

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

WORKSHOP MEETING

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023**

**BENNETT SCHOOL**

## 1. Opening Items

- 1.01 Call to Order 6:00
- 1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
- 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.04 Roll Call

Present: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

## 2. Public Hearing

2.01 The President will open the Public Hearing on the Tax Exemption Income Increase

2.02 [Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair will present on the Tax Exemption Income Increase](#) (duration 10 min)

2.03 The President will close the Public Hearing on the Tax Exemption Income Increase

## 3. Welcome

3.01 Bennett Principal, Gabriel Buono will welcome the Board (duration 10 min)

- Mr. Buono happily announced that the Bennett staff is working very hard to access the children to come up with the quarterly data to make proper decisions for the third quarter
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Orchestra has a concert this Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>
- The student government has been meeting weekly with Ms. Amodeo, Ms. Hadley, and Mr. Wes, learning about plastic film going into landfills. They have arranged times to teach the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes to learn how to alleviate this problem. They are looking forward to teaching the students in the middle school as well as he administrators
  - The entre process is being filmed as a documentary which will be presented on Earth Day
  - In February they are invited to a presentation to present their lessons at the Ashokan YESS conference (youth environmental and sustainability summit)
- The student government has also been very busy working on projects helping out the PBIS team with the winter carnival, planning a birthday party for the entire building for Gidget (the therapy dog) celebrating superpowers the week of February 13<sup>th</sup>, along with making Valentine's Day cards for the elderly, which will be distributed to the local nursing homes
- Bennett is also organizing a pet drive to benefit the local SPCA, with the help of the reading teachers
- SEL lessons of the week will be a celebration that will focus on students recognizing their own superpowers, as well as themselves

- Activities happening with art and also library, wrapping up with a musical parade

#### 4. Presentations

4.01 [Jim Sofranko and Liam Bertheaud will present the Olive Comprehensive Plan](#)

4.02 [Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair will present the 2023-2024 Budget Overview](#) (duration 10 min)

#### 5. Acceptance of Minutes

5.01 Acceptance of Minutes

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby accepts minutes of January 10, 2023

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Reimondo

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

#### 6. Student Representative Report

6.01 The Student Representative on the Board, Noelle Crandell, will give a report

- Ms. Crandell- not present, emailed update which was read by Trustee Sherry
  - The mental health activities were a success
  - Community night was well attended and went great
  - The high school student government looks forward to collaborating with Bennet for their pink shirt day

#### 7. Superintendent District News

7.01 The Superintendent will report District News

- Snow Days
  - Ms. McLaren indicated, we have six snow days built into our school calendar. At the start of the winter, she shared with everyone at the Board table and in the newsletter that our intention was to utilize all snow days as planned and then consider remote learning options based on the weather. As it stands, we have used five of our six snow days and are likely to have to use the last one tomorrow. We are working toward ensuring that all teachers and students have what they need to utilize remote learning days moving forward. This will need to be incorporated into our District Safety Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Goal Update
  - The previous feedback from the SDM team did not include the thoughts from Woodstock. They are as follows:
  - Scenario A: Phoenicia & Woodstock K-5, close Bennett, MS 6- 8, HS 9-12  
Feedback from the team is positive about having a K-5 community school.  
Concern was noted that Bennett is the nicer of the three buildings (condition-wise).  
Fewer transitions for the students and families. Helps keep consistency for the PTA and fewer transitions for them.

Older kids serve as role models. Increases the exposure to the arts at the K-5 level (i.e., orchestra, jazz band).

- Scenario B: Phoenicia & Woodstock K-4, close Bennett, MS 5- 8, HS 9-12  
Doesn't seem likely that 5th grade would go to the MS. Teachers have specific certifications which should be considered. Students are still developmentally young. Some students going into the 5th grade aren't 10 years of age yet.
- Scenario C: Present) Phoenicia & Woodstock K-3, Bennett 4-6, MS 7-8, HS 9-12

-Offers diversified opportunities for parents and students. For example, bus routes, small/intimate school communities

- Scenario D: Close Phoenicia & Woodstock, Bennett K-5, MS 6-8, HS 9-12  
This plan is liked better than option E.
- Scenario E: Close Phoenicia & Woodstock, Bennett K-4, MS 5-8, HS 9-12  
Not favored.
- Scenario F: Close Phoenicia or Woodstock, (two) K-5 with Bennett, MS 6-8, HS 9-12  
Not the best option. Closing Phoenicia or Woodstock could impact the communities. Schools are integral to small communities.

- Community Night

- Ms. McLaren thanked the community for coming out on Friday and supporting our students. She noted that it was a really well-attended event with students, former students, families, and community members. She specifically would like to recognize the work done by Beth Fletcher, Leah Smith, and the Administration at the Middle High School. Also, Mr. Murphy and his band helped to create a fun atmosphere. The Booster Club provided lots of options for food and beverages, and we were able to purchase lit mags as well. The athletes worked hard and truly Ms. McLaren and the staff could not be prouder.

## 8. Board District News

### 8.01 The Board will report District News

- No news to report

### 8.02 Ad Hoc Committee: Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey or Trustee Reimondo to report

- Met on January 20<sup>th</sup> for approximately 3 hours to discuss survey responses, to determine the World Café representatives, and next steps
- In attendance was Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Bishop, Superintendent McLaren, Assistant Superintendents Laffin, Allison, and LaClair
- The committee discussed the makeup of the table groups for the World Cafés
- The committee received 62 survey responses, and from that group 35 community members representing various community groups were chosen
  - Senior citizens
  - Business owners
  - Parents representing all 5 schools
  - Onteora teachers and staff
  - Onteora administrators

- PTA officers
- Emergency services providers
- Town government officials
- These members will participate in targeted discussions at 7 tables of 5 people
- Assistant Superintendent Laffin will facilitate the process as planned by the Ad Hoc Committee
- Onteora Board Trustees may attend as observers, but will not participate in table discussion per the NYS Open Meetings Law
- Central Administration may also attend, but cannot participate in discussion
- The committee reviewed the questions for the January 31<sup>st</sup> World Café in preparation
- Invitations were sent to the 35 community members representatives on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- The Ad Hoc Committee will meet after the first World Café, but a date has not been chosen

## 9. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

- 9.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last Lindsay Shands

## 10. Public and Student Comment

- 10.01 Public and Students may comment on any agenda or non-agenda item  
-Neal Brownell

The below community members spoke on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade reconfiguration and the benefits and/or concerns surrounding the move

- Jenny Jared
- Joanna Drescher
- Karen Thomas-Malloy
- Christina Signore
- Rachel Becker
- Elizabeth Kneissl
- Kara Colevas
- Pamela Peltzman
- Harvey Boyer
- Melissa Rabapfo
- Janice Tieri read statement from Katie Love-Joyce who could not attend
- Lindsay Shands read statement from Dafne DeJesus
- Josephine Malloy- student
- Karen Inge
- Lisa Treasure

-Cynthia Miktin spoke on the subject of envision Boiceville and how to repurpose vacant land with the youth being in a leadership role

## 11. Discussion and Possible Action

11.01 [Superintendent, Victoria McLaren, Assistant Superintendent for C & I, Stephanie Laffin, and Assistant Superintendent for PPS will present the 6th grade Reconfiguration](#)

- The Administration and the Board Trustees reviewed and discussed multiple questions, some of which were related to the public be heard comments and clarification on the presentation

11.02 Approve Date for the 6th Grade Reconfiguration

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby approves the date of September 2024 for the 6th Grade Reconfiguration.

Motioned: Trustee Bishop

Seconded: Trustee Storey

Result: 6 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Taylor

Abstain: Trustee Hemingway Lynch

11.03 Approve the Tax Exemption Income Limit

*Recommended Action:* WHEREAS, section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law provides for a partial exemption from taxation on residential property owned by qualified owners at least over 65 years of age; and  
WHEREAS, that Board of Education has previously adopted a resolution extending the exemption provisions of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, which resolution has been amended from time to time; and  
WHEREAS, the New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed N.Y. SB 3085 into law, which increases the income eligibility limits for persons qualifying for the exemption; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to amend its previous resolutions to reflect the new income eligibility limits enacted under N.Y. SB 3085;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby amend the income eligibility limits for the partial tax exemption previously authorized pursuant to section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, in accordance with the following schedule:

Effective July 1, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year

Income \$35,000 or less 50% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$35,001-\$35,999 45% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$36,000-\$36,999 40% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$37,000-\$37,999 35% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$38,000-\$38,899 30% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$38,900-\$39,799 25% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$39,800-\$40,699 20% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$40,700-\$41,599 15% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$41,600-\$42,499 10% reduction in assessed valuation

Income \$42,500-\$43,399 5% reduction in assessed valuation

WHEREAS, section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law provides for a partial exemption from taxation on residential property owned by qualified persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously adopted a resolution extending the exemption provisions of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law to such qualified persons; and  
WHEREAS, the New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed N.Y. SB 3085 into law, which increases the income eligibility limits for persons qualifying for the exemption; and  
WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to amend its previous resolution to reflect the new income eligibility limits enacted under N.Y. SB 3085;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby amend the income eligibility limits for the partial tax exemption previously authorized under section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, in accordance with the following schedule:

Effective July 1, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year  
Income \$35,000 or less 50% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$35,001-\$35,999 45% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$36,000-\$36,999 40% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$37,000-\$37,999 35% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$38,000-\$38,899 30% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$38,900-\$39,799 25% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$39,800-\$40,699 20% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$40,700-\$41,599 15% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$41,600-\$42,499 10% reduction in assessed valuation  
Income \$42,500-\$43,399 5% reduction in assessed valuation

Motioned: Trustee Bishop

Seconded: Trustee Storey

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

#### 11.04 Donation from Shutterfly, LLC

*Recommended Action:* The Superintendent recommends acceptance of a donation totaling \$259.85 CASH, from Shutterfly, LLC to be used to support the Woodstock Elementary Owl Store. The Superintendent recommends approval to increase the 2022-2023 budget line A2110.431-07 Supplemental by \$259.85

Motioned: Trustee Taylor

Seconded: Trustee Bishop

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

#### 12. **\*\*Break\*\***

12.01 The Board will take a 5-minute break at 8:00 pm

#### 13. **Consent Agenda**

13.01 Approve Consent Agenda

*Recommended Action:* The Board hereby approves item numbers 13.02 -13.05

Motioned: Trustee Wallis

Seconded: Trustee Reimondo

Result: Unanimous  
Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

13.02 Personnel Agenda

**APPOINTMENT: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PROBATIONARY**

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Krom, Diane*	School Monitor	01/25/23 – 07/24/23	Replace resignation, Step 2
Lewin-Jacus, Michael*	School Monitor	02/09/23 – 08/08/23	Replace resignation, Step 1

\*pending pre-employment processing\*

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REASON
4015	02/21/23 – 03/31/23	FMLA-paid

\*pending medical documentation\*

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE: INSTRUCTIONAL**

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REASON
3912	05/29/23 – 06/30/23*	FMLA-paid
3912	09/01/23 – 10/31/23*	FMLA-unpaid
3912	11/01/23 – 01/01/23*	Unpaid medical leave

\*anticipated dates\*

**SUBSTITUTE**

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Barton, Mary*	Teacher (uncertified)	\$115.00/day
Caselli, Steven*	Teacher (uncertified)	\$115.00/day
Caselli, Steven*	Teaching Assistant (certified)	\$115.00/day
Mulligan, James	Teaching Assistant (uncertified)	\$100.00/day
Mulligan, James	School Monitor	\$15.00/hour
Snyder, Adam*	Teaching Assistant (uncertified)	\$100.00/day

\*pending pre-employment processing\*

13.03 Approve Volunteer

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby approves the following volunteer listed below:  
Phoenicia:  
Christina Varga

13.04 Schedule U-The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations

*Recommended Action:* The Board hereby approves the Instruction - Schedule U-The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations, Schedule U, #01/23, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Taylor

13.05 Surplus Items

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central

School District declare the attached list of items as surplus and authorizes the sale or disposal of the listed materials.

#### **14. Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers**

##### 14.01 Approve all Independent Contractor Retainers

*Recommended Action:* The Board hereby approves item number 14.02 - 14.08

Motioned: Trustee Bishop

Seconded: Trustee Storey

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

##### 14.02 Bread Alone Bakery-ICR

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Bread Along Bakery retained as mentor in pastry making effective January 25, 2023 to June 8, 2023 at a maximum rate of \$250.00 stipend for 25 hours.

##### 14.03 Durga Yael Bernhard- ICR

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Toni Bernhard DBA Durga Yael Bernhard retained as a presenter effective January 25, 2023 to June 30, 2023 at a rate of \$100.00 per session at a maximum rate of \$2,400.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

##### 14.04 Maverick Psychotherapy Group- ICR

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Maverick Psychotherapy Group retained as licensed therapists effective September 7, 2022 to June 30, 2023 at a rate of \$100.00 per hour at a maximum rate of \$2,208.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

##### 14.05 Teresa Pellegrini- ICR

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Teresa Pellegrini retained as mentor in pottery effective January 25, 2023 to June 8, 2023 at a maximum rate of \$250.00 stipend for 25 hours.

##### 14.06 Brad Will-ICR



*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Brad Will retained as mentor in architecture effective January 25, 2023 to June 8, 2023 at a maximum rate of \$250.00 stipend for 25 hours.

14.07 Needham Risk Management Resource Group, LLC

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the contract between Needham Risk Management Resource Group, LLC and the Onteora Central School District for services of consultant to assist in connection with the maintenance of health and safety within the district not to exceed an amount of \$5000.00.

14.08 C. B Strain- Change Order HC-#001

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve Change Order HC- #001 increasing the contract between C.B. Strain and the Onteora Central School District for the Bennett HVAC project in the amount of \$90,933.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such a change order.

This change order is so C.B. Strain can have Transitional Builders do the GC work on the Bennett HVAC project. Because the GC work was so minimal, no general contractor bid during the initial bidding process. This allows us to get the work done and is within the budget scope of the project.

## 15. Policies

15.01 Policies Reviewed and are ok as is

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby accepts policies 5110, 5130, 5140

Motioned: Trustee Reimondo

Seconded: Trustee Bishop

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

15.02 Rescind Policies

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby rescinds policies 4330, 5111, 5120, and 5210

Policies 4330, 5111, 5210 are considered non-essential per NYSSBA

Policy 5120 is covered in policy 1610- Annual District Election and Budget Vote

Motioned: Trustee Bishop

Seconded: Trustee Wallis

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

### 15.03 First Reading of Policy 4250 Use of Committees

4250

~~2017~~ 2023  
Administration

#### **SUBJECT: USE OF COMMITTEES**

Standing and/or ad hoc committees may be appointed to study and to recommend courses of action in response to department, building or District needs. These committees may be appointed by the Board of Education, the Superintendent or other administrators, with the knowledge of the Superintendent, and in accordance with the range of responsibilities of the appointing body or administrator to whom the committee shall report. The composition of each committee shall reflect its purpose and each committee shall have a clear assignment. **Any committee recommendations may be accepted, modified or rejected by the Board of Education.** Board of Education committees, with the exception of State mandated committees, **such as Audit Committee** may be reinstated annually at the reorganization meeting, **or terminated as determined by the Board of Education.**

Adopted: 5/2/17

#### **16. Committee Reports**

16.01 Audit Committee: Trustee Bishop, Trustee Reimondo or Trustee Taylor to report

- Nothing to report

16.02 Communications Committee: Trustee Bishop, Trustee Wallis or Trustee Hemingway Lynch to report

- The meeting was cancelled yesterday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> due to weather related conditions
- Trustee Hemingway Lynch requested that board trustees send questions/items for the board corner section of the newsletters for the committee to review

16.03 Facilities Committee: Trustee Storey to report

- Met this afternoon, January 24<sup>th</sup> and took a tour of Bennett school

16.04 Legislative Action Committee: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Wallis or Trustee Hemingway Lynch to report

- Trustee Bishop, Trustee Wallis, and Trustee Hemingway Lynch will be attending NYSSBA Lobby Day on February 15<sup>th</sup>

16.05 Policy Committee: Trustee Bishop, Trustee Reimondo or Trustee Hemingway Lynch to report

- Nothing to report

## 17. Old Business

### 17.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

- Trustee Storey asked to discuss the Board Norms at a future board meeting
- A discussion to pass a resolution for a Hold Harmless Agreement for regents will be discussed at the next meeting, which will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Ms. McLaren spoke with Mr. Edelman, and he had asked that a decision not be made at the next meeting, but instead reviewed and bring the concern to the building
- Contract with SRO
  - Trustee Storey asked if Ms. McLaren can reach out to the Sheriff to confirm they will be continuing the SRO (school resource officer) program
- Trustee Sherry asked for a presentation surrounding school safety and the recent changes that have been implemented or changes that wish to be made
  - Trustee Taylor asked to have more school safety education for the students so they understand what they need to do in an emergency
- Ms. LaClair indicated that the district does have a district wide health and safety committee, but they are also limited in what they can implement because of fire safety
  - Meetings to start back up in the near future, large committee approximately 20 members
- Trustee Hemingway Lynch asked to open up a discussion on how the children can attend school during bad weather to use less snow days due to the disruption

## 18. New Business

### 18.01 The Board will discuss New Business

- Trustee Sherry and Trustee Bishop will set up a meeting with the Booster Club to discuss collaboration with the excellent work that they are doing which will be presented at a future board meeting

## 19. Request For Information

### 19.01 Board members will request information of the Superintendent

- Nothing to request

## 20. Adjournment

### 20.01 Adjourn the Meeting. Next meeting is February 7, 2023 at Phoenicia.

*Recommended Action:* Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:44pm.

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Bishop

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Wallis, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Taylor

Board of Education: Emily Sherry, Cindy Bishop, Valerie Storey, David Wallis, Meghann Reimondo, Sarah Hemingway Lynch, Kristy Taylor