

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

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

Call to Order

Mrs. Gates led those present in the flag salute.

Flag Salute

Additions: 6.2 Suspension Appeal, 7.4 Health Insurance Consortium Meeting Notice, 12.3 March 21, 2025 Health Insurance Consortium Meeting, 6 pm BT BOCES
Deletions: None

Additions
Deletions

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

Present

Superintendent

Nicholas A. Colosi

School Business Manager

Erin Gramstad

District Clerk

Michele Rice

High School Principal

Jonathan Cooley

Primary School Principal

Michelle Hardler

Visitors

Jon Rogers, Timothy Davis, Jennifer Davis, Claudia Tefft, Cody Hrehor, Courtney Emerson

Visitors

Approve Minutes

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2025. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Minutes

Reports/Presentations

2025-2026 Preliminary Budget Overview – Ms. Gramstad shared history on the district tax levy. She noted the proposed budget, not utilizing any fund balance, is a 6.8% tax levy increase. She stated the estimated gap has been lowered to \$336,000, noting a significant decrease from the projected health insurance cost. The district continues to look for additional savings.

2025-2026
Preliminary
Budget

Administration Budget: Deeper Dive – Ms. Gramstad reviewed items included in the administrative part of the budget, also sharing historical data since 2022-2023. A sample of the administrative cap calculation was also shared and explained.

Administration
Budget

Leadership Team Updates

Ms. Hardler stated the PS has created a weather system station. Mr. Kappauf runs the station that is available through an app. The production of *Frozen* was a packed house. The PS raised over \$1,400 for the American Heart Association challenge, they celebrated the 100th day of school and held a Dr. Seuss night. Training through BOCES continues; looking at data and how to support students and align instruction with goals.

PS Update

In the absence of Mr. Lehr, Mrs. Tefft noted the MS attendance rate is at 93%. The MS held a 10 week recognition assembly and the winter sports are strong. She noted March 14 is a conference day.

MS Update

Mr. Cooley stated the HS weekly attendance rate is 94%. He talked about this year's Hall of Distinction Ceremony and the BOCES Road Show for 10th graders. He toured the BOCES facilities with students. Informational night for 8th graders has occurred. Mr. Cooley noted vandalism in the boy's bathrooms has stopped. He talked about observations, walkthroughs and awarding honor students with hot chocolate. The creative writing students created and published their own books and juniors and seniors received junior health first aid training. Lily Karn was sent off to wrestling championships by a cheer committee and placed 6th at states.

HS Update

Mr. Godfrey stated Nick Richette has accomplished a new deadlift world record.

Public Comment

None

Superintendent's Report

Capital Project Update – Mr. Colosi stated Phase I of the project is in review. Bidding will begin after approval. The PS/HS campus will be off limits this summer as extensive work will be occurring at that campus. Phase II was submitted on February 17. Mr. Colosi noted the district is looking to add a Phase III. Those items will include safety and infrastructure items (key fobs, updated phones, etc.). Hopefully converting all into one service contract, rather than several contracts. He shared information on a judgement case of piggybacking on cooperative purchasing that occurred at Maine-Endwell School District. He noted the district has met with school attorneys to be sure our process is appropriate in form.

**Capital
Project
Update**

Safety Update – Mr. Colosi stated the district safety and crisis teams have met. He talked about a knife found on a bus and a medical issue at the high school campus. Mr. Colosi thanked those that helped during the situation but noted it took 40 minutes for an ambulance to arrive which will be addressed. The district has ordered and installed emergency medical cabinets in each main office area. This allows for availability during a life threatening event if a nurse is out. The district plans to hold trainings in the near future. Mr. Colosi stated employees have voiced concerns about being sued if they help during an emergency. He has reassured them they are covered under the Good Samaritan Law.

**Safety
Update**

CSA Retreat – Mr. Colosi attended a CSA retreat where those in attendance reviewed foundation aid, what impact it has, how it's being driven and trends. He noted the data being used is from several years ago, which is not the realistic status of districts. Mr. Colosi supports proposing the tax cap levy limit every year, if not, the district is leaving money on the table year after year. The group also worked on the regionalization document. They looked at trends, targets, priorities and regional goals. They will continue to review the requirements and benefits of districts in the region.

CSA Retreat

Trainings – Mandated Reporter, CPI – Mr. Colosi stated all employees are required to take a mandated reporter training by April 1, 2025. This training will be offered during the March 14 conference day. The district is assigning staff members to undergo CPI training and those members will become trainers for the rest of the employees. The CPI training includes tools to prevent challenging behavior and also to de-escalate situations.

Trainings

At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Leach 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.

**Executive
Session**

At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Cooley, Mrs. Hardler and Mrs. Tefft were excused.

Excused

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

**Clerk Pro
Tem**

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

CSE Minutes

At 8:07 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to come out of executive session.

**Come out of
Executive
Session**

Consensus of the Board was given to add **Resolution G1.5** to the agenda pertaining to the superintendent hearing appeal submitted by Mr. Davis.

**Resolution
Added**

Communications

The BOE acknowledged correspondences from Utica National Insurance, CASSC, Mr. Davis and the BT BOCES Health Insurance Consortium.

Correspondence

Old Business

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

3-25(1) G1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve substitute rates as follows:

Substitute
Rates

Substitute Rates (Up to 9 Consecutive Days):

- Uncertified Teacher/Out-of-State Certified Teacher/LTA: \$120/day
- NYS Certified Teacher: \$130/day
- OTA Retired LTA: \$140/day
- OTA Retired Teacher: \$150/day
- Support Staff: Minimum wage/hour
- Typists: \$115/day
- Bus Driver: \$25/hour (Minimum 2 hours)
- Registered Nurse: \$120/day

Extended-Period Substitute Teacher Rates:

- Extended-period substitutes will assume the planning and instructional duties of a certified teacher for a minimum of 10 consecutive business days in the same position but no more than 30 days.
- Daily rate as applicable above
- Additional \$20/hour for planning and meetings outside of the school day (e.g., Superintendent Conference Days, Faculty Meetings, Parent-Teacher Conferences, etc.)

Long-Term Substitute Rates:

- Long-term substitutes will assume the full responsibilities of a certified teacher for a minimum of 30 consecutive business days in the same position.
- The regular substitute teacher rate will apply for the first 30 consecutive days.
- On day 31, the long-term substitute rate will take effect.
- Retroactive pay will be issued for substitutes hired on a daily basis who surpass 30 consecutive days in the same position, with long-term substitute pay applied from day 31 onward.

Long-Term Substitute Pay:

- Retired OTA Teacher: \$230/day
- Any Certified/Non-Certified Teacher/LTA: \$200/day

New Business

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

03-25(1) G1.5

The Board having met in Exempt Session in relation to an appeal from the decision of the Superintendent regarding the suspension of a student, and after hearing representatives of the student, or the student, and each Board member having reviewed the record, including the transcript, and after deliberation, which was without the presence of the Superintendent or any administrators involved in the proceeding, and on motion of Mr. Emerson, and seconded by, Mr. Godfrey, it is

Student
Suspension
Appeal
Denial

RESOLVED that the findings and assessments of punishment by the Superintendent are hereby affirmed.

VOTE: Yes – 5, No – 0

Business Office

Warrants for January 2025 were shared for information only.

An Appropriation Status Report and Revenue Status Report for January 2025 were also shared.

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

3-25(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 January 2025.

3-25(1) G3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurers Report for January 2025 as given.

3-25(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:

December 2024 \$55,147.42

3-25(1) G5

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:

January 2025 \$57,012.67

3-25(1) G6

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 CO204-25 AS-7 Contract Invoice totaling \$413,313.46.

3-25(1) G7

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve a 3-year Installment Purchase Agreement (IPA) through Broome-Tioga BOCES to purchase instructional technology (Chromebooks, Dell OptiPlex SFF, Dell Slim Soundbar, Dell Monitors, Dell Cables with Ethernet, Dell Latitude, Dell Mouse, Promethean ActivPanel, Apple iPads) in the amount not to exceed \$128,966.49.

Personnel

Mr. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to approve resolutions C1-C2 and UC1-UC5. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

03-25(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 Spring Coaches for the

**Warrants
Appropriation
Status &
Revenue
Status
Reports**

**Internal
Claims
Auditor
Report**

**Treasurers
Report**

**Extracurricular
Account
Report**

**Extracurricular
Account
Report**

**BOCES
Invoices**

**Technology
IPA**

**Spring
Coaches**

2024-2025 school year, pending coaching certification requirements, stipend as per Oxford Teachers' Association Agreement.

SPORT

Varsity Baseball
JV Baseball
Varsity Softball
JV Softball
Varsity Track

Varsity Assistant Track

Boys Tennis

COACH

Corey Endress
Tom Locke
Matt Dowling
Chris Palmer
Shannon Gawronski/
Irene DeJager
Shannon Gawronski/
Irene DeJager
Lance Thorne

03-25(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.

**Substitute
Teachers**

Kathleen Ryan	-	LTA Certified
Eileen Tallmadge	-	Certified

3-25(1) UC1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Richard Warner's** letter of resignation from his position of Bus Driver, retroactive to February 28, 2025.

**Resignation
Bus Driver
R. Warner**

3-25(1) UC2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Melissa Lashway's** letter of resignation from her position of Teacher Aide, retroactive to February 11, 2025.

**Resignation
Teacher Aide
M. Lashway**

3-25(1) UC3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Deanna Ross's** letter of resignation from her position of Bus Attendant, effective March 3, 2025.

**Resignation
Bus
Attendant
D. Ross**

3-25(1) UC4

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**

Leah Oliver	-	Teacher Aide PT Sub, retroactive to 1/15/25
Tiffany Warner	-	Teacher Aide PT Sub

3-25(1) UC5

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Tina Miller** to the position of full-time Bus Driver, subject to successful completion of a probationary period as defined in the rules for the Classified Civil Service of Chenango County, effective March 5, 2025. (Vice: J. Dean)

**Bus Driver
T. Miller**

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

Reminders

- March 14, 2025 – No School, Staff Development Day
- March 21 & 24, 2025 – ½ Day of Instruction – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 21, 2025 – Health Insurance Consortium Meeting, 6 pm BT Boces
- March 25, 2025 – CASSC Seminar, SUNY Oneonta, 5-7 pm (Julie)
- March 31, 2025 – BOE Budget Meeting, MS Conference Room, 6 pm

Public Comment

None

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

Mr. Emerson congratulated the sports teams.

Mr. Leach enjoyed the Dr. Seuss event and thanked teachers for going above and beyond.

Mr. Godfrey complemented all events and noted all new administrative staff is doing well.

Mr. Colosi noted it was an honor to host the MAC basketball championships.

Mr. Sheridan stated the PS musical was great, as was Dr. Seuss Night.

At 8:16 p.m., Mr. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey 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.

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

At 9:38 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to come out of executive session.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.



Michele D. Rice
District Clerk

**BOE
Member
Comments/
Concerns**

**Executive
Session**

**Clerk Pro
Tem**

**Come out of
Executive
Session**

**Meeting
Adjourned**