Special Meeting in the MS/HS Auditorium- Oct 14 2025 Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM

MS/HS Auditorium

Page

1. Meeting Opening

1.01 Call to Order 6:00

1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement

We have a Tobacco policy in place, there is no smoking within 100 feet of any school building

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

1.04 Roll Call

Present: Rory Smith, Jenny Jared, Emily Mitchell-Marell, Caroline Jerome, Clark Goodrich, Eric Knutsen, Cindy Bishop

2. Discussion

2.01 Continued Capital Project Discussion 3

The Architects and Construction Managers from CPL and School House Construction provided a detailed explanation of the proposed items and associated costs for both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. They addressed each line item, clarifying the scope of work and financial considerations. Board trustees engaged in a discussion with the presenters, asking questions to further understand the details of the proposals. After the architects and construction managers left the meeting, the Board continued their discussion and came to a consensus that they do not want 5th grade students to be moved into the Middle/High School

building. The Board also discussed potential future phases of the project, considering long-term planning and district needs beyond the current propositions.

updated Capital Project Spreadsheet 10.14.25.pdf

2.02 Continued Discussion of the Resolution to Establish a K-12 Central Campus by 2028 — 4 - 5

The Board of Trustees engaged in a thorough and substantive discussion regarding the proposed resolution. Various perspectives were considered, and trustees deliberated on the potential impacts and implications.

Resolution - establish central campus.pdf

3. Adjournment

3.01 Adjourn the Meeting. Next meeting is October 21, 2025 at the Middle/High School

The meeting is adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Moved by: Caroline Jerome

Seconded by: Eric Knutsen

Yea Jenny Jared, Rory Smith, Cindy Bishop, Emily Mitchell-Marell, Clark Goodrich, Caroline Jerome, and Eric Knutsen

Motion Carries 7-0

District Clerk

	School House Total Project Cost	
Proposition 1	**$26,887,257**	
Bennett Additions - New Space	$16,516,000	
Eight Classrooms and an Art Room		
Library Expansion		
Office Space		
Security Vesitbule		
Bathrooms		
New Boiler	$1,626,500	
Drop off loop	$3,804,250	
Reconfigure Outdoor Play Space and Parking	$1,096,125	
Replace Below Slab Sanitary in Front Hallway	$282,813	
Remediate Drainage	$312,194	
Bennett New Electric Service and relocation	$1,317,250	
Fuel Tank Relocation	$1,317,250	
NY Rt 28 Stormwater Culvert Crossing	$614,875	Added 10/14/25
Proposition 2	**$15,000,000**	
Bennett Replace Windows and Exterior Walls	$5,442,938	
Bennett Renovate Music Rooms	$2,897,875	**Makes sense to renovate if we are replacing the windows so building envelope is only disturbed once.*
Renovate toilet rooms in front hallway of Bennett	$772,875	
Replace ceiling and lights in classrooms/corridor of front wing of Bennett	$910,125	
3 HS Science classroom renovated	$3,254,438	*Additional 2 classrooms in Future Phase
Replace existing acid waste lines from science rooms to main sanitary branch	$411,556	*Added
HS Nurses Suite upgrade	$65,005	**$767,688**
Grass sports fields improvements soccer drainage, baseball fencing, outfield re-grading for field hockey	$1,045,188	
Resurface Track	$200,000	
Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 Total	**$41,887,257**	

Future Phase (Time TBD)	**$26,194,252**
2 HS Science Classroom renovated	$1,891,562
Bennett New Gymnasium for K-8 Use	$8,569,063
Reconfigure/Renovate Cafeteria and Kitchen	$5,602,751
Bennett add Music Room	$1,689,625
Artificial Turf	$2,371,125
Field Lights	$1,159,250
Student Commons	$1,958,438
Upgrade East End Parking	$2,952,438
Total	**$68,081,509**

Monica updated with guidance from Fiscal Advisors:

	$15million Cash	$26.5million borrowing	Total	
Annual Debt Payment	$ -	$ 2,400,000.00	$ 2,400,000.00	
Annual Projected State Aid	$ (402,400.00)	$ (687,600.00)	$ (1,090,000.00)	
Annual Projected Savings	$ -	$ (3,200,000.00)	$ (3,200,000.00)	(doesn't take inflationary savings into account in the out years)
			$ (1,890,000.00)	Annual savings after debt payment

$702,683 Can include the difference of $702,683 in the Transfer to Capital for 2026-2027 budget

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District ("Board" or "District") has been engaged in long-term planning regarding a transition to a central campus as part of its effort to address ongoing challenges including declining enrollment, the declining pool of instructional and non-instructional applicants, aging facilities, and the budget; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2023, in light of the above challenges, the Board voted to reconfigure the elementary school buildings and grade levels for the start of the 2024-2025 school year, by: (1) closing Phoenicia Elementary School at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year; (2) reconfiguring Woodstock Elementary School and Bennett Elementary School to each encompass grades K-5; and (3) committing to working toward a unified central campus by 2028; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned decisions were made after significant study, deliberation and community input, which included: obtaining a consultant to conduct a thorough School Building Utilization and Grade Configuration Study; discussion at several Board of Education meetings; holding three World Café events to engage in conversation with the community on long-term planning; issuing a Community Survey and holding a Community Forum; and, presentations at several Board meetings and posting links on the District's website to long-term planning information; and

WHEREAS, the District and the Board have taken additional steps to further study, deliberate, and engage with the community regarding the transition to a central campus, including:

- In March of 2024, retaining the services of facilitator Sharon Lipovsky to arrange community discussions related to the central campus;
- Sharing sessions held on May 13, 2024 and May 14, 2024, and community visioning sessions held on June 11, 2024 and June 13, 2024, to discuss "wishes and worries" about the move to a central campus and to imagine what the campus could look like;
- Visioning sessions with key stakeholders, specifically Faculty and Staff and Middle School and High School Students, held throughout November and December of 2024.;
- Reviewing the Building Conditions Survey and space utilization analysis of existing buildings;
- Reviewing early drafts of new designs being created by District's design team of architects and engineers based on visioning, space utilization assessment and building conditions survey;
- The review of conceptual designs by Principals, Central Administrators, Architects, Construction Managers and Community Guide;
- Holding three Community Forum sessions, on December 3, 2024 (First Draft Review and Prioritization Exercise), January 15, 2025 (Second Draft Review and Community Discussion), and February 25, 2025 (Proposed Campus Design and Community Q&A);
- Presentations by District administrators to the Board regarding a central campus and related costs and capital improvements, delivered on February 18, 2025, March 4, 2025, and March 18, 2025;
- Providing detailed information on the District's website regarding the proposed transition to a central campus, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions

(FAQs), slideshow presentations, and summaries from visioning sessions and community forums; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Governor and Legislature have expressed an intent to revise the Foundation Aid Formula (a position subsequently endorsed by a year-long study of Foundation Aid by the Rockefeller Institute), and the State calculates that the District is currently overfunded by $7.3 million per annum, an amount that, if lost, would force the District to take drastic and reactionary steps to address the funding shortfall without the benefit of strategic and thoughtful long-term planning; and

WHEREAS, with the best interest of District students as its paramount concern, the Board believes that closing Woodstock Elementary School and creating a K-12 campus in Boiceville would provide opportunities to: improve educational programming, instructional experiences and educational outcomes for students; have fewer transitions between school buildings; maximize staff efficiency and effectiveness, and allow greater alignment of resources and practices; minimize the length of bus rides for the majority of students as well as the number of bus routes for the District; promote equity of services; and, enhance student safety as well as access to afterschool programming and enriched vocal and instrumental experiences; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered the information presented by District administrators, the District's architects and engineers, and the community regarding grade reconfiguration and the transition to a central campus:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to address the challenges and opportunities before the District, and to continue moving toward the ultimate goal of locating all grade levels in buildings located on one central campus by the start of the 2028-2029 school year, the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby determines that Woodstock Elementary School will close at the conclusion of the 2027-2028 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to take such steps and make such filings with the New York State Education Department as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Dated:_____, 2025