

**Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education  
Special Meeting  
February 26, 2024**

Mrs. Gates called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Gates led those present in the flag salute.

**Flag Salute**

Additions: None  
Deletions: None

**Additions  
Deletions**

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

**Present**

Interim Superintendent  
School Business Manager  
District Clerk  
High School Principal

Terrance Dougherty  
Erin Gramstad  
Michele Rice  
Dawn Hover

**Visitors**

Holly Cirello

**Visitors**

At 5:01 p.m., Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson 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. Ms. Gramstad and Ms. Hover were invited to attend.

**Executive  
Session**

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

**Clerk Pro  
Tem**

At 5:05 p.m., Ms. Gramstad and Ms. Hover were excused.

**Excused**

At 6:04 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to come out of executive session. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

**Come out of  
Executive  
Session**

**Reports/Presentations**

2024-2025 Budget Update - Dr. Dougherty shared a presentation on budget development and the current status of the school district. The 2.8 million deficit has been reduced to \$294,000. The notable cost drivers include health insurance, contractual salaries and obligations, and BOCES services. Dr. Dougherty stated he recommends that the BOE propose a budget of at least the tax cap percentage to voters each year to keep the district in good financial health. He drafted a letter that will be shared with parents, staff and the community pertaining to the proposed budget and details of the capital project.

**2024-2025  
Budget  
Update**

Capital Project Update – Dr. Dougherty noted the weekly planning meetings are going well. This week’s topic will focus on AGRISTEAM.

**Capital  
Project  
Update**

Review of Public Comment Procedures – Dr. Dougherty shared a presentation on public comments at board meetings and proposed a sample public comment introduction. The BOE was favorable of the introduction sample with the adjustment that comments pertaining to personnel and/or individual student matters will not be permitted during open session.

**Interim Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Dougherty reviewed policy development and looked for direction on how the BOE wants to move forward. The BOE agreed to have a representative from each bargaining unit on the committee along with at least one BOE member. Dr. Dougherty noted the superintendent search has begun with an application deadline of March 29. After a 50%

**Interim  
Superintendent’s  
Update**

increase in costs from Blue Cross Blue Shield, component districts are proposing to change their retiree health insurance to Humana. Dr. Dougherty noted a resolution to move in that direction will be proposed at the next meeting. A new plan for enrichment in the PS has been presented and will start after the April break. Cornice will continue their electric bus study in person. Mr. Godfrey noted a senator from the Rome area is introducing legislature to allow districts to opt in or out of the electric bus requirements, as not every school district has the same geographic setting. Lastly, Dr. Dougherty noted he will proposed the BOE approves April 8, 2024 as a give back snow day since the district has not utilized any of the allotted six snow days. April 8 is also the total solar eclipse.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Cirello suggested that the BOE continue to be thoughtful of public comment speakers and to treat them with care and respect, as BOE members are appointed to represent the stakeholders. She also made a comment about getting the word out about the difference between the capital project and the proposed budget funding, as people do not understand the difference.

**Public  
Comment**

**BOE Member Comment/Concerns**

None

**BOE  
Member  
Comments/  
Concerns**

At 6:50 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach 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. Ms. Gramstad was invited to attend.

**Executive  
Session**

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

**Clerk Pro  
Tem**

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to come out of executive session. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

**Come out of  
Executive  
Session**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**Meeting  
Adjourned**



Michele D. Rice  
District Clerk