

# NYMILLS

May  
2014

## UNION FREE SCHOOL BUDGET NEWSLETTER

### A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Community Member,

On May 20, you will be asked to vote on the 2014-2015 New York Mills Union Free School District budget. Our proposed budget for next year is \$13,150,675; which is a 1.96% increase over the 2013-14 budget of \$12,898,455. The 2014-2015 estimated tax levy increase is 2.98%, which is below the allowable tax levy limit of 3.0516% for New York Mills Union Free School District.

Our Board of Education, administrators, faculty, and staff have worked collaboratively to develop a spending plan that addresses the educational needs of our children and respects the school community's financial capacity to support this plan. In addition to fixed increases in health insurance, payroll, and other contractual obligations; we must budget appropriately for the continued implementation of the Regents Reform Agenda. This includes sufficient funding for teacher and administrator professional training and curriculum development; technology platforms and services to support student assessments and teacher/principal evaluation systems; and data management and analysis services through BOCES. In addition, it is necessary that we add certified paraprofessional staff to assist with instruction in our 12:1:1 Special Education classrooms.

We have also reduced district spending by \$142,459 through the following cost-savings: reconfiguration of transportation department supervision, one teacher retirement, reduction of health teacher full-time equivalent due to enrollment, discontinuation of Initial Response Team service, contract with BOCES for part-time school physician services, and reduction in clerical staffing during school vacations.

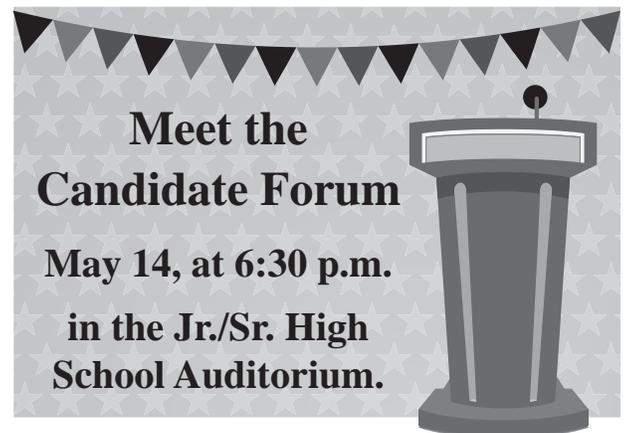
There are two propositions you will be asked to vote on this year. Proposition 1 includes the 2014-15 budget and a five-year lease of up to \$16,750 per year for one 70-passenger bus as we continue our

(continued on page 2)

### BOE Candidates

There are two School Board vacancies each for a five-year term. Candidates that have submitted petitions are:

**Jimmy Fellone**  
**Steve King**  
**David J. Comenale**  
**Jonathan Fiore**



**Meet the  
Candidate Forum**  
**May 14, at 6:30 p.m.**  
**in the Jr./Sr. High  
School Auditorium.**

Please vote on the school  
budget and Board of  
Education member

election on Tuesday,  
May 20, 2014, in  
the Beekman Gym.



(Superintendent's Message continued from cover)

long-standing bus leasing cycle. Our Board Transportation Subcommittee and transportation staff are currently taking a second look at leasing versus buying buses for future years; however, leasing has worked well for New York Mills due to our small geographic size and relatively low mileage.

The second proposition is for the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of minimizing the cost to our taxpayers of future school district renovations and/or construction. We are currently planning a potential project to address repairs, renovations, and safety/security concerns. The Board of Education and district staff continue to work with

our architects to review and revise a preliminary list of project items previously generated by the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

Last, but certainly not least in importance; voters will elect two new Board of Education members for one five-year term each. Four candidates: Mr. David Comenale, Mr. James Fellone, Mr. Jonathan Fiore, and Mr. Steven King are running for two open seats on the New York Mills UFSD Board. We thank Mr. Gary Markowicz and Mrs. Gail Rice for their service as Board members during the last five years and wish them well in their future endeavors. Board membership is certainly a meaningful way to make

a difference in the lives of our school district's children!

Voting on the 2014-2015 New York Mills Union Free School District's proposed school budget, propositions, and Board Member election will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, from noon until 9:00 p.m. at Beekman Gymnasium. Thank you for your continued involvement in our school community and your support for the education of our K-12 students.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Houghton*  
Superintendent of Schools

## National Junior Honor Society

Nine members of the Class of 2018 were inducted into the Phi Delta Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society on April 3, 2014. Membership was earned through the effective demonstration of the five qualities that serve as standards for the Society: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. The newest members are: Nicholas Briggs-Ellenberger, Katrina Briody, Kailey Brown, Chloe Cattadoris, Joshua Clarkson, Alyssa Fuccillo, Grace Reilly, Shayla Schmelcher and Tyler Trask.



## National Honor Society Induction – Roots and Branches

On the evening of April 28, 27 junior and senior students were inducted into the NYM Phi Delta Chapter of the National Honor Society. The ceremony and banquet took place at Hart's Hill Inn and more than 100 people attended. The second year members chose the theme of "Roots and Branches" since our school is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Supreme Court Judge Erin Pelnik Gall (NYM '89) was the main speaker and Mr. Paul Dudajek (NYM '71), president of the NYM Historical Association was named as the Alumnus of the Year.

The new inductees were each likened to symbolic trees and to one of the last 10 decades based on their personalities and accomplishments. Highlights of the evening also included two awards presented by Mrs. Doris Miga. The awards this year were given to Meara Mosny as the Outstanding Tutor and Mentor and Jack Lin received the Walter Miga Memorial Award for his deep sense of generosity and perseverance. The evening closed with a special film created by Katie Morrissey (NYM 2015) titled "A Centennial Snapshot." The film, created in conjunction

with her dad Walter Morrissey and Media Partners Group of NYM highlighted the great attributes of our high school. It was a marvelous evening to revel in the glory and celebrate the history of our 100 years, while recognizing the challenges of the future and honoring the students in our high school who are most exemplary in scholarship, leadership, character and service.

Second year inductees are: George Albert, Michael Bennett, Alexa Boucher, Nathan Edwards, Tayler Galusha, Nathan Hartman, Matthew Inkawich, Jack Lin, Austin Majka, Meara Mosny, Elaina Paccini, Carlie Perretta and Tevin Pham.

First year members who were inducted are: Jason Browne, Ronald Humpf, Micah Inkawich, Amanda Maciol, Sarah McAndrew, Margaret Melnikow, Corey Pastorelli, Makenna Reilly, Samantha Rochon, Courtney Spost, Lukas Sunderlin, Allison Swider, Nicholas Vanderwood and Sara Zarnoch. Mr. Peter Elacqua is the chapter advisor.



# Budget Report Card

## THIS NOTICE IS MANDATED BY NEW YORK STATE New York Mills Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2013-14 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2014-15 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2014-15 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$12,898,445	\$13,150,675	\$13,076,954
Increase/decrease for 2014-2015 school year		\$252,220	\$178,499
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		1.96 %	1.38%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.46%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, including Levy, to Support Library Debt, if applicable or Levy	\$7,175,000	\$7,388,815	\$7,315,094
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$253,774	\$168,262	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Not</u> including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$6,921,226	\$7,220,553	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Not</u> including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,983,811	\$7,225,407	
Difference: A-B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$ -62,585	\$ -4,854	
Administrative component	\$1,419,634	\$1,493,355	\$1,419,634
Program component	\$9,365,576	\$9,534,148	\$9,534,148
Capital component	\$2,113,245	\$2,123,172	\$2,123,172

\*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2014-15 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

Description	Amount
<b>Capital Reserve</b>	-

	Budget Proposed for the 2014-2015 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$660.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2014-2015 by the qualified voters of the New York Mills Union Free School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at the Beekman Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Beekman Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



# BOE Candidate Bios

## Jimmy Fellone

Jimmy Fellone is running for a seat on the New York Mills school board. He has been married to his wife Jeanne for 25 years and they have three beautiful children. Jimmy (20) and Nick and Nina (11) years old. Jimmy graduated in 2011 and the twins will be the class of 2020.

Mr. Fellone graduated in 1972 from New Hartford High School and went to Dayton, Ohio, for restaurant management training for Ponderosa Steak House. He became an executive manager and training director for 15 years. Jimmy then took a new position with Seasons restaurants in Northern California for eight years as supervisor. He moved back to New York, where he owned and operated Jimmy's Limousine Service for the next 19 years until his recent retirement.

Jimmy has lived in New York Mills since 2000 on Wadas Drive and has been actively involved with PTSO, The School

## Steve King

Steve King has been involved with the New York Mills Union Free School District since his daughter entered kindergarten in 1995. He was the treasurer of the Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) for two years and was Parliamentarian for eight years. He was the President of the MAD Boosters for eight years and is most proud of planning and executing two Arts Fests per year for most of that time. Steve also sat on the District Steering Committee as part of the Shared Decision Making Team for several years. He has been a member of many committees over the years. Steve is currently serving as the Vice President of the School's Foundation after serving two years as its President.

Mr. King was on the Board of Directors of the Hartford Players Youth Theater. For the past several years he has been working directly with the students in the Drama Club assisting the Directors of both musicals. He also attends almost all of the

District Foundation, 100 Year Centennial Planning Committee and the school's elementary musical. He also spent 15 years coaching community basketball and baseball, and served as president of the NYM Athletic Boosters Club from 2009 through 2011.

He is a parishioner of Sacred Heart/St. Mary's Church and maintained memberships with Elks Club, Moose Lodge and American Legions. He has a strong business background, common sense, and he feels that he brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the existing team of board members.



School Board meetings, and has been to several School Board Institute events. He has attended rallies and meetings to better understand the impact of the Common Core and its roll out.

Steve has been married to his wife Bobbi for 33 years, is the proud parent of Jennifer (Class of 2000), Kristie (Class of 2008), and the grand parent of Logan (Class of 2029) and Jace (Class of 2031).

He has been asked why he is running for School Board. His answer is that for almost 20 years he has been working to make the school a better place for all of the students. He believes that this next step will allow him to impact the students and the district in a positive way. He still plans to fight the fight; to always look at what will have the most positive impact on our students and to give his all for our kids. That's all he's ever done, that's what he'll keep on doing.

**Please vote on the school budget and Board of Education member election on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in Beekman Gym.**



# BOE Candidate Bios

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## David Comenale

David Comenale is a lifelong resident of New York Mills Union Free School District, and a second-generation graduate of the District. After graduating in 1983, he went on to Mohawk Valley Community College and received an Associates of Applied Science degree in Civil Engineering Technology in 1985.

Mr. Comenale furthered his education at Clarkson University, continuing his studies in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He has had more than 20 years of work experience in the field of civil and environmental engineering, and he is currently employed as an Environmental Engineer with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

An active community member, David has coached flag football for the Town of Whitestown, and he has five years. He has also served as Vice President of New York Mills Little League during part of that time, and he has more than 13 years of coaching experience with New York Mills Optimist Bidy Basketball.

## Jonathan Fiore

As a life-long resident of the New York Mills school district, Jonathan Fiore is a familiar face to many in the community. In fact, the staff, administration and students of the New York Mills School District often see Jonathan on a daily basis, or sit next to him in class because Jonathan is also a member of the Senior Class of 2014.

The oldest son of Michael and Susan Fiore, Jonathan has already shown that he is dedicated to balancing his education and work experience, with a commitment to community and the future, by establishing himself as a candidate for the school board. He believes that his background and skills will be a valuable asset and can offer a unique perspective to the important matters facing the school district in the years ahead.

Jonathan's accomplishments as a member of the student body include a myriad of educational milestones including serving as President of the National Honor Society, acting as a manager of the 2014 NYM Varsity Basketball Team and receiving a Scholar-Athlete Award. His academic achievements include a continuous place on the Honor Roll since 2010.

However, his activities are not limited to school accomplishments, either. This commitment to excellence extends out to the community through his service as a youth

For the past seven years, in addition to his Civil Service Career, he has managed his family housing development, Country Club Heights. During this time, he has managed the construction of nearly a dozen single-family residences, mainly in New York Mills. Through his work in the family housing development, the tax base has increased, thereby raising revenue for the Village of New York Mills, the towns of Whitestown and New Hartford, the County of Oneida, and finally, New York Mills Union Free School District.

He currently reside in New York Mills with his wife of more than 20 years, Denise, a 5th grade teacher in New Hartford, and his children Nicholas, a senior, and Lily, a third grader.

Finally, his objectives at the Board of Education, if he is elected, are to provide the best possible education in a safe environment, while practicing fiscal responsibility for the taxpayer.

counselor at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church; attending New York State's "Boys State 2013," where he was appointed Assistant to the Governor and holding down an internship in the Oneida County Law Department for the past three years.

When he is not busy with the many activities described above, one may find him at his other job as a cashier at Chanatry's Hometown Market; greeting customers with a smile and ensuring they found every item they came for. It is this commitment to hard work and dedication to making a positive impact on the community that has led to his decision to pursue a dual profession of accounting and the law. He will begin working towards that goal this fall as he begins his college studies at Utica College.

Mr. Fiore has set a number of lofty goals for himself, and this run for a seat on the New York Mills School Board is no exception. He believes that he brings a new point of view combined with a fiscally conservative approach to managing the district's operations. The outcome he strives for is to find the balance needed to ensure that the school district maintains its "tradition of excellence" and continues to educate at a level that is unparalleled in quality.



# Budget Components

## Administrative Component

The administrative component consists of overall management activities including board of education, superintendent's office, business office operations such as central data processing, payroll, purchasing, BOCES administrative expenses, insurance, printing, mailing, personnel, legal and auditing services, and building administrative costs.

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>		
<b>Function or Account</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Board of Education	\$27,105	\$27,505	\$400
Central Administration	\$185,015	\$192,322	\$7,307
Finance	\$148,109	\$150,826	\$2,717
Legal Services	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$0
Personnel	\$55,030	\$56,620	\$1,590
Records Management	\$4,826	\$4,922	\$96
Public Information	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Central Services	\$210,710	\$285,764	\$75,054
Other Special Items	\$213,307	\$221,147	\$7,840
Curr. Dev. & Sup.	\$83,038	\$94,640	\$11,602
Supervision - Regular Sch.	\$302,497	\$305,544	\$3,047
Employee Benefits	\$178,997	\$143,065	\$(35,932)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,419,634</b>	<b>\$1,493,355</b>	<b>\$73,721</b>

**Administrative Component is 11.36% of Budget**

## Program Component

The program component consists of funding the instruction of and educational support services for the district's 597 students. Transportation of students, athletics, and co-curricular activities are also included in this budget component.

<b>Function or Account</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Legal Services	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$0
Instruction	\$6,432,683	\$6,535,250	\$102,567
Other Dist. Transportation	\$348,072	\$322,685	\$(25,387)
Garage Building	\$83,853	\$83,853	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$2,469,968	\$2,561,360	\$91,392
Other Transfers	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,365,576</b>	<b>\$9,534,148</b>	<b>\$168,572</b>

**Program Component is 72.50% of Budget**

## Capital Component

The capital component consists of maintenance of buildings, upkeep of grounds, and electricity, heat, water & sewer, and telephone services. Funds are also included for the lease of school buses, payments on the capital project, and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

<b>Function or Account</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Operation of Plant	\$567,885	\$572,446	\$4,561
Maintenance of Plant	\$265,208	\$274,277	\$9,069
Refund of Taxes	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Lease of Buses/Purchase	\$170,798	\$172,413	\$1,615
Employee Benefits	\$312,235	\$316,260	\$4,025
Debt Service	\$757,119	\$747,776	\$(9,343)
Transfer to Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,113,245</b>	<b>\$2,123,172</b>	<b>\$9,927</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$12,898,455</b>	<b>\$13,150,675</b>	<b>\$252,220</b>

**Capital Component is 16.38% of Budget**

**Total Budget Increase 1.96%**



# Budget Components

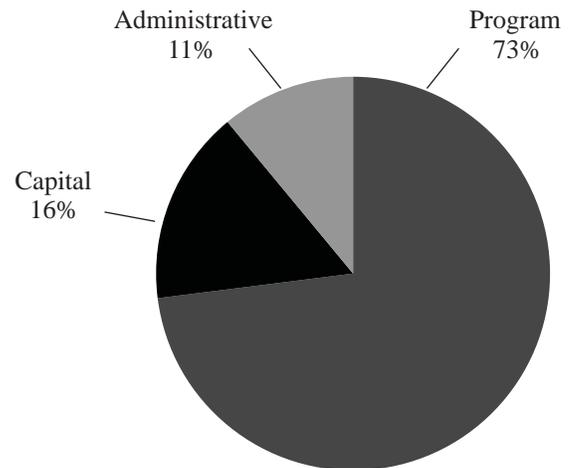
## Budget (Proposition 1)

To vote upon the adoption of the Budget of the School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, which will include one(1) five (5) year lease of up to \$16,750 yearly for one (1) 70 passenger bus, for which the required funds shall be appropriated and the necessary real property taxes shall be raised by a tax on taxable property in the District, which will appear as Proposition No. 1 - Budget on the voting machines.

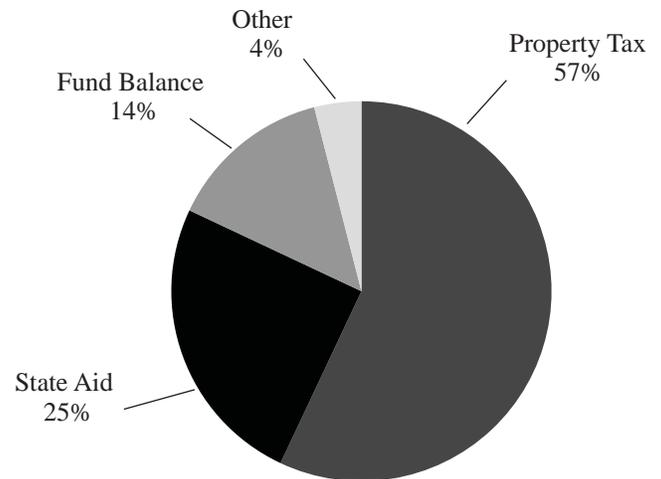
## Capital Reserve (Proposition 2)

Resolved that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the "2014 Building Capital Reserve Fund"), with the purpose of such fund being to finance construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipping of school buildings and facilities; such capital costs being of a type that would be eligible for financing under the local finance law, and costs incidental thereto, the ultimate amount of such fund to be \$1,000,000, plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be 10 years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted, and the sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are (i) an initial deposit of \$450,000 to be transferred from the existing Repair Reserve Fund, and (ii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

## Expenditures



## Revenues



## Tax Levy Increase

The tax levy increase for 2014-15 is projected to be 2.98%.

Note: Rates are estimated based on current information available. Final equalization rates will not be set by the State of New York until August. In the two previous years, the final tax on true was actually lower than projected at the time of budget development.

## Tax on True

The tax on true value for the district in 2014-15 will be approximately \$22.40.

## Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available. Those interested can apply in person daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by mail. Applications for an absentee ballot must be received by the District Office by May 19, 2014.

## Voter Eligibility Requirements

A voter must meet the following eligibility requirements to vote in school elections:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have been a resident of the school district for a minimum of 30 days prior to the vote, including those who rent. Section 2018-C of the Education Law may require all persons who vote to provide one form of identification or proof of residency.
- Be at least 18 years of age.





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### **Board of Education**

Jacqueline Edwards, President  
Dr. Gary W. Porcelli, Vice President  
Gary Markowicz  
Gail Rice  
Richard Ross  
Rick Surprenant  
Traci Welch

### **Administration**

Kathy Houghton, Superintendent of Schools  
Michael Spost, Secondary Principal  
René Wilson, Elementary Principal

### **Visit us on the Web**

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

## **Tree Planting**

Thanks to the generosity of the Herthum family and the Donna and George E. Herthum Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, INC., families, students, teachers, board members and distinguished guests gathered to watch the kindergarten children reconnect with the natural world.

This year's tree planting was especially special because it helped us commemorate New York Mills School Districts' 100th anniversary. The tree is a piece of our school's time capsule, representing all of the children, their beauty, and their ability to grow and learn. The kindergarten class also presented the Utica Zoo with a tree to honor their mission of environmental conservation as well as their 100th birthday.

Thank you to Ms. Davis and Ms. Kubecka for their hard work and support of this program.



**Please vote on the school budget and Board of Education member election on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in Beekman Gym.**