

# NEW YORK MILLS

May  
2016

## UNION FREE SCHOOL BUDGET NEWSLETTER

Dear School Community Member,

I am pleased to announce that the New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education adopted a proposed 2016-17 budget of \$13,517,666 at their Tuesday, April 19 meeting. This budget represents a .0005% decrease from our 2015-16 budget, even though there will be increases in salaries, health insurance, curriculum development and supervision. There will also be the addition of a bond anticipation note to begin payments on our \$4,620,290 Capital Project and a \$100,000 2016-17 Capital Outlay Project for the purchase of additional security cameras. We are able to decrease the 2016-17 budget due to a projected increase in state aid and the use of fund balance.

The Board has also approved the following additions to the budget:

- The purchase of two new buses
- a rotating elementary bus monitor
- The first phase of a new elementary reading program
- a middle school keyboarding class
- a Senior Seminar elective class
- a new K-12 administrative structure
- a BOCES Curriculum Specialist to assist with K-12 curriculum alignment

You will have the opportunity to cast your vote on the adopted 2016-17 budget in Proposition 1 on Tuesday, May 17.

In addition to the budget, the Board has approved the establishment of two new reserve funds, pending voter approval:

- Proposition 2 is for the formation of a Building Capital Reserve Fund for up to \$5,000,000, which will be used to offset the cost to taxpayers of future capital projects.
- Proposition 3 is for the formation of a Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund for up to \$2,000,000, which will be used to offset the

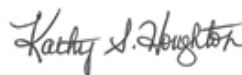
cost to taxpayers of future bus and vehicle purchases in order to continue our yearly bus purchasing cycle.

Both reserves will be funded should there be available fund balance at the end of each budget year.

The Board of Education held budget workshops on March 1, March 15, April 5, and April 19, as well as a public budget hearing on May 3. At our budget workshops, we presented a 2016-17 tax levy limit (or tax cap) for our school district of 1.1736%; however, through the use of our fund balance, we have planned a flat 0% tax levy for next year. The Board of Education was mindful of taxpayers as they constructed the budget and decided on the tax levy for the coming year. They also kept in mind our educational mission by providing enhancements to program that will positively impact both elementary and secondary students.

The School Budget Vote and Board Member election will take place on Tuesday, May 17 from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Beekman Gymnasium. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the New York Mills Union Free School District.

Sincerely,



Kathy Houghton, Superintendent

### BOE Candidates

There is one School Board vacancy for a five-year term. Candidates running for this seat are:

**Jacqueline M. Edwards (incumbent)**  
**Kevin McCoy**  
**Dr. Kathleen (Kat) Linaker**

Please vote on the school budget and

Board of Education member

election on Tuesday, May 17,  
2016, in the Beekman Gym.



# 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.

Function or Account	Budget 2015-16	Proposed 2016-17	Difference
Board of Education	\$27,705	\$24,500	\$(3,205)
Central Administration	\$192,322	\$199,921	\$7,599
Finance	\$157,546	\$148,358	\$(9,188)
Legal Services	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$0
Personnel	\$56,620	\$50,625	\$(5,995)
Records Management	\$5,069	\$5,069	\$0
Public Information	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Central Services	\$327,571	\$259,106	\$(68,465)
Other Special Items	\$224,715	\$216,983	\$(7,732)
Curr. Dev. & Sup.	\$96,640	\$111,100	\$14,460
Supervision - Regular Sch.	\$305,544	\$277,758	\$(27,786)
Employee Benefits	\$149,285	\$149,285	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,554,017</b>	<b>\$1,453,705</b>	<b>\$(100,312)</b>

**Administrative  
Component  
is 10.75%  
of Budget**

## Program Component

The program component consists of funding the instruction of and educational support services for the district's 579 students. Transportation of students, athletics, and co-curricular activities are also included in this budget component.

Function or Account	2015-16	2016-17	Difference
Legal Services	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$0
Instruction	\$6,706,794	\$6,585,473	\$(121,321)
Other Dist. Transportation	\$355,601	\$359,513	\$3,912
Garage Building	\$83,853	\$59,886	\$(23,967)
Employee Benefits	\$2,670,445	\$2,676,872	\$6,427
Other Transfers	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,847,693</b>	<b>\$9,712,744</b>	<b>\$(134,949)</b>

**Program  
Component  
is 71.85% 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.

Function or Account	2015-16	2016-17	Difference
Operation of Plant	\$573,629	\$498,473	\$(75,156)
Maintenance of Plant	\$277,432	\$292,042	\$14,610
Refund of Taxes	\$40,000	\$25,000	\$(15,000)
Lease of Buses/Purchase	\$156,554	\$271,783	\$115,229
Employee Benefits	\$323,324	\$323,324	\$0
Debt Service	\$745,738	\$840,595	\$94,857
Transfer to Capital	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,116,677</b>	<b>\$2,351,217</b>	<b>\$234,540</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$13,518,387</b>	<b>\$13,517,666</b>	<b>\$(721)</b>

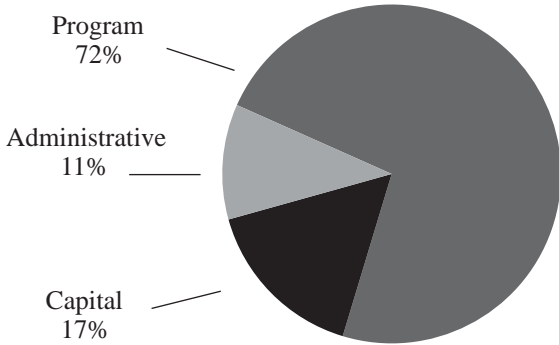
**Capital  
Component  
is 17.39%  
of Budget**

**Total Budget  
Increase  
0.005%**

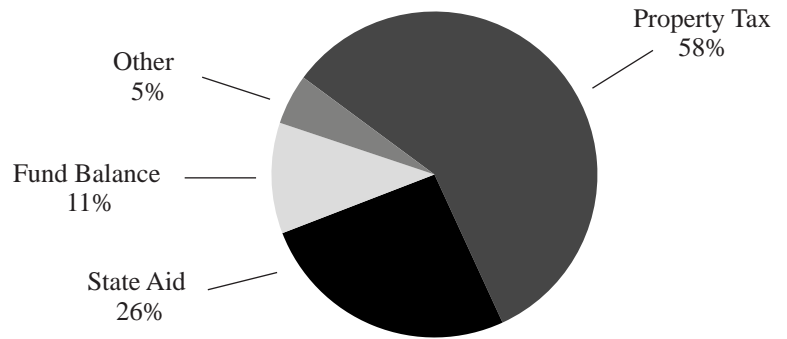


# Budget Report Card

## Expenditures



## Revenues



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

#### Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$13,518,387	\$13,517,666	\$13,268,060
Increase/decrease for 2016-2017 school year		\$(721)	\$(250,327)
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		(.01)%	(1.85)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net Reserve	\$7,481,175	\$7,481,175	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$7,481,175	\$7,481,175	0%
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$169,413	\$219,730	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,435,040	\$7,349,242	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,311,762	\$7,261,445	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$123,278	\$87,797	
Administrative component	\$1,554,017	\$1,453,705	\$1,435,705
Program component	\$9,847,693	\$9,712,744	\$9,712,744
Capital component	\$2,116,677	\$2,351,217	\$2,101,611

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2016-17 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: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Building Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,000,000
Transportation and Vehicle Reserve Fund	\$2,000,000

#### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$687

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the New York Mills Union Free School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Beekman Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. prevailing time OR 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.



# Grades 7-11 Students of the Month



Students are chosen using the following criteria:

1. Academic effort
2. Positive attitude
3. Respectful behavior
4. School involvement
5. Community involvement

## February 2016



**Haley Simon**  
Grade 11



**Zach Radziewicz**  
Grade 10



**Hazel Dingle**  
Grade 9



**Rachel Downs**  
Grade 8



**Joseph Cornish**  
Grade 7

## March 2016



**Kira Manzer**  
Grade 11



**Grace Reilly**  
Grade 10



**Gretchen Biel**  
Grade 9



**Alexis Lamb**  
Grade 8



**Kristen Despina**  
Grade 7

## April 2016



**Hunter Foster**  
Grade 11



**Kailey Brown**  
Grade 10



**Jashawn Darrell**  
Grade 9



**Olivia Litzinger**  
Grade 8



**Alexander Rienhardt**  
Grade 7

## Kids of Character Awards

*The following grade 3-6 students were selected as Kids of Character at New York Mills Elementary School. This award is given for following The Marauder Way on a regular basis.*

## MARCH

**Grade 3** – Arianna Piazza and Andrew Sosa

**Grade 4** – Dominick Moore and Emily Pavlus

**Grade 5** – Kole Bates and Julie Roberts

**Grade 6** – Lily Hynes and Olivia Liccardo





## January Optimist Student of the Month

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The Optimist Club of New York Mills has named Megan Crist as Youth of the Month for January. Megan is the daughter of Michael and Denise Crist of New York Mills and is a member of the New York Mills Jr. & Sr. High School Class of 2016.

Megan has been named to High Honor Roll consistently throughout high school and has been recognized as Student of the Month. She was inducted into our National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade and our National Honor Society in 11th grade and as a junior was a recipient of the University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award.

Megan has been an active participant and leader in a myriad of activities in our school including athletics, the arts and other organizations. A talented athlete, Megan was a member of our varsity basketball, cross country, and track and field teams from her freshman to senior years. She was named captain of both the basketball and cross country teams for the past two years and not only did she receive awards for these sports, including CSC Section III Scholar Athlete, she also broke three school records in track and field. She has been a dedicated member to our varsity club. Megan also excels musically. Megan plays both the piano and the saxophone and has played in our concert, jazz and marching bands. She also sings in our chorus. Megan has been elected class president for the past two years and is a member of our prom committee and yearbook club, the latter for which she also serves as president. As a tutor and mentor for the past three years, Megan has dedicated countless hours with our 7th graders to help them achieve success.

Megan has also been active in our local community. In the summer following her junior year, Megan participated in Girls' State at SUNY Brockport. She is also one of only two students in our school to serve on Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi's Youth Council. In addition, she serves on the Utica Youth Labor Committee and for the past two years she attended the NYSCLSA Leadership Conference in Albany. She has fundraised for diabetes through both the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walks and has volunteered many hours at her church and for other local organizations. Megan holds a part-time job at a local bowling alley and volunteers as a junior docent at the Utica Zoo.



Megan Crist

Megan is undecided on a career goal but is considering marine biology, anthropology and government. Through the Regional Program for Excellence, she interned in the pediatrics department at a local hospital and is currently interning at the Oneida County Historical Society. Megan will attend Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall. Her contributions to our school and community are countless and we are certain that she will continue to be a positive influence in any community fortunate to be able to call her a member.

## February Optimist Student of the Month

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Brianna Fuccillo, a member of the New York Mills Junior/Senior High School Class of 2016, was named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for February. Brianna is the daughter of Todd and Lisa Fuccillo of New Hartford.

Brianna is a high honor roll student who has been inducted into our chapters of the Junior and High School National Honor Societies. She has also been recognized as Student of the Month every year since seventh grade and, as a junior, was awarded the LeMoyné College Heights Awards. Brianna has also been nominated for the New York State Youth Leadership Recognition Award.

Brianna has participated in multiple activities throughout high school, ranging from athletics to the arts, to student government and other organizations. She is our current Student Council vice-president and has also served two years as her class president. With the Student Council she has participated in many activities for the betterment of our school and local community, including raking leaves and cleaning lawns during the annual fall clean-up. Brianna has been a member of our varsity field hockey, volleyball and softball teams for multiple years. In addition to serving as captain for field hockey, volleyball, and softball, she has been awarded with many accolades including first and second team Section III All-Star and Honorable Mention in field hockey, MIP, MVP, Section III Honorable Mention and Section III First Team All-Star in volleyball and the Coach's Award and Section III Honorable Mention in softball. Talented in many creative disciplines, Brianna has appeared in five school musicals, is a member of our chorus and plays the clarinet in our concert, jazz, marching and

spirit bands. In addition, Brianna dedicated much time tutoring an elementary student in reading and junior high students in French. She also volunteered annually for the Utica Boilermaker and our annual PTSO Craft Fair, as well as weekly at the Mother Marianne Westside Kitchen.



Brianna Fuccillo

Brianna's long-term career goal is to become an orthodontist. This school year, she is participating in an internship with a local orthodontist through the Regional Program for Excellence. This past winter Brianna initiated a "Keep Our Veterans Smiling" campaign, for which she had placed boxes in local dentist offices as well as a grocery store to collect donations of dental hygiene products. These items will be donated to the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center. To date, Brianna has collected more than \$1,500 in donations of these products. She plans to continue this campaign while in college. Brianna has been accepted at Siena, LeMoyné, the University of New Haven, Tufts, Hofstra and Syracuse.

Brianna has brought a positive influence to our high school and local communities. We look forward to hearing about her successes as she works to make her dreams become a reality.



## March Optimist Student of the Month

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Michael Copperwheat III has been named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for March. Michael is the son of Michael and Melissa Copperwheat of New York Mills and is a member of the New York Mills Class of 2016.

Michael has been consistently named to Honor Roll and selected as Student of the Month for multiple years. He was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade and National Honor Society in 11th grade, the latter for which he serves as president. As a junior, Michael was awarded the University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology.

Michael is a positive member of the New York Mills community. Michael has refined his leadership skills through his participation during multiple summers in the Leaders4Life and BE the Solution Teen Leadership Conferences held at Hamilton College, as well as attending the Empowering Positive Change for the Next Generation of the World presentation. A three-sport athlete since his freshman year, his participation on our Junior Varsity Basketball and Varsity Basketball, Baseball and Cross Country teams has results in many individual and team accolades including being named a Scholar Athlete as well as CSC Champions,

Section 3 Regional Champions and Finalist. He was also a member of our State Champion Basketball Team and has played American Legion baseball. Michael also stays active through his two-year membership on our prom committee, as well as volunteering his time in church activities and with the Whitesboro Pop Warner Organization and the American Heart Association's Heart Run and Walk.



Michael Copperwheat III

Michael aspires to a career in business management. This year, he is participating in an internship through the Regional Program for Excellence at TECT Power. Michael plans to attend LeMoyne College in the fall. Michael has been a positive, respected member of our student body and while we will certainly miss him here next year, we wish him well in all that he is certain to accomplish in the future.

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## Student Council's Spring Clean-Up



# Budget Propositions

## Proposition 1 - Budget \$13,517,666

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$13,517,666 as a general fund appropriation for the 2016-2017 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

## Proposition 2 – Building Capital Reserve Fund \$5,000,000

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 “2016 Building Capital Reserve Fund”), with the purpose of such fund being to finance, in whole or in part, the acquisition, 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 \$5,000,000 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) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

## Proposition 3 – Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund \$2,000,000

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District is hereby authorized to establish a Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the “2016 Transportation & Vehicle Reserve Fund”), with the purpose of such fund being to finance, in whole or in part, the purchase of school buses, vehicles and equipment that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law, and costs incidental thereto, the ultimate amount of such fund to be \$2,000,000 plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be five 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) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

## National Junior Honor Society

On April 7, 19 members of our 8th grade class were inducted into the Phi Delta Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Selection was based upon the effective demonstration of the qualities held in high esteem by the society: leadership, character, citizenship, service and scholarship. Congratulations to the following students:

Olivia Achen-Tebsherany	Kiley Lyons
Alesya Avrusevich	Mackenzie Majka
Delainey Brown	Madison Majka
Amanda Costello	Alyssa Malinowski
Rachel Downs	Logan Murphy
Nina Fellone	Jeffrey Pacini
Alexis Gyore	Holly Simon
Joseph Larabee	Brianna Taylor
Olivia Litzinger	Alexandria Thomas
	Taylor Yaghy



## Revised Capital Project Timeline

I have received several inquiries from community members, asking when construction on the capital project will begin. I am very happy to report that NYSED just approved our project on Tuesday, April 19; ten months after our submission for approval!

Below, is our projected timeline now that we have approval for bids and construction:

<b>June 2015</b>	Submission of Project to NYS for Approval
<b>April 2016</b>	NYS Education Department Project Approval
<b>April-May 2016</b>	Construction Bids
<b>May 2016</b>	Bids Awarded
<b>June 2016</b>	Construction Begins
<b>November 2016</b>	Major Construction Complete
<b>December 2016</b>	Full Project Completion







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### **Board of Education**

Jacqueline Edwards - President  
Richard Ross - Vice President  
Jonathan Fiore  
Steven King  
Richard Surprenant  
Traci Welch  
Janet Wroblecki

### **Administration**

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

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

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

## **Tax Levy Increase**

The tax levy increase for 2016-17 is projected to be 0%.

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 2016-17 will be approximately \$22.71.

## **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 16, 2016.

## **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.

**Please vote on the school budget and Board of Education member election on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, from noon – 9 p.m. in Beekman Gym.**