

**Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education
Special Meeting
January 24, 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

Additions

Deletions: None

Deletions

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

Present

Interim Superintendent
School Business Manager
District Clerk

Terrance Dougherty
Erin Gramstad
Michele Rice

Visitors

Mike Rullo, Kim Martin, Tim Weber, Jeff Nelson, Mark Hodge, Matt Voce

Visitors

At 5:01 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. Rullo 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

At 5:59 p.m., Mr. Rullo was excused.

Excused

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to come out of executive session. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Come out of Executive Session

Dr. Dougherty recommended presenting on the Retiree Health Insurance Update first. The BOE agrees.

Reports/Presentations

Retiree Health Insurance Update – Mrs. Martin, DCMO BOCES Health Care Coordinator, reported the current Excellus Medicare PPO cost is increasing 50% which caused them to research other options for retirees. The increase comes from lower Center of Medicaid and Medicare services, reimbursement from 6% to 2%, the Inflationary Reduction Act, wage index for upstate hospitals increasing 26% and utilization has returned to pre-pandemic levels resulting in a loss ratio of over 100%. The health consortiums have received quotes from Excellus, Humana and United Health Care. Mrs. Martin will hold in-person meetings for retirees on February 5th and 6th. (*Zoom will also be offered and paper copies will be mailed to those that cannot attend.*) After that, districts will decide how to move forward, noting the larger participating districts will have a bigger impact. The goal is to have the plan(s) effective July 1.

Retiree Health Insurance Update

Review of Expenditures/Revenues, 2024-2025 Budget and the Gap – Dr. Dougherty shared a document showing expenses and revenues which projects a 2.8 million deficit. Ms. Gramstad reported not having definite numbers yet. Dr. Dougherty stated the district will work through the process, prioritizing expenditures, identifying efficiencies, revenue generations and long-term planning. The BOE directed Dr. Dougherty to do a forensics dive into revenues/expenditures back 2-3 years and forward for future years. Dr. Dougherty will review the following questions at the February 5th meeting: Where are we now? How did we

Expenditures/Revenues 2024-25 Budget Gap

get here? How are we going to resolve it? He stated ongoing communication, collaboration, transparency and stakeholder engagement will be key.

Capital Project Planning Update – Dr. Dougherty presented on the proposed capital project. He noted the district will look at the facilities study, program, security and debt service. Dr. Dougherty stated solar panels and a new PS gym are not recommended. Ms. Gramstad reported Siemens conducted a study on solar panels and found facility roofs, MS field (flooding) and the PS/HS hill side are not sustainable locations.

Dr. Dougherty noted a feasible suggestion is to alter the HS cafeteria which could provide additional hoops. Next steps include establishing a planning committee that will meet every week. A defined scope will be decided by March 2 with a project adoption in April. All information will be open to the public and displayed on the school webpage. Committee meetings will be Wednesdays at 2 pm.

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

- January 27 – Annual Legislative Breakfast, 9 am, The Wild Owl, Greene
- January 31 – UPK Information Night
- February 3 – Possible SledFest, 3-6 pm, Oxford Football Field
- February 5 – BOE Meeting, 6 pm, MS Conference Room

Reminders

Dr. Dougherty noted the February 3 SledFest event will not be able to occur and has been canceled because they have not been able to obtain liability insurance. *(It was later determined that the date was changed and planning for SledFest is still ongoing.)*

Public Comment

None

Mrs. Rice, District Clerk, noted FFA is looking for permission for an overnight trip to Albany on February 5-6, 2024 and a trip to New York City on February 17, 2024. The only cost to the district is transportation. Consensus of the BOE was in favor of the trips.

FFA Trips

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

None

**BOE
Member
Comments/
Concerns**

At 6:54 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. Ms. Gramstad 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**

At 7:03 p.m., Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to come out of executive session. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

**Come out of
Executive
Session**

Dr. Dougherty requested to work from home on Friday, January 26, 2024. Consensus of the BOE was in favor of his request.

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

**Meeting
Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Michele D. Rice
District Clerk