

**Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 3, 2025**

Mrs. Gates called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Gates led those present in the flag salute.

**Flag Salute**

Additions: 11.7 Acknowledge Bus Driver Resignation, 11.8 Approve Volunteer, 5.4 Mental Health, 5.5 Legislative Breakfast  
Deletions: None

**Additions  
Deletions**

Present were Trustees: Julie Gates, John Godfrey, Nathaniel Emerson and Brian Sheridan.  
Matthew Leach arrived at 6:45 pm.

**Present**

Superintendent  
School Business Manager  
District Clerk  
High School Principal  
Primary School Principal

Nicholas A. Colosi  
Erin Gramstad  
Michele Rice  
Jonathan Cooley  
Michelle Hardler

**Visitors**

Becky Rosas, Julia Bogardus, Jon Rogers, Dan Dewey, Claudia Tefft, Courtney Emerson

**Visitors**

**Approve Minutes**

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve the meeting minutes of January 6, 2025. Yes-4, No-0, Motion carried.

**Minutes**

**Reports/Presentations**

**Transportation Department Report** – Mr. Dewey shared a breakdown of employees in the transportation department, a fleet update and current mileage chart, along with upcoming training and planning for the 2025-2026 budget.

**Transportation  
Department**

**2025-2026 Preliminary Budget Presentation** – Ms. Gramstad presented on the transportation expenditures noting what is eligible for aid and what is not. A first look at the 2025-2026 budget calculates a tax levy cap of 6.80%. Significant known factors are BOCES increases, CPI inflation, health insurance, and ERS and TRS contribution rate increases. The Governor's proposal was 5.89% which is a significant increase from last year. The estimated proposed expenditures and revenues creates a gap of \$1,415,549. Ms. Gramstad noted this data is the preliminary run and she is still looking at ways to close the gap.

**2025-26  
Preliminary  
Budget  
Presentation**

**Leadership Team Updates**

Mrs. Hardler noted 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students practiced computer based testing and did well. Testing dates have been sent to parents. The PS is planning for Dr. Seuss night and started a positive behavior referral program. She noted some updates to PS areas will be completed over the break. Prek information night has occurred and some parents have already obtained registration packets. She anticipates the district will use the UPK lottery in the upcoming school year. The PS is partnering with the American Heart Association, promoting exercising, and eating healthy. Nine families became certified in hands only CPR.

**PS Update**

Mr. Lehr was not present, however, Mrs. Tefft offered an update on the MS. Events that have occurred include building leadership team and safety team meetings, a visit from Trout Unlimited, and a snowball dance. Fifth and sixth graders have a dance on February 7. Eighth graders attended a career fair and will visit BOCES CTE in the near future. The 7th and 8th graders will have a lock-in this weekend.

**MS Update**

Mr. Cooley noted HS attendance is 92.75%. He's been meeting with students that are often absent and those that are failing courses. The safety team meets every two weeks. Admin and guidance counselors have met with mental health providers who have noted they should be able to add more students to their case load. (There's currently a waiting list of four students.) Mr. Cooley reported suspending two students. The hall pass system is working well and teachers are monitoring bathroom time more efficiently. He met with transportation to discuss bus discipline. He noted 19 students took January Regents exams. Tenth graders attended the BOCES road show and will be able to experience two career and technical course offerings next week. There is a *Vaping me Crazy* assembly scheduled for April for the entire district. The PS assembly will focus on bullying. Mr. Cooley noted students enjoyed half-moon cookies for making it halfway through the school year. He has also implemented a kindness wall for students to submit uplifting messages for other students.

## HS Update

### Public Comment

None

### Superintendent's Report

Capital Project Update – Mr. Colosi stated biweekly meetings for the project will be starting soon. Due to the project work occurring at the PS/HS (parking lot, fencing, etc.), all summer programs will be held at the MS. Phase 2 is one week behind schedule due to project changes. Phase 2 items will occur in the summer of 2026.

## Capital Project

Football Merger Update – Mr. Colosi noted Greene CSD also approved the football merger. Superintendents and athletic directors from both schools will be meeting to look at options/details/policies/scheduling, etc. Students will be involved in creating the logo.

## Football Merger

Strategic Planning – Mr. Colosi noted dates have been set for the strategic planning. This process will set goals for the entire district. All stakeholders will have the opportunity to be heard. He noted it is an intense process and the facilitator does a great job keeping focused and getting the work done. There will be a plan in place before the end of the school year.

## Strategic Planning

Mental Health – Mr. Colosi met with Binghamton University to review the grant. Part of the grant will involve hiring a project director. Norwich City School District is also involved in the grant. The project director will oversee the site directors. BU will include promotional opportunities to help find the best candidate. The grant also includes the possibility of up to four internal counselors. The grant is for five years and is planned to begin the 2025-2026 school year.

## Mental Health

Legislative Breakfast – Mr. Colosi stated three student speakers attended the breakfast along with Representative Angelino and Senator Oberacker. Topics included mental health, electric buses, cell phones in school, and a portrait of a graduate, noting a one size fits all educational approach doesn't work for all school districts in the state.

## Legislative Breakfast

Consensus of the BOE as reached to move the first executive session to the end of the meeting.

### Communications

The BOE acknowledged correspondences from Mr. Cluff and Ms. Eldred.

## Correspondence

### Old Business

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve resolution G1. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

### 2-25(1) G1

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar, as presented.

## 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar

### New Business

None

### Business Office

Warrants for December 2024 were shared for information only.

An Appropriation Status Report and Revenue Status Report for December 2024 were also shared.

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve resolutions G2-G4. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

#### **2-25(1) G2**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby acknowledge receipt of the Internal Claims Auditor Report prepared by DCMO BOCES for December 2024.

#### **2-25(1) G3**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurers Report for December 2024 as given.

#### **2-25(1) G4**

**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 CO165-25 AS-7 BOCES Contract Invoice and 057-25OT – Sports Officials Warrant totaling \$422,908.23.

### Personnel

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to approve resolutions C1-C3 and UC1-UC5. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

#### **2-25(1) C1**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Theresa Woodford's** letter of intent to retire from her position of Speech/Language Therapist, effective after the close of day June 30, 2025.

#### **2-25(1) C2**

**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.

<b>Morrigan Begeal</b>	-	Uncertified
<b>Christopher Burns</b>	-	Uncertified
<b>Quinnlin LaMonica</b>	-	Uncertified
<b>John Rovente</b>	-	Uncertified
<b>Taylor Smith</b>	-	Uncertified

#### **2-25(1) C3**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby grant tenure to **Alis Vincent**, effective May 9, 2025, appointment date May 9, 2022, in the special tenure area of Special Education.

#### **2-25(1) UC1**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Rachelle (Shelly) Battaglia** to the position of full-time Bus Attendant, subject to successful completion of a probationary period as defined in the rules for the Classified Civil Service of Chenango County, retroactive to January 21, 2025. (Vice: A. Gracin)

**Warrants  
Appropriation  
Status &  
Revenue  
Status  
Reports**

**Internal  
Claims  
Auditor  
Report**

**Treasurers  
Report**

**BOCES  
Invoices**

**Retirement  
Speech/Lang  
Therapist  
T. Woodford**

**Substitute  
Teachers**

**Tenure  
A. Vincent**

**Bus  
Attendant  
R. Battaglia**

**2-25(1) UC2 (*Amending resolution 1-24(1) UC4*)**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve amending the appointment start date of **Stamatios (Tom) Makris** to the position of full-time Custodial Worker, from the January 6, 2025 meeting minutes to February 3, 2025. (Vice: J. Manwarren)

**Amend  
Resolution  
1-24(1) UC4**

**2-25(1) UC3**

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

**Substitute  
Support Staff**

<b>Dominick Battista</b>	-	Custodial Worker PT Sub
<b>Patricia Bohannon</b>	-	Teacher Aide PT Sub, retroactive to 1/13/25
<b>Catherine DeJager</b>	-	Food Service Helper PT Sub (pending fingerprint clearance)
<b>John Rovente</b>	-	Teacher Aide PT Sub

**2-25(1) UC4**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Joanne Dean's** letter of intent to retire from her position of full-time Bus Driver, effective after the close of day February 28, 2025.

**Retirement  
Bus Driver  
J. Dean**

**2-25(1) UC5**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve **Mya-Rae Roys** as an Oxford Academy Volunteer to work in the Primary School.

**Volunteer  
M. Roys**

**Planning**

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

- February 12 – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Night, HS 6 pm
- February 13 – PS Musical, OAPAA, 6 pm
- February 17-21 – No School, Recess (Offices closed 2/17)
- March 3 – BOE Meeting, MS Conference Room, 6 pm

**Reminders**

**Public Comment**

None

**BOE Member Comments/Concerns**

Mr. Leach complemented Mr. Cooley on the half-moon cookie idea.  
Mr. Godfrey noted he enjoyed the Blackhawk café and commented on being excited to hear the indoor track students had new personal bests and have set new records.  
Mrs. Gates talked about the legislative breakfast and applauded the student speakers.  
Mr. Colosi congratulated Mrs. Woodford and Mrs. Dean on their retirement and Mrs. Vincent on being tenured. He also noted the district will be hosting boys and girls MAC championships.

**BOE  
Member  
Comments/  
Concerns**

At 7:11 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan 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. Ms. Gramstad was invited to attend.

**Executive  
Session**

At 7:11 p.m., Mr. Cooley, Mrs. Hardler and Ms. Rice 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. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve the CSE minutes. Yes-5, No-0, Motioned Carried.

**CSE Minutes**

At 8:10 p.m., Ms. Gramstad was excused.

**Excused**

At 8:18 p.m., Mr. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to come out of executive session.

**Come out of  
Executive  
Session**

At 8:18 p.m., Mr. Colosi was excused.

**Excused**

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

**Meeting  
Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Michele D. Rice  
District Clerk