



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA
September 8, 2026
6 PM - NEW YORK MILLS UFSD LIBRARY

☒ Kristin Hubley
☒ Robert Mahardy, Jr.
☒ Sandra Dare
☒ Sara DeFazio
☒ Jeremy Fennell
☒ Cynthia St. James
☒ Abbie Taylor

Agenda Item	Who	Information Distributed	Action	Notes
1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER	K Hubley		6:00 pm	
1.1 Pledge to the Flag	R. Mahardy		Procedural	
1.2 Reading of the New York Mills UFSD Mission Statement.	J. Fennell		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 CSJ 2 nd JF / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
	R. Mahardy		Pro Temp	1 st SD 2 nd AT / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 Student Support Services Initiative	K. Phillips M. Hale	Counselor Dept Handout		

A presentation about the 'Reset and Recharge' space outside of the counseling offices was given. A handout/flyer showing their "why" with positive impact provided to our students. Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Oneida Chapter. The presentation included discussion on bringing in a therapy dog with a handler. Mellow and Ron will be coming in 1x a month on Fridays to visit the classrooms. The program will start in Elementary, working towards the HS classrooms. The program is scheduled to begin Friday, October 2nd.

K. Hubley asked how students are made aware of the space.
 S. Dare asked about Mellow and Ron attending open house.
 C. St. James commented about how inviting the space looks.
 A. Taylor thanked the staff for the initiative.

2.2 President's Message

K. Hubley

Information

K. Hubley Welcomed everyone back from summer break, discussed the recent Board Retreat, thanking the BOE for their time and reminder the Board to complete their Vector training.

2.3 BOCES Representative Report

K. Hubley

Information

No new updates to report from BOCES this meeting but one of our students will be presenting at the next BOCES Board meeting.

2.4 Ex Officio Student Member Report

A. Misiaszek

Information

K Hubley Welcomed Abby Misiaszek to the Board and noted she is looking forward to her report.
 Abby reported on the recent Student Council meeting, discussing Spirt Week and Homecoming planning.

2.4 Committee Reports

Information

Policy Committee: Sara DeFazio/Chair, Robert Mahardy, Jr.

Facilities Committee: Jeremy Fennell/Chair, Abbie Taylor

Communications Committee: Abbie Taylor/Chair, Sandra Dare

Transportation Committee: Cynthia St. James/Chair, Sara DeFazio

Health & Safety Committee: Sandra Dare/Chair, Cynthia St. James

Finance Committee: Robert Mahardy, Jr./Chair, Jeremy Fennell

SBI: Abbie Taylor (**SBI Alternate:** Cynthia St. James)

Committee Meetings are being scheduled

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4

K. Hubley

Yes

Action

1st SD 2nd AT / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0

A. Taylor – Discussed the CSE report being at an individual student level and requested a second restructured report from a board view on total numbers in programs and services.

M. LaGase, explained how the software reporting works from the vendor we use and stated she would look into a custom report.

C. St James asked about outstanding checks.

3.2 Business Office Reports

3.3 CSE Reports

3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	8.11.26			
4. OLD BUSINESS				
5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1 st CSJ 2 nd SD / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
	M. LaGase		Remove and Replace Agenda	Addition of 2 non-instructional appointments
5.2 Resolution to Approve the School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract between the New York Mills UFSD and the New York Mills Police Department		Yes	Action	1 st SDeF 2 nd JF / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 K-6 Principal	D. DiSpirito		Information	
<i>We had an excellent Opening; things went very smooth! Kids were happy to be back, and move on and up, with more responsibilities. 1st assembly –introduced the RISE Up Program. Kindergarten numbers were discussed 33, + numbers in the 12:1:1 class. The Beanstack Challenge was discussed - Mrs. Howe’s program, 50 kids read 600 minutes over the summer they will be having a picnic lunch and get to silly string Mrs. D. Mrs. DiSpirito also spoke about how the RISE UP program will work and handed out the mini marauder tokens to each Board member. She discussed the collaboration with Mr. Manley – making RISE UP a K-12 Initiative regarding building expectations. RISE UP to be a Marauder, soar up to new heights! She also explained how the Students of the Month Assemblies would work with the new program, refining it to “Teach, Practice, Learn and Reward”.</i> <i>C. St. James asked some additional questions about the new special education classroom.</i>				
6.2 7-12 Principal	T. Manley		Information	

Mr. Manley discussed the busy start to the school year. He said students appreciate the new look/spaces from the capital project. He said they had been working their way through some bell issues with the new PA system but things were getting situated. He discussed meeting with all students at assemblies to introduce himself, the new expectations, the RISE program. He showed the “Manley Cup” which teachers/staff will receive if selected as the faculty member of the month and the 90’s style chain that students will receive if they are selected. Teachers will be voting for students and students will be voting for teachers. Weekly prizes will be given for student of the month/teacher of the month. He also talked about implementing a new pass system. 1 pass per week per student, with the intention of teaching responsibility and planning ahead.

K. Hubley asked if the Reset and Recharge space/Nurse visits for medication count against their weekly pass. Mr. Manley said no

C. St. James asked about how the students are recognized? Mr. Manley said through announcements and social media posts.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT				
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M. LaGase echoed how well opening day went and discussed some of the challenges with construction prior to the opening of school. She mentioned efforts of all parties for operational readiness and thanked everyone for all their hard work, working day and night, and holidays getting the building ready for opening day. She also thanked the PTSO for the welcome back sign. Pictures were taken by class and students were very excited. It was good opening day energy! She discussed the two professional developmental sessions for staff on the Superintendent’s Conference Days including her presentation to kick of a future PD session in the spring. She discussed the NY Inspires Imitative, Portrait of a Marauder, The District Strategic Plan, and Mapping the Future for every Marauder. The YouTube Clip, ‘Be a Mr. Jensen’ was shown... to give the Board a preview of the theme that would guide future work for all staff. A construction update was given on the finish work in the new student restrooms, SRO’s office and Attendance Kiosk. She also talked about the front signage, exterior wall of the Auditorium and new floor logo in the front entrance lobby. Overall, work is progressing well and we are pleased with the new upgrades throughout the building.

7.1 Enrollment Update	M. LaGase	Yes	Information	
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New registrations were discussed including many students entering behind grade level and/or without the needed coursework/credit. She also discussed the increase in new enrollments coming to the district with highly specialized special education programming and services. She discussed not only the budgetary impacts but how this will affect graduation rate and other accountability measures. Many of the new enrollments are coming from larger city school districts.

K. Hubley, asked about class sizes, how many are at risk out of the 12th graders ? 7, plus 2 pending registrations.

C. St. James, asked about a credit recovery class?

The discussion continued regarding circumstances that are out of our control relative to increased enrollment.

7.2 Superintendent’s Update	M. LaGase		Information	
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M. LaGase discussed the Strategic Plan document, hoping to have a formal plan document by the end of the week. She also discussed the format (Meet/Greet) for Open House as well as course sections/class size numbers.

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.				
<i>Mr. King – inquired about reporting to state ed, about the kids that are lacking credits? Also, congratulated the counseling staff for the relax and recharge space.</i> <i>Mrs. Marley - appreciated the staff's hard work, and is looking forward to a positive new year.</i> <i>Mrs. LaGase – Noted that the attorney was supposed to be onsite to discuss the request regarding the tax exemption but there was a conflict so that will be moved to the October meeting.</i>				
8.2 Board Discussion				BOE
<i>S.Dare –commented ...we hit the ground running, amazing things, K-orientation went well. It was magical, no tears, no tantrums. Really happy and excited kids. It was a joy to watch... She talked about the HS football game, the kids played their hearts out, Marauder Pride, nice to see. Students were commenting on how much they like Mr. Manley. Great start to the school year. Best start in a long time, RISE UP – teaching responsibility, it is great to see.</i> <i>J. Fennell – noted it was an exciting opening meeting and commented on sprucing up of the spaces.</i> <i>C. St. James– commented on the football game and seniors commenting to her about how Mr. Manley's opening assembly really hit home regarding culture changes and diversity. She noted positive feedback from K-12 students/ parents. Wished everyone a continued great year.</i> <i>R. Mahardy – noted intangible energy, no words to the feeling. Just a positive feeling.</i> <i>A. Taylor – said Kindergarten Orientation was a blast. Great experience for families. Thanked the PTSO for the cherry on top! She said the Reset and Recharge space is a wonderful opportunity that benefit all students. She noted the Capital Project outcomes have been great and how the architects have spoken how wonderful Mrs. LaGase is. She thanked Mrs. LaGase for her leadership and oversight. She thanked her for for the attention to detail, creating a legacy.</i> <i>S. DeFazio – Welcome back to the new school year! And talked about the Genesis award – November, make sure to get in a nomination.</i> <i>K. Hubley – added between BOCES and NYM, 5 opening days, huge impact. Impressed with Mr. Manley and Mrs. DiSpirito collaborating for the staff. K-12.</i> <i>Molly Jordan- Commented on how great of a job Mr. Manley is doing.</i> <i>The Board and audience thanked Abby Misiaszek for being at the first meeting as student representative.</i>				

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION ** (If Needed)	BOE		Discussion/Action	1 st _____ 2 nd _____ / Yes ___ No___ Abstain ___
9.1 Return to General Session (time)	BOE		Action	1 st _____ 2 nd _____ / Yes ___ No___ Abstain ___
10. ADJOURNMENT				
10.1 Adjournment		7:14 pm	Action	1 st CSJ 2 nd SD / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0

****§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.**
