

**Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
March 6, 2023**

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: 11.8 Approve Occasional Bus Drivers
Deletions: None

**Additions/
Deletions**

Present were Trustees: Julie Gates, John Godfrey, Betsy Locke, Nathaniel Emerson and Matthew Leach.

Present

Superintendent

John Hillis

District Clerk

Michele Rice

High School Principal

Dawn Hover

Middle School Principal

Greg Lehr

Primary School Principal

Brian Collier

Visitors

Holly Cirello, Jonathan Rogers, Courtney Emerson, Renee Johnson, Tim Davis, Jenny Davis, Ed Holmquist, Jodi Carey, James Bohannon, Margo Barrows, Madalyn Barrows, Craig Barrows, Hailey Fleury, Anna Fleury, David Fleury, Nivayah Demuth, Elizabeth Vincent, Abigail Stone, Stephanie Vigus, Michele Loughren, Kecia Bey

Visitors

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Introduction – Mrs. Carey introduced Hailey Fleury as the senior class valedictorian and Madalyn Barrows as the senior class salutatorian. Hailey and Madalyn were presented with a plaque and flowers for their accomplishments.

**Valedictorian
&
Salutatorian**

Approve Minutes

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2023. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Minutes

Reports/Presentations

FFA Contest – March 17 Overnight Trip – Mrs. Johnson introduced students advancing to FFA substates. Nivayah, Elizabeth and Abigail asked for permission to stay overnight on March 17 to experience various agriculture experiences before competing in the FFA substates competition on March 18. Mrs. Johnson asked the district to cover the bus driver's hotel and meals. Consensus of the BOE was in favor of the overnight trip and covering the requested costs.

**FFA
Substates**

The Catalyst Travel Club – Mr. Holmquist requested an overnight trip for 12 students and 3 chaperones on March 24 to Niagara Falls to visit a seal encounter aquarium. Mr. Holmquist noted over 53 MS students have shown interest in the travel club. Students will be selected by random draw to attend overnight trips, then those chosen will be removed from future drawings until all students have had the opportunity to have an overnight experience. Consensus of the BOE was in favor of the trip.

**Catalyst
Travel Club**

Winterguard Equipment – Ms. Loughren and Ms. Vigus noted their children are involved in a self-contained winterguard program and are looking for the option to purchase or have equipment donated to their program. They are looking for a mat, rifles and flags. The BOE will review the inventory and cost of equipment and get back to them.

**Winterguard
Equipment**

Merging sports with Greene CSD Discussion – Mr. Davis reported meeting with Greene Central School District to discuss merging a junior varsity baseball team, girls and boys swim and indoor and outdoor track teams. JV baseball will merge this season, all

**Merging
Sports with
GCSD**

other proposed mergers will be for 2023-2024, with the approval to move forward with discussions. Consensus of the BOE was in favor. Mr. Davis shared scholar athlete data noting players on the girls basketball team have an overall average of 94%.

Mrs. Locke offered thanks to Jenny Davis for making cookies and arranging decorations for the celebration of the girls basketball championship. She also noted Mr. Palmer looked for donations to be sure every student that wanted to attend the game was able to.

Leadership Team Updates

Ms. Hover reported Haily Fluery is this year’s Scholar Recognition recipient. Haily has chosen Ms. Christine Long as her teacher to be recognized. The event will be held at SUNY Oneonta in May. A pathways and career destinations event is scheduled for March 14. Faculty will have an in-service day March 17 and the high school will host the All County Festival March 17 & 18.

HS Update

Mr. Lehr provided an update on modified sports. Students attended a presentation put on by Progressive Dental. Enrichment period continues to be utilized for academic support and also provides other educational opportunities. Students of the month, and winter and community sports participants were recognized will all attendees practicing proper assembly etiquette. District lockdowns have been good. Sherburne-Earlville visited the Fab Lab and were impressed with student knowledge. The MS will meet with 8th grade parents and students to start planning transitioning to the high school on Thursday.

MS Update

Mr. Collier spoke about the book blast, noting every student received at least 6 books. The PS celebrated the 100th day of school, Valentine’s Day, and Read Across America. Progressive Dental held a presentation on dental hygiene. Sherburne-Earlville CSD was impressed with student knowledge and interactions during their visit. Faculty enjoyed a Friday Friendly Frenzy event. UPK applications have been sent out. Upcoming events include a staff development day, PT conferences, and the Greatest Show and Tell event. Mr. Collier reported the October 2023 staff development presenter has been scheduled.

PS Update

Public Comment

Mrs. Cirello stated it was nice to have Holly Abbott return as the Cat in the Hat.

Public Comment

Superintendent’s Report

2023-2024 Budget Update – Mr. Hillis stated the district has spent 46.58% of the current budget and should have excess for the fund balance. The 2023-2024 budget is an 8.3% increase. The tax cap is 4.56%. The district will utilized a portion of the fund balance to present a tax levy increase of 2%.

2023-24 Budget

Mr. Hillis reported the district is putting forth ideas on implementing the promotion of teacher careers.

At 6:46 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke to enter into executive session for the purpose of other matters made confidential by state or federal law. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried. Mr. Lehr was invited to attend.

Executive Session

At 6:46 p.m., Ms. Hover and Mr. Collier were excused.

Excused

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to appoint Mr. Hillis 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 7:06 p.m., Mr. Lehr was excused.

Excused

At 7:13 p.m., Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to come out of executive session. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Come out of Executive Session

Communications

The Board acknowledged a notice of DCMO BOCES annual meeting, election of BOE members and notice for special board meetings.

Correspondence

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve resolutions G1-G3. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

03-23(1) G1

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

Volunteer

3-23(1) G2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Oxford Academy & Central School Instructional Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

2023-2024
Instructional
Calendar

03-23(1) G3

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF VAPING

LITIGATION

WHEREAS, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life-threatening respiratory ailments; and

WHEREAS, students attending the Oxford Academy and Central School District (the "School District") have not been immune to this phenomenon with the School District observing students using e-cigarettes and vaping devices in school and on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has caused the School District to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops; and

WHEREAS, the School District authorized the law firms of Ferrara Fiorenza PC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC, to initiate litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and other parties by board resolution relating to the production, marketing, sale, and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and

WHEREAS, the litigation involved more than 1400 U.S. public school districts across more than 25 states; and

WHEREAS, a tentative settlement has been reached with Defendant Juul Labs, Inc. and certain individual board members, directors, executives and parties with whom Juul Labs, Inc. has indemnity agreements; and

WHEREAS, litigation against Altria and remaining defendants will continue; and

WHEREAS, partial settlement means the School District would forever release all claims against Juul Labs and the other released entities; and

WHEREAS, in return, the School District would receive certain cash payments; and

WHEREAS, the amount that the School District receives will be based on a final allocation framework recommended by the court-appointed Special Master Thomas Perrelli with the allocation framework for all governmental entities including factors such as population and litigation risk and be no less than \$8,325 for the School District; and

WHEREAS, an initial payment of approximately 54% of the settlement amount is anticipated to be paid by late 2023; and

WHEREAS, the remaining payments will be made in four installments anticipated in late 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026; and

JUUL Labs
Settlement

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) has determined it is necessary, advantageous, desirable, and in the public interest and the best interests of the School District that it settle this litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and continue the litigation against remaining other parties involved with e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the School District, as follows:

1. The Board authorizes the partial settlement of the vaping lawsuit against defendant Juul Labs, Inc. and certain individual board members, directors, executives and parties with whom Juul Labs, Inc. has indemnity agreements.
2. A Settlement with the substantive terms contained herein is hereby approved in substantially the form reviewed by the Board and together with such minor modifications as are deemed necessary by the School District’s attorneys and administrators to protect the best interests of the School District.
3. The Board President, Superintendent and their designee(s) are hereby authorized to finalize, sign and enter into the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the School District and take all actions and execute all documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Business Office

Warrants were shared for information only.

Warrants

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to approve resolutions G4-G10. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

03-23(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:

January 2023 \$58,870.97

**Extracurricular
Account
Report**

03-23(1) G5

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 2023.

**Internal
Claims
Auditor
Report**

03-23(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 AS-7 February Contract Billing, contract Credit, December and January Print Shop and Sports Officials Warrant 2/3/23 totaling \$368,947.94.

**DCMO
BOCES
Invoices**

03-23(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 acknowledge the disposal of the following surplus equipment: 2019 Chromebooks, Smartboards, and Canon Copiers in such a way as to maximize the net proceeds of sale via public auction and/or eBay and/or scrap for parts.

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

**Surplus
Equipment
Chromebooks,
Smartboards,
Copiers**

03-23(1) G8

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve a 3-year Installment Purchase Agreement (IPA) through Broome-Tioga BOCES to purchase instructional technology (HP Chromebooks, Cannon

**IPA
Technology
Equipment**

Copiers/Printers, Dell Latitude laptops and Dell OptiPlex computers) in the amount not to exceed \$128,966.49.

03-23(1) G9

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Merger of Schools for Athletic Activity with Greene Central School District for junior varsity baseball for the 2022-2023 season.

**JV Baseball
Merger
GCSD**

03-23(1) G10

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurers Report for December 2022 as given.

**Treasurers
Report**

Personnel

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve resolutions C1 – C6 and UC1 – UC2. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

03-23(1) C1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Robin Wright’s** letter of intent to retire from her position of Licensed Teacher Assistant, effective after the close of day June 30, 2023.

**Intent to
Retire
LTA
R. Wright**

03-23(1) C2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Venera Jouraeva’s** letter of resignation from her position of Science Education Teacher, effective after the close of day June 30, 2023.

**Resignation
Science
Teacher
V. Jouraeva**

03-23(1) C3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Spring Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year, pending coaching certification requirements, stipend as per Oxford Teachers’ Association Agreement.

**Spring
Coaches**

SPORT

Varsity Softball

JV Softball

Modified Softball

JV Baseball (merge with GSCD)

Modified Baseball

Varsity Track

Varsity Assistant Track

Modified Track

Boys Tennis

COACH

Arielle Jacquette, *pending fingerprint clearance verification*

TBD

TBD

David Dunagan

Corey Endress

Shannon Gawronski

Irene DeJager

Jenny Ryan

Haley DeJager

Lance Thorne

03-23(1) C4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Ashley Clark-Butler’s** request for a leave of absence to begin approximately May 24, 2023, with an anticipated return date of September 5, 2023, from her position of Elementary Teacher.

**Leave of
Absence
Teacher
A. Clark-
Butler**

03-23(1) C5

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Kathleen Hodge’s** letter of intent to retire from her position of Special Education Teacher, effective after the close of day June 30, 2023.

**Intent to
Retire
Teacher
K. Hodge**

03-23(1) C6

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 2022-2023 school year.

Substitute Teachers

- Christine Gregiore** - Certified, *retroactive to March 6, 2023*
- Dana Hunter** - Uncertified, *pending fingerprint clearance*
- Mckenzie Kampe** - Uncertified, *pending fingerprint clearance*

03-23(1) UC1

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 2022-2023 school year.

Substitute Support Staff

- Stephanie Fowlston-Mack** - Teacher Aide PT Sub
- Mckenzie Kampe** - Uncertified, *pending fingerprint clearance*

03-23(1) UC2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Head Bus Driver, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following as occasional bus drivers for the 2022-2023 school year.

Occasional Drivers

- James Bohannon**
- Kimberly Bohannon**

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

Reminders

- March 17, 2023 - No School – Staff Development Day
- March 24, 2023 - *PS & MS ½ Day of Instruction/PT Conferences
- March 27, 2023 - *PS & MS ½ Day of Instruction/PT Conferences
- March 27, 2023 - BOE Budget Meeting, 6 pm, MS Conference Room
- March 30, 2023 - Greatest Show and Tell, 6-7 pm, PS
- April 3 -7, 2023 - No School, (Offices closed 4/7/23)
- April 11, 2023 - BOE Meeting, 6 pm MS Conference Room

Public Comment

Mr. Rogers noted a lot of high school teachers want to have parent/teacher conferences March 24 and 27. *Consensus of the BOE was in favor of modifying the instructional calendar to include parent/teacher conferences for the high school.

Public Comment

Mr. Davis stated Section Four is big on good sportsmanship, however, all school districts have different etiquette.

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

Mrs. Locke reported on the legislative breakfast noting concerns addressed were staffing, safety (including mental health) and electric buses. She reported Cliff Ketchum is going to view an electric bus this week.

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

Mr. Godfrey added one representative at the Legislative Breakfast understood the concerns with electric buses, noting the buses are too heavy for two bridges in McDonough. Mr. Hillis stated bus manufacturers are reporting the supply and demand is impossible. He also noted electric buses are three times the cost of current buses.

Mr. Godfrey was pleased with the turnout of spectators supporting the girls basketball team. Mr. Emerson stated how great it has been seeing the student fans at the basketball games.

At 7:36 p.m., Mrs. Locke 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,

Executive Session

promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

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

**Clerk Pro
Tem**

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to come out of executive session.

**Come out of
Executive
Session**

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 at 8:31 p.m.

**Meeting
Adjourned**



Michele D. Rice
District Clerk