



## **Resolution to Support the Opposition to High Stakes Testing**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District held on April 7, 2015, at 1 Marauder Boulevard, New York Mills, New York.

Upon the motion of Mr. Steven King seconded by Mrs. Traci Welch:

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of education is to educate a populace of critical thinkers, who are capable of shaping a just and equitable society in order to lead good and purpose-filled lives, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of the New York Mills Union Free School District to help students become motivated, responsible, caring individuals by providing resources and a safe supportive environment which encourages our students to pursue excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, instructional and curricular decisions should be in the hands of education professionals (teachers, administrators, counselors, etc.) who understand the context and interests of their students; and

**WHEREAS**, the education of children should be grounded in developmentally appropriate practice; and

**WHEREAS**, high quality education requires adequate and fairly distributed resources to provide a rich and varied course of instruction, individual and small group attention as dictated by a student's need, and wraparound services for students; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Assessments are not transparent in that educators and parents are not allowed to view the tests and an item analysis which could further influence and direct instruction will likely not be made available; and

**WHEREAS**, the assessment practices that accompany the New York State Department of Education Standards – including the potential political manipulation of cut scores – are used as justification to label and close schools; and perhaps unfairly evaluate our students and educators; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education opposes the standardized high stakes testing that is currently being mandated by the Federal and New York State governments, because we believe that this testing, in our opinion, is not being used to further instruction for children, to help children learn, or to fully support the educational needs of children; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education advocates, as our Mission Statement makes note, for an engaged and socially relevant curriculum that is student -based and supported by research; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education will advocate that New York State eliminate the use of high stakes testing; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the New York State Board of Regents, the Governor of New York State, and all members of the New York State legislative branch.

The question of adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1

The resolution was thereupon declared adopted.

Dated: April 7, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Ann May". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Ann May  
School District Clerk  
New York Mills Union Free School District