

**Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
September 5, 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: 11.3 Approve Extracurricular Account Advisors, 11.7 Appoint Part-time Bus Attendant

**Additions/
Deletions**

Deletions: None

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

Present

Brian Sheridan attended via Zoom.

Superintendent

John Hillis

School Business Manager

Erin Gramstad

District Clerk

Michele Rice

High School Principal

Dawn Hover

Middle School Principal

Greg Lehr

Primary School Principal

Brian Collier

Visitors

Visitors

Holly Cirello

Approve Minutes

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve the meeting minutes of August 7, 2023. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

Minutes

Reports/Presentations

Building Growth Initiative Team Goals – Mr. Collier reviewed primary school building growth initiatives noting a lot of focus will remain on social emotional growth. Other items include 75% of students will be at grade level by the end of the year and make at least one year’s worth of growth for HMH/IXL and Eureka Math Squared/IXL, and improve building wide faculty and student relationships.

**Building
Growth
Initiative
Team Goals**

Mr. Lehr noted middle school building growth initiatives include fostering social emotional growth and development, promoting a culture of respect and personal responsibility as evidenced by 90% of student population feeling safe (physically and emotionally) and supported at school, providing professional development that aligns with academic initiatives, decreasing the number of chronically absent students to less than 10%, and planning events to promote staff cohesiveness.

Ms. Hover shared high school goals to include exposing students to a variety of college and career options and experiences, to continue creating a positive school community and culture that promotes a challenging, respectful, and safe learning environment for all, improving student attendance and academic performance, and creating a 5% reduction in chronic absenteeism and 5% reduction in at risk attendance.

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

09-23(1) G1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Primary School, Middle School, and High School Building Growth Initiatives for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

**Approve
Building
Growth
Initiative
Team Goals**

Leadership Team Updates

None

Public Comment

Mrs. Cirello applauded the initiative to promote school/community events. She suggested setting a date for homecoming weekend in May or June to help with planning.

**Public
Comment**

Superintendent’s Report

Vaping Litigation Update – Mr. Hillis reported that attorneys are continuing to work on the vaping litigation with a possible settlement resolution in November. The social media litigation is continuing.

**Vaping
Litigation
Update**

Mr. Hillis reported receiving updated COVID guidelines from the Governor, as there is a new variant spreading.

COVID

Mr. Hillis noted opening day went well. Meetings included department chairs, building meetings and department meetings. The auditorium and gym sound system should be completed within a couple of weeks.

Opening Day

At 6:49 p.m., Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach 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 6:49 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. Godfrey to approve the CSE minutes. Yes-5, No-0, Motioned Carried.

CSE Minutes

At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Lehr was excused.

Excused

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Godfrey 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

None

Old Business

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve resolutions G2-G3. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

09-23(1) G2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the School Resource Officer Agreement with Upstate Security Consultants, LLC, as presented, retroactive to September 1, 2023.

**SRO
Agreement
with Upstate
Security
Consultants**

09-23(1) G3

BE IT RESOLVED: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Oxford Academy and Central School District has entered into an agreement with Upstate Security Consultants, LLC, to provide the services of a School Resource Officer for the 2023-2024 school year in furtherance of its mission of safeguarding the wellbeing of its students and faculty; and **WHEREAS,** the School Resource Officer is a qualified professional with significant years of experience and training; and **WHEREAS,** among other things, the School Resource Officer possess the necessary training, licensing, and permits to keep and maintain a firearm on his person during the course of his duties; and

**Authorize
Conceal and
Carry
Firearm
On Campus**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to authorize the School Resource Officer to keep and maintain a firearm on his person during the course of his duties while on School District property, so long as there remains a written agreement between the School District and Upstate Security Consultants, LLC, provided School Resource Officer in force and effect and the School Resource Officer maintains all necessary licenses and/or permits to allow him to maintain and possess such firearm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Oxford Academy and Central School District hereby authorizes **Peter Heggie, Jr., School Resource Officer**, to maintain and possess a firearm on the properties and campus of the School District during the course of his duties as a School Resource Officer, for so long as there exists an agreement between the parties for School Resource Officer services and the School Resource Officer possesses all necessary licensing and permits to maintain and possess such firearm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reserves the right to revoke such authorization at any time, for any reason or no reason whatsoever.

New Business

None

Business Office

None

Personnel

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godfrey to approve resolutions C1-UC4. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

09-23(1) C1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Mentors for the 2023-2024 school year, \$600.00 stipend per semester:

Mentors

Teacher	Teaching Assignment	Mentor	Semesters
Mia Quatrone	Elementary	Christopher Rovente	1st and 2 nd
John Huther	Elementary	Heather Pizza	1 st and 2 nd
Sub/Science Teacher	Science	Annick Donahue	1 st and 2 nd
Sub/Science Teacher	Science	Nicole Crandall	1 st and 2 nd

09-23(1) C2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby accept **Misty Golden's** request for a leave of absence to begin approximately October 30, 2023, with an anticipated return date of January 2, 2024, from her position of Mathematics Teacher.

**Leave of Absence
M. Golden**

09-23(1) C3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the advisor appointments for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

**Extracurricular Account
Advisors**

High School Advisors

HS Multi-Cultural Club

*Freshman Class Advisor

*Amended from 7/23(1) C4

Christine Long & Sarah Palmer

Christine Long & Sarah Palmer

Stipend

\$911.50 each

\$982.50 each

09-23(1) UC1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby acknowledge **Joanne Dean's** letter of resignation from her positions of Part-time Bus Attendant and Part-time School Monitor, retroactive to September 1, 2023.

**PT Bus
Attendant/
PT School
Monitor
Resignation
J. Dean**

09-23(1) UC2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Joanne Dean** 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, retroactive to September 1, 2023. (Vice: D. Troxell)

**Bus Driver
J. Dean**

09-23(1) UC3

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 2023-2024 school year.

**Substitute
Support Staff**

- Joanne Dean** - Clerk PT Substitute
- Joanne Dean** - Bus Attendant PT Substitute

09-23(1) UC4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Esther Maceda** to the position of part-time Bus Attendant subject to successful completion of a probationary period as defined in the rules for the Classified Civil Service of Chenango County, retroactive to September 1, 2023. (Vice: L. Conway)

**PT Bus
Attendant
E. Maceda**

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

- September 6, 2023 – No School, Staff Development Day and Meet and Greets
- September 7, 2023 – First Day for Students
- October 2, 2023 – BOE Meeting, 6 pm MS Conference Room

Reminders

Public Comment

None

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

Mr. Godfrey reported a neighbor commented on how wonderful the fireworks were for the Oxford Fire Station Bicentennial.

**BOE
Member
Comments/
Concerns**

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Emerson 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**

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Hillis was excused.

Excused

At 7:40 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. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leach to adjourn. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

**Meeting
Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Michele D. Rice

Michele D. Rice
District Clerk