

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 No. 6

March 13, 2024

3:00 pm District Office

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: T. Dougherty, E. Gramstad, M. Hodge, B. Collier, D. Hover, T. Davis, R. Johnson, M. Kappauf, C. Kappauf, K. Rutz (BOCES), G. Holmes (marketing) – OACSD
G. Stevens – Community member
S. Culotta – Siemens / TIES
T. Weber – C & S Construction Managers
S. Duell, J. Nelson – BCA Architects & Engineers

Other Distribution: J. Gates – OACSD; W. Gorham - BCA

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

1. S. Duell gave a quick overview of the timeline to get to the referendum vote. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
2. **AgriSTEAM discussion**
 - a. T. Dougherty started the AgriSTEAM discussion by asking the group to think about what the program could be – focus on the optimal.
 - b. Discussion about looking at the STEAM program as a continuum – PS to MS to HS and the focus of equipping our kids to be ready for the jobs of the next century. To this end, there are really three elements to discuss:
 - i. The bricks and mortar elements (internal space development)
 - ii. The virtual elements (software, programmatic focus)
 - iii. The exterior elements (Agriculture focus)
 - c. We want to create spaces that translate to future career paths.
 - d. Renee brought up the idea of virtual welding simulators as an example and that they could be shared with other districts.
 - e. All agreed that the goal for the HS STEAM program should be to equip our children to go anywhere with and have useful skillsets – there should also be a focus on locally available jobs as well. Skillsets should be transferable.

- f. Sara C stated: “if you can see it, you can be it” – we need to help kids see what jobs are out there and what they look like. If you don’t know what is out there, it might be hard to imagine it.
 - g. Gray S. suggested that we need to set foundational skills. He also suggested that we bring in local industries to assist with our future space planning. They would bring an outside, real-world perspective to the exercise.
 - i. Setting foundational goals will also help the next Superintendent stay the course being developed now through these planning discussions. Great quote – “so we don’t go chasing other butterflies”.
 - h. Dawn H. reiterated that the planning team and administrators need to “see what is out there and what other school districts are doing at the HS level.”
 - i. It was also suggested that we need to support evolving technologies that will build upon the current programs already established in the Primary School and Middle School curriculum.
 - j. Renee discussed ag concepts like farm to table, workforce development and product development. Things are changing rapidly. She also expressed that her students were interested in the entrepreneurial aspects of the ag industry.
 - i. It was also noted that the current small HS greenhouse doesn’t get enough sun, so there may be better uses for that space.
 - k. Megan K. suggested the best ambassadors for enriching the HS STEAM program would be the students currently in the MS STEAM program. There is a concern amongst those students about not having the same opportunities at the HS as they currently have at the MS when it comes to STEAM programming.
 - i. A suggestion was made that it might be good for the general public to hear from the MS students regarding this topic.
 - ii. It was also suggested that it might be useful to have the public informational meetings about the proposed new project in the MS Fab Lab, and have the students show projects that they are working on.
 - iii. It was also noted that Oxford students will be at the Windsor Ag Tech program this coming weekend, and Windsor has a great program. Getting photos of this event would be helpful to explain what Oxford is driving towards.
 - l. Renee suggested the creation of a “Youth Advisory Council” to help shape the future vision of the AgriSTEAM program.
 - i. It was also noted that the AG program at the MS needs to be improved upon as well to help set up the future HS program.
3. The group briefly discussed the public marketing campaign for the referendum, and how best to convey the information to the public. It was decided that this would be a focus of the next planning meeting.

End of Meeting. Next meeting date to be March 20 at 3:00 pm in the MS BOE room.