



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 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. King 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 - I just want to thank our voters for passing our budget and for supporting us with that. With that, our business officials, administrators, and our finance committee and the entire board because we always remain focused on providing our students with everything they need while also keeping ourselves financially sound. So, I want to thank everybody for the work that we did. Mr. King, I want to thank you for your years of commitment and dedication to our school and community and all you have given to us. I know personally I have learned a lot from you and I looked forward to being on this board with you, so thank you for all you have given us. I appreciate it. Then, quickly, as the end of the school year is fast approaching and I want to thank all teachers and staff for</i>				

their tireless dedication to your students. As a community, we should take great pride in the many accomplishments our students have had this year. We wish the Graduating Class of 2025 much success in the future and eagerly wait to welcome the incoming Class of 2038! So, just wishing all of our staff and everyone here at this table a wonderful end of school year and a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you, I appreciate every one of you, we have had a great year.

2.2 BOCES Representative Report	G. Porcelli		Informative	
2.3 Committee Reports			Information	

Policy Committee: *Steve King/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards, Abbie Taylor*

S.King – You will see on here there is a policy on internet enabled devices, which is what our State has now decided. What is important to talk about instead of worrying about cell phones completely it is internet-enabled devices. So, you will see that policy for first read tonight, I recommend passing it. I wish we had a little more, I wish it had the cell phone portion, but the State and their wisdom thought it was ok to bully by text but not by internet.

Facilities Committee: *Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio, Jacqueline Edwards*

K.Hubley – any update? ML – not from our last meeting

Communications Committee: *Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy, Jr.*

A.Taylor – Nothing tonight

Safety Committee: *Robert Mahardy, Jr./Chair, Abbie Taylor*

R.Mahardy, Jr. - We just had our District-Wide Plan Public Hearing Meeting

Transportation Committee: *Sara DeFazio/Chair, Robert Mahardy, Jr.*

S. DeFazio -Nothing tonight

Finance Committee: *Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Sara DeFazio, Jeremy Fennell*

J. Edwards – Nothing. Hubley – we passed our budget, so thank you for all the work you have done on that.

SBI: *Steve King (SBI Alternate: Jacqueline Edwards)*

S.King – there is an executive meeting on Monday, which I will be attending and if the Board is interested, I already told Kristin and Rob I would be willing to continue in that role as your rep at the SBI executive committee. If the Board so choose. Either way, you will get a report at the July meeting. I probably won't be there, but will send the report.

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	5.6.2025 5.20.2025	Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
4. OLD BUSINESS				
4.1 Capital Updates			Information	
M. LaGase – the only update since the last meeting involves the bidding process. Bidding for phase 2 work is complete. Our Architects and Construction Manager will forward bid awards for Board action at the next meeting.				
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
<p>S.King – Quickly, all the appointments for the advisers and coaching appointments, do staff members automatically have first dibs on those positions? M.LaGase- well I don't know what you mean by first dibs. S.King – Contractually we have to give the teachers first options for these positions? M.LaGase- it is not an automatic. It is typical to afford a member of CBA the position if all things are equal and if the person held the position before and successfully carried out the responsibilities of that position. It doesn't mean you just get it. There are other things that are taken into account, and that is why if you recall last year we also implemented the extracurricular advisorship summary that the Executive Principal completes annually. So, while it is typical, if they are a member of the unit, they apply and if there are individuals with equal credentials in terms of experience and executing those responsibilities then yes, the unit member would be recommended for the position. But in and of itself, it is not an automatic. J.Edwards- I understand why Steve asked that because years ago, Kathy Houghton sent that to legal to ask them because we were having a problem with Mike A. and coaching through that time when he was trying oust Mike T. and Kathy was told that he had to keep the job because he was an employee, even though Mike T. had coached for over 20 years. M.LaGase- There are a variety of factors that are taken into consideration J. Edwards – well that's a good point of clarification for us because for the past 19-20 years I have been under the assumption, only because Kathy Houghton ran it past legal and that's what she told us. So, point of example, if J. Goodfriend wanted to coach the boys' varsity basketball because she was a member of the bargaining unit, J. Goodfriend could coach the boys varsity basketball, am I incorrect Steve? S.King – that's the way I understood it. J.Edwards- that is the way it was presented to us from the Ferrara Firm. M.LaGase- legal has provided advisement . K.Hubley – okay, but that was again 20 years ago. I get where you are coming from with the impression you were given. M.LaGase – My question, I guess on the personnel report, is there someone you think is being appointed that you believe should not be recommended? S.King – part be of my question was, we are going to have a change and makeup of the Board and typically we waited to make these appointments when there is a change in of the make-up of the board until the new board member has the opportunity to voice his or her opinion. M. LaGase- since I have been here we've done them at the May or June meeting. We have done them prior to July so that those people can begin their activities over the summer, whether that be summer camps or preparation for the fall advisorships. K.Hubley- Okay, but I don't see that isn't happening on this report. J.Edwards – I was just piggybacking on Steve said. K.Hubley – ok. I just don't see where this report is not falling in line with what they are talking about here. J.Edwards – no, because I'm assuming they are all employees here. M.LaGase – they are. They are all teachers here and have held the positions previously. A.Taylor – I have a question on these appointments. If a teacher does not take it, is it posted publicly? M.LaGase – Yes, depending upon the particular activity. J.Edwards – yes... S.King – call the question Kristin. K.Hubley – okay. All those in favor of the personnel report? S.DeFazio- yes.</p>				

5.2 Approval of the BOCES Contract for Rental of Facilities for the Distance Learning Classroom		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.3 Resolution to Approve the Cooperative Bidding between New York Mills Union Free School District and Madison – Oneida BOCES		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.4 Resolution to Approve the Contracted Service Agreement with Developmental Therapy Associates Occupational & Physical Therapy, PLLC		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.5 Policy 7208 Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices – NEW replacing Policy 7400 (First Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____

A.Taylor – I want to bring up what was discussed. This is going to be a big change for some of our students and possible pro-active communication with parents and students of expectations for next year and that this is a law from New York State and it's not something that we as a Board are choosing, but that we are required to follow it. You know because it is going to be a bell to bell prohibiting use of personal internet devices. Which is going to be a big change for our students. I know it is a greater good for them. A lot of schools have reported benefit from this but there is a period of time where it is uncomfortable and unpleasant so just to be proactive with communications with our students and parents. J.Edwards – piggybacking off what Abbie said, what we did talk about informational sessions to educate not only the students what the policy says, but also getting some parents in here and explaining that this s coming form on-high, the Governor and company. This is what happens, and these are the consequences and maybe just breaking it down, so they understand it's not directed towards a particular kid or group, it is clear and consistent with everybody. Even to incorporate on the first day of school with every teacher and support staff, so that all are on board and understand what is going on. But I think there has to be education to the parents to know what to expect. The only kinds of phone that children can have is a flip phone in the building. A.Taylor – right, not having the capacity, even if the internet is turned off and locked and off that they cannot access it. Or like a watch right. J.Fennell – yeah, so how does that work? A.Taylor – so my daughter's watch has internet, but I have it disabled for no use but because it has the ability to be enabled. J.Fennell – we are they going to enforce that though, because some of them do have the ability. So, are you going to say no watches at all? M.LaGase –. The law specifies internet-enabled devices. J.Fennell – right, so if you have a watch on but there is no way for you to know the differences. DeFazio – what about BOCES? Students that attend? M.LaGase – they will have their own policy. Students will have to adhere to both. S.King – though about 95% will be the same from District to District because it's what NYS is requiring. A.Taylor – Bell to bell right, so beginning and end of school. S.King – and it doesn't say anything about on the bus. So theoretically, they drive off our campus, they have from our campus to BOCES campus the use of their phones. K.Hubley – right it doesn't say anything about bus. J.Fennell – the intent just to not have the distraction of phones in school. So, metric is it with the State? M.LaGase – schools will need to report on their websites to SED annually. J.Fennell – So if a kid is getting off the bus from BOCES and you see the internet-enabled device and putting it away, by the time they get to the building it's gone. M.LaGase – correct, that is a non-issue, as long as they come in put it in their locker J.Edwards – they just can't have it on their body. J.Fennell – Right so as long as we follow the intent, but the BOCES bus thing is kind of a grey are but as long as there isn't an issue. K.Hubley – the only thing I want to make sure of is that none of the kids that fall into the exception get.... J.Edwards – we had lengthy

discussions about alternatives for parents as to, who do you call to get your child? K.Hubley – yes, we’ll go back to the 80’s and 90’s. S.King – It’s amazing that those of us who were before cell phones are still alive. I don’t know how it happened. (Laughter. K.Hubley – I just don’t want kids that actually are the exception to be ridiculed by others. I’m going to say my son had it in his IEP that he was allowed to bring his phone to take pictures of the board for his internal processing. It was I his IEP to have that so he can keep track of when things were due. So, when J. Goodfriend pulls out her phone... S.King – your very busy today. J.Goodfriend- laughs. J.Edwards – Kristin, I worry that somebody that is maybe limited in some cognitive ability would be taken advantage of. “oh, hey let me borrow your phone”, and this kid wants to be friends with somebody and all or the sudden that kids phone is being used for whatever. That is what is scaring me. A.Taylor – we have had many questions reviewing the policy and I know our parents, families, and students will have questions too. K.Hubley – Really, it is something we are required to do and we need to just figure it out. S.King – Yes. The granular part of this is out of our purview as a board. It is up to the administrator and staff to deal with it. We can talk about this all we want, in the end the school administration will have to figure out. J.Edwards – but informational sessions is advisable sooner, rather than later. R.Mahardy, Jr. I do agree there are alternative ways. K.Hubley – Alright, so, that was a long discussion. Are there any others? All those in favor of the first read? 7 yes – thank you.

5.6 Resolution to Approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between New York Mills Union Free School District and Madison – Oneida BOCES

Yes Action 1st S. King 2nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____

6. K-12 REPORTS

6.1 Executive Principal K-12

M. Facci

Information

M.Facci - As mentioned earlier, we are on the countdown. Final exams are this week. Next week, early regents exams are on Tuesday and Wednesday while school is still in session. Originally, we thought about using Beekman but there is no AC down there, so we are utilizing the gym. We are almost done with emergency drills. Thursday is our Jr., Sr. awards ceremony at 6 o'clock. Tuesday, June 10th is the Athletic Banquet, Saturday, June 14th Senior trip is going to Boston and Monday, June 16th Seniors dress in caps & gowns, followed by rehearsal and an afternoon picnic. Report card will be finished by June 20th, so the Guidance Dept. can start summer school registration. It's a busy month. K.Hubley -Thank you.

6.2 Interim Principal K-12

D. DiSpirito

Information

D.DiSpirito - While you know May was busy we had a band and choir concert that was standing room only. That was amazing. Mr. Pierce and Mr. Williams were astounding and then when the high school choir came in to do "This is it, this is me, it brought tears to a lot of eyes. We held our last student of the month assembly for the year. Teachers are posting to parent square by June 6th, they were smart in asking parents to respond to see how many have already signed up. Some teachers had quite a bit, others did not, but that gave a good gauge to where we are. The alert will automatically go, but the individual classrooms might take a little more work. We have kindergarten screening scheduled for today and tomorrow, 27 total students. All day 9 -3, a lot of very good results. We will have some turn-key training for lightspeed which is the watchman for the student computer screen. It's a platform where teachers can view what the kids are on and they can click off a sight a student shouldn't be on and check histories to finally see on the internet-enabled devise what the student are working on. I have completed all of the teacher evaluations and let me just tell you, you have one the finest staffs I have ever met and I've seen a lot. The group work that goes on: the smiles and songs, and jokes and engagement, the use of manipulatives and lessons in math, English, science and social studies and a very cool competitive written lesson, that was awesome the kids wanted to write. We have lots of field trips coming up. 4 grade levels going to ballgames next week. 5th grade going

to Erie Canal for the first time in a long time, 4th grade is going to Cooperstown and 2nd grade is bringing in a magician. Then our graduations. June 20th is Kindergarten at 9, and June 24th is grade 6 at 9 a.m. and 5 perfect attendance awards for the year. Olympic Day will be the 25th.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
7.2 Superintendent's Update	M. LaGase		Information	
8. COMMUNICATIONS				
8.1 From the Floor -	District Clerk		Information	
<p>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.</p> <p><i>J. Goodfriend - (Teacher, NYMTA) Steve on behalf of the NYMTA we want to thank you. My first conversation personally, was 26 years ago. He came up to me and said Hi, you're doing the musical, I'm the music boosters. We can help you. I can volunteer. Let me know what you want. And really that has been your m.o. the whole time so sincerely, thank you. Also, the NYMTA will welcome Sandra Dare and look forward to collaborating. As you go into the re-organization please give a seat at the table anytime you can, collaboration and teamwork that's what we want to do. So, thank you.</i></p>				
8.2 Board Discussion	BOE		Discussion	
<p><i>S.King - Alright well, I will start with business and then I will move on to what I want to say as closing remarks. I would encourage us to go back to a K-3 concert, the crowd for the K-6 was just outrageous. I've been to both of them this year and stood in the hallway for both. Something to consider for coming years. For closing remarks, I'm optimistic for the future of the District. I think we have great opportunities here. I want to remind everybody we should consider all students first, I'm wearing my safe student tie tonight as a reminder of how important it is to keep our students as the #1 decision we make here. I encourage you all to think globally and act locally. I also encourage the board to reconsider and rejoin NYSSBA, I with the board as young as we are the opportunities you have through NYSSBA between legal services and conferences are invaluable. Which rolls into what I've talk about since I don't know the beginning of time which is training. Any opportunity you have to go to a training take it. We are an educational institution and we should continue to educate ourselves as Board members. So – there have been a lot of friendship I have made here over the years and some unlikely alliances. I have learned a lot form every board member both current and past and I appreciate everything you have all shared with me over the years. It has been an honor and privilege to serve at this District to take care of our students. Thanks.</i></p> <p><i>S.DeFazio – Thank you Steve, for roping me into SBI and being kind of a helpful partner and getting use to the whole school board thing. So, thank you, you will be missed. I wanted to congratulate Mrs. Kerhrl on her retirement I think that is exciting. She spent almost 11 years here with us. I was also going to say something about parent square because there have been a couple of messages that have gone out and it has been wonderful and super helpful. My husband wasn't set up, but we got him it was easy to go. It was perfect. And I want to give a shout out the Mrs. Lovecchio, her students throughout the school have been signing up to volunteer her at the concession stand and at the announcer's booth at the little league field, so they have worked with 8th grand and 6th grade</i></p>				

students. It was really nice. I asked how they ended up here, and they said Mrs. Lovecchio had a sign-up sheet and the kids were volunteering their time. I thought that was really nice and cool giving back to their community. So, shout out the those.

J.Edwards - yeah, it's kind of bittersweet thanking Steve for all he has done. When you said unlikely alliances, Steve, anybody who knows Steve and I knows we don't always see eye to eye but we respect each other's opinions and he has challenged me on many levels to think outside the box. I would like to think I've challenged him if not frustrated a few times. Steve your commitment to every child in this district should be admired and emulated. I really appreciate you. I don't think thank you is enough for all the things you have done for the children of this District and I am proud to have gotten to know you. I am also proud to consider you a friend at this time, and I think I always have, just you have frustrated me too.

R.Mahardy, Jr. – yeah, it seems like it has been more than just a few years, working with you has been incredible, I appreciate your knowledge and commitment to everything. You put your heart into this and it shows. I appreciate you, so, thank you! As for everyone else, teachers, staff, your almost there. Almost there.

J.Fennell – I like to say the same thing, I've only been on the board a couple of years but I know when I started I didn't know a lot of things or how it was going but had a little bit of comfort because you would always speak-up and tell us if we were going astray so you definitely given me some insight to things to try and concentrate as a board member instead of just coming up to meetings. I am always reminded of the other work we have to put into it. And I'm sure we will see you a bit after July. Hopefully in a seat as a spectator. J.Edwards – hopefully he will be back next year. I'm not running. J.Fennell – well, there you go then.

That's all I have to say. Thank you!

A.Taylor – to echo everybody. Yes, Thank you! I think you would will the award for going to as many trainings as possible and I know we have and could count on you to bring back that useful information to the Board, to our school, to our students. And, unapologetically asking the questions for the students, teachers and community. So, thank you for setting that example for us as a board. Also, I want to recognize Mr. Williams and Mr. Pierce for their commitment and dedication. So many times, with the parade and the performances or unique and different song choices and it was so engaging and when the students were signing Do-Re-Mi, on my gosh... That was so special to experience in the audience. Also, Mrs. Kehril, I am grateful that my children had her as a teacher. She made every day exciting to go to school never having to battle my child to go to school for 3rd grade. She will definitely be missed. One other thing I want to share is I am part of the Optimist Club and they give out awards to the NY Mills students. They give out many awards and they will be providing scholarships as well to New York Mills students but one thing they shared at the recent meeting a student received as Optimist of the Month Award and they wrote a really heartfelt thank you note to the Optimist Club. So just along with the theme of the students that we have here at NY Mills, just how proud we are of them, being respectable students and community members. Really proud of our school.

K.Hubley – So I guess, I said it in the beginning but again I just want to thank you, Steve, for always setting that bar high and making me want to reach that bar and I always think what would Steve say or think in this situation. So, way back when I started in PTSO and I was frustrated because I was doing everything. I don't know if you remember the conversation out here but I was at my wits end, I kept saying I can't do this, I can it do it all, and Steve just simply said, "then don't". And I was like, What?! What do you mean? He was like "don't do it, and if people want it bad enough they'll do it. It grounded me so thank you. I needed to hear that at the moment but surely, you will be missed, but again I know we will see a lot you in the future. Thank you for everything you have done for our District.

S.King – I hope I have as much accolades at my wake as I have had tonight. [All laughs] Thanks Everybody!

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)	BOE		Discussion/Action	
9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE		Action	

10. ADJOURNMENT				
10.1 Adjournment		6:41 pm	Action	1 st S. King 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
<p>**§105. Conduct of executive sessions.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>a. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;</p> <p>b. any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;</p> <p>c. information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;</p> <p>d. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;</p> <p>e. collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>g. the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				