

**Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
December 2, 2024**

Mrs. Gates called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Gates led those present in the flag salute.

Additions: 7.1 Correspondence from Ms. Hill, 9.1 Review Agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension, 10.9 Approve Agreement with Atlantic Testing Laboratories, 11.6 Acknowledge Bus Driver Resignation
Deletions: None

Present were Trustees: Julie Gates, John Godfrey, Nathaniel Emerson, Matthew Leach and Brian Sheridan.

Superintendent	Nicholas A. Colosi
School Business Manager	Erin Gramstad
District Clerk	Michele Rice
High School Principal	Jonathan Cooley
Middle School Principal	Greg Lehr
Primary School Principal	Michelle Hardler

Visitors

Claudia Tefft, Julia Bogardus, Jon Rogers, Pete Heggie, and June Hill

Approve Minutes

Mr. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve the meeting minutes of November 4, 2024. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Reports/Presentations

PS and HS State Testing Results – Mrs. Hardler reviewed the 3rd and 4th grade NYS test results. Third grade results were close to the overall region results but lower than the state average. Fourth grade results were low across the board. Mrs. Hardler stated teachers were not able to cover all of the new curriculum, as time did not allow. Also, several parents opted their children out of the exams which has a negative result on the overall results. Mrs. Hardler noted the LETRS training has helped improve ELA and discussions are ongoing about departmentalizing.

Mr. Lehr shared grades 5-8 NYS test results. In almost all grades and subjects, results were above regional and state scores, and the highest they have been in the past several years. The exception was 8th grade science scores. Scores were lower than the previous year but the state introduced a new exam and the district has not been able to find/hire a certified science teacher. Mr. Lehr noted 5th grade science test scores have not yet been released.

2025-26 Annual Budget Calendar – A draft of the budget calendar was shared. The calendar will be approved at the January meeting.

Leadership Team Updates

Mr. Cooley stated the HS is implementing a backpack and locker policy. This will reduce the weight of items students carry daily, will keep classroom aisles clear, and help reduce the possibility of possession/distribution of drugs, etc. Mr. Cooley met with student government representatives, has spoken to students, and will include information about the new policy in his December newsletter. The new policy will start in January. Mr. Cooley stated the HS is currently demoing a hall pass system called Securly Pass. Once teachers understand the system, students will be instructed. The goal is to start the hall pass system December 13. Mr. Cooley talked about budget requisitions, special education student improvement with the addition of a new teacher aide, a mental health presentation from Dr. O'Reilly, and students

Call to Order

Flag Salute

**Additions
Deletions**

Present

Visitors

Minutes

**PS & HS
2023-24 NYS
State Exam
Results**

HS Update

working with a trainer to review teen health first aid. Honor roll students (134) were awarded with warm pretzels for their achievements, the HS staff adopted a family for a Christmas basket, and 16 Oxford Academy students were inducted into the National Honor Society and 3 BOCES students into the National Technical Honor Society.

Mr. Lehr noted 63% of MS students are on honor roll. He reported students attended a Morrisville step program which included a zoom meeting with the owner of the Norwich Solar Farm. The same group will visit the Morrisville campus and experience what renewable energy is. Mr. Lehr and some MS faculty attended the NYS Farm to School Summit. Modified sports are ongoing and participation numbers look good. Mr. Lehr stated he holds an assembly every 10 weeks on student expectations. He talked about student attendance, noting on average, only 5 MS students are absent daily.

Mrs. Hardler talked about the Veterans Day celebration. The event will be expanded next year. The PS held another Friday Finale. UPK had their yearly Thanksgiving celebration and the self-contained classrooms also had a feast. The PS enjoyed their first Thanksgiving Day parade. Parent/teacher conferences are this week and musical rehearsals have begun.

MS Update

PS Update

Public Comment

Ms. Hill read a statement about the lack of empathy in schools and the importance of mental health support for students.

**Public
Comment**

Superintendent's Report

Project Update – Mr. Colosi noted Phase I of the project is on time with submission. If all goes as planned, work will begin in the spring of 2025. Meetings will continue for Phase II of the project.

**Project
Update**

State Designation (School in Need of Improvement) – Mr. Colosi noted the district received notification of state designation. One group did not meet growth expectations. There is an appeal process which will be reviewed first. If the appeal is not honored, the district will review what is in place and identify needs that require addressing. The district should receive additional funding to help implement growth.

**State
Designation**

Grants – Mr. Colosi stated the district is working on two grants. One is Farm to School which focuses on partnerships with local farms to utilize local products. Another is NYS Archive Grant to convert paper form files into digital files. Ms. Gramstad noted the district can apply annually.

Grants

At 6:53 p.m., Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to enter into executive session for the purpose of other matters made confidential by state or federal law and the medical, financial, credit and/or employment history of a particular person or corporation, and/or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried. Mr. Lehr was invited to attend.

**Executive
Session**

At 6:53 p.m., Mr. Cooley and Mrs. Hardler were excused.

Excused

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to appoint Mr. Colosi Clerk Pro Tem. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

**Clerk Pro
Tem**

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve the CSE minutes. Yes-5, No-0, Motioned Carried.

CSE Minutes

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Lehr was excused.

Excused

At 7:24 p.m., Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to come out of executive session.

**Come out of
Executive
Session**

Communications

The BOE acknowledged a correspondence from Ms. Hill.

Correspondence

Old Business

None

New Business

Review Agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension – Mr. Colosi noted CCE is requesting to use the MS fab lab for a few hours once a month. The school attorney has drafted a proposed agreement. CCE carries their own insurance. The district will have to review compensating an employee to oversee the space, provide set up and lock up, along with instruction on the equipment. The BOE will review the proposal and act on it at the January meeting.

**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension
Agreement**

Business Office

Warrants for September and October 2024 were shared for information only.
An Appropriation Status Report and Revenue Status Report for October 2024 were also shared.

**Warrants
Appropriation
Status &
Revenue
Status
Reports**

Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to approve resolutions G1-G6. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

12-24(1) G1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2024 as given.

**Treasurers
Report**

12-24(1) G2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2024 as given.

**Treasurers
Report**

12-24(1) G3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the General Ledger Report for Extracurricular Account for the following month:

**Extracurricular
Account
Report**

September 2024 \$51,433.71

12-24(1) G4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the General Ledger Report for Extracurricular Account for the following month:

**Extracurricular
Account
Report**

October 2024 \$53,716.13

12-24(1) G5

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the DCMO BOCES billings (contract invoices) for services rendered for 026-25OT Sports Official Warrant, C0087-25 AS7 Contract Invoice, CC028-25 Contract Credit Memo, C0381-24 Contract Invoice – Supplemental #1, and CC106-24 Contract Credit Memo – Supp #1 totaling \$404,509.26.

**BOCES
Invoices**

12-24(1) G6

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Agreement with Atlantic Testing Laboratories, Limited as presented.

**Atlantic
Testing Lab
Agreement**

Personnel

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to approve resolutions C1-C2 and UC1-UC4. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

12-24(1) C1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Substitute Teachers for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Substitute
Teachers**

Eric Reicherter

-

Certified, retroactive to November 18, 2024

12-24(1) C2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Meena Conant** as a long-term substitute in the area of Music Education, effective December 5, 2024.

**Long-term
Substitute
M. Conant**

12-24(1) UC1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Katie Blanchard's** letter of resignation from her position of Teacher Aide, effective December 1, 2024.

**T. Aide
Resignation
K. Blanchard**

12-24(1) UC2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Richard Hadlock's** letter of intent to retire from his position of Custodial Worker, effective after the close of day July 26, 2025.

**Custodial
Worker
Intent to
Retire
R. Hadlock**

12-24(1) UC3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the provisional appointment of **Brandon Howe** to the position of full-time Custodial Worker, subject to successful completion of a probationary period as defined in the rules for the Classified Civil Service of Chenango County, retroactive to November 18, 2024. (Vice: K. Brazee)

**Custodial
Worker
B. Howe**

12-24(1) UC4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Carol Wilson's** letter of resignation from her position of Bus Driver effective after the close of day December 31, 2024.

**Bus Driver
Resignation
C. Wilson**

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

- December 6-7 Clyde Cole Wrestling Tournament
- December 6 & 9 ½ Day of Instruction Parent/Teacher Conferences
- December 10 5-12 Winter Concert, OAPAA, 6 pm
- December 13 UPK-4 Grade Winter Concert, OAPAA, 8:30 am
- December 13 Employee Holiday Party, 3-6:30 pm, American Legion
- Dec 23-January 1 Holiday Recess (offices closed 12/24, 12/25 and 1/1)
- January 6 BOE Meeting, MS Conference, 6 pm

Reminders

Public Comment

None

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

Mr. Emerson made a positive comment about the village tree lighting ceremony.

Mr. Leach agreed.

Mr. Godfrey noted this weekend is the Clyde Cole Wrestling Tournament.

**BOE
Member
Comments/
Concerns**

At 7:42 p.m., Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to enter into executive session for the purpose of the medical, financial, credit and/or employment history of a particular person or corporation, and/or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

**Executive
Session**

Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to appoint Mr. Colosi Clerk Pro Tem. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

**Clerk Pro
Tem**

At 8:45 p.m., Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to come out of executive session.

**Come out of
Executive
Session**

There being no further action to come before this Board, Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to adjourn. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

**Meeting
Adjourned**



Michele D. Rice
District Clerk