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Kathy S. Houghton
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear School Community Member,

It has been over six weeks since our second Focus District Forum for parents and community on March 23rd, and I wanted to update you on the events that have taken place since then. On March 31st I participated in a Focus District Webinar to assist us with our application for a \$25,000 School Improvement Grant to assist with the cost of training, review, school district improvement planning, and plan implementation; as required by NYSED. We have since received approval of that grant and we have also conducted a full district-led Focus District Review. This Review was led by me and three reviewers chosen by the district that have experience with Focus and Priority District and School reviews.

In the meantime, an appeal to the Commissioner of the designation has been sent not only to Commissioner Elia, but also to the Board of Regents, the Secretary of Education, and our local legislators. The appeal letter was signed by all Board of Education members, administrators, and our New York Mills Teachers Association President. If you have questions about this appeal, or any of the items included in the Focus District Timeline provided below; please contact the District Office. Thank you for your continued support as we fulfill our responsibilities as a Focus District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathy S. Houghton'.

Kathy Houghton
Superintendent of Schools

Focus District Timeline 2016:

January 26 – Initial Designation Letter from NYSED
February 1 – NYSED Focus District Webinar
February 8 – Appeal of Focus District Designation
February 25 – Final Designation Notification – Appeal Denied
March 9 – First Focus District Forum for Parents
March 10-12– Superintendent Attends NYSED Focus District Institute,
March 15-17 - Superintendent Attends School Review in Albany
March 23 – Focus District Notification to all Parents & 2nd Focus District Forum for Parents
March 31 – 2nd Focus District Webinar
April 22 – Appeal to the Commissioner of Focus District Designation
May 4-5 – Superintendent attends 2nd NYSED Focus District Institute
May 10-12 – New York Mills UFSD Focus District Review