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

x Kristin Hubley
x Robert Mahardy, Jr.
x Sandra Dare
x Sara DeFazio
x Jeremy Fennell
x Cynthia St. James
x 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.	C. St. James		Procedural	*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.*
1.3 Acceptance of Agenda	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1st SD 2nd JF / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
2. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS				
2.1 President's Message	K. Hubley		Information	
K. Hubley acknowledged it being School Board Appreciation week and extended gratitude to the Board for all of their hard work.				

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2.2 BOCES Representative Report	K. Hubley		Information	
K. Hubley discussed with the Board a NY Mills student that gave a presentation at the BOCES Board and she would like to have that student give a similar presentation to our Board at the next meeting to present about her experience in the Regional Program for Excellence.				
2.3 Ex Officio Student Member Report	A. Misiaszek		Information	

2.4 Bonadio Group	Greg Evans		Information	*The Bonadio Group & Co., LLC presented the NY Mills School District's Audit for FY 2025 – 2026. The audit was issued to be a clean report with no material finding or concerns.*
2.5 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*)				
3. CONSENT AGENDA				
3.1 Approval of 3.2 through 3.4	K. Hubley	Yes	Action	1st CSJ 2nd RMJ / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
3.2 Business Office Reports				
3.3 CSE Reports				
3.4 Approval of the Previous Minutes	9.8.26			
4. OLD BUSINESS	None			

5. NEW BUSINESS				
5.1 Personnel Report		Yes	Action	1st SD 2nd RMJ / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.2 Resolution to Approve the 2025-2026 Audit from the Bonadio Group		Yes	Action	1st RMJ 2nd SD / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0

5.3 Resolution to Approve the 2025-2026 ECA Audit from the Bonadio Group		Yes	Action	1st RMJ 2nd JF / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.4 Policy 7500 Education Records (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st SD 2nd SDF / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.5 Regulation 7500.4 Student Privacy FERPA Notice (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st AT 2nd JF / Yes7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.6 Policy 5301 Internet Safety (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st SDF 2nd AT / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.7 Policy 5306 Protection of Student, Teacher and Principal Information (Data Security and Privacy) (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st AT 2nd CSJ / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.8 Policy 6010 Prohibition of Sexual Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st SD 2nd RMJ / Yes 7No 0 Abstain 0
5.9 Policy 0015 Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st AT 2nd CSJ / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.10 Policy 0013 Title IX Grievance Process (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st SDF 2nd SD / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0

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5.11 Policy 4600 Use of District Credit Card (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st RMJ 2nd CSJ / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.12 Policy 7200 Student Health and Dental Examinations (First Read)		Yes	Action	1st RMJ 2nd SD / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.13 Approval of Community Use of Facilities Request with New York Mills PTSO – Craft Fair		Yes	Action	1st SDF 2nd JF / Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0
5.14 Approval of Community Use of Facilities Request with New York Mills PTSO – Glow Activities		Yes	Action	1st RMJ 2nd JF / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
5.15 Approval of Community Use of Facilities Request with New York Mills PTSO – Trunk or Treat		Yes	Action	1st SDF 2nd SD / Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0
6. K-12 REPORTS				
6.1 K-6 Principal	D. DiSpirito		Information	
Mrs. DiSpirito talked about the success of the K-3 meet and greet with the therapy dog who visited. The students had a great time. *Over 225 parents attended a successful open house. Students have been doing very well with the Rise Up challenge. This current challenge teaches integrity.* *The National Honor Society is providing another mentor/mentee program. This has been hugely successful and beneficial to all of the students. 40 National Honor Society students are mentoring elementary students.* *Student of the Month Assemblies are coming up. Trunk or Treat, Veterans Day Ceremony and the Turkey Trot are all coming up.* *K. Hubley suggested that one of the honor roll students could come in and talk with the Board regarding their experience with the mentor program.*				
6.2 7-12 Principal	T. Manley		Information	
Mr. Manley first updated for the Student Board Member who had an Athletic contest and could not attend – no new update at this time. *Open house was well attended with 171 parents on the 7-12 side* *Picture day was a success.* *The Pep Rally was a huge success and well attended. The Powder Puff game was enjoyed by everyone.* *Homecoming Dance was very well attended with over 200 students.* *The first Rise student and teacher of the month were announced. Many votes were cast on both the student and teacher sides. The selections will be posted*				

online. Clubs have started with good attendance. Will continue to have fire and safety drills.

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

The *Genesis group will be hosting a candidates' forum on Oct 28th. A generous sponsor has donated tickets. NY Mills will be able to send 10 students free of charge. This is a great experience for the students.*

This past week, Mrs. LaGase attending a meeting at OHM BOCES along with Madison BOCES representatives, Herkimer BOCES representative and JMT which is spearheading regional work on NY Inspires. Discussion items focused on transformative learning. The second work session coming up with discuss assessment strategies and current assessment practices. The Chief School Officers has committed to engage in the work regionally. There was some preliminary discussion on Regents' exams being decoupled as a graduation requirement. NYS will be creating new tests for accountability purposes. More information to come.

The District was notified by the Dept of Transportation that NYS plans to acquire a portion of NY Mills School District's property for a Pedestrian Connectivity Project. Mrs. LaGase discussed with the DOT planning board member and architect, concerns about the construction work related to the lamp post possibly blocking the marquee. The planning board has adjusted plans to ensure it will not be blocked. The lamp post will remain in its current location. The project will improve connectivity for the sidewalk to continue along Burstone Road to French Road. The timeline for the project is July of 2027 with full completion in March/ April of 2028. Mrs. LaGase has also discussed concerns about how the construction may impact the entry point for Marauder Boulevard once construction starts. The school will push out information to parents as soon as a more specific impact dates are realized.

NY Mills earned honorable mention in the Beanstalk nationwide reading challenge hosted by the elementary school. NY Mills was featured on the Beanstalk Facebook.

Mrs. LaGase reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Superintendent's Conference Day.

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.

Update regarding PTSO events. Trunk or Treat is October 28th. The event has 7 trunks at this time. Mrs. Mitchell inquired about participation from teachers and, at the high school level, in the past they have had student groups participate. Interested parties can email the PTSO.

The PTSO had their first meeting of the year and has events also planned for November. There will be a "glow party" More details to come.

The Craft fair is December 5th and 6th. The sign-up platform will be up soon.

Ms. Marley wanted to thank the administrative team for a successful start to the new school year.

8.2 Board Discussion	BOE		Discussion

Discussion regarding a community member who has come to the board as asked if the Board would consider a tax exemption for volunteer Fire Fighters/Ambulance Workers.

The board asked Attorney Mr. Lewis to attend in order to clarify some questions pertaining to the request.

Mr. Lewis explained that this is unique exemption that is not mandatory. He further stated that a lot of tax exemptions are mandatory and this exemption is optional. A school board can adopt this exemption by holding a public hearing and passing a resolution. This would apply to volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers who reside in the school district. There was discussion about the parameters the Board would have in designing the specifics of the resolution.

Mr. Lewis explained that with this exemption, the school would still receive the same amount in tax revenue with a shift in tax burden to the remaining tax payers.

There was a discussion in the differences between school district taxes and town property taxes and the impact if both the school and town passed this exemption.

The board discussed how this would be monitored and verified for qualified candidates. Further discussion was held on how this would affect recruitment for the fire department.

Mr. Lewis stated that if the board decided to move forward with this what would be required of the board before the resolution could be passed. The board discussed that they did not want to rush this and wanted a thoughtful analysis of the impact.

Another point was brought up is the effect this would have on other possible exemptions that may be brought to the Board.

Further discussion on avenues the board could use in order to obtain all the data needed in order to make an informed decision. There was a desire to not make a rushed decision but continue the conversation.

The Board thanked Mr. Lewis for his time.

S. DeFazio asked about submission to Genesis for Outstanding Educator. There was a clarification that the submissions would come from a colleague or

administration but not the Board. The question was asked if Administration could remind Faculty. Mrs. DiSpirito said that she would bring it up at the upcoming Faculty meeting.

There was consensus that the open house was wonderful and the new SRO office received a lot of attention.

S. Dare discussed how students really appreciate when staff and faculty attend games. Mrs. LaGase discussed how work is being done to encourage more fan attendance.

The Board thanked Lisa for all the hard work on the budget.

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		7:13 pm	Action	1st SD 2nd CSJ / 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.