

Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2024

Mrs. Gates called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Mrs. Gates led those present in the flag salute.

Flag Salute

Additions: 13.6 February 9 – Primary School Musical, 6 pm, OAPAA

Additions

Deletions: None

Deletions

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

Present

Interim Superintendent

Terrance Dougherty

School Business Manager

Erin Gramstad

District Clerk

Michele Rice

High School Principal

Dawn Hover

Middle School Principal

Greg Lehr

Primary School Principal

Brian Collier

At 4:31 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. Mr. Collier, Ms. Hover, Ms. Gramstad and Mr. Shusda were invited to attend.

Executive Session

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

Clerk Pro Tem

At 5:43 p.m., Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to come out of executive session.

Come out of Executive Session

After a short break the meeting continued at 6:00 p.m.

Visitors

Holly Cirello, Julie Bogardus, Mike Rullo, Jonathan Rogers, Rebecca Rosas, Sarah Smith, Matt Dorman, Matt Voce, Mitch Cluff, Claudia Tefft, Mike Shusda, Josh Robin

Visitors

Approve Minutes

Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to approve the meeting minutes of January 8, 2024 and January 24, 2024. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Minutes

Reports/Presentations

Cornice Technology – Mr. Robin presented on the electric bus energy profile study Cornice Technology conducted. The study included fleet vehicle and route data inputs. Several study models were developed to show how both the amount of energy that is consumed by the vehicle to complete a route, and battery degradation can affect the range of the vehicle and the required charging operations. Studies indicated battery life and weather can have a significant impact. The study included recommendations moving forward due to the New York State mandate that all new school bus purchases must be electric starting in 2027, and the entire fleet must be electric by 2035.

Cornice Technology

Superintendent Search Brochure – Mr. Rullo shared a search brochure with the BOE, offering to address any questions. The BOE was pleased with the brochure. Mr. Rullo noted the brochure would be printed and advertising would begin in the near future.

Superintendent Search Brochure

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

02-24(1) G1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools and DCMO BOCES Superintendent Search Consultant, that this Board does hereby approve the 2024 brochure for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

National ELA Conference – Mr. Rovente was not in attendance.

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 \$618,000. The notable cost drivers include health insurance, contractual salaries and obligations, and BOCES services. Dr. Dougherty stated the federal money is gone, as is the ESSR money which was used to create and fund positions. That, along with not meeting the tax cap for several years, has had a negative impact on the district. 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.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Dougherty stated the kick off meeting of the Blackhawk Soar Planning Task Force on January 31 went well. Gray Stevens and Dave Emerson have agreed to be co-chairs. Safety is the main focus of this \$20 million project. Other items include preserving the facilities, traffic safety pattern reconfirmation at the PS/HS campus and AGRISTEAM in the HS. Dr. Dougherty stated the capital project will not have a direct increase on the tax levy as most of the work receives aid and is separate from the general fund.

**2024-2025
Budget
Update**

**Capital
Project
Update**

Leadership Team Updates

None - Quarterly reports were provided in the Interim Superintendent's Report.

Public Comment

Mrs. Cirello requested clarification on schools being restricted from purchasing diesel/gas school buses after 2027. (*Demand in NY will diminish but buses will be available if needed.*) She stated she remembered the BOE eliminating their committees. She asked for clarification on using unappropriated funds to lower the tax levy. (*Dr. Dougherty noted the BOE can use as much of the unappropriated fund balance as they want but he would not recommend ever using more than 2 %.*) Mrs. Cirello recommended that the capital project planning meetings be later to allow faculty to attend.

Mr. Cluff requested to speak to the BOE about the football program. (*The BOE suggested that he email the BOE.*)

**Public
Comment**

Interim Superintendent's Report

Dr. Dougherty shared BOE roles and responsibilities and an evaluation document. The BOE agreed to move forward with the document. Upon the request of Dr. Dougherty, Mr. Leach and Mr. Godfrey shared comments from attending the Legislative Breakfast. Senator Oberacker and other state representatives are pushing for additional funds for schools. Electric buses continue to be a work in progress. Dr. Dougherty stated the BOE has a few policies to address in the near future. Research has been conducted on vape detectors, quarterly reports were shared, and discussions about changing the enrichment period for the primary school to allow for additional instructional time and consistent busing. Upcoming events were shared.

**Interim
Superintendent's
Update**

At 8:16 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to enter into executive session for the purpose of other matters made confidential by state or federal law and 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. Mr. Lehr was 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

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

CSE Minutes

At 8:20 p.m., Mr. Lehr was excused.

Excused

At 8:26 p.m., Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to come out of executive session. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Come out of Executive Session

Communications

The Board acknowledged correspondences from Ms. Warren (*DCMO BOCES BOE Member Nomination*), Mrs. Smith (*class size*), Mrs. Samsel (*class size*), Mrs. Tefft (*enrichment*) and Mrs. Lake (*transportation*).

Correspondence

Old Business

None

New Business

A draft of the 2024-2025 instructional calendar was shared.

Draft 2024-25 Instructional Calendar

Business Office

Warrants were provided for information only.

Warrants

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve resolutions G2-G7. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

02-24(1) G2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby acknowledge receipt of the Internal Claims Auditor Report prepared by DCMO BOCES for December 2023.

Internal Claims Auditor Report

02-24(1) G3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurers Report for December 2023 as given.

Treasurers Report

02-24(1) G4

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

Extracurricular Account Report

December 2023 \$56,466.27

02-24(1) G5

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept the 2023-2024 Returned School Taxes Report prepared by Chenango County Tax Department as given.

2023-24 Returned School Taxes

02-24(1) G6

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the DCMO BOCES billings (contract invoices) for services rendered for CO156-24 Contract Invoice AS-7, 061-24OT Sports Official Warrant and 042-24F 2023 Summer School Billing totaling \$447,148.20.

BOCES Invoices

02-24(1) G7

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education Recommended Policy #8 Disposal of District Property, that this Board does hereby approve the disposal of the following surplus equipment: 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 in such a way as to maximize the net proceeds of sale via public auction and/or eBay, dispose of and/or recycle.

**Surplus
2006 Chevy
Silverado**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: All proceeds from the sale(s) will be deposited in the General Fund.

Personnel

Mr. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve resolutions C1-C3 and UC1-UC4. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

02-24(1) C1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Substitute Teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Substitute
Teachers**

- Laela Groat** - Uncertified
- Lauren Marris** - Uncertified

02-24(1) C2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Winter Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year, pending coaching certification requirements, stipend as per Oxford Teachers' Association Agreement.

**Winter
Coaches**

SPORT

Modified Volleyball Volunteer

COACH

Joseph Logan Kennedy

02-24(1) C3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Fall Coaches for the 2024-2025 school year, pending coaching certification requirements, stipend as per Oxford Teachers' Association Agreement.

**Fall
Coaches**

SPORT

Varsity Football

COACH

Trenton Lyons

02-24(1) UC1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Oxford Employee Support Personnel Association for School Bus Driver 4-Day Work Week as presented.

**MOU
OESPA
Bus Driver
4-Day Work
Week**

02-24(1) UC2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Oxford Employee Support Personnel Association for Occasional Drivers as presented.

**MOA
OESPA
Occasional
Drivers**

02-24(1) UC3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Ivy Davis'** letter of intent to retire from her position of Typist, effective after the close of day July 31, 2024.

**Retirement
Typist
I. Davis**

02-24(1) UC4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Substitute Support Staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Substitute
Support Staff**

Krystal Frederick - Teacher Aide PT Substitute, retroactive to 2/1/24

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

Reminders

- February 9 – Primary School Musical, 6 pm, OAPAA
- February 15 – Bassett Healthcare Presentation (*vaping/substance abuse/mental health*) OAPAA, 6 PM
- February 19-23 – No School – Presidents Day Recess (*Offices closed 2/19*)
- March 1 – Read Across America
- March 2 - SledFest, 3-6 pm, Oxford Football Field
- March 4 – BOE Meeting, MS Conference Room, 6 PM

Public Comment

None

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

Mr. Leach thanked Dr. O'Reilly for volunteering her time to present on vaping, substance abuse/mental health and for providing the NARCAN training.

Mr. Godfrey questioned what happens if residents vote down electric bus propositions? Dr. Dougherty stated this concern has been presented to the state and no one has provided an answer.

**BOE
Member
Comments/
Concerns**

At 8:34 p.m., Mr. Leach 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. Mr. Collier, Mr. Lehr, Ms. Hover and Ms. Gramstad were invited to attend.

**Executive
Session**

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

**Clerk Pro
Tem**

At 9:10 p.m., Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach 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 9:11 p.m.

**Meeting
Adjourned**



Michele D. Rice
District Clerk