



**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 6, 2026**  
**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
<b>1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER</b>		6:00 pm		
<b>1.1 Pledge to the Flag</b>			Procedural	
<b>1.2 Reading of the New York Mills UFSD Mission Statement.</b>			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>
<b>1.3 Acceptance of Agenda</b>	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> R.Mahardy, Jr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> J.Fennell / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
<b>2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>				
<b>2.1 President’s Message</b>	K. Hubley		Information	
<i>K. Hubley – I’m not going to have a Presidents message tonight because of weather, I want to get us going.</i>				
<b>2.2 BOCES Representative Report</b>	K. Hubley		Information	
<i>K.Hubley – I don’t have a BOCES report tonight. The only thing we did at the last meeting was go into normal agenda.</i>				
<b>2.3 Ex Officio Student Member Report</b>	C. Miner		Information	Excused absence. Mrs. Facci will include report with her segment.

*K.Hubley – Our Student Board Member could not make it tonight, so we are going to move the Capital Project Presentation with Courtney Ackerbauer from 4.1 to take place now.*

*C.Archerbauer (TKF Architects) – We just wanted to take the opportunity to update you on the capital project, I know everyone is very excited to see and try to get in there. Slides were shown of the gymnasium flooring, basketball hoops, bleachers, scoreboard and locker room designs. Moving onto the Auditorium they started over break, removing the carpet and repairing plaster and painting. Big Apple Music has been onsite regarding current acoustic soundboards and if anything will be needed as an approved recommendations in the future. Lastly, a doll house view rendering of the Phase 3 front entry work was displayed. The rendering was very truncated and did not have full visuals. Several Board Members had questions. K.Hubley – Is that a change in plan or am I missing it because I thought the inside was going to be rounded? [C.Acherbauer – so, it is a change in plan. This remains within the physical footprint, so we are not expanding out.] Why did that change? Because of costs? M.LaGase – yes. The original plan had a very large piece of the current foyer as unused space and the goal of having the SRO at the entrance is not achieved with the original location. The other piece related to the SRO’s room, is we wanted to be cautious of how far that space went into the main hallway. We can’t take too much space from the walk way. It is the main walkway between the cafeteria, auditorium and the elementary wing, so the SRO needs to be positioned at the front of the school, without inhibiting the main thorough fare of daily operations or obstructing the student body. K.Hubley – I’m sorry but the original plan those office were going to be out where the sidewalk is now? Build out, right? C.Acherbauer – we are staying within the same walk way and footprint of the school. Also, with the SRO in the front will have better visibility to the outside. A.Taylor – I thought the SRO was going to be in the corner? M.LaGase – That’s where he is now. A.Taylor – Are they stationed there all the time? M.LaGase – He will be there when he is not in the foyer, cafeteria, doing an escort or tending to other needs. Right now, he doesn’t have an outside sight line and is still relying on the attendance kiosk person to reports any issues. [A.Taylor – was the officer shown the new set up and agrees?] **Yes.** K.Hubley – But are they replacing the front doors? C.Ackerbauer – Yes, the front is completely new. A.Taylor – Are there doors going into the SRO’s office? M.LaGase – Yes, the one from the hallway. J.Fennell – So the caveat of this plan is we are funneling people through 2 doors or just 1 single set of doors. M.LaGase – Yes, the original set up has always to move from 3 doors to 2 doors. J.Fennell – So if we have a full house, a play or something it still allows an egress out with capacity? C.Acherbauer – Yes and we checked per codes and there are still other areas of egress available in case of an emergency. K.Hubley – Okay. So, one thing Mr. Fay was always focusing on, when you come down our building there is no main entrance and that’s why I thought we were building out. We were going to change that. Are we still doing anything on the outside to show that is the main entrance? C.Acherbauer – I believe we are going to have an angled portion with name of the school. K.Hubley – I was hoping to have a change and get rid of the area where the leaves and debris gathers outside. J.Fennell – The aesthetics on the front definitely looked better before but what was the overage that caused the change? Did you do a cost comparison? M.LaGase – That Dan shared concerns with the budget of this particular piece at the end of the scope. The other piece was you were taking up the whole foyer with the SRO office leaving no space for the kids in the original design. Plus, he would be in the back of the Attendance Office defeating the original goals. J.Edwards – I was just thinking you are right that was a big focus of the entrance way, possible canopy, more of an identifying area. J.Fennell – Yeah, it talked about a more purposeful space. I get money is money but this plan doesn’t seem like we are going to gain. After much discussion, TKF was asked to prepare another presentation showing the proposed images at referendum, the current images and identify any changes. In addition, budget comparisons were requested in terms of pre bids and current pricing for work. TKF was requested to attend the February BOE meeting with the updates noted by the Board.*

<b>2.4 Committee Reports</b>			Information	
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**Policy Committee:** Sara DeFazio/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards – J.Edwards - We have things in the agenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> read tonight.

**Facilities Committee:** Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio – J. Fennell - As talked about, and ahh yeah, there has been a change in the foyer. Looking to hearing more on this.

**Communications Committee:** Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy Jr. – A.Taylor - no updates.

**Transportation Committee:** Sandra Dare/Chair, Abbie Taylor – S.Dare - no updates.

**Health & Safety Committee:** Robert Mahardy Jr./Chair, Sandra Dare – R.Mahardy, Jr. - we are meeting Thursday (1/8/26).

**Finance Committee:** *Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Jeremy Fennell* – J.Edwards - Lisa will send me some dates tomorrow, see if Jeremy and I can get with her sooner than later.

**SBI:** *Jacqueline Edwards (SBI Alternate: Sara DeFazio)* – J.Edwards – SBI was postponed; last minute they said they would reschedule and give us another date; I will keep you all posted. Jan.29<sup>h</sup> Legislative meeting for anyone who is interested. Sign up with Mandy.

<b>3. CONSENT AGENDA</b>				
<b>3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4</b>	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> J.Edwards 2 <sup>nd</sup> J.Fennell / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ___
<b>3.2 Business Office Reports</b>				
<b>3.3 CSE Reports</b>				
<b>3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes</b>	12.9.25			
<b>4. OLD BUSINESS</b>				
<b>4.1 Capitol Project Presentation</b>	TKF Architects		Information	
<i>Presentation moved to Agenda Item 2.3;</i>				
<b>5. NEW BUSINESS</b>				
<b>5.1 Personnel Report</b>		Yes	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> S.Dare 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ___
<b>5.2 Resolution to Approve Proposed John W. Danforth Company Contract for the School Year 2026-2027</b>		Yes	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> J.Edwards 2 <sup>nd</sup> R.Mahardy. Jr. / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ___
<b>5.3 Policy 5300 Purpose (Acceptable) Use and Administration of District Digital Information Systems Policy (Second Read)</b>		Yes	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> J. Edwards 2 <sup>nd</sup> J.Fennell / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ___

<b>5.4 Policy 5305 Social Media (Second Read)</b>		Yes	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> R.Mahardy, Jr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> J.Fennell / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
<b>5.5 Policy 6100 Job Descriptions (Second Read)</b>		Yes	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> J.Fennell 2 <sup>nd</sup> A.Taylor / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
<b>6. K-12 REPORTS</b>				
<b>6.1 Executive Principal K-12</b>	M. Facci		Information	
<p><i>M.Facci – Good evening, Happy New Year! Caleb didn't have anything to report from student council other than January 31<sup>st</sup> has been selected for the Winter Semiformal. I would like to congratulate the December Optimist Club 7<sup>th</sup> grade - Tenley Casella, 8<sup>th</sup> grade - Tahleya Holmes, 9<sup>th</sup> grade – Piper Casella, 10<sup>th</sup> grade – Abigail Misiaszek, 11<sup>th</sup> grade – Samuel Cardona III, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade – Kaylin Holmes. Our second quarter progress reports went home on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hale and myself, along with teachers have been meeting with students and parents with any concerns with mid-quarter progress reports. Scheduling is underway for midterm exams. Second quarter ends on February 6<sup>th</sup> and students will receive copies of there 2<sup>nd</sup> semester schedules in their homerooms on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. This morning BOCES visited and presented to grade 8 with P-Tech information, grade 10 received information on CTE and grade 11 received information on the New Visions Program. There seemed to be a lot of interest in taking advantage of those opportunities. We are looking forward to seeing those applications come in. We are scheduling January Regents the 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>. Classes will still be in session. We will just be reserving two class rooms away from the others for test administration. Prep courses have been taking place for the past two quarters, In addition, students have been logging on to a tutorial for particular Regents called Study Island, which is offered through BOCES. We are hoping for good results. 8 juniors will be assigned job shadowing tomorrow and take part in those experiences. I have been working with an investigator from the Oriskany Police Dept to come in late February for an assembly for middle school students on Social Media Safety. The topics will include privacy, social media safety, sharing inappropriate videos/pictures, cyber-bullying and responsible social media usage. That's all that is going on in the secondary.</i></p> <p><i>K.Hubleby – I have a question about your last topic. I know sometimes you have had it after school is that going to be in the evening or during the day? M.Facci – permission slips will go out in advance and that will be during the day. K.Hubleby – Thank you. Any questions for Mrs. Facci? Okay...</i></p>				
<b>6.2 Interim Principal K-12</b>	D. DiSpirito		Information	
<p><i>DiSpirito – Well now that all our holiday activities are over, we have quieted right down. Teachers are making great use of instructional time. We've had grade-level meetings just before break, where we have verified students with the highest needs. We prioritized our resources and services to support students in both academically and social emotionally. We are currently Star testing and Dibbles testing because this is the midway point for us, that is like our midterms. Those are our two benchmarks to see where kids really are and if they are on track. We will have another grade level team meeting in February. We are preparing now for the NYS Assessments which are anywhere between April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> and that includes ELA, Math, Science and NYSUT which is the ELA Assessment. So, we have a lot to do at the end of April and in May, but preparation includes how to answer the questions, how to answer the questions on the computer etc... So, they adjusted some of the ways they are assessing by doing assessments on computers and adjusting the amount of time it takes to complete. We are having a Science Fair this year, February 26, 2026. Set-up will start at 4:30 and judging will begin at 5:30 in the Elementary Gymnasium. There will be a change to the Student of the Month Assembly in January because of the capital project in the Auditorium. Being it's not currently in use, we will combine January and February at the end of February. If the Auditorium is not ready, we will move to the Elementary Gym or another alternative space. And finally, I</i></p>				

really want to say how proud I am of this school community. When I got the call that one of our students was injured on Sunday and by Tuesday, we had \$1,000 raised, cards from all the classmates, toys, gifts, clothes. I was very humbled and very proud to be a member of this community. It was just awesome. So, thank you all for that. That's all I've got to say. S.Dare – I have a question. The Science Fair, I saw the flier that came home. Are there any parameters or rules where you can't do certain things. Like can you have an open flame? DiSpirito – I believe the answer to that is NO, there will be parameters. I believe Miss Luton is just looking to see who is interested right now. And then we will put out more information. I do believe there is also an approval process for the types of projects. S.Dare – Yeah, I'm just wondering, I'm sure there are a lot of parents that have no idea.

<b>7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b>				
<b>7.1 Enrollment Update</b>	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
<b>7.2 Superintendent's Update</b>	M. LaGase		Information	

M.LaGase – I just want to echo what Mrs. DiSpirito said about the community's generosity, caring, and commitment. Again, there was zero time wasted before people started to mobilize and provide support and assistance to the family. I know the family was very appreciative. It wasn't just this particular incident. We had another student in the community experience a very devastating situation and support/outreach was immediately extended. It really makes me proud to be part of this community and I would just like to say, it really is a demonstration of the core values that we talk about all the time. It was really nice to see everyone pull together. Next, I want to talk a little bit about a sensitive topic in regards to planning and preparing. This relates to inclement weather and emergency day use. As you know we have had some significant weather, if we had been in session during that time, I could see us using two if not three snow days. We have only used 1 of the 5 allocated days, but we are at the beginning of January with only 4 days left. If we see similar weather patterns, we maybe in a position where we need more days. So, I want to inform parents early, with a preliminary letter for planning purposes only. If we are in a position where we use the 4 days and need more, the first day we would be using as an instructional day is April 3<sup>rd</sup> (beginning of break). I just want to get something out there so families and staff planning vacations or events are not totally surprised. We are looking to exercise 2- hour delays as much as possible so we don't overuse emergency days. The other thing to keep in mind is, if there was a watermain break, or a gas leak or some other issue requiring closure, those days would reduce the remaining 4 days left. I think it is important that we share this information early. I am anticipating getting a lot of questions. If you have any reservations, let me know, but I feel it's better to be forthcoming to families now. The next thing I would like to discuss, is the Mohawk Valley Jugglers Hockey Program. We had a lot of discussion on this, including with our attorneys, and several board meetings ago the board took action. Subsequent to that, there was an email that came out afterwards and we were advised we had to commit x number of funds to the program if we combined. Then an email came from the ND Athletic Director stating there would be no monetary cost to Districts, that they were in full control over the program now. We have copies on file. Since then, a new correspondence was sent yesterday by the same Athletic Director asking for a donation. Our legal team is aware and they going to provide a written statement of guidance. J. Edwards – How much donation are they asking? M.LaGase – They said whatever can be done. Technically, a donation is illegal with tax payers' money, so this is matter is getting quite complex but I want the board to know what has transpired. R.Mahardy, Jr. – Do we know, did Notre Dame put that notice out to the parents as well? M.LaGase – Yes. K.Hubley – Can you remind us how many of our students are involved in that program? M.LaGase – Right now there is one student. J.Edwards – I don't see how a parochial school can think it acceptable for a public school to make a

donation!?! That would be no different than Little League or the Optimus Club asking. You couldn't take tax payer money and donate that. I'm just at a loss at why? Health and Safety Committee – The District Wide Safety Plan will be reviewed later this week and the committee will be discussing any updates as it relates to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Law, We have already initiated the new training for staff and students. On another topic, the Bulk Milk Machine is here. We were a recipient to that through a grant spearheaded by Marianne Buttenschon. Our food service director, through BOCES, is working on how it will be used. The last update tonight, we work closely with the MORIC staff on managing our instructional technology as well as our data privacy and security systems. We transitioned from Tenable Vulnerability Management to CrowdStrike Vulnerability Management, which has real time visibility and remediation features that further reduce breaches. The team through the MORIC is very confident with the update.

<b>8. COMMUNICATIONS</b>				
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<b>8.1 From the Floor -</b>	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.Marley, NYMTA – Real quick. One thing I was thinking with the Jugglers, I know Ms. St. James was unable to be here tonight, but she wanted me to convey to you there is an Educator Appreciation Night the Jugglers sponsor, January 29<sup>th</sup>. It was really good to hear the update on the Capital Project and the timelines. I was wondering if there was going to be some kind of update to the staff, she we are aware of what's out there, where we are, and when certain phases are anticipated. M.LaGase – The Building Principals will get that information out to their staff.*

<b>8.2 Board Discussion</b>	BOE		Discussion	
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*J.Edwards – I want to commend the Superintendent for prioritizing student safety, as far as with snowdays and making parents aware with this letter. I think it is always important we put the safety of students and even the staff at the forefront of everything we do. Thank you for that.*

*J.Fennell – Happy New Year.*

*A.Taylor – The only thing that comes to mind is 2026 in terms of goal setting. We did a lot of work with our goals, so, I was just thinking and am curious is there anymore building off or additional steps that we do as a Board in terms of development on a District level. K.Hublely – We talked about a retreat in February.*

*Building off the work we did off the SBI Team building workshop. Did we ever get the follow-up information? So, let's work on dates. S.Dare – not during break right? M.LaGase – No. I was thinking if you can look at that week before, the week of the 9<sup>th</sup>. I'm thinking if they turn the Gymnasium back over to us, as scheduled. I was thinking of a ribbon cutting ceremony with the BOE for a formal unveiling. If the timeline stays the course. A.Taylor – Also, 2026 graduation we are preparing for that according to our goals and vision to increase our graduation rate. We have Kindergarten registration, I was thinking what about Senior registration, there is a lot that goes into that preparing for your future and all the different applications involved. Just a few things on my mind as we approach end of year.*

*S.Dare – Happy 3-year anniversary Mrs. LaGase, on Saturday. I hope it's been the best 3 years of your career yet, and many more to go. M.LaGase – Thank you! Thank you, I appreciate that.*

*K.Hublely – Okay, we do not need executive session tonight, so let's adjourn.*

<b>9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)</b>	BOE		Discussion/Action	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ / Yes ___ No___ Abstain ___
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9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE		Action	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ / Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___
<b>10. ADJOURNMENT</b>				
10.1 Adjournment		7:14p	Action	1 <sup>st</sup> J. Edwards 2 <sup>nd</sup> S. Dare / Yes 6 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.**