



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 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				
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 S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President’s Message	K. Hubley		Information	<i>K. Hubley – Tonight, I am going to keep to keep it short, we have a lot of visitors and I am excited to hear from everyone. I do want to thank the PTSO for the Trunk or Treat, we had a huge number of kids here. With Thanksgiving coming up I just want to give gratitude to our parents and staff especially now while we are going through our Capital Project. We thank you all for your dedication, particularly during these times, though we are very excited for these projects that will come to fruition real soon. So, thanks you again for that.</i>
2.2 BOCES Representative Report	K. Hubley		Information	

K. Hubley – I do want to thank our Administrators who came to last months meeting. One of our NYMUFSD students Ariana McNeal was recognized for her role in the P-Tech Program and I was very honored to give her a certificate, recognizing her accomplishments. So, thank you to Mrs. DiSpirito, Mrs. Facci and Mrs. LaGase for coming to support her. I had attended the NYSSBA conference a few weeks ago, I will wait to discuss that during board discussion because Mrs. DeFazio and Mr. Mahardy, did the online. So, we will talk about it then.

2.3 Ex Officio Student Member Report	C. Miner		Information	
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C. Minor – Student Council would like to report the Homecoming Dance went great. Each grade level made banners, hung up outside for the Homecoming Game and Pep-Rally. The Annual Pep-Rally went off amazingly with all students watching or participating in the games. All grade levels were included in fall clean-up, and we collected candy from each homeroom for Trunk or Treat. The winning homeroom received breakfast on Halloween morning. The Student Council also participated in Trunk or Treat by handing out candy at a Jurassic Park themed car. Student Council is also working on donations for assigned families. Students are encouraged to bring in donations of food, blankets, toys, but it is not required. This program helps out families in need and student council is honored to help out again this year.

2.4 Selection of Cast Members from Aladdin Jr.			Information	
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*K. Hubley - now we are going to move onto our first set of guests. Mrs. Lovecchio and select student cast members from Aladdin Jr. will perform a song. The musical is this weekend, Nov. 7th and 8th at 6 p.m. and we are very excited to have them here giving us a little preview of the show. The song "A Whole New World" was performed.
K. Hubley/Mrs. LaGase – Wonderful job! Thank you, we are all looking forward to see the performance this weekend.*

2.5 Grade 7 Student Water Project Presentation			Information	
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*Ms. Foote (Science), Mr. Davies (Art) and 4 students presented and answered questions on an interdisciplinary learning investigation of different pollutants found within the Sauquoit Creek. To teach about human impact on past, present and future climate and environmental changes.
K. Hubley – This project is also featured as a special monthly feature on our Marauder Marquee. So, you can see additional information on the website and Facebook connections.*

2.6 OHM BOCES – NY Inspires	Amy Lamitie		Information	
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Amy Lamitie, Coordinator of Programs and Special Projects at OHM BOCES, presented on the role out and timeline of NYS Inspires Initiative.

2.5 Committee Reports			Information	
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Policy Committee: *Sara DeFazio/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards* : Set to meet on Nov. 17th . I know on the docket we talked about pulling some policies of the floor in terms of job descriptions, are there any other policies you would like us to take a look at?

Facilities Committee: *Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio* : Not much to report, we will set-up a meeting soon once we have more information on scheduling and a walk through of the gym.

Communications Committee: *Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy Jr.* : Nothing at the moment.

Transportation Committee: *Sandra Dare/Chair, Abbie Taylor* : Nothing.

Health & Safety Committee: *Robert Mahardy Jr./Chair, Sandra Dare* : An initial meeting next month to get our timeline set.

Finance Committee: *Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Jeremy Fennell* : Nothing now, I will coordinate with the Superintendent and Lisa towards the end of November, beginning of December to figure out a timeline.

SBI: *Jacqueline Edwards (SBI Alternate: Sara DeFazio)* : There was a Legislative zoom meeting, that unfortunately was during my work hours, I do know if the Superintendent attended. So, if anyone wants to information on the particular zoom. M. LaGase – Our area

representative and members of NYSSBA met and discussed advocacy points for full alignment between NYSSBA and SBI talking points for the upcoming SBI Legislative event.

3. CONSENT AGENDA				
3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 st A. Taylor 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
3.2 Business Office Reports				
3.3 CSE Reports				
3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	10.5.2025 10.13.2025			
4. OLD BUSINESS				
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st A. Taylor 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
5.2 Resolution to Accept the Audit Response Related to the Corrective Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
5.3 Resolution to Accept the Corrective Action Plan for Extra Curricular Activity Fund 2024 - 2025		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd S. Dare / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
5.4 Approval of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget Development Timeline		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___
5.5 Policy 5009 Extreme Heat Conditions Days (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st A. Taylor 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ___

A. Taylor - On item "C – Room temperature at 88 degrees or higher." That's required language? [M.LaGase – Yes.] How does that get applied? Because the first one in B says room temperature at 82 degrees and then in C – Room temperature in 88 degrees. M.LaGase - that is the application, in terms of what Building Principals have to do for mitigation strategies. A.Taylor – with budgeting talks, are there any rooms or classrooms that may need additional cooling? M.LaGase - Right now there is zero funding from SED for HVAC improvements related to this mandate. A.Taylor – So what happens if the room gets too hot and meet the policy requirements if it gets too hot? M.LaGase - We are able to meet the policy by moving the students to another instructional space. A.Taylor – Okay, thanks.

5.6 Policy 7005 Education of Homeless Children (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.7 Regulation 7005.1 Procedures for Achieving Education of Homeless Children (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.8 Regulation 7005.2 STAC-202 Homeless Designation Form (Second Rescind)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd S. Dare / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.9 Policy 6005 Stipend Payment of Coaches (Second Rescind)		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd S. Dare / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.10 Policy 4302 Internal Audit Function (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.11 Policy 4303 Auditing Claims for Payment (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st R. Mahardy, Jr. 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.12 Policy 4400 General Procurement Standards (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st S. DeFazio 2 nd J. Edwards / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.13 Policy 4401 Competitive Bidding (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.14 Policy 4402 Non-Bid Purchasing (Second Read)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd S. DeFazio / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
5.15 Regulation 4402.1 Procurement of Goods and Services Quote Form (Second Rescind)		Yes	Action	1 st J. Edwards 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____

6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 Executive Principal K-12	M. Facci		Information	
<p><i>M. Facci – It’s hard to believe the first quarter is starting to wrap-up, students are testing and report cards will go home on Nov. 18th. Our upper classmen have been taking a few fieldtrips. Student Councils executive positions attended the Genesis Group Legislative Breakfast, Nov. 3rd at Hart Hill. Seniors went to Utica University to check out the Communications Dept and another trip is planned for them on Nov. 18th to Sun-Poly. Nov. 20th Juniors will get a Shadow Career Business Day, where they can determine if they want to have individual shadowing. Nov.21st are quarterly assemblies. I spoke earlier about a collaboration with Dunkin Donuts; they sent enough gift cards for the entire Honor Roll to receive them and they will be visiting us with their “Refresher” Truck on Tuesday, Nov. 24th to treat grades 7-12 and all faculty for a midday refresh! Having samples and additional gift cards for students. Auditions for the high school performance of “Anything Goes” will take place on December 3rd. Student Council will sponsor Snack’s with Santa again this year, on December 13th. Congratulations to the October Optimus Club Student of the Month individuals; gr.7: Carson Spost; Gr. 8: Reid Cilbrith; Gr.9: Abigal Haug; Gr. 10: Nick Tan; Gr.11: Aubrey Salmon; and our Senior: Asah Bova. K.Hubley – Congratulations!</i></p>				
6.2 Interim Principal K-12	D. DiSpirito		Information	
<p><i>D. DiSpirito - I am going to take our December/November Activities Calendar and hand it out because it is lengthy and a little crazy. One of the things we didn’t talk about last time was we are going to have the Veteran’s Assembly again on November 12th, we are inviting Veterans from the community and any family members at NYMills who could be here and would like to be honored that day. That is probably the biggest item on the calendar. There is just a lot of things going on. We also, have the Leatherstocking Ballet coming, which is new to us. We still have kids going to the Country Club Court Apartments in December. On top of our newest teacher Doug Rehm came to me and asked if we could do a food drive. So, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Bara and I said sure! So, we are going to be doing a food and can drive for “Feed our Vets” with coordination with the assembly. Our 2nd grade is going to continue their long-standing tradition of the “I Wish Tree” with hats, gloves, and scarves donations. The Fire Dept. was here with 4 vehicles from Yorkville and New York Mills. The kids had a great time getting in the ambulance. That seemed to be the highlight. We are still doing a lot with Utica University and the pre-service teachers. We have a student teacher coming in the fall who has been subbing for us, so that is very exciting to have someone that knows the building and wants to come in to work with us and for us. We have been doing an awful lot of job shadowing for the Elementary Teachers with the OHM BOCES, which is terrific. And the last item, the “Bean Stack” Library challenge. I had been bamboozled and ate 5 out of 7, YUCKY! jellybeans that day. The students had reached 22,000 minutes. The next challenge is to get to 100,000 reading minutes. They are already at 80,000 minutes. [M.LaGase – what were the flavors?] Oh, gosh, I had to eat dead fish, (DeFazio – burnt rubber), [DeFazio- boogers], I had to eat boogers, [DeFazio – those were the highlights], yup. Yup. And they were like, like the first 2 were awesome. I got great flavors, then the last 5 were just awful! [laughter]. LaGase – But, the kids were just loving it. R. Mahardy, Jr. – I love it! I love that this is in the minutes. DiSpirito – I don’t know what the next challenge will be. I know they keep asking and want me to do that one again. I literally opened the boxed and did what they told me to do. Haha. DeFazio – Oh liver and onions was another one. DiSpirito - Oh, wet dog! Wet dog was the other one I had to eat.</i></p>				
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7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
7.2 Superintendent’s Update	M. LaGase		Information	

M. LaGase – I would like to echo what you had said in the Presidents message. Just a huge thank you to PTSO and Booster for all they do for the students and the school community. It was another outstanding Trunk or Treat Event. Thank you, Mrs. Taylor, for spear heading the boards truck and really for all of the on-going support from the board. PTSO is very generous and have supported field trips and other positive opportunities for our kids. The Genesis Group is hosting its 19th Annual Educational Celebration on November 20th at Harts Hill. This event recognizes educators and programs that positivity impact students, schools and local colleges. We are pleased to announce Colleen Sparacino, our Reading Specialist, was selected as an honoree and we are looking forward to attending. I have heard staff saying they are registered to attend. She is well deserving and does an outstanding job supporting literacy here at New York Mills. So. Commissioner of Education visit- Area Superintendent’s had the pleasure of meeting with Commissioner Rosa, members of her staff and our Regions Legislators’ including, Senator Griffo, Assemblywoman Buttenschon, Assemblyman Brian Miller, Assemblyman Robert Smullen and our Board of Regents Patrick Mannion, the commissioner addressed our group with additional information on NY Inspire Initiative and many of the other issues facing schools. We were pleased to have these representatives; it was a unique opportunity to really sit in the room collectively and talk about advocacy and talking points and our needs in public education. We thank them immensely for the strong partnerships. Senator Griffo was actually the one who facilitated the Commissioner’s visit. I want to acknowledge capital project update; we are all excited to see the progress in the 7-12 gymnasium and locker room area, feedback from our construction manager and architects. We are on tract; things are going well. Recently, NY State has enacted new legislation requiring School Districts to provide “Water Safety Information” to families, signed into law, Sept. 2025, taking effect July 1, 2026. Districts will be required to provide information from the Dept of Health. New School publications, we have been working closely with OHM BOCES School Communications Division to share and highlight all of the opportunities and contributions our faculty and staff are making in our educational programming. We are going to focus on 3 educational videos related to the holiday season. First the acts of character; capturing students performing small acts of kindness helping others, in alignment with Thanksgiving. Second, excellence in every season, video clips working in the classrooms and other holiday spirits. The third, is going to be New Year, New Goal! Students and staff can share on a goal or hope for the upcoming year and we will try to build in a unify message of growth and opportunity.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 From the Floor -

District Clerk

Information

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

J.Marley (NYMTA) – Really interested to see we have adopted a Portrait of a Grad for the Marauder Way, as the association of teachers here were interested to work with the district to develop a plan that works well for all of our students.

S.King – couple of things if you could put that Portrait of a Marauder on the website so we view. The Elementary calendar is that out in the world too? [M.LaGase, yes, it is on the website] Great! Lastly, in this month of Thanksgiving is to thank you all for all you do and services you give and provide. As well as the staff and the parent associations that help out with all the other activities it is really a wonderful community that we live in it is great to have the opportunity to be a part of it.

M.Mitchell (PTSO) – Just want to give a quick shout out about our up coming Craft Fair, this December 6th and 7th it is such a fun event and we were hoping for volunteers to make that happen. We were wondering if we sent the link if it could go out on Parent Square for K-12 parents. We need extra hands for set up, clean up and during the fair itself. It’s a great way to get involved and support our school. Thanks so much. On a side note, Mrs. DiSpirito, I’m glad to hear about the Veterans Assembly and that K-12 are all involved.

8.2 Board Discussion

BOE

Discussion

A.Taylor – Just want to thank PTSO for a wonderful Trunk or Treat. Very generous, people had a wonderful time, no one wanted to leave.

R.Mahardy, Jr. – As we approach the holiday season and I know it gets busy...Hang in there, staff. Hang in there! Same thinking... transitioning from fall sports to winter sports, the winter sports meeting is Monday. Congratulations to all the fall sports participants! Elementary Musical is coming up. Today is election day – go vote! Thank you to PTSO and Abbey for all their work with Trunk or Treat.

K.Hubley – I did want to mention last month was recognition week [Oct. 13-17] for School Boards. And I did put together a letter for everyone, but would like to thank you all for everything you do and the collaboration you have. We have certificates for each of you. With that I would like to talk about the conferences of NYSSBA. I went in person through BOCES and was able to do the pre-conference seminar; I did the Board Officers Academy the first day, which was a full day. I learned some new things, got some clarification and also, I could see how we are doing things right. It was great to collaborate with other School Board Officers. We also did a great team building exercise together and I think getting a lot of officers together may not have been the best way to do this because we all wanted to be the leaders. Though it was a great exercise and I have all the materials if we ever want to do that in the future. The next day I went to the opening session with Mr. Tim Shriver, Rob and Sara were able to see it live streamed. I also, went to “Dos and Don’ts of Executive Session”, which also turned into more of running a board meeting, what’s appropriate at a board meeting and also what’s appropriate in how things should work when you are not in a board meeting and how communications should be. That also, validated what we do already. I did go to “Integrated Strategies’ of Regionalization”, because I was there through BOCES and I know how Dr. Kilburn is working on that, but that was one of the sessions we had before, where you think it is one thing, you go and it is something else. Ending up being 2 School Districts where the High School one District ended up being absorbed into the other District. I didn’t go there for that I went because I thought about all this collaboration. But it was nice to see how they worked it out and hear how it’s coming along, because it that just started in September. The best seminar I went to was the NYS Distance Learning Consortium presented expanding educational access across the state, presented by Greg Smith from our OHM BOCES. How I got there was Scott Morris, the Assistant Superintendent at BOCES and I were a lunch on a break and he commented one of his employees was doing a break out seminar. It really was one of the bests presentations. Everyone was talking about the NYS Inspires and A Portrait of the Graduate. It was a buzz all weekend. His presentation on the “Distance Learning” and the things they can do was really inspiring to me. That one was not available on the website, but I was sent a copy if you would like. Now, Mr. Mahardy and Mrs. DeFazio did the on-line version and I am excited to see compare.

S.DeFazio - Thank you. The digital experience was great. Was it perfect? No, but for what it was I felt we got a lot of really great information from there. I felt it was very engaging, because sometimes you go and feel like people are just talking at you, but they literally made it like a speed dating, I guess... They had presenters coming into the room every 20 minutes and giving us the highlight overview of certain topics. What I took away the first day was like a half day, focusing on student mental health, which is really important. Talked about ensuring the success of all learners. The biggest take away from the 2 days was call the “Dignity Index” and it was huge. They adapted this Dignity Index for elementary and high schoolers and obviously adults. So, it was really great to get involved in activities around this index because I would love to share this with you. As an overview they had you rate things on a scale of 1 – 8. With 1 meaning contempt or you are feeling some sort of way about it and 8 is where you are approaching a situation with dignity. As an example, we talked about a contempt response is basically saying “they’re not even human, its our moral duty to destroy them before they destroy us.” Which oofph crazy mindset. But then all the way when you go up to dignity looking at the same situation each one of us is born with inherent dignity so we treat everyone with dignity not matter what and there was obviously a scale in between and just a great activity. The second day talked more about the procedural things. Superintendent evaluations. Board Goals. We talked about the road to zero emissions on School Buses. Rob and I were texting back, thank God for Lisa! The Last day was more on just becoming a team and how we are going to come forward and be positive. Creating a future that is focused on student learning and engagement. So, it was really great! Rob and I were texting and a big take away, I had to write it down, wait, from what Rob had said, it was

basically we get inspired, we go to these conferences and get inspired and we think we can do this we can make this change. So, Rob had said lets turn mindset into action. So having these conversations and moving forward. Still keeping our eyes on the target on where we want to be in 5, 10, 15 years.

R. Mahardy, Jr. Yeah, I think you hit most of it. The logistics of it really was - boom – 20 minute sessions. On Friday we just got the links to the presentations. The Dignity Index was eye opening. Very much. I see myself saying that and how you are jabbing at somebody self-worth, when you dig back in. it’s an incredible way to change your own mindset. So, Dignity Index – Tim Shriver, google it. And the other keynote speaker, was Steve Hartman that does the CBS was On the Road”, um, he... I’ll say it, he does these stories that just melt your heart. The kids, the resilience and compassion these kids have. I was in a parking lot listening to these stories, tearing up as people are walking by. It was just amazing. Dr.Z was another story that was incredible about an individual who gives back to his community.

K.Hubley – So going to this conference, and we haven’t been to one in a while because we didn’t feel we were getting enough out of them or getting blocked off. But going to this one I have to say this was the best organized and well handled. Next year it will be in Buffalo. [S.Defazio – the virtual was great, not to toot my own horn but I represented NYMills in the Jeopardy Game and I won. R.Mahardy – She did great, that was brutal. A.Taylor – thank you for that.] So, I’m excited to see now that the 3 of us are going to Rural School in December 4 and 5th and compare. There is an app for notes and slides. I’m sure we will be hearing more in the up coming weeks. I was very impressed. Thanks you guys. We do need to go into Executive Session to follow up in legal matters.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)	BOE	7:56 pm	Discussion/Action	1 st S. Dare 2 nd J. Fennell / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE	8:36 pm	Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd R. Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain ____
Motion from the Floor – Resolution to Approve Administrative Restructuring			Action	1 st J. Fennell 2 nd A. Taylor / Yes 6 No 1 Abstain ____

K.Hubley – The Board of Education approves administrative restructuring effective July 1, 2026 and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the full terms of the resolution.

10. ADJOURNMENT				
10.1 Adjournment			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.**