



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 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
1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER				
1.1 Pledge to the Flag		6:00 PM	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 S.DeFazio 2 nd R.Mahardy, Jr. / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President’s Message	K. Hubley		Information	

K.Hubley – This week is Teacher Appreciation week and I believe today is National Teacher Appreciation Day, so on behalf of the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education I would like to thank everyone. Mrs. Hubley read the following statement: I am honored to take this opportunity to acknowledge Teacher Appreciation Week. The primary role of the Board of Education is to discuss budgets, policies and data. However, we do recognize that both student’s success and a thriving community are rooted in the work starting inside our classrooms. Our teachers are the heart and soul of our district you are the early risers, the late-night graders and the cultivators of student potential. We know it isn’t always easy you navigate and evolving curriculum while balancing the diversity needs of your students and often fill roles beyond educator. Acting as mentors, guides and sources of stability. A true demonstration of

Marauder Pride. We see and value the daily dedication you bring to our school community. Your work makes a lasting impact and we thank you for everything you do. This email will go out to the teachers. I know there are a lot of things planned for teachers this week, we have a little something planned for Thursday. So, on behalf of the Board of Education, have a happy week. Thank you.

2.2 BOCES Representative Report	K. Hubley		Information	
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K.Hubley – The budget and cooperative seats were approved last week, no additional information to report.

2.3 Ex Officio Student Member Report	C. Miner		Information	
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C. Minor – Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! Prom is May 30th at the Monarch Banquets.

2.4 Committee Reports			Information	
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Policy Committee: *Sara DeFazio/Chair, Jacqueline Edwards;* S.DeFazio – We met last week and reviewed some policies suggested from the Policy Office through BOCES that will be coming up on upcoming board meetings.

Facilities Committee: *Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Sara DeFazio;* Facilities update will be addressed the Superintendent’s report

Communications Committee: *Abbie Taylor/Chair, Robert Mahardy Jr.;* A.Taylor – We met today, discussed our strategic planning and starting with a survey related to the Universal PreK. It would be helpful for planning and decision making. We will explore and discuss that in more detail . One question came up “What data do you need for decision making that we don’t have?”. R.Mahardy, Jr. – Yes, the UPK being more of a short-term survey ending by summer and then keeping that data question in mind for more of a long-term thing.

Transportation Committee: *Sandra Dare/Chair, Abbie Taylor;* S.Dare – No transportation updates.

Health & Safety Committee: *Robert Mahardy Jr./Chair, Sandra Dare;* R.Mahardy, Jr. – We just had a safety meeting last week. The plan on the website for a 30-day public comment.

Finance Committee: *Jacqueline Edwards/Chair, Jeremy Fennell;*

SBI: *Jacqueline Edwards (SBI Alternate: Sara DeFazio) A.Taylor – new alternate; The next SBI meeting is in June.*

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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 A.Taylor 2 nd S.Dare / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
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3.2 Business Office Reports				
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3.3 CSE Reports				
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S. DeFazio – Asked a question on when the Board would get the summary information on the CSE Reports that was requested? M.LaGase – indicated that it will be included in her report tonight.

3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	4.14.2026			
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	4.28.2026			
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4. OLD BUSINESS				
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st J.Fennell 2 nd S.DeFazio / Yes 6 No 0 Abstain ____
6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 Executive Principal K-12	M. Facci		Information	
<i>Mrs. Facci discussed 4th quarter and end--of-year events and reviewed the calendar dates/times.</i>				
6.2 Interim Principal K-12	D. DiSpirito		Information	
<i>Mrs. DiSpirito discussed the final 3-8 test administration plans, the upcoming Elementary Spring Concert, the “BeanStack Challenge” for attaining the reading minutes K-6 and the next big event, PARP (Parents as Reading Partners). PARP will begin in June as a kick off to summer with a good book. The challenge allows them to dunk Mrs. DiSpirito, if Mrs. Dare can find a dunk tank.</i>				
7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT				
7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
7.2 Superintendent’s Update	M. LaGase		Information	
<i>M.LaGase also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the staff, thanking them for all they do in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. She also provided a special education summary report of the number of students who receive special education services under an IEP by grade level. This was in response to a previous request at a prior Board meeting. The data was reviewed and Board members asked clarifying questions regarding percentages. Mrs. LaGase did note that there is a disproportion number of students classified in comparison to overall enrollment. The Board discussed some possible reasons for this as well as the budgetary impact of these higher percentages. Mrs. Hubley – commented as a parent with a child having a disability and her families’ experience here in a small school district. Mrs. LaGase then spoke about an Oneida County Youth Forum initiative that arose in light of the recent, very troubling and traumatic incident in Clinton Middle School. Oneida County Executive Picente has organized a county-wide youth forum with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Oneida County schools will be sending student representatives. Mrs. LaGase then discussed a new voting/election law amendment that relates to the NYS Board of Elections now requiring</i>				

elections, including school elections, to provide election information electronically into a state-wide database. The first round of required data reporting will be January of 2027. The Board briefly discussed the impact this may have on future elections as it relates to continued use of paper ballots. The district's legal counsel is providing advisement. Phase 3 of the capital project was reviewed along with the scope for the upcoming capital outlay, pending the 2026-2027 budget is approved by the voters. Mrs. LaGase also shared an opportunity that was extended by Westmoreland CSD to view the traveling Anne Frank Exhibit on loan from UCLA and an Erin Gruwell presentation. We have been invited to send students from our 6th grade class on a fieldtrip for this opportunity. Lastly, Mrs. LaGase highlighted some of the items reviewed at the recent Policy Committee meeting as discussed by Mrs. DeFazio.

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.

M. Mitchel (Parent) – Addressed the Board with a concern of access to academic opportunities for 9th graders going into 10th grade. Particularly, the elective courses psychology and sociology for next year. At the time of registration this opportunity was presented as available to her daughter, she signed the form. However, she has since been informed the courses will only be offered to 11th and 12th graders. Mrs. Mitchel shared concerns about these course selections as well as parent/student communication any related to the changes.

Chris Baffa (Grandmother, Alumni) – Asked a question about the Oneida County Youth Forum and if there was any discussion on the district using metal detectors at the front entrance.

Tom Silva (resident) - Requested an absentee ballot and asked about the special education data discussed and the impact it has on the budget/taxpayer.

J.Marley – NYMTA – Acknowledged the faculty and staff in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week.

8.2 Board Discussion

BOE

Discussion

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

** (If Needed)

BOE

Discussion/Action

1st _____ 2nd _____ / Yes ___ No___ Abstain ___

9.1 Return to General Session (time)

BOE

Action

1st _____ 2nd _____ / Yes ___ No___ Abstain ___

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 Adjournment

6:45pm

Action

1st S.DeFazio 2nd 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.