

**Oxford Academy & Central School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2022**

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: 11.4 Approve Long-term Special Education Teacher Substitute – Mrs. LaCotta

**Additions/
Deletions**

Deletions: 15.1 Executive Session Particular Personnel

Present were Trustees: Julie Gates, John Godfrey, Betsy Locke, Nathaniel Emerson (arrived at 6:10 pm), and Matthew Leach.

Present

Superintendent

John Hillis

School Business Manager

Erin Gramstad

District Clerk

Michele Rice

High School Principal

Dawn Hover

Middle School Principal

Gregory Lehr

Primary School Principal

Brian Collier

Visitors

Visitors

Holly Cirello, Cole Samsel

Reports/Presentations

2021-2022 Regents Scores – Ms. Hover reported on June 2022 Regents scores along with historical data. The results included the number of students sitting for the exams, the percentage each level scored at, percentage of mastery, and percentage awarded the special appeal. The district is focusing on reading and math professional development.

**2021-2022
Regents
Scores**

PS & MS Building Growth Initiatives - Mr. Collier reviewed the primary school building growth initiatives noting a lot of focus will be on social emotional growth. Other items include 80% of students reading on grade level, 85% of students fluent in basic math facts by the end of 4th grade and improving faculty and student relationships.

**PS & MS
BGIP**

Mr. Lehr noted the middle school building growth initiatives include fostering social emotional growth and development, culture of respect and personal responsibility, providing professional development that aligns with academic initiatives, and chronic absenteeism.

Leadership Team Updates

Ms. Hover stated the first day back gathering involved going over trainings, initiatives, and introducing new staff. Building faculty meetings also occurred.

HS Update

Mr. Collier stated the PS had a good day. He provided updates and introduced new staff.

PS Update

Mr. Lehr noted the MS had a good first day. They will start holding students accountable with homework, deadlines, etc. The enrichment period will help. (Two students that did not attend summer school are being retained.)

MS Update

Public Comment

None

Superintendent's Report

Electric Buses – Mr. Hillis reported the district passed on a state-wide initiative to pilot electric buses. He added another initiative is in the works. The cost of one electric bus is \$365,000; considerably higher than a gas bus. The state is promoting electric buses with grant opportunities. Mr. Hillis shared his concern with the newness of them, the cost, and life expectancy. More information will follow when available.

**Electric
Buses**

At 6:54 p.m., Mrs. Locke 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. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried. Mr. Lehr was invited to attend.

Executive Session

At 6:54 p.m., Ms. Hover and Mr. Collier were excused.

Excused

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke 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 7:13 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 BOE acknowledged a BOCES Board Member Vacancy Notice.

Correspondence

Old Business

Mr. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke to approve resolution G2. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

09-22(1) G2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the Parochial School Transportation requests for the following students for the 2022-2023 school year:

Parochial School Transportation Request

Valley Heights Christian Academy

Tucker Ives
Michael Ives

New Business

Mrs. Emerson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke to approve resolutions G3-G5. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

09-22(1) G3

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 Norwich City School District for girls varsity swimming for the 2022-2023 season.

Girls Varsity Swim Merger

09-22(1) G4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and having had an opportunity to discuss this matter, RESOLVED, that the Oxford Academy and Central School District appoints the Ferrara Fiorenza PC law firm, effective October 1, 2022, as its attorneys on the same terms and conditions as it had with its former counsel, Hogan, Sarzynski, Lynch, DeWind & Gregory, LLP.

Legal Counsel Ferrara Fiorenza PC

09-22(1) G5

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

Treasurers Report

Personnel

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve resolutions C1 - C4. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

09-22(1) C1

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Deidra Bigelow** in the tenure area of Science Education, Permanent Certification, probationary period effective September 1, 2022, probationary period to end September 1, 2025, base salary \$62,750. (Vice: E. Powers-Leech)

**Science
Teacher
D. Bigelow**

09-22(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 2022-2023 school year.

**Substitute
Teachers**

Sarah Gould - Uncertified
Lauren Marris - Uncertified

09-22(2) C3

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that this Board does hereby approve amending a portion of **Resolution 08-22(1) C10** from the August 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes and approving teacher mentors as follows: this Board does hereby approve the appointment of the following Mentors for the 2022-2023 school year, \$600.00 stipend per semester:

**Amending
Resolution
08-22(1) C10
Mentors**

Mentors and New Teachers

| First Year Teacher | Teaching Assignment | Mentor | Semesters |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mia Quatrone | Music | Sara Williamson | 1 st and 2 nd |
| Sandele Wenzel | Math | Judy Moore | 1 st and 2 nd |
| Deidra Bigelow | Science | Patrick Moore | 1 st and 2 nd |

09-22(2) C4

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the daily compensation rate of \$195.00 per day to be paid to **Patricia LaCotta** for planning and performing the duties of Special Education Teacher, effective September 19, 2022 through approximately December 9, 2022.

**Special Ed
LT Teacher
P. LaCotta**

Mr. Godfrey made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke to approve resolutions UC1 – UC2. Yes-5, No-0, Motion carried.

09-22(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**

Cody Reynolds – Custodial Worker PT Sub

09-22(1) UC2

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that this Board does hereby approve the appointment of **Robyn Young** to the position of Bus Attendant (PT) subject to successful completion of a probationary period as defined in the rules for the Classified Civil Service of Chenango County and pending fingerprint clearance, retroactive to September 1, 2022, hourly rate of \$13.20. (Vice: Lawton)

**Bus
Attendant PT
R. Young**

Planning

Mrs. Gates noted the following reminders.

- September 7 – No School, Staff Development Day
- September 8 – First Day of School
- October 3 – Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm, MS Conference Room

Reminders

Public Comment

Mrs. Cirello asked questions about electric buses and for clarification on the enrichment period with concerns that students won't be able to get help and attend club meetings. She added her recollection of offer Biology in 8th grade and asked what other school districts do. Mr. Hillis reported the science department will recommend what science is offered in 8th and in 9th.

**Public
Comment**

BOE Member Comments/Concerns

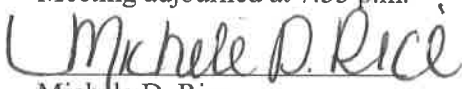
Mrs. Locke complemented the first day breakfast. She spoke about a student-lead professional development event that occurred in the Norwich School District. Mr. Godfrey recognized an article *The Evening Sun* published on Oxford FFA. Mr. Leach suggested researching student character building/social/emotional assembly opportunities. Mr. Emerson noted he's looking forward to a good school year. Mrs. Gates noted the first day breakfast was good, as was seeing teachers.

**BOE
Member
Comments/
Concerns**

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

**Meeting
Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Michele D. Rice
District Clerk