

# Oxford Academy and Central School District

**Mission:** To develop self-directed learners who are able to make intelligent choices and contribute positively to society.

**Vision:** To be a leader in achievement, one student at a time.



## Oxford Academy and Central School District *OXAC Blackhawks Soar Facilities Task Force*

Planning Meeting  
February 14, 2024  
3:00 pm District Office

### MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: T. Dougherty, E. Gramstad, J. Gates, B. Collier, M. Hodge, G. Holmes – OACSD  
G. Stevens – Community Member  
T. Weber – C & S Construction Managers  
S. Duell – BCA Architects & Engineers

Other Distribution: D. Emerson – Community Member, W. Gorham, J. Nelson - BCA

---

Note: Please refer to the meeting notes from the previous committee meetings for more information.

1. T. Dougherty did an overview of the “why” of the capital project...what we did to gather information (the Building Condition Survey process), why we are voting in May, etc.
2. Focus of a project would be based on the pillars of health and safety, preservation of our buildings, and Agri/Steam. We want our children to be career ready & socially aware.
3. The District is also in the middle of a new Superintendent search – and potential Superintendent’s will be attracted to Oxford because the District has a well-functioning BOE, broad community support, a robust education program, a solid budget, and excellent facilities.
  - a. On that last point, capital projects are undertaken periodically to maintain and enhance our facilities, and the capital project being discussed currently does just that.
4. We discussed how NYS funds educational facilities. It is a fact that NYS spends more on pupil education than other states. And it could be argued that the state aid distribution system is broken also – it needs to work better. However, it is the system we have and we have to work within it.
  - a. If we don’t leverage the available building aid, our neighboring school districts certainly will and are. Bainbridge, Norwich, Greene and Unatego are all working on capital projects.
  - b. Relative to state aid reimbursement, Oxford is considered a “poor” district, and as such is eligible for state aid up to 95.8%. That means that for every dollar Oxford spends on aid eligible items, they get back 95.8 cents in state aid. One could argue the District would be negligent to not leverage this to their advantage when it comes to capital improvement projects.

5. Ben Maslona from Fiscal Advisors then discussed the 2024/25 debt ceiling drop off and how the District could leverage their 95.8% state aid and their existing capital reserve funds. Using \$1.25m from the capital reserve would allow the District to do up to a \$20m project without adding any additional tax impact to the local taxpayers.
  - a. Ben explained that Oxford has a set amount of building aid they receive each year, and goal is to keep that amount constant each year going forward as it helps the District plan their budget knowing this amount.
6. The discussion then turned to the parking lot. BCA hopes to have some concepts together for discussion at the 2/21 planning meeting.
7. Tim Weber from C & S discussed the status of their estimate. They hope to have that back within the week, and we can go over that as well at the 2/21 meeting.
8. S. Duell then went over a few items that included looking at the following:
  - a. Possibly adding Gagaball and Foursquare in the air to the PS/MS playgrounds?
  - b. Discussed best location of MS playground – just off the parking lot by the STEAM room. Would need to fill that area in.
  - c. BCA needs to have an engineer review the MS generator to look at current loading vs. future loading.
  - d. Discussion on adding basketball hoops to the HS cafeteria. Note: S. Duell and M. Hodge looked onsite after the meeting – it would be possible to add two (2) wall mounted baskets on the side, with wall padding on the wall below, and for full court games use the V-ball striping and portable baskets at each end that could be rolled out and set up when needed. This would eliminate the need for wall pads for these baskets because they are far enough way from the walls/exit doors.
9. Discussion then turned to the March 4 BOE meeting. At this meeting the final scope and budget of the proposed capital project will be presented.
10. We also then discussed the messaging for the project, public flyers, website and FB information, etc. Discussed the need to explain to the public that the budget and the capital project are from separate funding sources and are funded differently.

End of Meeting. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 3:00 pm in the MS BOE room.