BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2025
6 PM - NEW YORK MILLS UFSD LIBRARY

_x_ Kristin Hubley
_x_ Robert Mahardy, Jr.
_x_ Sara DeFazio
_x_ Jacqueline Edwards
_x_ Jeremy Fennell
_x_ Steve King
_x_ 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	*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.*
1.3 Acceptance of Agenda	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
2. OLD BUSINESS				
2.1 Resolution to Approve 2025-2026 Budget Vote		Yes	Action	1st S. DeFazio 2nd A.Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
J.Edwards – so where are we at with increases. M.LaGase - The first thing we are asking for is the vote on the actual spending plan. Which is inclusive of a 1.9% increase in the levy to balance the budget. Anything, less than that will require cuts in spending plan. K.Hubley – so there was preliminary discussion at the March 4th meeting, based on the information given we were discussing a 2.25% percent increase. J.Edwards – I apologize I had a death in the family and that is why I was not here for that discussion. Um, I understand the need for 1.9%, but I am not ready to… And I shouldn't hold you up because I will be a no vote on 2.25%. I am not in favor of increasing just because you can. If you can do it with 1.9% without any cuts which it appears from the Superintendent's				

update then I don't see the need to pick the pockets of the tax payer and go any higher. M.LaGase - so the first vote is on the actual spending plan. Do you approve the budget for the upcoming year with this spending plan? *K. Hubley – To discuss this a little bit further, the 1.9% like we said is going to balance the budget. We discussed the 2.25% to start building contingencies. Mrs. LaGases' update gave us quite a bit of information regarding if we move to 2.25% what can happen and I think we need to discuss if the community does not vote for that because then we have to go to a contingency budget. Could you explain that a little bit Mrs. LaGase*? M. LaGase – Sure, as I noted in the update, right now the 1.9% is going to balance our budget and allow for that dollar amount in revenue, coupled with what we have projected in aid, to have the spending plan needed to maintain programs and services without making any reductions. I also included a couple of data points for you. Going out at a 2.25% levy would only yield $28,950 more than the 1.9%, *should the board vote a levy at 2.25% and garner that additional twenty-eight thousand, please be mindful if the community votes the budget down, and we move to a contingency budget, we are looking at pulling out $365,000 in anticipated expenditures that are built into our budget right now. Meaning we could not purchase the bus we are slanted to purchase, we could not do the capital outlay, and we also would be cutting equipment and any instructional supplies***.** *K.Hubley – I think we need to discuss a little bit of how our voters have been in the past. We do have a lot of no voters that come out with a no. So, when we have to be considerate of that population coming to vote as well. This was eye opening to me and made me pause a little bit in my decision because I don 't know if I want to risk this for a small reward. J.Edwards – well it is small but its optics. You said, and I agree with you, you can't change a no vote to a yes. It's very difficult, but you can change a yes vote to a no because of optics and that can happen very easily. Going budget to budget increasing 1.9% without impacting programs that's a win right there, but to go even a little bit higher, to build that's playing with fire. But, I'm just one person. R.Mahardy, Jr. – I will actually agree with that in the sense of we want to build, we do because it's not getting any better. I was originally look at 2% and was okay with the 2.2%5 but when I look at 30 vs 360 (rounded), even the chance of that, I don't like the odds. M. LaGase – I would first consider; do you want to vote to maintain this spending plan or do you want to reduce the budget? Then move to the percentage in terms of the tax levy. A.Taylor – is there future implication by going out on 1.9% vs 2.25%*? L.Stamboly – Yes it compounds. So, another words your levy percentage going forward is less. *S.Defazio – what about historically when voters come out. I know last year we had decently high voters say yes. Is there evidence to support that in the past like by 3 years? I mean granted we only had the tax increase last year, right? Before that it was at zero. K.Hubley – It was even close one year and that was even on a zero. There is always a lot of things that play into it, like how many seats are up. S.King – one other point I want to make, it isn't necessarily, although I am listening to everybody and kind of agreeing, this isn't an all or nothing. We could go out a second time, we don't automatically have to go to contingency if it fails. You can put it out to vote one more time before being forced into a contingency. K.Hubley – last year was the first year we had an increase at 1.9%, so we are coming out at the same rate needed as last year. S.Defazio – we have also talked about increasing costs in general, across the board in general people expect an increase in cost. We talked about the electric bills going up, right, everybody is experiencing that. I think that's just one example, we have out of district placements, there is a potential for that to go up, we can't control that, um, so, I need a minute to process this. R.Mahardy – is everyone okay with the 1.9%? K.Hubley – Yeah, we are not looking to not do the 1.9%. S. King – Right for the budget itself a total budget without the tax increase, let's have that first resolution and I would like to call the vote. K.Hubley – all those in favor of the budget as presented without including a tax levy at that point, it is separate. – okay so budget passes. So now to go back and decide on tax levy. I always like to build that extra but once I saw that it was a 30 thousand dollar benefit but can lose 10 times that? S.King – is that a motion Kristin? K.Hubley – haha no not yet. A.Taylor – is there anyone that hard set on going over 1.9%? I'm just curious, knowing there are pro's and cons to it, how much are we really gaining? If we are concerned about risk, but also, we don't want to set our self-up for future impacts. R. Mahardy, Jr. – I will motion 1.9% if no one opposes. J.Fennell – yeah, I don't have any strong opinions I think we made some pretty good points last time while discussing it on why to increase but obviously I can see how weighing the two certainly can be talked into not risking that. K.Hubley – alright, if there is no further discussion. S,King – Rob made a motion. K.Hubley – Mr. Mahardy made a motion for 1.9% tax levy; do we have second? Mr. Fennell. All those in favor – 7 yes, so moved.*				
2.2 Resolution to Nominate a Person for the Office of the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES)		Yes	Motion to take off table Action	1st S. King, 2nd J. Edwards 1st S. Defazio 2nd A.Taylor / Yes 5 No 2 Abstain ___

S.King – I make motion to take off the table.
K. Hubley - do I have a second? Jackie. And now we need to hold discussion. So last time it was left that we did a pole and it was tie, so I think we need to restart the discussion of Dr. Porcelli and his position on the board and where we want to go with that as far as a nomination.
J.Edwards – I would like to nominate Gary Porcelli to continue in his services with us. I think that what he has done in the past, has been above and beyond. Although, within the past year and a half given some of other difficulties, he did the minimum required of what is expected of a BOCES Board representative. Most of the boards don't have the luxury of having a report every month. They see there BOCES representative twice a year. Usually in the fall and spring. That was the case with our person prior to Dr. Porcelli, Mr. Fitzgerald, because the feeling was our Superintendent sits at the table every Thursday and brings back the relevant information and passed it on immediately to us. They are there for the bigger view looking at the bigger BOCES Budget, looking at the policies that govern the use of component schools, with that look out at the interests and financial aspect of that. I feel that Dr. Porcelli has done his due diligence, you cannot replace his experience and replacing somebody with that much experience still willing to serve just for the sake of change I feel is just disingenuous. Because of this I nominate Dr. Porcelli. S.Defazio – great, respectfully would like to nominate Kristin. I am nominating Kristin based on the facts of the conversation we had at our last meeting and I had done a little research and had some conversations with some BOCES reps. While I respect the work that Dr. Porcelli has done to date, what he has done in the past I think he has brought a lot of knowledge and value to the position. However, 3 years is a long time for somebody and it's an opportunity for someone here within our board to be able to have the perspective of what is happening here in our district as well as go to BOCES and have the bigger picture of things. Currently on that BOCES board 5 of the 12 are currently sitting on their school Boards, so they get monthly reports from those BOCES representatives. 2 of those current 12 members are current Board Presidents on their current school board so that is why felt given our straw vote we held last meeting your name came up in conversation, Steve's name came up in conversation and also Kristin, the vote was tied between Doc and Kristin. And I would like to revisit that by nominating Kristin again for the position of our BOCES rep. K.Hubley – Thank you, I appreciate that. So, we have any other discussion as far as representation on the BOCES Board? So, I did some checking and looking into things too. As far as reporting, what expectations were and I did learn expectations are different as you go from Board to Board. The BOCES Representative's position is no different than our position here. When they sit on the Board they sit on a cohesive of the 12 component school boards and they vote what is best for the students on a whole BOCES Consortium. So, I was really focused on our seat at the table and what was represented based on what is going on in NYMills and I believe it is but we weren't getting communication back. It was good the hear that position on the board is for all the children in the area Districts. I just wanted to share that information I received. Any other discussion or are we ready to do to a vote? J.Edwards – I just have a question. Is it a conflict of interest with your son being employed at the BOCES, for you to sit on that board? K.Hubley – No. I checked with Dr. Kilburn as she said no. J.Edwards – so obviously, this was already a premediated plan. Meanwhile Gary came here to plead his case again, he's done a good job, so, obviously nothing we can say or do will change that fact. K. Hubley – I'm not going to say its premeditative. if you know me and know I'm going as far as the purview of the board. J.Edwards – well I thought I knew you. K.Hubley – And I check everything, so I wanted to make sure, so, within the last 2 weeks I checked if it happened that way would this be a conflict of interest. So of course, I ask questions. J.Edwards – And I apologize for not being here, because had I been nominated I would have declined indifference to our current representative as I think Mr. King would have. K.Hubley – Okay. Well with that said let's take a vote. All those in favor of Dr. Porcelli remaining on as our BOCES Representative all those in favor? Two yes – Jackie and Steve. All those in favor of myself taking the BOCES Representative position? 5 yes, Okay. Thank you everyone I appreciate that. Thank you Dr. Porcelli for the service that you gave us. Dr. Porcelli – Thank you for your time ladies and gentlemen.

3. NEW BUSINESS				
3.1 Approval of Community Use of Facilities Request with Athletic Boosters – Student Dance		Yes	Action	1st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2nd S. King / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___

M.LaGase - Can I comment so everybody so clear. The individual who submitted the form on behalf of this organization is also an employee. The Individual filled out the internal use form, done well in advance, back in January. This wasn't caught because it went in with a many other internal requests. . S.King - I have a question. So, when we approved them as our parent support at the annual reorganizational meeting wouldn't they use an internal form anyway? M.LaGase – no, they have to use the Community Use form because they are a separate entity.				
3.2 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1st S.DeFazio 2nd J.Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
J.Edwards – yeah, I thought some years ago we had done away with the volunteer status. If they were going to do something they would be paid for it. Correct me if I am wrong? S.King – Just as a clarification they have all their certifications needed, they could be a paid , if we had a spot for them. M.LaGase - Yes if we had more than one paid position. J.Edwards - Okay, because I just know at one point we had. This was when we had Dr. Davis saying we can't have volunteers because they ae not our employee or whatever. M.LaGase – they have to hold all the same employee credentials and if we had a paid position available we would put them in. J.Edwards – right, right, it's nice that they want to volunteer, I just want to make sure we are not violating anything that we have set up. S.King – my feeling on it is as long as they are fully certified and there was a paid position they would be eligible to take that paid position .I think as a person who has spent his life volunteering, including the fact that we are all sitting around this table as volunteers. I think it is important to encourage people to give back to the community.				
4. COMMUNICATIONS				
4.1 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.				
4.2 Board Discussion	BOE		Discussion	
5. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)	BOE		Discussion/Action	1st _____ 2nd _____ / Yes ___ No___ Abstain ___
5.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE		Action	1st _____ 2nd _____ / Yes ___ No___ Abstain ___
6. ADJOURNMENT				
6.1 Adjournment			Action	1st S.DeFazio 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.