



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 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 Reading of the New York Mills UFSD Mission Statement.			Procedural	<i>In partnership with students, staff, families, and the community, our mission is to create an educational environment that inspires confidence, builds character, and fosters respect – empowering every student with the knowledge to become a productive, responsible citizen.</i>
1.3 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	K. Hubley – I just want to welcome everybody back to school. I’m not going to take any thunder away from our Administrators I will let them tell how wonderful everything was. I was able to go to opening day again this year and we did not plan this but the Superintendent and I were right on point with exactly what we wanted to discuss. So, that is a good start to our school year the Board and Superintendent are on the same page as our vision and mission and where we want our school district to go. I do want to thank everyone that was able to make it to our retreat last night, we had some really good conversations. Jackie, I will update you on that, she had her Reorganization Session for SBI last night, so, during board discussion we will talk about that.
2.2 BOCES Representative Report	K. Hubley		Information	

K. Hubley - I don't have much to say other than to add Mrs. LaGase has said in her update, she talked about the Regionalization Plan and some of the steps they are taking to roll that out, the BOCES Board is reviewing that so the roll out goes smoothly.

2.3 Ex Officio Student Member Report	C. Miner		Information	
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C. Miner - It is still the first week, next time I will have a report.

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2.4 Committee Reports			Information	
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Policy Committee: *Sara DeFazio/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards:* – Policy is meeting on Sept. 22nd.
Facilities Committee: *Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio:* – Facilities is ongoing with our Capital Improvement Project timeline.
Communications Committee: *Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy Jr.:* – M. LaGase met today with the representative of our school communications division from OHM BOCES, we are going to schedule a meeting.
Transportation Committee: *Sandra Dare/Chair, Abbie Taylor:* – The Transportation Committee hasn't met yet.
Health & Safety Committee: *Robert Mahardy Jr./Chair, Sandra Dare:* R.Mahardy, Jr. – Our first meeting is going to be early December.
Finance Committee: *Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Jeremy Fennell:* K.Hubley – Also still too soon to meet.
SBI: *Jacqueline Edwards (SBI Alternate: Sara DeFazio):* J.Edwards – Okay, last night was a very productive meeting. Tony Nicotera is the new SBI President, he is from Sauquoit Also, Jim VanWormer has announced his retirement and Katie Ferguson from Herkimer BOCES that oversees SBI said they will be looking for someone to fill his shoes. Those are really tough shoes to fill. She also said September 18th they are kind of in a bind there is possibility they will postpone the legal update session until a new representative is worked out. Legislative reports there is a rule problem, in the past T. Moat's could co-chair it with someone else because of the way NYSSBA has it written in the bylaws, he is looking for a co-chair from a component school that is a member of NYSSBA. Membership is at full compacity. Component school round table highlights: Mount Markham has a new Superintendent; she comes for Fort Plain. MO BOCES Stockbridge and Madison have combined to share a new Superintendent. Whitesboro is searching for a new Superintendent. Richfield Spring has a new build project and is also looking for a new Superintendent. Hamilton is looking for a new Superintendent. Clinton was looking for feedback on the new phone/internet devises policy so if anyone has any feedback on how that is going for the next meeting. Poland is wondering how the Electric Buses are coming along? Sauquoit talked about the Regionalization and sharing of services. Oriskany did share what information they had. Rome has bus driver shortages and are looking if anyone knows of any bus drivers. Utica said they CTE building is opening this year and they were really interested in the Regionalization because they could be a big key in that since they have so many things to offer in particularly ESL. It is an exciting time to be a Board Member. The next Executive meeting is December 8th.

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3. CONSENT AGENDA				
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3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st R.Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd A.Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
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3.2 Business Office Reports				
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3.3 CSE Reports				
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3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	8.5.2025 8.25.2025			
4. OLD BUSINESS				
4.1 Capital Updates			Information	
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st S.Dare 2 nd S.DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.2 Approval of Community Use of Facilities Request with New York Mills PTSO – Craft Fair		Yes	Action	1 st R.Mardy, Jr. 2 nd J.Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.3 Approval of Combining Contract with Oriskany Falls Central School District (host) and NYMUFSD – Modified Soccer Fall 2025-2026		Yes	Action	1 st J.Fennell 2 nd S.DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.4 Approval of Combining Contract with NYMUFSD (host) and Sauquoit Valley – Modified Field Hockey Fall 2025-2026		Yes	Action	1 st S.Dare 2 nd A.Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
A.Taylor – Both of these are girl sports correct? M.LaGase – yes. A.Taylor and parents will be informed they have to provide transportation, right? M.LaGase – yes.				
5.5 Professional Service Agreement with Children’s Therapy Network and NYMUFSD			Information	
M.LaGase – This is a contract we signed prior to the opening of school to provide Special Education Services and Related service to 3 children entering Kindergarten.				
6. K-12 REPORTS				

6.1 Executive Principal K-12	M. Facci		Information	
<p>M.Facci – We had a very smooth opening of school this year. We started out working with teachers on data looking at the big picture and individual picture on what our grows and glows are. We are providing additional support for the student’s looking to take Regents Exams in January. We also had assemblies to re-enforce expectations, go over policies, regarding student parking, Chromebooks etc. Faculty have been helping students with lockers during this new transition as we understand many students are not use to using a locker but it is going very well. I have also met with advisors for classes and clubs to go over expectation of meeting and fundraisers. Ms. Hale and I met with SABA group (BOCES Career Specialist) to plot out our programs for this school year, we will be participating in several opportunities for our 9th – 12th graders, with Utica University and MVCC Career Day, college tours, we will participate in job shadow days with businesses within the area. Open House is held September 18th. This Saturday (9/14) in our home opening football game at 12 pm.</p>				
6.2 Interim Principal K-12	D. DiSpirito		Information	
<p>DiSpirito – Similar to Mary, we had a very smooth opening. Kids were really happy to be back. All buses are getting here by 8 a.m. for morning arrival, they are doing a great job picking up students. Parent loop has gone really well a little more efficient this year by adding a couple of additional staff members so that kids will actually get out on the whole loop to have 12 kiddos get out instead of 4. Moving the line a little faster and we are able to finish the parent loop by 8:15. For opening day with the teachers, I had asked them to do grade level and vertical team meetings both up and down. By afternoon they reported getting the most out of the vertical meetings, talking with teachers above and below about students coming in they can talk about student academics and supports. They said they got a lot of good feedback and shared test results. So, I was very glad we spent some time doing that. We identified gaps in the data, during grade level teams meeting and they set some goals. One of the identified gaps is writing. They discovered math explanations were difficult in looking at math results, I also asked them to develop personal and professional goals, things they would like to see for themselves and what they would like to see for the students. Some of the things they would like to see is the students to recognize the 3 PBIS goals (our Positivity Project goals) being safe, be respectful, be responsible. Teacher goals focused on improving certain areas of reading skills, they want to really look at the curriculum and decide what can be taken, what really has to be honed in on, especially after the testing and the other thing they said was they really want to spend time on how do they engage students and keeping them interested in learning all day long. Open House is on Sept. 18th. One of the events we are going to add this year on the elementary level is a Community Reader Day. Now I just want to take a look at the data you have in front of you. Over the last 3 years. If you look diagonal because that is the same group of kids. To see how they progress over the last 3 years. Edwards – Denise, do we have any idea, I mean we are never going to get zero refusals, but do we have any idea why we still have some hold outs? DiSpirito – so the kids that refuse the most are the same group of 7th and 8th graders that have been refusing for the last few years. On my side I had 4 refusals all together. Edwards – That is wonderful compared to what we have dealt with before. LaGase – can you speak to the protocols we have put in place. DiSpirito – Right, so when I got a refusal letter, I called. I called home and explained that the results of the test don’t impact a student with repercussion for grades, it only allows us to provide better information and align curriculum for the students. A.Taylor – so you said you had refusal in grades 3,4,5? K.Hubley – ok. could there be some residuals where they had siblings during the bigger rush and now they are the younger siblings. D.DiSpirito – Could be. Because if one sibling refuses the other does as well. A.Taylor – you will have to jog my memory, do the refusal impact accountability? M. LaGase – yes. A.Taylor – Do we know where we are now? D.DiSpirito – we are hovering around 95 %.</p>				
7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	

LaGase – I just want to make a comment on the Enrollment report. Since July 14th through September 8th we have enrolled 35 students, K-12. 19 of those students have come from Utica City School District. K.Hubley – how many of those do you know of have IEP’s? M.LaGase – 11. J.Edwards – this influx of people are they just new to the district or just using addresses? M.LaGase – No, they are new to the district, we have done our due diligence with residency, there seems to be an increase in rentals in the village and we are seeing a lot of movement from the city into NY Mills. R.Mahardy, Jr. – Your said 11 IEP’s, how many ESL’s? D.Dipirito – 2 ESL’s. A.Taylor – is there any future preparedness or something that we need to be mindful of? M.LaGase -It’s a challenge, because there is not much that we can do except ensure they are actually residents and meet the criteria of enrollment. K.Hubley – is it more on the elementary side or the high school? M.LaGase – no, it is all across the board k-12. J.Edwards – I know there is budgetary implications and I know where the figures fell out with the additional placements. Where are we with monetary in numbers. L.Stamboly – Your outside placement tuitions have quadrupled and with BOCES placements budget line is also much higher. J.Edwards – ok so as the finance committee gets ready to meet, those numbers will affect other programming areas. That is concerning. M.LaGase – correct.

7.2 Superintendent’s Update	M. LaGase		Information	
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M.LaGase – We had a smooth opening and we are excited to begin another school year. The staff worked diligently on both Superintendent’s Conference Days to prepare for students. I also had an opportunity to review several faculty members preliminary goal setting and it is aligned with the work the Board has done in terms of the updated vision and mission. We have done a considerable amount of work at the district-level as it relates to the New York Inspires Initiative. As you know, in July of 2025 NYS did release the final Portrait of a Graduate. Our initial work has been focused on developing a graphic for NYMUFSD’s portrait which is reflective of the attributes and competencies of the NYS Portrait of a Graduate. Our plan is to have a dedicated area on our website to display the graphic along with descriptors of the attributes . K.Hubley – I think what Mrs. Facci talked about with working with the Indium Corporation... we are starting more out-reach with the community that we will need for this. So, I am glad to hear this.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 From the Floor -

District Clerk		Information	
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Persons wishing to speak should first be recognized by the President, then identify themselves, any organization they may be representing at the meeting, and the agenda topic or other matter of public concern about our schools that they wish to discuss. Topics must be addressed one at a time with each individual's comments limited to three (3) minutes for a total of twelve (12) minutes designated for the public comment agenda item.

J.Goodfriend, NYMTA – first want to start off by thanking our Board of Education for volunteering for another year and all you are going to do. Thank you to administration for all you did in creating a smooth opening. As Mrs. DiSpirito said, the vertical team meetings were beneficial. One thing I really liked and a few of my colleagues was focusing on individual needs because being able to look at data and tying that into an actual student gives us that complete picture. And our #1 priority is the students, so we appreciate that time. As Mrs. LaGase was talking about, the mobility of students moving in or out of the district, as you are looking at finance committee in the future, we are always looking for more teacher support. We have supports but at our primary level, as Ms. Hurlbut will say, “I will let your guys know what grade level they are coming to.” So, we are always asking for more teacher supports as there are more needs. We really would appreciate that and we look forward to a really great year with hopes to collaborate anytime we could.

C.St, James – Hi All! I’m here as a parent, since I’m no longer employed here and a taxpayer. I’m here for 2 things as a parent of an athlete and a senior. To start off I would like to talk about the Notre Dame Jugglers Regional Hockey Team. They are through Notre Dame and are a regional division 1 NYS Public High Athletic Association team, not a club team. We are a competing in high school sports. In saying that, we have Oriskany, Camden, Poland, VVS, Holland Patent, Notre Dame, Waterville, Sauquoit, Westmoreland, Town of Webb, New York Mills, Proctor and West Canada Valley are the districts that make up this team. So, we have 13 different districts coming in, and we are the only regional team in Central New York that requires parents to pay out of there pockets. Parents

pay \$1200 a year on top of fundraising for the program. The Program costs somewhere around \$30,000 including salaries and we know that talking about finances is never really fun but we do know all the districts from this team were billed in May or intent to bill knowing it was coming this year to ask school districts to pick up this fee of \$1200 per player, per district. Currently, Clinton, New Hartford, Rome all pay for their girls' program at \$1500. I also do know at the Business Officers meeting at BOCES, shortly after those bills were send out it was agreed and reported back to our program that the consensus was where not paying. We are asking that to look at your data, specifically in 2023-24 the Football Program was budgeted for \$38,000 that not including salaries which brought the up to \$58,000, when you do the math if there are 20 people on the football team that is \$2900 per player to play on that team. We are asking for \$1200 per player, there are approximately 5 players trying out for the team this year, (2) in 8th grade, then (3) in 10th, 11th and 12th grades. We are asking for you to think about this and look at how we support all our students. On another note, as a parent of a senior we are asking you to try and do more for our Senior parents who do not know what is happening with their senior. FAFSA Nights, Career Nights, I know we are doing stuff in school but parents need to be involved. Thanks everyone.

S.King – Couple of things, first losing Jim VanWormer as SBI Coordinator is a huge loss and whoever fills his shoes has a big job ahead of them. I was looking at the calendar and didn't see dates for the Musical(s) if you would be kind enough to share them with me when you know when they are. On that note, we have the Craft Fair coming up and I know your just approved that building use tonight so I would encourage everybody to participate in the craft fair, donate even 2 hours it helps the PTSO raise funds for things that the tax payers can not pay for, they would truly appreciate it. And one last question, I haven't seen any Athletic Directors on any personnel reports so I wondering if we are going to have one or what is the plan. Again, I don't expect anyone to address me because that is not the policy but if you can share that with me, I would greatly appreciate it.

M.Mitchell, PTSO – With the Craft Fair coming up and the construction going on, we have about 25-30 crafters in the high school gym and we were just wondering are there some ideas where we can house some of those crafters? I know Mrs. DiSpirito usually comes to our meetings, so that is something we will be discussing. The second thing, we are going to have Trunk or Treat at the end of October but we don't have a date yet. We are asking the Board to do a trunk again it was so much fun. We are excited. Thank you.

8.2 Board Discussion	BOE		Discussion	
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S. DeFazio – I don't really have anything besides I hope everyone is having a great start o the school year. J.Edwards – I'm a little bit taken back, I guess I just need more clarification. Are we funding Hockey or aren't we? We have always encouraged our students to participate in outside activities, I'm just taken back by the comments that were made, not supporting our students. Maybe we are, I don't know. I am just looking for some further clarification. M.LaGase – we have always elected to allow participation through a combination, this is the first time districts are being billed. R,Mahardy, Jr. Welcome back students, teachers, and administrators. J.Fennell – Welcome back. A. Taylor – That's it? J.Fennell – That's it, Rob beat me to it. A.Taylor – ok, both of my children are really thrilled I have an elementary and high schooler. Kristin and I attended the Kindergarten Orientation, which was a blast! IT was great see, they had, popsicles' on the playground, it really was a perfect day. I enjoyed seeing the nurse available for parent questions. One thing from a Board or Policy stand point, if there is maybe an SRO to be available to ask any questions because we do expect parents to comply with policies. Who might have questions on lock downs, or what is expected of them. Because as Kindergarteners sometimes the first time for parents , having a kid in school and have an opportunity to ask questions and to see a Police Officer in a school, you know might be helpful. Also with my middle schooler, I have seen so much come through with different activities and groups or clubs, and wonderful things to join. Which makes me think of having the groups come in and tell us all about what they have been doing. It's really is the highlight of these meetings. S.Dare – the only thing I have is to commend the new staff coming in taking on additional assignments and initiative to really put forth that extra effort for the students it is really commendable. K.Hubley – I only want to say if you ever start to doubt what you are here for and what we volunteer for, engage with any student. Seeing those kindergarteners was amazing. I was a little nervous with popsicle sticks on the playground though, I kept thinking health and safety, but it was in the parents' hands at that point. The parents were with them and the nurse was outside. We do need to go into an Executive Session to discuss some legal matters, our attorney is here.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION	BOE	6:51 pm	Discussion/Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
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** (If Needed)				
9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE	7:57 pm	Action	1 st J.Edwards 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
10. ADJOURNMENT				
10.1 Adjournment		7:58 pm	Action	1 st J.Edwards 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____

**§105. Conduct of executive sessions.

1. Upon a majority vote of its total membership, taken in an open meeting pursuant to a motion identifying the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered, a public body may conduct an executive session for the below enumerated purposes only, provided, however, that no action by formal vote shall be taken to appropriate public moneys:
 - a. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
 - b. any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
 - c. information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
 - d. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
 - e. collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;
 - f. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;
 - g. the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and
 - h. the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.
2. Attendance at an executive session shall be permitted to any member of the public body and any other persons authorized by the public body.