everyone to discuss it.

S.King - mmm, okay. That is all I have for Policy.

Facilities Committee: Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio, Jacqueline Edwards; J.Fennell – we are still waiting on specs following SED approval.

Communications Committee: Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy; A. Taylor - nothing at this time.

Safety Committee: Robert Mahardy, Jr./Chair, Abbie Taylor; R.Mahardy, Jr. – Safety, we are meeting on St. Patrick's Day for the initial discussion.

Transportation Committee: Sara DeFazio/Chair, Robert Mahardy, Jr.; S.DeFazio – no updates

Finance Committee: Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Sara DeFazio, Jeremy Fennell; K.Hubley – we just had a meeting just before and we will roll that **into our budget presentation.**

SBI: Steve King (**SBI Alternate:** Jacqueline Edwards); S.King – Executive Committee met last night (March 3), we discussed several ideas for the September meeting. Right now, the big topic seems to be what's the plan for the Rockefeller Commissioner? We are trying to get some people in to talk about what our responsibility as a district is. So, when we start planning budgets for the following school year we have some idea what our needs are going to be for that. The legislative committee, enjoyed the way the forum was done, more of a conversational focus. We agreed to keep it that way for next year. The Capitol conference went well for those that attended. We are going to meet over the summer with legislatures as needed. So that was all stuff we talked about. Then the membership committee, before COVID, they used to give out certificates at the June Executive committee and brought back to school district for distribution. It took hours. What we decided to do was take people that meet certain criteria put their name in a hat and they will get an award to give to some program at their district. So, it is not something where I show up at a meeting and will go home with money in my pocket. Its more, I show up at a meeting and

say I want this to go to “field hockey team” or whatever. So, it will be a donation done that way. And we kind of like that idea, hoping it will encourage more people to come. And the reason we are doing that is according to a graph provided the large blue section are people with zero hours of SBI training. Its 148 people and 48 percent zero to the total population of the boards. Then we have 146 people representing 46% with 1 -24 hours, and 11 people who have done 25-50 hours representing 3%, and about 50 hours with 10 people equals 3%. So, know some people are going to these things but a lot of people are not. So, we want to try and encourage people to go different trainings and meetings. We are paying to be a member of SBI and it is worthwhile to us every little thing offered. From initial trainings through all the other meetings and trainings that go on. Bill Miller was there he is our Area 5 Director. Next year the conference will be in NYC and 2 years following that will be in Buffalo, he talked quite a bit about what is happening in DC on immigration. If they have a federal warrant to come into to schools they can do that and there is no way to stop them with a federal warrant. Um, the funds will be staying, we are very sure if the funds go away in the Education Dept, our funds will remain we just don’t know how they will be distributed. One of the thoughts were block grants to the State, and the States would distribute it out to the districts but who knows. One of the things that is interesting is that the, I don’t know how many of you are aware the BOCES District Superintendent has an income and a benefits limit. That is something put into place several years ago by it never got put into law or renewed. So currently there I is no limit so we can pay our superintendent whatever the heck we want. It would certainly open up the field for District Superintendent’s because a lot of them locally make more than a district superintendent, especially down state. Even in this area there are some making more than our DS. Next, March 18th – so you want to be a school board member? Is a zoom meeting if anybody is interested? And that’s all I got. Interesting meeting a lot going on. Oh, I do have a calendar for next year. I will give this to Mandy and ask if she minds distributing this to us. Thank you. K.Hubley – okay Steve. Wow that was a lot of information. S.King – yes, I will quiz you later on, hahaha.

2.3 Budget Presentation	M. LaGase L. Stamboly		Information	

M. LaGase – Mandy is going to handout a line item budget . You will see it has the 2024-25 budget in the first column and the 2025-26 proposed budget in the second column. The 3rd column articulates reasons for any changes/adjustments. Let’s start with the last page so you can see what the overall budget change is. As we discussed at the last meeting, there has been about a 3% increase from budget to budget . This one is slightly higher at 3.9% increase. This primarily due to some key areas one being tuition increases and health insurance. S.King – an 25% increase in electrical this year?

L.Stamboly – yes, the gas held steady, but electric went up significantly. S.Defazio – one question I have is on Special Education piece of out of placement students. Have we looked at those students to see if potentially could come back to district to avoid the cost of district placement? Mrs. LaGase, yes, we have looked at the students and their current program is appropriate.

S.King – I am curious about two things? On page 10, an AD request, but we don’t have one.

M. LaGase – it’s Mary, she is still assuming those responsibilities. L.Stamboly – there is a pretty good hike in the bus cost too. On NY State contract but not as much as if we have to move to an EV Bus. M.LaGase – Lisa can you address what the Board’s ability is in terms of tax cap?

L.Stamboly – Yes. I filed the tax cap and the board has the ability to go out at a 2.86% increase in the levy. We felt that you can go to a 1.9 increase and we can balance the budget. Given what the aid outlook is, what the needs are based on the projected budget. S.King – are there any scuttle butting on the what the Governor is going to hold? Is it going up? Or a danger of it going down? M.LaGase – it is not going to go up. At this point I don’t see her pulling back on safe harmless. Our district is getting the minimum 2 %. So, if you take that additional 2% in foundation aid and apply that to the 3.9% in budget we have to garner 1.9% worth of taxes in order to balance this budget. If we were to choose to not go to 1.9% you would have to cut that money out of this budget which is not something the finance committee or I am recommending. That would really be looking at what to remove in terms of anticipated expenditures, For example we currently have been allowing students who select or are interested in attended P-Tech without a cap on enrollment. Budget cuts could mean a restriction or cap in this area. S.DeFazio – Remind me again, last year we went out at 1.9%? R.Mahardy Jr. – Yes, and I don’t think this is a surprise. This is kind of where we thought we were falling with this anyway within this 2%. So, it is not a shock. S.King – I was actually pleased we came in at 1.9%. I wouldn’t mind considering a little more for the kids. What is the difference in the levy with a ballpark number in your head? Between 1.9 % and the max, how much in dollars are we

talking about roughly? With the max allowable? L.Stamboly – so if we went out at the max allowable it is \$236,565 spread out across your assessed value. At 1.9% it is 157,158. Around an 80,000 difference. M. LaGase - \$79,407. L.Stamboly – if I know where you are with the levy I can start the process of all the state requirements. M.LaGase – If are you looking to go below 1.9%, we need to examine cuts from the proposed budget. R.Mahardy, Jr. – No, I am in that 2% range.

A.Taylor – agreed J.Fennell – I’m probably higher. 2.25% seems like a good number because it balances our budget and gives us a little bit of latitude to not be in a position where we were so close to looking at restrictions to student programming and being able to have those services offered, because it is definitely something being a smaller school that we can’t offer everything at least we can continue offering what we have. It’s a cushion and it’s really not actually a lot when you look at the percentages of the taxes. That is just my thought on it, 2.1, or 2.25. S.DeFazio – agreed, I was going to say 2.25 as well. K.Hubley – I am with Jeremy on that because we did and I attended the finance committee meeting before this in Jackie’s place and we did discuss it. The 1.9% as Lisa said is \$157 thousand if we go up to the 2.25 it’s \$186 thousand, rounding to a 30 thousand dollar difference. Can we talk about it at a household number for a 100,000 assessed home? L. Stamboly – yes, so Jeremy had asked if you have to hold everything else the same what would be the assessed value and the equalization rates for 100,000 house? So, if you went out at 1.9% it would be, after blending the 2 towns together it would be \$126 as a total increase for the year. If you look at the 2.25% it would be \$149. And if you went to the max it would be \$189 for the year. R. Mahardy, Jr. So yeah, every quarter point is about \$20 -something bucks. J. Fennell – I mean, yeah, so when you start looking at the dollars of it but I think that 2.25 seems like a reasonable number to be responsible budget. S. King – Right, we also need to put in the mix we are about 2 years away from Electric buses if nothing else changes. M. LaGase – you also need to be mindful of a possible push back with foundation aid, and not getting any increases in the future K.Hubley – we are lucky we are getting the 2% this year where we don’t have to go out at 4%. S.DeFazio – Right. Well I guess I would like to reiterate what Michele said, Everything is going up, whether it is personal or it is here at the school. So, I think personally to be fiscally responsible, going at the 2.25% is appropriate since we were at 1.9% last year that is a steady increase instead of going at the max. A, Taylor - it is good forward thinking. S.King – I am fine with 2.25. If Dr. Timbs was in the room he’d smack us all and say go to the max. To reiterate for those who haven’t had the pleasure of Dr. Timbs; your amount that can go up each year is also based on your previous budget, so if you have a low number this year, your percentage on that is lower than if you were at a bigger number. It’s just basic math. So that’s my Dr. Timb’s speech narrowed down to 38 seconds. K.Hubley – that is a record. I do think we need to consult with him just to come in and talk to this board at one point, but anyways that’s off the cuff. So unofficially I just going to take a quick poll, unofficially, not a vote until another meeting to give Lisa an idea because she does have a lot to do to get prepared for it. S.King – I’m fine with 2.25, S. DeFazio- 2.25, R.Mahrdy, Jr. – I will go with 2.25, J.Fennell – yup, 2.25., A,Taylor – yes. K.Hubley – and I am good with 2.25. R. Mahardy, Jr. – So, sounds like the number to work with Lisa. L.Stamboly – Okay, thank you. S.King – Do we have a copy I can drop off to Jackie mailbox on the way home? K.Hubley – yes.

3. CONSENT AGENDA				
3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
3.2 Business Office Reports				
3.3 CSE Reports				
3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	2.4.2025			

4. OLD BUSINESS				
4.1 Capital Updates			Information	
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
5.2 Resolution to Nominate a Person for the Office of the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES)		Yes	Action	1 st ____ 2 nd ____ / Yes ____ No ____ Abstain ____
<i>K.Hubley – 5.2 we pulled.</i>				
5.3 Approval of the New York Mills UFSD Calendar aligned with the OHM BOCES School District 2025-26 School Calendar		Yes	Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd S. King / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
<i>S.King – joked, I’m very disappointed they are getting 2 weeks off at Christmas. I’m just hoping 2 days.</i>				
5.4 Resolution for Abolishment of Art Room #145 Resource Materials		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
<i>K.Hubley – I am changing the wording of this to say it is the excise list of the Art room #145 resource materials. So, it is a vote on the list.</i>				
5.5 Policy 4001 Fiscal Responsibilities (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 ^s S. King 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
<i>K.Hubley – I just want to say, 5.5 through 5.11 are first reads and it is the review that we asked for because these haven’t been looked at in some time. So , I thank the Policy Committee for starting with those.</i>				
5.6 Policy 4002 Reports of Possible Violations of the Policy or Law (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
<i>K.Hubley – can I just wrap these all together? S.King – first read them, I don’t see why not. K.Hubley – any other discussion on all those? So moved.</i>				
5.7 Policy 4100 Budget Planning Policy (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
5.8 Policy 4101 Budget Administration (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____

5.9 Policy 4102 Budget Publication and Hearing (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
5.10 Policy 4103 Budget Transfers (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
5.11 Policy 4404 Medicaid Billing Compliance (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
5.12 Policy 8504 Provision of Special Education Preschool (Second Read Adopt)		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
5.13 Policy 8505 Impartial Hearing Officers (Second Read, Adopt) a. Regulation 8505.1 (Second Read, Adopt)		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd S. King / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
5.14 Policy 8506 Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (Second Read, Adopt)		Yes	Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd A. Taylor/ Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 Executive Principal K-12	M. Facci		Information	
<p><i>M. Facci - Moving into the second semester. We have a lot of exciting things coming up, we are closing out the 2nd quarter, with 49 students earning "High Honors," with an average of 94-100% and 52 students earned "Honors" with an average of 88-93%! 17 students were awarded "Perfect Attendance" Awards for the 2nd quarter and 12 students earned "Principal's Award" for the most improved average in their grade form 1st and 2nd marking periods. Also, our February Optimist students of the month are as follows: Tayla Sabastien, grade 7; Anton Donchuk, grade 8; Bryce Grande, grade 9; Emma Decker. Grade 10; Ruvym Kryvko, grade 11 and our senior is Lin Sein. Congratulations to those students! This Friday (March 7) at 6 o'clock students K-12 will be performing at our annual talent show. The last time I checked with teachers involved, there were about 24 acts, so it should be a very entertaining evening. Saturday, March 8th, Student Council has started a team and will be participating in the Heart Run and Walk. They are doing so in honor of their teacher Mrs. Hartmann. They purchased tee shirts for "Here for Hartmann" slogans also, selling hearts to raise funds for the American Health Association. We have had, as Mrs. Hubley mentioned, several sports achievements' this season. Congratulations to our Varsity Basketball team they have went as far as the varsity playoffs and Senior David Goodfriend was selected to represent NY Mills on the Section III Senior All-Star team, Thursday, March 6 2025 at HCCC. Congratulations to Gabby Dietz and her varsity gymnastics team, they won the Section III State Championship this past week! Also, Nathaniel Dzwonkowski made the State Bowling Team to represent Section III, March 15, 2025. Lastly, Rose Jeff will be heading to states on Long Island this weekend for the Pole Vault Competition. It has been an exciting winter season. This Thursday (3/6/25) we are having a mandatory sports meeting for the spring sports and spring sports will begin on March 17th.</i></p>				

Seniors have begun selling Krispy Kreme, this week as there 2nd fund raiser to raise funds for their class trip. They have decided to go the Boston once again. That trip is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 14th March 20th the Nation Jr. Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be happening in the Auditorium at 6 pm, and on the 27th a week later will be the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and dinner will be taking place at 6 pm, at Monarch Banquets. [M.LaGase – How did we do with Brook’s BBQ today?] They sold over the amount of dinners, they were concerned they weren’t going to pull it off. [S.King joked Mrs. LaGase we are very disappointed you didn’t cater our Board meeting tonight. M.LaGase- laughed, Oh, “food” for thought next year.] Instructionally, Mrs. DiSpirito and I have started the 2nd round of teacher observations for APPR. Hoping to wrap that up by April break. Mr. Worboy’s and the STEM Club are preparing to represent NYMills at the SBI Showcase. K.Hubley – Being the same day as the Banquet I think we should divide and split. I would like to encourage the newer board members if you can go to the showcase, if you can. I don’t want to discourage you from going to the Honor Society but to see that first showcase is very impressive. S.DeFazio – What time? The Honor Roll is at 6 the Showcase at 5:30? Is it realistic? K.Hubley - No, never. R. Mahardy, Jr. - You are talking a couple of hours easily. S.King – so one thing I will say SBI discussed last night. As of last night, there is actually very few districts sign up to participate. Comparatively we have 12 Component Districts in our BOCES and I think there was only 4 signed up so far. So, there is a possibility that it is canceled if there is not enough participation. The other thing that we have to talk about is, not just us, but all the districts is making sure we get ppl to show up to this. Because last year if you took away the parents it was apparently very poor representation of Madison BOCES. K.Hubley – Can you keep us updated? S.King – absolutely, as soon as I know, you’ll know. M.Facci – one more thing, Battle of the Books, the Regional Competition is going to be held on Wednesday, March 12th at Utica University Auditorium. Any one is welcome to attend and observe any portion you can fit into your schedule.

6.2 Interim Principal K-12

D. DiSpirito

Information

D. DiSpirito - We had a couple of celebrations, one before break and one after break. Valentine’s Day- people were prepared for the possible snow day so week backed up the week and had all the parties on Thursday. Then we came back to the 100th day celebration! Which was also the same day as our Student of the Month Assembly, so the Kindergartener’s were dressed as a senior citizen or a 100 year old. The parents were really excited to see them and we had a lot parents for this assembly because last month 3rd graders was on a field trip so we almost doubled the number of awards and parents. Everyone was excited to see the little ones in their costumes. Marianne Buttenschon thanked us because our students participated in the Valentine’s For Veterans. Every class had valentine’s delivered to Marianne’s office then she personally delivered them around to the Senior Citizen Homes and Veteran’s. We also received a really nice donation from Warm Hands, Warm Heads, Warm Hearts, which is Joe Hickel from the Monarch Banquets. We have been handing out, gloves, hats, snow pants because of the weather and we want the kids to go play outside. So, they donated underwear, socks, sweatpants, shirts, hats, gloves in all different sizes and variety. So, we have a lovely Thank you to send to him. His sister-in-law works here, so that is how we made that connection. We have our All County Junior High for students that have been chosen. For Band we have Caitlyn Dzwonkowski, – for choir Peyton Corsino, Alexandria White, Nevaeh-Rose Vivacqua, Carter Lovecchio, and Brody Brood, and for the elementary 6th grade we had Madelyn Messa, Graham Panella and Makiah Velante. There is so much going on. We are also preparing for the NYS Assessments that start next month, April 7th. I will be meeting with staff tomorrow to discuss accommodations and breakdown days of the test and who is going to test whom. We have looked at the start of diagnostic II results to see where the numbers lie and it looks like at this point, 76% of our students are slated to pass ELA and 86% of our kids are slated to pass math. We should still be in good standing as long as our students do not opt out of a test. S.DeFazio – Thank you for saying that, I was going to ask if Mrs. LaGase could speak to that for the meeting minutes of the importance of these tests for these students and the importance of their attendance.

M.LaGase – Yes, absolutely. I know that there has been a lot of information that has been disseminated and I know there was a lot of discussion with parents that previously expressed very strong opinions about assessment participation. Opt-out had some very significant implications for the school because it resulted the school being designated as “a school in need of improvement. I understand parent’s perspective and each parent has to make an individual decision for their own child and family, but I have encouraged the administrators to sit down with parents and have more dialog testing and how student performance data is used. It is beneficial in many ways including guiding instructional adjustments.

A.Taylor – and for the parents that still want to opt out? Do they just not send their kid? M.LaGase – There is still a protocol for that.

A.Taylor –Are there any publication or information shared with parents to give them the information they need? To debunk some of these ideas of what it is all about. M.LaGase – Yes, provided by the building principals

D. DiSpirito – Yes, for sure, for sure. All of our kids grades 3 -8 are doing computer based testing. And I personally have sat through a building of accountability and don't want to be there again. DiSpirito - I guess the last thing, really is Annie Jr. Tickets will go on sale soon for May 2nd and May 3rd. I personally would like Ms. DeBernardis to bring a sample of Annie to our next meeting. They really are amazing, this group of students have really, really come a long way for only 2 day a week rehearsal schedule. K.Hubley – Do we do the Elementary advertisement? S.King – Primarily the dates for the Budget vote. DiSpirito – okay, got it.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
7.2 Superintendent's Update	M. LaGase		Information	

M. LaGase - We are well positioned to move forward successfully with the 2025-26 budget. We will continue to work with the Architects on the next steps in terms of the capital project. Again, I just want to let the board know there are some large instructional spaces that will be impacted, particularly the Physical Education station So, we are preparing a facility usage plan within the timeframes of anticipated interior work. The Facilities Committee will be meeting regularly S. King – Are we looking to start construction this summer?

M.LaGase – Right now the timeline for interior construction is looking to begin in September. We will work to minimize the impact on day to day operations as much as possible.

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.

Stephanie Robinson – I am representing NYM Biddy Basketball Program and just wanted to share with the board some highlights that we had and express my sincere gratitude to the board. First for granting us the ability to use the facilities here at New York Mills and then to other school staff for their assistance in coordinating gym time, cleaning and unlocking facilities, and handing out our fliers to students and parents. We are also thankful we had 4 junior high and high school students volunteer their time to work with our Biddy Basketball students, that was a huge success, and we are very thankful to them. We had a successful end of season practice and wanted to extend our Thanks to Mr. Pierce for coordinating 2 of his elementary school band members to play the Star Spangled Banner at our final games of our final practice. It was a great experience for all of our students. Also thank you to Coach Keating, Coach Dziekan and Mr. Doug attending our last practice, it was a huge hit with the students. We were excited to see them, so we are really thankful to them that they made an appearance there. Also thankful to the Boys JV and Varsity Coaches and players for letting us play at halftime of their game in February. It gave our students the opportunity to really play on the big stage as you would say. They were really excited and after that it was all they would talk about. I wanted to share the numbers that we had; 17 Kindergarteners and preschoolers, 16 1st graders, 11 2nd graders, 12 3rd graders, 10 4th graders, 19 5th graders and 10 6th graders

totaling 97 students who took part in our winter program over about 2 months. We are currently collecting feedback form our parents and guardians of the participating students to hopefully improve for the 2026 season, which we are looking forward to. Thank you.

Jen Goodfriend (NYMTA, Parent) – First I would like to represent myself, for me seeing Biddy Basketball come back to NYMill’s is wonderful and she just reminded me, one of my favorite games that I was at is when you played at halftime. We had our older community members there and that was wonderful they don’t even have children in school anymore they just come to support basketball and then we have our younger community members there, those kids were just like, the whole gym was packed – JV did well, Varsity did well, but I really think the Biddy Kids (don’t tell David) but they stole the show. So, thank you for the Biddy basketball stuff! For NYMTA – we are always looking to see if we can add more for the students and I know we are fiscally responsible but like theatre programs, or basketball, we will use basketball. So, if there are ways to be responsible with our money or with our resources or grants and we can get more programs for these kids that would be outstanding. Every week they ran through the doors saying, “You know tonight’s Biddy, we’re going to play in the gym!” and I’m excited about Annie! So, if there is a way to have more music, more arts, more theatre programs, with our sports then that will continue to build our community and moral around here because it was really a great night. Also, social-emotional, I know we have 1 social worker, we are looking for a guidance counselor, we keep talking to Administration, they are great to keep brainstorming show we can get more clubs and how we can get those supports. So, these kids feel important, valued and part of our New York Mills Community. So, Thank you for all you are doing, the budget discussion - thank you for maintaining all the programs and seeing the value in everything. We really appreciate it.

Jeannie Marley NYMTA – very, very quick thank you for all you do. I know the budget processes is a tough one and it is lots of times involving tough decisions so we really appreciate all the hard work in the long hours ya’ll put into that. And just a quick reminder that the members of NYMTA are always willing to sit at the table and discuss any ideas or trouble shooting policy or trouble shoot any issues that kind of bubble up, again thank you for your time and the work that you do here.

8.2 Board Discussion	BOE		Discussion	
S.King – I think I said enough.				
<p>S.DeFazio – I just wrote a couple of things down as we were talking first and far most, Mrs. Facci and Mrs. DiSpirito I love to hear about the student achievements and I need to tell you that every single time because it is my favorite thing. So, I love that we talked about academics, sports and the arts. LOVE IT! Love that our students are so active, like you were saying theatre programs I think is so awesome. The talent show super pumped for that this weekend. Thank you to Mrs. Steffen and Mrs. St. James who put that together. I want to give a shout out to Mrs. DiSpirito too because I was at the K-6 assembly last week and those kids love HER, if you haven’t seen it, like, the connection you have! I mean how many kids hugged you? Once one stated to hug you they all did, I mean it was just something to see. So, shout out to that. And I want to say thank you to Lisa. I know that you do a lot of work, and a lot of making sure I understand it as a simple person. So, thank you for helping me understand the budget, the money, the numbers so that way we can make informed decisions here, kudos, thank you for that. And then the NYS Assessments, Mrs. DiSpirito had said or I want to reiterate our RTI program is really strong here. I think my own kids benefit from that and I feel we do a really nice job keeping sure our kids at grade level. So, thank you, I appreciate everything you guys are doing.</p> <p>R.Mahardy, Jr. – yeah, I want to shout out a couple of things too that you didn’t mention tonight from BOCES. BOCES had their Honor Society last week, and Mills had for the CTE and P-TECH programs and NYMills students were represented pretty well. It was nice to see. Then the P-TECH guys also had an MVCC Society thing on Monday and we had a couple of students there as well.</p>				
J.Fennell – I guess the only thing I’ll say is I appreciate and will shout out to everyone that had any involvement in the Biddy Basketball club because it is definitely a huge success and nice to see the kids at that age get involved in a time where it seems that sports is kind of falling from the wayside. The interest is				

cool to see, even firsthand. My daughter was a part of that and to see something flourish in her that just wasn't there before because she didn't have the ability to know what it was like to play sports without the pressure of actually being on a team. So, if the objective was to birth that interest, I would have to say that was a huge success, there are probably a lot of kids going to go on and play basketball for a long time because of that.

A.Taylor – I probably should have said this during the personnel report, but there is a school bus driver retiring and I just wanted to share a story. Over the summer, I was at a yard sale helping a friend and I didn't know at the time who he was but I overheard his inquiring about children's books and he was saying I think some of my riders would enjoy these books. So, he was there purchasing books for student on his bus and it just captures his character for all the students he has transported for many, many years and who he is as a person and he will be missed. I know his students that he saw every morning and afternoon will miss him as well. I just wanted to share that.

K.Hubley – Thank for sharing that. I just want to congratulate all of our sports teams and students that have been recognized either academically or ... we are always proud to hear how well they are doing. It is great to hear the information coming back from everyone. And Congratulations to David (Goodfriend), Mom since you are still here. I also went to the Kindergarten Bidy Basketball it was amazing and so adorable to watch, and a well ran program. Thank you. Hopefully that will inspire other parents to get involved and maybe help with the theatre program or other sports, but you need the bodies in order to do that. S.DeFazio – I had another question on sports. I know we had a volleyball sectional game, I don't know if it was here at school. Where can we as the public find that information if we aren't on Facebook or social media? M. LaGase – It is on the school website. It is under Athletic Calendar.

K.Hubley – I just have one more note. We talked about our Seniors and the Senior trip and what they are planning for. Is there a way for our SRO to talk with them, so we don't fall into the same situation we fell into last year with "Senior Prank"? What the implications are, of breaking into your school. I mean it is against the law to break into your school. I just want to encourage we have those conversations with them because it is unfortunate those type of repercussion of decisions to take things away from kids is hard, because you don't want to take things away but again you have to address the situation. So, I am hoping we can maybe be proactive and maybe offer them something else to do. Because they are no longer doing fun pranks, a fun prank is sleeping on the lawn. Being disruptive and breaking and entering is not a prank. M.LaGase – We are being proactive Mrs. Facci and the SRO will be speaking with the students. K.Hubley – I don't want to take fun away in anyway, but if we have to be the bad guys, then we are the bad guys. It disappoints us to have to make these decisions but we are adults and we have to make the tough decisions, and considering everyone's safety. Hopefully, this was a learning experience, but, No! because they are still just 17, 18 year old children. So, I am hopeful we are pro-active enough, so none of us will be in that type of situation again. With that being said we do need to go into executive session. Thank you.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)	BOE	7:56 pm	Discussion/Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE	8:17 pm	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd S. King / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
10. ADJOURNMENT				
10.1 Adjournment		8:18 pm	Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 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.