

Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
October 7, 2024

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: 7.5 Correspondence from Ms. Hemstrought, 7.6 Correspondence from Ms. Ireland, 9.1 approve 2024-2025 BOE Goals, 11.14 approve Permanent Appointment of School Business Manager

**Additions
Deletions**

Deletions: None

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

Middle School Principal

Greg Lehr

Primary School Principal

Michelle Hardler

Visitors

Jonathan Rogers, Claudia Tefft, Julia Bogardus, Holly Abbott, Sarah Locke, Becky Rosas, Kim Bohannon, Jay Bohannon, Ed Holmquist, Cliff Ketchum, Amanda Utter, David Utter, Adam Francis, Hope Crawford, Jen Merritt, Deanna Ross, Carol Wilson, Judith Struble, Alicia Gracin, Trent Ferrington, Don Rogers, Joanne Dean, Rodney Preston, Bob Donholt, Kim Miller, Angelique Bakalyar, Peter Heggie, Jan Ireland, Robyn Young, Holly Cirello, Barb Sabines, Luke Williams, Tim Fowlston, Vicky Beach, Jeff Locke

Visitors

Approve Minutes

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to approve the meeting minutes of September 3, 2024. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Minutes

Reports/Presentations

External Audit – Allied CPA’s PC – Mr. Justin Bentley shared a summary of the financial statements for the 2023-2024 independent audit. The district received an unqualified (clean) opinion on all financial statements. He noted the audit committee reviewed the audit in detail prior to the meeting and thanked Ms. Gramstad and BOCES for their assistance. The Board thanked Mr. Bentley for his report on the audit.

**External
Audit**

Summer Catalyst Presentation – Mr. Holmquist stated 24 students attended the summer trip to the Grand Canyon. A few students displayed their favorite part of the trip on a poster board and spoke briefly about their experience. Mr. Holmquist thanked the Board for their support of the trip.

**Summer
Catalyst
Presentation**

Leadership Team Updates

Mrs. Hardler stated the beginning of the school year is going very well. She noted faculty members are building relationships with students.

Mr. Lehr held setting expectation meetings with students and parents and a presentation about online communication and the dangers of social media. Modified sports have started. The 7th grade will attend a trip to Albany on October 30 and the middle school is still looking for a certified science teacher.

Mr. Cooley noted the safety teams have met and fire drills have been occurring. The district will hold a lockdown/lockout drill next week. A lot of meetings have been occurring. Mr. Cooley stated staff is keeping an eye on a few students that may need additional guidance.

A mental health assembly has been scheduled for November. He will be starting the process to hire a special education teacher aide. To celebrate those on honor roll, he has allowed students to eat lunch outside on sunny days. The students have been very thankful of this privilege. He shared Evelyn Emerson received an award and the high school social committee has enjoyed two pot luck events. Teacher observations will begin next week.

Public Comment

Mr. Locke read a letter from the transportation department.

Mr. Donholt talked about laws and regulations on sharing student's IEP information and referenced parts of education law.

**Public
Comment**

Superintendent's Report

NYCOSS Conference Update – Mr. Colosi noted he attended several meetings/workshops at the conference about what is happening across the state. Topics included leadership, APPR, student learning and the portrait of a graduate which included seven key elements. The state has assigned a regionalization study to be conducted every ten years. The first report is due November 1. The study is looking at leveling the playing field for all schools to give rural school students the same as those in a wealthier area. Mr. Colosi stated 15 of the 16 component districts are also working with a consultant conducting their own regionalization study which will eventually be submitted with the state study.

**NYCOSS
Conference**

Project Update – Mr. Colosi noted a project meeting took place last week. At the meeting it was decided to proceed with the project in two phases. The first phase will include altering the PS/HS campus parking lot which will be done during the summer of 2025. The second phase will include the rest of the scope and will be completed the summer of 2026. Using a third party review will allow for a quicker turnaround on approval from the state.

**Project
Update**

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Godfrey 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. Mr. Lehr was invited to attend.

**Executive
Session**

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Cooley was 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. Leach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve the CSE minutes. Yes-5, No-0, Motioned Carried.

CSE Minutes

At 6:45 p.m., Mr. Lehr was excused.

Excused

At 7:25 p.m., Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to come out of executive session.

**Come out of
Executive
Session**

Mr. Colosi made a recommendation to add the termination of the Head Bus Driver to the personnel agenda.

Communications

The BOE acknowledged correspondences from the Transportation Department, Mr. Lupinetti, Mrs. Lawton, Ms. Hemstrought, Ms. Ireland and an invitation from BCA to the 2024 NYSSBA Conference.

Correspondence

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to approve resolution G05. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

10-24(1) G05

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept the Board of Education District Goals for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

**2024-25
District
Goals**

Business Office

Warrants were provided for information only (July and August 2024).

An Appropriation Status Report and Revenue Status Report for July and August 2024 were shared.

**Warrants
Approp &
Revenue
Reports**

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve resolutions G1-G7. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

10-24(1) G1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept the Independent Audit of Allied CPA's PC, for the 2023-2024 school year of the Oxford Academy and Central School District as given.

**Independent
Audit**

10-24(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 August 2024.

**Internal
Claims
Auditor
Report**

10-24(1) G3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2024 as given.

**Treasurers
Report**

10-24(1) G4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2024 as given.

**Treasurers
Report**

10-24(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:

**Extracurricular
Account
Report**

July 2024 \$54,719.22

10-24(1) G6

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:

**Extracurricular
Account
Report**

August 2024 \$54,558.22

10-24(1) G7

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 C0011-25 Contract Invoice (AS-7) and 679-25A July 2024 Print Shop Billing totaling -\$420,512.63.

**BOCES
Invoices**

Personnel

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to approve resolutions C1-C9 and UC1-UC6. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

10-24(1) C1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Jonathan D. Cooley** as High School Principal in the tenure area of School Building Leader, Initial Certification, effective September 27, 2024, probationary period to end September 27, 2028. (Vice: D. Hover)

**HS Principal
J. Cooley**

10-24(1) C2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Stacey Bolster's** letter of resignation from her position of Science Teacher, effective after the close of day October 4, 2024.

**Science
Teacher
Resignation
S. Bolster**

10-24(1) C3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Booker Davis'** request for a leave of absence to begin approximately January 30, 2025, with an anticipated return date of March 13, 2025, from his position of Math Teacher.

**Math
Teacher
LOA
B. Davis**

10-24(1) C4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the temporary Director of Transportation Operations Employment Agreement with **David Daniels**, as presented.

**Temporary
Employment
Agreement
D. Daniels**

10-24(1) C5

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Richard Gumble** as a long-term substitute in the area of Guidance Counselor, retroactive to September 13, 2024.

**LT
Substitute
R. Gumble**

10-24(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 2024-2025 school year.

**Substitute
Teachers**

Jessica Davis	-	Uncertified
Linda Denz	-	Uncertified
Barbara Gregson	-	Uncertified
Angela Gridley	-	Uncertified (<i>pending fingerprint clearance</i>)
Leah Oliver	-	Uncertified
Krysteena Race	-	Uncertified
Lynne Robinson	-	Uncertified (<i>pending fingerprint clearance</i>)

10-24(1) C7

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve payment for services offered, to those whom qualify, during sporting events, including but not limited to, ticket taking, score keeping and/or crowd control, for the 2024-2025 school year to the following individuals:

Ticket takers

Mallory Bates, retroactive to September 5, 2024

10-24(1) C8

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Winter Coaches for the 2024-2025 school year, pending coaching certification requirements.

**Winter
Coaches**

SPORT

Boys Varsity Basketball
Boys JV Basketball
Modified 8th Grade Boys Basketball
Modified 7th Grade Boys Basketball
Modified Boys Volunteer Assistant
Girls Varsity Basketball
Girls JV Basketball
Girls 8th Grade Basketball
Girls 7th Grade Basketball
Varsity Wrestling
Modified Wrestling
Indoor Track

COACH

Timothy Davis
Brandon Stoddard
Matthew Dowling
James Champlin
Sara Locke
Chris Palmer
Margo Barrows
Ed Holmquist
Brenda Strauss
Craig Tefft
Greg Lehr
Shannon Gawronski

10-24(1) C9

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Mia Quatrone's** letter of resignation from her position of Music Teacher, effective after the close of day October 7, 2024.

**Music
Teacher
Resignation
M. Quatrone**

10-24(1) UC1

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 (regarding cafeteria employee hours) as presented.

**OESPA
MOA**

10-24(1) UC2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Robert Shimer's** request for a leave of absence to begin approximately September 30, 2024, with an anticipated return date of November 4, 2024, from his position of Food Service Helper.

**Food Service
Worker LOA
R. Shimer**

10-24(1) UC3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Richard Warner's** request for a leave of absence to begin approximately September 5, 2024, with an anticipated return date of January 5, 2025, from his position of Bus Driver.

**Bus Driver
LOA
R. Warner**

10-24(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**

Custodial Workers PT Substitutes

Ethan Moore, retroactive to September 1, 2024

Shawn Pixley, retroactive to September 1, 2024

10-24(1) UC5

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the permanent appointment, of **Erin Gramstad**, to the position of School Business Manager, subject to successful completion of a probationary period as

**School
Business
Manager
E. Gramstad**

defined in the rules for the Classified Civil Service of Chenango County effective February 7, 2022.

10-24(1) UC6

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the termination of **Clifton Ketchum, Jr.**, as Head Bus Driver, a position in the non-competitive class of the classified civil service, in accordance with the local civil service rules effective October 8, 2024.

**Head Bus
Driver
Termination
C. Ketchum**

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

- October 10 – Early Dismissal
- October 10 – PS Open House, 6-7 pm
- October 11 – No School – Superintendent’s Conference Day
- October 11 – Homecoming
- October 14 – No School – Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples Day (Offices Closed)
- October 25 – BTD Health Insurance Consortium Meeting, 6 pm, BT BOCES
- November 4 – BOE Meeting, 6 pm, MS Conference Room

Reminders

Public Comment

Cliff Ketchum asked to speak but was cut off when he started referring to his counseling memos.

**Public
Comment**

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

Mr. Leach noted he’s glad the new principals are settling in. He acknowledged the presence of bus drivers and aides, noting their concerns were heard and stated it has not been an easy day.

Mr. Godfrey stated it has been a difficult day. He reminded everyone homecoming is this weekend.

**BOE
Member
Comments/
Concerns**

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. Sheridan 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.

**Executive
Session**

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

**Clerk Pro
Tem**

At 8:38 p.m., Mr. Emerson 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. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to adjourn. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

**Meeting
Adjourned**



Michele D. Rice
District Clerk