

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
OXFORD AREA BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

The regular meeting of the Oxford Area Board of School Directors was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Jenifer A. Warren, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDING WERE:

ROLL CALL

Kaitlin F. Bell, Member
Michael P. Blessington, Member
Kristen Dean, Member
Tenille E. Dewees, Member
Jennifer L. Kehs, Member
William C. Kloss, Treasurer
Mark V. Patterson, member
Debbie K. Vendrick, Vice President
Jenifer A. Warren, President

ALSO ATTENDING WERE:

Dr. David A. Woods Superintendent
Brian P. Cooney, Business Administrator

Item 5-D Flexible Instruction Days was tabled per Mrs. Warren

TABLED ITEM

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Kloss, BE IT RESOLVED,
That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the
April 16, 2024, agenda as amended.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mrs. Dean, BE IT RESOLVED,
That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the
minutes of the March 12, 2024, Work Session, and the March 19, 2024,
Regular Meeting as presented.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

Dr. Woods relinquished time to Dr. Margaret Billings-Jones who
presented the report for the month of April. Dr. Billings-Jones
stated that April 11, 2024, was Awards Night for Seniors. There
were over two hundred fifteen thousand dollars in awards given to
graduating seniors this year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

In the Chester County Art Exhibition three Oxford Area High School
students were winners.

Penn's Grove students won the 2024 Outstanding Outreach Award from
Chester County Economic Development Council. Their manufacturing
video was played for the Board.

The PSSA's in English, for grades 3 through 8, will be given April 24
through 26, 2024, and for Math on April 30 through May 1, 2024.

PSSA's in Science, for grades 4 through ,8 will be given May 2 & 3, 2024.

The Curriculum Committee will meet regarding Science on April 17, 2024, at 8 a.m. in the Board Room.

Professional Development continues April 23, 2024, with focus on Raptor Emergency System, Role of counselor within the school, Hornet Virtual Academy Instructional Strategies and Feedback, Resiliency.

Family Read will occur April 17, 2024, at Elk Ridge School at 6:00 p.m.

First Friday will be hosted by Elk Ridge School on Friday, May 3, 2024.

Oxford Reading Club-Young Author Night will be held on May 15, 2024, at Jordan Bank School from 6-7:30 p.m.

Federal Programs Parent Meeting will be held at Hopewell Elementary School on May 15, 2024, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Blessington, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the following Financial reports as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- 1. General Fund
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Revenue Report
 - c. Expenditure Report
- 2. Cafeteria Fund Treasurer's Report
- 3. Capital Projects Fund Treasurer's Report

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Blessington, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the student activities and athletic officials accounts as presented.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Penn's Grove
Oxford Area High School
Athletic Officials Account

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mrs. Kehs, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the following bill lists for payment:

PAYMENT OF BILLS

<u>April 2024</u>	
General Fund	\$6,231,389.31
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 80,010.36
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 45,595.00
Payroll Distribution	\$2,118,213.84

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

Mr. Kloss reported the Chester County Board of Directors met on March 20, 2024, at the CCDC in Coatesville. Budget and Marketplace Programs were discussed. The Principal of the CCDC gave a presentation and spoke about their support system.

**REPORT OF
CHESTER COUNTY
INTERMEDIATE UNIT
AND TECHNICAL
COLLEGE HIGH
SCHOOL**

Training of the staff was discussed and some of the protective equipment staff needs to use to stay safe in this special school environment was demonstrated.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Mrs. Kehs reported the council met on March 1, 2024, during the Legislative Breakfast. The 2024 State Mandates have been distributed for review.

**CHESTER COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARDS
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The next meeting is April 24, 2024.

Miss Aguliar reported that the Gertrude Hawke Candy Fundraiser was a big success.

**LIASON WITH PARENT
TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

PTO will host their last Taco Tuesday, featuring food from Moe's Restaurant on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. All orders are due by Monday, May 20, 2024, at 1 p.m.

The Mother/Son event at Oxford's Timber Wolf Lanes, on Sunday, March 3, 2024, was well attended at all three sessions. Photos can be found on the Oxford PTO Facebook page.

The Father Daughter Dance for students in kindergarten through sixth grade was held this past Saturday. There were eight hundred participants. All had an enjoyable evening. Pictures from the event are posted on the Oxford PTO Facebook page.

Hershey Park tickets have been purchased and will be distributed as soon as they arrive. Hopefully by April 29, 2024.

The PTO has provided three scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to graduating seniors, purchased gym equipment for Hopewell and will be offsetting the cost of field day, for Hopewell again this year.

Supplies for the National Honor Society's upcoming THON, supplies for students entering Jordan Bank in the fall, decorations for the High School's Snowball Dance in March and in May, soft pretzels for winning classroom who participate in the poster contest to support seniors during their final bus ride, are all purchased by the PTO.

April 23, 2024, is National School Bus Drive Day. PTO will provide a special treat to all our bus drivers.

May 6 through 10, 2024 is National Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTO will provide Chick-fil-a lunches for teachers and staff.

May 22, 2024, will be the last PTO meeting for the school year. The meeting will be held in the main office of Oxford Area High School, at 7 p.m.

May 28, 2024, will be the seniors final bus ride through town.

Mr. Patterson reported that our athletic fields are all in good shape. All coaching positions for current sports are filled and no equipment is needed currently for spring sports.

**ATHLETICS AND
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
COMITTEE**

Capital projects were discussed. A "needs list" was requested from the administration. Three hundred trauma kits and ten AEDs were acquired through a grant and will be placed throughout the buildings.

**FACILITIES AND
SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Vendrick stated the Education Committee met April 9, 2024. Dr. Billings-Jones presented a review of our district level ELA and Math benchmarks and results. She also explained how the buildings use this data.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Students have completed the beginning and middle of the year benchmark tests. The results show our students are making progress toward proficiency in grade level standards.

The next meeting of the Education Committee is Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Kloss stated the Finance and Budget Committee met on April 3, 2024, and prior to this evening's meeting. The committee met to establish a baseline, to understand historical increases, PSERS and assessments.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

The increase recommended by the Administration in the Proposed Final Budget was 4.75%. The committee recommended this be changed to 2.5%.

The Policy Committee met and continued to work on Policy 6300. This policy will be on the agenda in May for a second reading.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Warren stated these will be on the May agenda for a final vote.

**BOARD IN-SERVICE/
BOARD GOALS**

Jordan Bank is recognizing Autism Acceptance Week with themed days throughout the week, and each day facts are shared with students about Autism. The themed days include Marvelous Monday: Let's be extra nice today and every day! Being a kind hero means being loving and accepting to everyone, no matter how they're different. You can wear your favorite superhero clothes; Neurodiversity Tuesday: Let's celebrate how different our brains can be by wearing clothes with lots of colors like a rainbow or tie-dye; Passion-Powered Wednesday: People with Autism really love certain things. What do you love a lot? Dress up in something that shows your favorite thing, like your favorite color, animal, or hobby; Sensory Awareness Thursday: Some people with Autism have special needs for how they feel things. Let's wear our comfiest pajamas or clothes that feel good; Friendly Friday: Let's support and be friends with people who have Autism by wearing something red.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

Dr. Hamburg continues visiting local preschools to meet potential kindergarteners, read a book about kindergarten, and answer questions about kindergarten. Parents of incoming kindergarteners continue to register every day

Grades are now live in PowerSchool for parents to view for the third marking period.

On May 1, 2024, students will engage in a Career Day Celebration, where they'll explore a multitude of pathways awaiting them post-high school graduation.

Elk Ridge welcomed Mrs. Taylor Weaver as the new Elk Ridge building secretary.

The school is hosting Family Read Night on Wednesday, April 17th from 6:00-7:30 pm
Students are looking forward to the Scholastic Spring Book Fair during the week of April 22, 2024.

This week, students are enjoying a visit from the Mobil Ag. Lab. They wanted to say a special thank you to OEF for funding this year's visit of the Mobile Ag. Lab.

Please visit the OASD table for First Friday on May 3, 2024, to make tissue flowers.

In May, first grade students will take a field trip to the Plumpton Park Zoo.

Forty Nottingham students earned the March award for Nottingham's student-wide Positive Behavior Program. The theme was "March Madness Basketball." Students participated in their own basketball tournament, and the top three teams earned their own basketball.

The Art Goes to School program presented to grades 3-4 Art classes at the end of March. The program is designed to motivate children to be interested and delight in art.

Nottingham would like to thank all who participated in their Fine Arts night on April 11, 2024, including the student band, orchestra, and chorus for their amazing performances. It was standing room only. PTO sponsored several Food Trucks for this evening. We would like to thank our local artisans and New Holland Jazz Alive for providing performances and exhibits.

Fourth grade students will attend the Stroud Nature Presence in April to learn about natural resources & land conservation while the third-grade students will attend Longwood gardens on April 10, 2024.

Nottingham Envirothon Team will compete on April 24, 2024, at the Chester Count Envirothon Competition.

Students are getting ready for the PSSAs which will be conducted April 24 through 26, 30 and May 1 through 3, 2024.

Hopewell will host Moms and Muffins on May 10, 2024. All mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and special women are invited to celebrate Mother's Day.

PSSA slogans and posters are being submitted as Hopewell gets ready for standardized testing sessions. PSSAs will be starting on April 24, 2024. As a student incentive, OASD and PTO invite students to attend First Alert Weather Team where students can meet NBC 10 meteorologists, eat lunch, and watch a Phillies game.

Grades from the third marking period are finalized and ready to be viewed by parents.

Fifth grade classes will attend field trips to Fair Hill Nature Center and sixth grade classes will go on a field trip to Washington, DC.

Students will participate in the Chester County Envirothon competition in late April; the Shakespeare festival will take place on May 22, 2024; Arts Appreciation Night will be on May 9, 2024, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

On April 23, 2024, there will be an Act 80 day for professional development activities. School will be closed for students on this day.

Penn's Grove is celebrating third quarter honor roll recipients with an ice cream sundae bar.

On April 22, 2024, Penn's Grove students concluded another great team building Amazing Race Day. Students are now buckling down and preparing for PSSA testing.

The end of year dinner dance will be on May 4, 2024.

Congratulations to Mrs. Myers's and her students who competed in the What's So Cool About Manufacturing Contest! They were awarded the Outstanding Outreach Plan on April 10, 2024.

For the High School, Logan Spano qualified for the national FBLA Conference in Orlando, FL (his third appearance at nationals. Logan Spano placed fourth in Public Policy & Advocacy; Ronnie Bednarz placed eighth in Introduction to Programming and seventh in the Python Programming Open Event; and Michael Besancon, David Hanna & Owen Graf placed eighth in Game Simulation Programming.

SAT school day for eleventh grade will be held on April 18, 2024, and Junior prom will be held on April 20, 2024.

Marine Biology and AP Environmental Science students will take a trip to Chincoteague and Wallops Island to learn about marine life and ecosystems.

Student athletes attended a leadership conference at Neumann University called "Fitt 2 Lead" and the NEHS hosted the high school wide speech contest. Finals were held today. Congratulations to winner Owen Oliver and runner up Carleigh Zipfel

Dr. Woods reported Hornet Virtual Academy (HVA) currently has fifty-four students enrolled in grades nine through twelve. There will be one hundred and fifty classes offered through HVA for grades eight through twelve. Currently we are gearing up for grades seven through twelve summer credit recovery program and on April 23, 2024, there will be a K-6 teacher introductory workshop.

REPORT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS

OLD BUSINESS

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mrs. Dewees, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the Chester County Intermediate Unit 2024-2025 Core Occupational Education and Categorical Budgets.

CCIU BUDGETS

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

NEW BUSINESS

Shelly Meadowcroft-Spoke of the positive experience she had at the National Honor Society Speech Contest today. All four students gave compelling speeches on the theme "The Power of Words".

RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WHO REQUESTED TO BE THE AGENDA

Betty Roe-Nottingham-Spoke about mental health issues in children. She referenced a study by the National Institute of Health (ABCD Study) specifically digital screen time. Conclusion about screen time (computer, iPad, smart phones, texting) devices are leading to adolescent behavioral issues like ADHD, depression, increased psychological and physical addictive behaviors, obesity, and suicide. Screen time should be limited to 2 hours per day.

Pat Carnavale-Apologized for his prior behavior towards the Board. He is still investigating the cleaners in the schools. Wants the public to know what happened. Wants a search to begin for a new superintendent.

Glen Lopeman-Upper Oxford-In his opinion there is an illegal superintendent situation. Would be concerned if he was a member of the board.

Ronnie Lutz-East Nottingham-Addressed the "transparency issue" with Woods resignation. Complained that legal opinions have not been released. Feels the board lacks understanding of what their authority and responsibilities are. Feels the board is unhealthy and unstable. Stated stakeholders are tired of being in the dark and will push back.

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by, Mr. Kloss, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the following personnel items:

PERSONNEL

Professional

Retirements

Name: Michael Garrison
Position: Human Resources Director, District Office
Effective: June 28, 2024

Name: Jennifer Winand
Position: Grade 6, Hopewell School
Effective: June 14, 2024

Supplemental Appointment

Name: William Hoffman
Position: Softball Assistant, Penn's Grove School
Salary: \$2,350.00
Effective: March 11, 2024

Salary Changes

Brooks, Michele from 9 M + 15 \$67,255 to 9 M + 30 \$68,581 effective
February 1, 2024

Belford, Karly from 8 M \$62,818.00 to 8 M + 15 \$66,255 effective
February 1, 2024

Non-Professional

Retirement

Name: Madonna Hunter
Position: Kindergarten Aide, Jordan Bank School
Effective: June 10, 2024

Resignations

Name: Barbara Greist
Position: Food Service 5.5/182, Penn's Grove School
Effective: March 21, 2024

Name: Sophie Thompson
Position: Cafeteria Aide 2.6/182, Elk Ridge School
Effective: March 8, 2024

Appointment

Name: Edward Douglas
Position: Custodian, District
Salary: \$15.00 per hour
Effective: April 18, 2024
Replacing: Norman Winters, retired

Leave Of Absence

Name: Grace Chamberlain
Position: Food Service Supervisor, Penn's Grove School
Type: Excess Family Illness
Number of hours: Up to 30 hours
Effective: April 3 - until the end of the school year

Transfer

Name: Kimberly Levinsky
Position: From: Accounts Payable, District Office
To: Payroll, District Office
Salary: From: \$47,000.00
To: \$58,250.00
Effective: April 17, 2024
Replacing: Jamie Wooten, Resigned

Volunteers

Robert Burrell, Ashley Czarnota, Breyonna Dorsey, David Estrada-Castro, Rachel Horoff, Jodi Howell, Kimberly Lewin, Julia Macintyre, Kyle McCarthy, Andrew Neilson, Allen Paisley, Marc Pepi, Christopher Roberts, Brandie Scholz, Kathryn Siegrist, Johana Tenorio-Ocampo, Rebecca Vitale, Paul Williams, Rosanna Williams, Ashlee Young

Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1 (Deweese)

On Motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mrs. Dewees, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves that the students named on the attached list are to be considered a resident of the school district for the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with Section 1302 of the Public School Code.

1302 STUDENTS

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mrs. Dean, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors approves the following:

PROPOSED FINAL
GENERAL FUND BUDGET

1. The Proposed Final General Fund Budget of the School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year on form PDE 2028 as presented to the School Board shall be considered the proposed Final General Fund Budget of the school district for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and shall be made available for public inspection after this date.

2. At least ten (10) days before the date scheduled for adoption of the Final General Fund Budget, the Secretary shall advertise Notice of Final Budget. The Notice shall be advertised once in a newspaper of the general circulation and shall be posted conspicuously at the School District Offices.

Aye: 7 Nay: 2 (Kehs, Warren)

On motion by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mrs. Dewees, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the Health and Safety Plan template for the ARP-ESSER Fund. (American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund)

HEALTH AND SAFETY
PLAN

Aye: 8 Nay: 1 (Kehs)

On motion by Mrs. Dewees, seconded by Ms. Bell, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Oxford Area School district and the Oxford Education Association, PSEA/NEA as per attached.

PSEA MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING

Aye: 9 Nay: 0

On motion by Mrs. Dewees, seconded by Ms. Bell, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors hereby approves the following:

CONSTITUTIONAL
FUNDING OF PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2023, the Commonwealth Court of PA ruled that the General Assembly has failed to uphold its constitutional obligation to provide for "the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education" because our current funding system deprives

students in low-income districts with the same opportunities afforded students in wealthier ones; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has been mandated to ensure that "all students have access to a comprehensive, effective and contemporary system of public education"; and

WHEREAS, the Basic Education Funding Commission (BEFC) was tasked with gathering input from stakeholders, analyzing and evaluating options, and making recommendations for meeting the court-ordered obligation; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2024, the BEFC released both a majority report and a report from the minority with substantial overlap in their recommendations, including acknowledging the inadequacy of current education funding as well as support for: Cyber Charter reform, Career and Technical Education programs, facilities improvements, student mental health programs, addressing the teacher shortage, and early literacy programs, any and all of which could have significant impact on school budgets and student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, both the ruling of the Commonwealth Court and ACT 51 of 2014, which created the BEFC, focused their mandates exclusively on public education funding; and

WHEREAS, proposals have been put forward that use public funds to create scholarships for non-public schools with the stated intention of providing school choice opportunities in the form of low-achieving schools; and

WHEREAS, PA law already provides for public school choice opportunities in the form of charter schools; and

WHEREAS, current proposals for the non-public school scholarship program allow for scholarships to go to students who are neither low-income nor residing within the boundaries of low-achieving schools; and

WHEREAS, a program already exists, in the form of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC/OSTC) Opportunity Student Tax Scholarship that provides taxpayer-supported scholarships for low and moderate-income students to attend non-public schools; and

WHEREAS, there have been no studies done to indicate whether students who receive public funds from the EITC/OSTS programs achieve better academic outcomes; and

WHEREAS, current versions of the non-public school scholarship program provide for no meaningful reporting requirement or accountability for the academic progress of students who receive the scholarships, and

WHEREAS, current versions of the non-public school scholarship program provide for additional funds for students with special needs, but do not require that those funds be used for special education services; and

WHEREAS, any program that diverts public money away from public schools and into non-public schools would make the court-ordered mandate for the fair funding of public schools more difficult to achieve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors calls on Governor Shapiro and the General Assembly to work together to quickly enact legislation that builds upon the common ground provided in the two BCEF reports, including specific adequacy funding targets and a timeline for implementation; and to forego discussion of any proposal that diverts additional public funds away from public education and into non-public schools until the court ordered mandate for fair funding has been met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Oxford Area Board of School Directors calls on the General Assembly to ensure that any program that uses public funds to provide scholarships to non-public schools has robust and specific fiscal and academic accountability standards and only provides funds for the lowest income students located in the boundaries of low achieving schools.

Aye: 7 Nay: 2 (Kehs, Patterson)

Mrs. Warren read the following dates and times for upcoming events. **CALENDAR**

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, Policy Committee, 6 p.m., Administration Building
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, Athletics & Student Activities Committee, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, Facilities & Safety Committee, 6:45 p.m., Administration Building
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, Work Session, 7 p.m., Administration Building
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, Education Committee, 6 p.m., Administration Building
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., Administration Building
Friday, May 31, 2024, Oxford Area High School Graduation, 6 p.m., OAHS Gymnasium

On motion by Mrs. Dewees, seconded by Mr. Kloss, the regular meeting **ADJOURNMENT**
meeting of the Oxford Area Board of School Directors adjourned at
8:32 p.m. by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian P. Cooney
Board Secretary

*All or a portion of this meeting may be video recorded for the purpose
of public broadcast.*

