



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA
August 5, 2025
6 PM - NEW YORK MILLS UFSD LIBRARY

- Kristin Hubley
- Robert Mahardy, Jr.
- Sandra Dare
- Sara DeFazio
- Jacqueline Edwards
- Jeremy Fennell
- 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 Acceptance of Agenda	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st J.Edwards 2 nd J.Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President’s Message	K. Hubley		Information	
<p>K.Hubley – First I would like to thank our Board members for the working session we had a few weeks ago. With that we came up with a vision, mission statement and goals all of which we will be voting on during today’s meeting. I did want to remind you that next month’s Board meeting is on Sept. 9th and we do have a board retreat on Sept. 8th from 5-8pm and the first day of school is Sept. 4th. I also wanted to state I did upload a document to our share drive folder with submission dates on what we should look for every month as a board or what we expect to do. I know sometimes we have questions about fall coaching assignments so we I put it into a calendar to try and help us each month. It is a working document in the 2025 folder under Board of Education Governance. And I would like to recognize another retirement Mrs. Ferrara she will be greatly missed in the school community and I would also like to pay our respects to the Herthum family Mrs. Herthum passed away last week. She and her family have the Herthum Family foundation through us and they fund 2 scholarships for our seniors as well as an Arbor Day Kindergarten tree planting, so, our respects go out to the family.</p>				

2.2 BOCES Representative Report	K. Hubley		Information	
<p>K. Hubley – Last month was the reorganization meeting so there wasn't a lot. However, they did speak about their new vision statement, mission and goals and part of their vision statement is they want to be considered or looked at as more of a consultant for the school districts' as far as new programs that the schools will need. To emerge themselves as more of a consultant to work with us and come up with the programs that our schools need instead of being like a library to see what they have, they want to work more in collaboration with the school districts. This will be worked on throughout the year</p>				
2.3 Ex Officio Student Member Report	C. Miner		Information	
<p>C. Miner – I have a few questions that I'm sure the student body has and wants to know. Based on the school policy with banning bookbags and a few questions on the lockers. I know we have chrome books that we need to carry around. Basically, what if we drop them, or something happens and they get broken? Will there be cases? Also with the lockers, I know they are very small and the locks don't lock very securely. I know mine I could not shut because the bottom was bent, I couldn't get it closed and I couldn't get all my items in it. So, I just wanted to know are their things to help with those problems, to adjust or allow us to carry a bag with us, for water bottles, teachers' papers, binders, a Chromebook, it's a lot of stuff to be carrying around in our hands. M.LaGase - so both Principals are going to address some of the answers to those questions in their reports tonight as well as in my report.</p>				
2.4 Committee Reports			Information	
<p>Policy Committee: Sara DeFazio/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards Facilities Committee: Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio Communications Committee: Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy Jr. Transportation Committee: Sandra Dare/Chair, Abbie Taylor Health & Safety Committee: Robert Mahardy Jr./Chair, Sandra Dare Finance Committee: Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Jeremy Fennell SBI: Jacqueline Edwards (SBI Alternate: Sara DeFazio)</p>				
<p>K.Hubley – none of our committees have met yet. But I will read Steve Kings SBI report from the June meeting. And in that meeting both Sara and I attended as 2 representatives in our District. Bill Miller is running for re-election as our NYSBBA representative and for Doug area 5 rep. The Legislative community of NYS was discussed, there was an overall 5% increase in state aid, the BOCES teacher cap was raised, the internet device ban was briefly discussed as was electric busses and there was talk of possible mid-year cuts in state aid. As part of next year's programming, we are trying to get area regent representatives to a meeting with SBI. It could be by zoom but hoping for in person. Additionally, there was discussion about their program for the September General Membership meeting, and a press release about how to run for Board of Education and what to expect if elected, the thought being they might get more attraction if one big release was done instead of many single district releases. The nominee committee put up a list of next year slated officers. Sara, do you have anything to add? – No that was a great job in summarizing.</p>				
3. CONSENT AGENDA				
3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st S.DeFazio 2 nd J.Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
3.2 Business Office Reports		Yes	Action	

3.3 CSE Reports		Yes	Action	
3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	7.8.2025	Yes	Action	
4. OLD BUSINESS				
4.1 Capital Updates	TKF Architects		Information	
<p>Mr. Fay - Thank you very much for having me to come see you tonight. I am here representing my office and the C&S team as well. The report tonight is representing the 2 Capital items open with SED, one being "The" Capital Project that is talked about often and the other being this year's Capital Outlay to involve sidewalk, curbing and reconstruction staff bathrooms adjacent to the Administration office, we would love to submit our applications in August in hopes of approval this fall. On "The" Capitol Project which I broken into 3 Phases as the Construction Managers suggestion, the 1st Phase was roofing and it is done and complete. Our friends at Elmer Davis have demobilized and are gone. I checked with our onsite representative, Tyler Jennings from C&S, he didn't indicate any negative feedback or damage done. Phase 2 is scheduled to take place in September. We already had a pre-construction meeting, discussing where everyone is going to be so as to not interfere with student population. Completion as of right now is looking to be in February for the High School Gymnasium. The Auditorium work will pick up and continue into the spring. A.Taylor – so gym in going to start now until Feb. and Then the auditorium will start? M.LaGase – correct. K.Hubley – what is the expected timeline for the auditorium? D.Fay – it was indicated 6 weeks to 2 months, we will know more as we move forward. The 3rd Phase is scheduled to bid in December for the student bathrooms and front kiosk.</p>				
**Executive Session		6:22 pm		1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd S.Dare / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
<p>K. Hubley – before we go into New Business, I am asking for a motion from the floor to go into an Executive Session we do have some legal matters to discuss with our Attorney. Ms. Kipers is here. Can I get a Motion? R.Mahardy, Jr. 2nd S.Dare all those in favor 7 , so moved.</p>				
** Return to General Session (time)	BOE	6:42pm	Action	1 st S. Defazio 2 nd A.Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
<p>J.Edwards- I would like to say section 5 with regrets, she has been a long staning fixture in this school community and she will be missed by everyone. S.DeFazio – I would also like to say with section 1 that individual has built some great rapport with students and he will be missed as well.</p>				
5.2 Resolution to Approve SRO Contract with New York Mills Police Department and the NYMUFSD 2025-2026		Yes	Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd S. Defazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.3 Resolution to Approve Contract with RIC one ROC and the NYMUFSD.		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd A.Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____

5.4 Resolution to Set Tax Levy for the 2025-2026 school year in the Town of New Hartford and the Town of Whitestown.		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd A.Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
5.5 Approval of Updated New York Mills Union Free School District Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Core Beliefs and Board of Education Goals.		Yes	Action	1 st S.Defazio 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
K.Hubley – Those will be posted and updated online and then we have new one in our folders.				
5.6 Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between NYMUFSD and NYMTA.		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd S. Dare / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 Executive Principal K-12	M. Facci		Information	
<p>M.Facci – Good Evening. Scheduling is almost complete, balancing classes for teachers and review student schedules individually to make sure the appropriate coursework and needs are met. We are on track to get schedules in the mail August 18th. 7th grade orientation is planned and scheduled for August 27th parents have been notified via ParentSquare to save the date. Transportation will be provided for this event. Mrs. DiSpirito and I have a planned meeting with BOCES DASA trainer to coordinate their involvement in our Assembly’s monthly and quarterly. We will also do a monthly push into classrooms work with that trainer for 7th and 8th grade to work on social skills and address any identified trends in analysis in behavior. Additionally, I will meet with a representative from SABA (School and Business Alliance) to arrange continued job shadowing opportunities, college visits, business and industry tours and our Career Fair held in the spring to grades 6 and 7. As interim Athletic Director, a fall athletic meeting with coaches is scheduled for this Thursday at 6pm. Parents will be meeting with Coaches after a brief introduction. Fall sport season will start Aug 18th. Summer school is almost over. This year we opted to have a PLATO on-line classroom available for student grades 9 through 12 on campus to encourage attendance and it has been very successful with 11 students attending, recovering a total of 22 credits between all of them. This positions them to start fresh in the new school year, strongly with earned credits towards graduation. Also, in preparation for the opening of school I am reviewing testing data and score reports to utilize in department planning meetings throughout the year as discussion points for goal setting and prioritizing that department. I have recently signed up with Dunkin Donuts for a reward program for students and teachers providing gift cards and coupons at assemblies as incentives. I also entered into a contest for students to develop their own school themed refresher drink, served in our local Dunkin if we are chosen. Students would be able to design the logo, name and flavor, but I have not heard back yet. We have also looked at student behaviors, and we want to look at a few things that they should be particularly proud of. During the last school year we have identified 3 top reasons why students have been referred to the office. Insubordination, Disrespectful Behavior and Bothering Others. Referral data was reviewed. Decreases were realized. So, I think that is something to be proud of and congratulate students on their successes because overall disciplinary referrals went down. In addition to data reviews in both the staff opening meetings and student assemblies we will review District Policies paying particular attention to the implementation of the recently adopted policy of regarding the internet-enabled devices. Our hope in doing so is to ensure the staff and</p>				

students has a clear, consistent message of understanding expectation. This transition into the policy the benefits of this is an opportunity to create a distraction free environment to support academic achievement as well as age-appropriate social interaction. And finally, I am very excited this weekend I we escort alumni from the class of 1965, celebrating their reunion weekend, giving them a tour of the building and listening to their stories.

J.Edwards – Thank you. A.Taylor – I know that the internet-enabled devices implemented statewide. A mandate all school have to comply with and I know the letters that went home about use of backpacks, and part of the theory is not having backpacks reduces the option of students having weapons, phones and such. I was trying to understand more about the rule, I guess. So, I looked I the Code of Conduct to find verbiage and I didn’t find a policy on backpacks, so I was just curious not new students or staff members how will they know what is accepted here at NYMills? M.Facci – Well again during our opening day meeting with teachers that is going to talked about explicitly through the new policy and the expectations and that will be addressed at addressed at student assemblies the first week of school. It’s not just able safety and security as you mentioned it also about having that temptation to slip that phone in your backpack having it with you all the time. The positive byproduct of that is right now we have kids walking around with backpacks that are like 50 lbs. which is not good for them. There is plenty of time to switch up books between periods. A.Taylor – and is this a new thing with the backpacks or is it starting this year? M.Facci – Yes. M.LaGase- Let me be very clear, the backpacks are not policy, it is procedural. It is not part of the Board Policy or mandate. All public schools in NYS are required to implement the “Bell to Bell” Ban on internet-enabled devices. The only local decision was method of storage, which basically is either using your school issued locker or the school district purchasing a secondary storage unit. Whether that be a pouch or cabinet depending on the school district. I also want to mention there is a big push that funds were given to districts to help with this statue, our district was allocated \$2,753 in total to support this initiative. J.Edwards – I commend that decision, not just because of taking the temptation away from children but also Mrs. Facci touched upon it, I have seen students lugging around every book they have from first period to last period and it cannot be healthy to carry that much weight throughout the course the of day. If you do have enough time and if you don’t we revisit and maybe teach these youngsters about time management, but I think taking temptation away is human nature. Kudos to the administrative team. M.LaGase – there are be various viewpoints on this policy, unfortunately this is a mandate we need to comply with. We know this is going to be a change, we know there is going to be an adjustment period. We will work collectively as a school community to handle this appropriately while being compliant per New York State. A.Taylor – I do think more and more people are coming around. Like you said, backpacks, are 2 different things with the cellphones and the backpacks that our school is transitioning to. But with the situation are hallways and classrooms set up to be logistically, I mean to go to the locker in between? K.Hubley – how much time do they have in between periods? M.LaGase – 3 minutes. K. Hubley – 3 minutes is a long time, and we are a smaller school, without the distraction of a phone, but it will be a learning curve. J.Fennell – so, kids will come to school with their backpacks and go directly to their locker unload their backpack and phone and that is the last time they see it before they leave. J.Fennell – when we inform people of this is it explicit to bookbags or any crossbody bags. M.LaGase – we are not restricting purses we understate students have various needs during the day. There are also are students with medical needs or equipment that must be keep on their person. K.Hubley – we as the board put together the policy, administration came up with procedures that can be revisited if need be. C.Miner – I have a question, carrying Chromebooks? M.LaGase – that will be address in my reporting session. K.Hubley – we are getting to that.

6.2 Interim Principal K-12	D. DiSpirito	Information	
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D.DiSpirito – I do not have to worry about my kids carrying around backpacks. They go in their cubby. At the elementary levels we have lockers with locks for the 4,5,6th graders. Generally, they put their items in the locker take what the need for the day and go to class. I am not too concerned with the devices at my level. K-3 very few even have them. It’s more 6th graders. So, at the Elementary level this is will not going to change anything, Just like every day, for them other than the locker itself. Some other updates, families will receive their welcome letter, supply list and student verification forms on the week of the 18th just like the high school. Kindergarten orientation is slated for August 19th at 5:30 in the classroom then they will tour the building and get a bus tour out front. Staff are excited to get back into their classrooms not that summer school has ended. And we have had many new registrations. New enrollments are showing 36 total in each grade level, that’s about 18 per class, per level. Teachers and staff have been invited to tech camp that Danielle Howe presents the week of Aug. 18th.

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7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
7.2 Superintendent’s Update	M. LaGase		Information	
<p>M.LaGase – I met with a representative from OHM BOCES Communications Department regarding district support for the 2025-2026 school year. We discussed priorities, revised goals, as well as district initiatives. We also expanded a request for coverage of student recognition events and photography to highlight and capture moments for students and families. We also will be adding a section on the website for the Capital Project so community members can stay informed as we move through this process. We are very excited and looking forward to the final outcomes. In terms of Chromebooks, as part of our instructional technology plan, we have already initiated a Chromebook replenishment/replacement schedule. The plan outlines upgrading new devices by grade level. There was an update to the mandated reporter training. A new 2nd training is required. Dr. Timbs is scheduled to attend the October meeting to give an overview of the district’s current financial status as well as long-range plans. The NYS Portrait of a Graduate was officially released. My goal is to have a visual of what that looks like for us by the September meeting. Lastly, the 2024-25 preliminary assessment data from SED will be available the level 2 repository. We will look very closely at data in comparison to our last year’s data and how we stand overall in terms of statewide averages.</p> <p>H.Kubley – any other questions for Mrs. LaGase</p> <p>C.Minor – I do. I know you are offering to upgrade the Chromebooks for the 7th and 8th graders I know the older kids use theirs a lot more for English classes and college research or opportunities and ours are pretty old.</p> <p>M.LaGase – the IT Dept made recommendations based on device life and software support for the replenishment schedule. We will continue to consult with the experts on instructional technology needs.</p>				
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>C. St. James – just want to take a minute now that I am, no longer employed here. That seems really weird after 11 years and it was really sad to make the decision to leave because I love this school and my children still attend here. So, as I stand here I am sort of conflicted, because I hear what you are saying and I agree with and some I don’t but that is just a difference in opinions but I really appreciate all you are doing to make this a better place for our students because we are in the business of shaping humans, not dollar signs, not fancy things, humans and we need to keep our goals aligned to that. Regardless of who comes and goes, I hope it is remembered that Marauders started as a family, have keep it as a family. I agree with the backpacks. I hate them, I get a lot of flak from friends still as a teacher I see them, I trip over them and finally I hope to join PTA and the upcoming talent show if you’ll let me and I know there will be a board position open in the spring and I was hoping to throw my name in the hat for that as well. I’m excited to see what we are doing. M.LaGase – I don’t mean to call you out but I just want to make a point, we felt very strongly this year to have a Plato recovery class for our students here, and to get them on track early on so that we weren’t at risk of not graduating in 4 years. Mrs. St. James was actually the teacher in the classroom, she worked very closely with those students and we saw success and I would just like to acknowledge that. C. St. James – Thank you for that. I have been busy, we have one kid left, we have this week and next. Thank you all for everything you do.</p>				

K. W – I have 3 children here 8th, 10th and 12th grade. You did address Chromebooks as I don't feel comfortable signing contracts again if my children will carry them unprotected. My question which I did email Mrs. Facci and I did not get a sufficient response as the NYS cellphone mandate requires the school to consult teachers, parents and student to include them in developing whatever procedures they choose to enforce the policy. I am asking the board what forms of communication were used and on what dates because then there is an issue a whole bunch of parent and student body that was not included because her response was not adequate. M. LaGase – the board cannot answer that question. But the administration can contact you to discuss that further. K.W. – also I would like it addressed that Mrs. Facci responds to me about the contract was if I don't sign the contract my children cannot have a Chromebook. I feel like that is a super big slap in the face to a parent who has 3 children in their district and she... K.Hubley – can I just stop you there, we don't talk about specifics. It will need to go through the chain of command. K.W – we've done that before.

K.Hubley – any other comments?

M. Mitchell – As Cyndi, I am probably part of the minority excited to see the backpacks gone. My daughter refused to use her locker, she weighs 100 lbs. we weighed the bookbag, it was 58 lbs. this was for the last 2 years. I am so excited and hoping it works out for everyone that doesn't like the idea. Give it a try. Totally of topic of bookbags and cellphones I was just wondering about Athletic Director position, I am on the sports boosters and we work very closely with The Ad and the interim director at the moment has been amazing. Very responsive, but I also know that is not her primary job, it is the Executive K-12 Principal. So, I was wondering I don't see a posting out, I know she has been doing that roll since December 2024. I was just concerned with an unfilled chair just like Guidance Counselor, when those were filled. It has to be hard doing that job and what you are supposed to be doing. I appreciate her taking that on.

M. LaGase – I cannot discuss personnel matters during open session but I am happy to call you regarding that question. MM – Okay thank you. I appreciate it.

8.2 Board Discussion	BOE		Discussion	
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R. Mahardy – as we move forward into the fall, I really think 3 words come to mind, communication on every end of this as all these things are coming up, backpack, gym, it is going to be a hectic year. The other thoughts are flexibility and patience. This could be contentious. Everyone needs to give each other a little grace period. So, Communication. Flexibility. Patience. I am hoping when everyone does get stressed, Mrs. Facci we can all go to Dunkin and get a Marauders Mango refresher. That's mine, I'm calling it! A. Taylor – I just want to thank everybody for a robust discussion and answering questions. I think it is important that we can ask these questions, even though it seems as we are poking at the same thing to fluff out all these nitty gritty details because we care about our school, we care about our students. S.Dare – I just want to kind of bounce back to what Mr. Mahardy said with the patience and it is good anticipate issues but sometimes if you think something is going to be a problem and it doesn't end up that way, so the best thinking to do is let it play out. Everything could be great day one. Your never know. S.DeFazio – I want to just talk about the Portrait of a Graduate. I am really excited and feel very fortunate to be on the board at this time during this transformation time. I think my professional expertise will come in handy as we are looking at the future of what our school will look like. So, I am really excited about that. And I just want to wish our teachers a very awesome school year to come. Edwards – I think it was Sandra's on employers and what they value and I think that will help guide us with what our NY Mills graduate should look like.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)	BOE	7:49pm	Discussion/Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
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9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE	8:58pm	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd A.Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
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10. ADJOURNMENT				
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10.1 Adjournment		8:59 pm	Action	1 st S. Defazio 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain
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**§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.