Board Meeting - Jan 13 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Bennett School

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

2. Welcome

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

Mr. Buono started his welcome by discussing student activities and achievements.

Students are completing physicals, assessments, and NYS test simulations.

Art Teacher Ms. Ziemba launched a cross-curricular 2026 Winter Olympics project, focusing on athleticism and global awareness.

Mr. Buono shared that the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders recently performed a spectacular winter concert.

Administrative Internship – Ms. Jolie Moorhus provided an update:

Ms. Moorhus, a Kindergarten Special Education self-contained teacher, is completing an administrative internship under Mr. Buono.

Her internship responsibilities include office duties, assisting with bus dismissal, supporting hiring committees, PTA collaboration, reviewing documents, and other administrative tasks.

One of her tasks was updating the Bennett School website, including:

- Homepage photos and news updates
- Syncing the calendar with ParentSquare
- Posting social media updates
- Updating the Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, PTA, and PBIS information
- Revising mission and vision statements, staff biographies, and department information

Ms. Moorhus is also compiling historical documents for the Bennett School website to preserve the school's history.

Literacy Liaison – Ms. Amanda Kovac update:

Ms. Kovac focused on celebrating student literacy achievements and tracking growth, noting observations of hallway bulletin boards and student progress.

She analyzed second-quarter literacy data and highlighted collaborative, student-centered efforts.

Quarter 3 begins Monday, January 26th.

Professional development support was acknowledged, particularly from Ms. Stephanie Laffin.

Ms. Kovac is planning the 2nd Annual Literacy Fair in collaboration with the PTA, integrating literacy and art.

Math Liaison – Ms. Elizabeth Corsitto update:

Teachers are building strong math foundations with regular fact practice.

The goal is for students to achieve at or above grade-level proficiency, with ongoing instructional adjustments as needed.

Last year's math assessment data was analyzed to inform current instruction and test preparation.

The "Building Thinking Classrooms" virtual initiative was launched to extend student thinking time and explore innovative teaching strategies.

Mr. Buono concluded the update by thanking staff and students for their continued dedication and achievements.

3. Capital Project Update

3.01 CJ Goodwin of Schoolhouse Construction will present a capital project timeline (20 min) 17 - 20

2025-1-7_Design - Phased Construction Milestone Schedule.pdf

4. Student Representative Report

4.01 The Student Representative on the Board, Jenny Albright, will give a report

Ms. Albright provided an update on high school student activities and events. Student Government organized putting up a Christmas tree in the Middle/High School, with students decorating the tree as well as having decorations representing Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and other cultural traditions.

She reported on recent and upcoming sports events, noting strong community attendance at athletic games. A track meet was held on Friday at the Armory.

Ms. Albright also highlighted a Mount Academy event held on Saturday, during which medals were awarded following the competition.

She noted that midterm exams are currently underway,

stating that while there is some pressure, it remains manageable for students.

Trustee Bishop congratulated Ms. Albright on her piece in the Talen Newspaper.

5. Proposed Executive Session

5.01 Enter Executive Session

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss OAA negotiations and to consult with legal counsel (duration 60 min)

Moved by: Jenny Jared

Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Motion Carries

5.02 Exit Executive Session

Motion to exit executive session and return to public session

Moved by: Caroline Jerome

Seconded by: Rory Smith

Carried

6. Presentations

6.01 Presentation on Budget Development by Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair (duration 20 min) 21 - 30

January 13 Budget Presentation.pdf

7. Acceptance of Minutes

7.01 Acceptance of Minutes 31 - 51

Board Meeting - Dec 16 2025 - Minutes - Html

The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting 31 - 51

Moved by: Jenny Jared

Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Carried

8. Superintendent District News

8.01 The Superintendent will report District News

Elementary Winter Concerts

The Bennett winter concert was last night, and it was a wonderful performance. The growth in our musicians from third grade through fifth grade is remarkable. The concert last night also incorporated sign language. Thank you to our wonderful music faculty and to our families for all of the support that is provided at home.

The Woodstock winter concert is scheduled for Thursday evening, and I would invite everyone to attend. I'm sure it will be equally enjoyable.

Community Week

A huge thank you to our Athletic Department, coaches, the Booster Club, our athletes, and our community for supporting our student-athletes at the expanded community night last week. We had planned a three-evening event, but the weather had other plans, and we were not able to host the Tuesday evening activities as scheduled. I particularly enjoyed watching students participate in relay races, holding a balloon between their knees while dribbling a basketball across the gymnasium and back. The winning strategy was to hop and not try to walk - some of the kids figured this strategy out quickly, and it was really fun to watch.

High School Accolades

Onteora High School has been recognized as a GOLD member of the AP Honor Roll! Schools can earn the Honor Roll recognition annually based on criteria that include providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness. The AP School Honor Roll

offers four levels of distinction: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

65% of Onteora High School seniors took at least one AP Exam during high school, 52% of seniors scored a three or higher on at least one AP Exam, and 18% of seniors took five or more AP Exams! These classes and the associated exams are rigorous and require diligence and study skills that will translate to college success.

DECA

DECA (formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an international non-profit student organization preparing high school and college students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management through competitive events, classroom integration, business connections, and leadership development.

We are incredibly proud of our Onteora DECA students for their outstanding performance at the Regional Competition held on Friday, January 9th, at Hudson Valley Community College. They were well prepared and exemplified professionalism and dedication. Our students competed against schools from across the region by completing a rigorous 100-question exam and presenting solutions to a challenging business scenario before a judge in the areas of Business Administration, Marketing, Finance, and Hospitality.

Special congratulations to 11th grader Anthony Christofora, who placed third in the Business Finance event. We'd also like to recognize seniors Gemma Holstein and Alex Young, who placed in the top six overall teams in Business Law and Ethics and will advance to the state competition in March.

Intergovernmental Meeting

We had our quarterly meeting today and hosted the new Woodstock Town Supervisor and the Olive Town Supervisor. The other Supervisors were unable to attend this meeting, but I'd like to extend my congratulations and welcome to Barbara

Mansfield in the Town of Shandaken in her new position. I look forward to continuing to work with our Supervisors collegially and to ensuring that we all continue to remain in communication. I enjoy these meetings because they allow us to share news from the District with the Town leaders and vice versa. We also appreciate the discussions that highlight what is happening in the towns and the issues we have in common that we can work on together.

Capital Project

Tonight was the first public discussion of our planning process moving forward with the capital project that was approved by our community in December. We committed to keeping the community informed through this process, and this was the first step. Although we are at the very beginning of this process and there is not a lot to share, we want to ensure that we develop a consistent pattern of reporting out and keeping everyone informed.

Snow Days

We used two snow days in December, which is rare for us, but it would appear that the immediate forecast currently seems clear. We have four snow days remaining. Just a reminder that if necessary, we have a total of six snow days available this year, and if we need additional weather days, we will reduce our spring break in order to make them up. Please do not make travel plans for spring break.

Meet, Eat, and Greet

Just a reminder to mark your calendars, this wonderful event will be on April 20th this year!

9. Board District News

9.01 The Board will report District News

Trustee Mitchell- Marell shared upcoming events at the Woodstock Elementary which includes the Winter Concert

being held on January 15th

Trustees Jared and Goodrich attended the Internet Safety presentation at the middle school last week and shared highlights from both the presentation and the instructional model used.

Trustee Goodrich added that students in grades 6–8 attended a different presentation than the one provided to adults, noting a high level of student interaction. The presenter commented on the strong student engagement. Trustee Goodrich thanked the school for providing this important information.

Trustee Jerome expressed appreciation for the district's efforts in providing this type of informational programming.

Trustee Jared thanked Dr. Solimene for excellent communication with parents, noting the thoughtful balance and effectiveness in creating a safety net for families.

Trustee Bishop reported attending both the middle school and high school concerts, describing them as outstanding and highlighting the talent of both students and the faculty who support them.

Trustee Bishop also attended the swearing-in ceremony for the Woodstock Town Supervisor, Board of Trustees, and Town Judge, noting it was a positive community event.

10. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

10.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting

no one spoke

11. Public and Student Comment

11.01 Public and Students may comment on any agenda or non-agenda item

The Board appreciates hearing from the public, including students, on any agenda or non- agenda item. Please understand that by our adopted parliamentary procedure, the Board can't engage in discussion or answer questions during

Public Be Heard. Please know that we hear you and take all your comments into consideration. The Board does reserve the right to correct any inaccuracies or misinformation during Public Be Heard. Please limit your comments to 3 minutes, be civil, and do not name any particular individuals or promote any commercial ventures or products. People wishing to express individual student or personnel concerns can bring them to the Superintendent's attention in private.

Further, all individuals at Board meetings are expected to abide by the rules for Public Conduct on School Property as set forth in the district's Code of Conduct. At board meetings, speakers and observers may not engage in behavior that disrupts the meeting, such as shouting, interrupting others, blocking the free movement of others, or obstructing the views of others. In the event of such disruption, the Board President will remind those in attendance of the rules under this policy. Any Board member may request a brief recess of the meeting, which would serve as a cooling down period. The Board President may order the removal of those who are a threat to the safety of others or who disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting.

We understand community members are passionate about certain issues. We all want our school board meetings to serve as an example to our students that members of our school board and members of our community can deal with controversial issues in a civil manner and show mutual respect for one another. In that spirit, we ask that all speakers and members of the audience maintain civility and respect for the differing views of others.

12. **Break**

12.01 The Board will take a 5 minute break if needed

13. Discussion and Possible Action

13.01 Continued Discussion of 2025–2026 District Goals (40 mins)

The Board Trustees held continued discussion related to the district goals, which are anticipated to remain in effect through June 2027. The finalized goals will be included on the February 10, 2026 agenda.

14. Consent Agenda

14.01 Approve Consent Agenda

The Board hereby approves item numbers 14.02 - 14.13

Moved by: Emily Mitchell-Marell

Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Carried

14.02 Personnel Agenda

The Board of Education hereby approves the personnel agenda as attached

Carried

1-13-26 personnel agenda.pdf

14.03 Approve Overnight Trip - Boston Model UN Conference

The Board of Education hereby approves three students to attend the Boston Model UN Conference through Ulster BOCES departing on February 6, 2026 and returning on February 8, 2026 and pay all necessary fees.

Carried

https://www.bosmun.org/schedule

14.04 Approve Overnight Trip - State DECA Competition and NYS Career Conference

The Board of Education hereby approves two students to attend the Annual State DECA Competition and NYS Career Conference departing on March 4, 2026 and returning on March 6, 2026 and pay all necessary fees.

Carried

14.05 Change Orders for Current Projects

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approves the attached Change Orders (in red) for the current projects

Carried

Change Order spreadsheet for 1-13-26 approval.pdf

14.06 Budget Transfers

The Superintendent recommends the transfer of funds from the Employee Benefit Reserve to the Vacation Buy Back budget code. This expense is not budgeted in the general fund due to the existence of the reserve funds designated for this purpose.

Transfer Amount - $8,346.82 from Reserve A867

Description - Employee Benefit Reserve

To budget code - A9089.803-10

Carried

14.07 Budgetary Adjustment- General Grant-in-Aid

The Superintendent recommends acceptance of a payment from The New York State Education Department of $25,000.00, for operational funding to contribute to purchasing student workbooks across subjects, programmatic expenses including marketing and supplies for on-site professional development. The Superintendent recommends approval to increase the 2025-2026 Budget as follows:

Increase Revenue A3289 Other State Aid by $25,000.00

Increase Appropriation A2110.501-07 C&I by $12,500.00

Increase Appropriation A2110.501-03 C&I by $12,500.00

Carried

14.08 Distraction-Free State Aid - updated

The Superintendent recommends acceptance of a payment from The New York State Education Department of $5,995.00, for Distraction-Free Schools. The Superintendent recommends approval to increase the 2025-2026 Budget.

Increase Revenue A3289 Other State Aid by $5,995.00

Increase Appropriation A2110.501-02 C&I by $2,346.71

Increase Appropriation A2110.501-01 C&I by $2,346.72

Increase Appropriation A2110.449-02 by $1,301.57

Carried

14.09 Financial Report

The Board has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial reports from November 2025

Carried

14.10 Warrants

The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts Warrant Schedule 6

Carried

14.11 Unpaid Taxes

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District upon recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the warrants for unpaid taxes in the amount of $3,454,053.17 for Ulster County and agree by signing such warrant; and $236,179.16 for Greene County

Carried

25-26 Ulster County Unpaid Taxes $3,454,053.17.pdf 25-26 Greene County Unpaid Taxes $236,179.16.pdf

District Wide 5 year lookback on unpaid taxes

Collection Year	Tax Levy	unpaid	percentage of taxes unpaid
2021/2022	$45,475,321.00	$4,989,510.00	10.97%
2022/2023	$46,087,285.92	$3,149,336.40	6.83%
2023/2024	$47,013,137.00	$3,100,748.75	6.60%
2024/2025	$48,425,433.75	$3,338,881.92	6.89%
2025/2026	$49,379,470.09	$3,717,232.33	7.53%

14.12 Surplus Items

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 as surplus and authorizes the sale or disposal of the items.

Carried

BOE Memo Truck #102.pdf

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

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, #01/26, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Rory Smith

Carried

15. Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers

15.01 Approve all Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers

The Board hereby approves item number 15.02

Moved by: Jenny Jared

Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Carried

15.02 Kits Interactive Theatre

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED , upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approves the Independent Contractor Retainer Agreement between the Onteora Central School District and Kitty Jones, retained as Kit's Interactive Theatre, for services to be provided on March 5 and 6, 2026, at a rate of $1,400 per day, not to exceed a total of $2,800, and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute such agreement.

Carried

K. Jones - Redacted.pdf

16. Committee Reports

16.01 Updates from Board Committees

Trustee Mitchell-Marell reported that the Facilities Committee will meet this Thursday.

Trustee Bishop reported that the Policy Committee met yesterday and that updates to transportation policies are forthcoming.

Trustee Knutsen shared updated information from Governor Hochul's recent State of the State announcements, including proposals to expand universal Pre-K for all four-year-olds statewide by the 2028–29 school year as part of a broader child care and early education initiative. Details can be reviewed in the official state press release: *Governor Hochul's affordability and universal child care proposals —* https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/money-your-pockets-governor-hochul-unveils-new-initiatives-make-new-york-

more-affordable

Trustee Bishop and Trustee Jerome reported on the Communications Committee meeting held yesterday. They noted the meeting was productive, including a debrief on differences in the process between the May bond vote and the December bond vote and a review of community communications. They emphasized that authenticity and the work of the Board at the table contributed to the successful passage of the bond vote.

17. Unfinished Business

17.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

Trustee Jared discussed *The Anxious Generation* and the idea of continuing a Board book club. Possible takeaways and next steps will be considered as a future agenda item.

18. New Business

18.01 The Board will discuss New Business

nothing discussed

19. Request for Information

19.01 Board Members will Request Information of the Superintendent

nothing requested

20. Adjournment

20.01 Adjourn the Meeting. Next meeting is February 10, 2026 at the Middle/High School.

The meeting is adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Moved by: Jenny Jared

Seconded by: Clark Goodrich

Carried

District Clerk

SCHOOLHOUSE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC

Onteora Central School

Centralization Project - Draft Milestone Schedule – 1/7/2026

Phase	Timeline	Budget
Phase 1 – Design Schedule		
Kick Off	January 2026	**Phase 1 – Project Budget $27,649,632.00**
Design Development Submission	April 2026	
SED Submission	September 2026	
SED Review Time	(2 Months)	
Project Bid Period	December 2026	
Project Award Period	February 2027	
Construction Period (2 Summers)	February 2027 - September 2028	
Closeout	December 2028	
Phase 2 – Design Schedule		
Design Development Submission	December 2026	**Phase 2 – Project Budget $14,037,625.00**
SED Submission	April 2027	
SED Review Time	(2 Months)	
Project Bid Period	September 2027	
Project Award Period	October 2027	
Construction Period (2 Summers)	October 2027 - September 2029	
Closeout	December 2029	

SCHOOLHOUSE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC

Onteora Central School

Centralization Project - Draft Milestone Schedule – 1/7/2026

Prop. #	Item #	Description of Work	Start	Substantial Completion	Budget
Stand Alone Work					
2	1	Resurface Track	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$200,000

Prop. #	Item #	Description of Work	Start	Substantial Completion	Budget
Phase 1 Scope of Work					
2	2	Grass Sports Fields Improvements	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$1,045,188
1	3[5]	Drop Off Loop Modifications (Happen w/ 4)	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$3,804,250
1	4[5]	Reconfigure Outdoor Play Space and Parking (Happen w/3)	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$1,096,125
1	5[6]	Remediate Drainage at BES for Addition Work (Complete before 11)	4-5 Months	4-5 Months	$312,194
1	6	BES Fuel Tank Relocation (Happen w/ 7)	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$1,317,250
1	7	BES Electrical Service Relocation (Happen w/ 6)	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$1,317,250
1	8	NY Route 28 Storm Water Culvert	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$614,875
1	11[6]	Classroom Addition (11 Complete before start?)	12-16 Months	12-16 Months	$16,516,000
1	12[6]	New Boiler and Addition (Complete before 11)	6-8 Months	6-8 Months	$1,626,500
Phase 1 Total = $27,649,632.00					

Onteora Central School

Centralization Project - Draft Milestone Schedule – 1/7/2026

Prop. #	Item #	Description of Work	Start	Substantial Completion	Budget
Phase 2 Scope of Work					
2	9[3]	Nurse's Suite Renovations	5-6 Months	5-6 Months	$226,755
2	10	Science Classroom Renovations • Rooms 204,206, 211 • Replace Corridor Acide Waste Lines	5-6 Months	5-6 Months	$3,254,438 $411,556
1	13	Replace Below Slab Sanitary in Front Hallway (Happens w/ 16)	3-4 Month	3-4 Month	$282,813
2	14[2]	Replace Exterior Windows and MEP (Happens with 17)	2 Summers	2 Summers	$5,281,188
2	15[3]	Renovate Music Rooms (Similar time thought as nurse note 3)	6-8 Months	6-8 Months	$2,897,875
2	16	Renovate Toilet Rooms in Front Hallway (Happens w/ 13)	3-4 Months	3-4 Months	$772,875
2	17	Replace Ceilings and Lights in Front Hallway (Happens w/ 13)	2 Summers	2 Summers	$910,125
Phase 2 Total = $14,037,625.00					

Onteora Central School

Centralization Project - Draft Milestone Schedule – 1/7/2026

Scheduling Notes:

1. Work completed during the school year to be 2nd Shift. All breaks (Thanksgiving, Holiday, Winter, Spring Break to be utilized to complete rooms otherwise occupied during the school year.
2. Curtainwall and MEP work associated with the curtainwall to occur over two summers from End of June to end of August. Areas to be re-occupied and safe, by labor day of each year.
3. Abatement in these spaces is to occur during the Summer of 2027, areas to be turned back over to the owner with temporary lighting, sealed concrete flooring, and no ceilings.
    a. Depending on MEP equipment, program, casework and finishes. This could potentially be completed in a summer.
4. Associated abatement activities being performed during designated School break periods, if any, will require weekend work (Saturdays and Sundays) and overtime throughout the regular work week/s in order to complete activities in a timely manner and to not disrupt the School District's operations.
5. Depending on start time and when completion is needed by along with below grade utilities and drainage. The utilities portion of this work and the time needed to move/ replace the playground will dictate the duration of this work.
6. Does this work have to be complete before the addition is completed or can these happen in sequence as part of the same project? The boiler addition I think does but the boiler addition is independent of the drainage work. I suspect the boiler work could be completed during the year minus the actual boiler work.

2026-2027
Budget Development

Monica LaClair, CPA – Assistant Superintendent for Business

January 13, 2026
Bennett Elementary

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Developing the annual school budget is a year-round process.

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Development Timeline

September
- Review current year
- Review Reserve funds
- Review estimated vs. actual expenditures

October
- Review current programs
- Begin work on rollover budget

November
- Review history of expenditures
- Review trends/mandates
- Continue work on rollover budget

December
- Review enrollment
- Review impact of current year budget
- Assess non-instructional needs
- Initial discussions with Administrators

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Development Timeline

January

- Building/Dept. budgets due
- Staffing needs discussions
- Assess needs for new/adjusted programs
- First draft of budget
- Governor's budget released
- Review BOCES Budget with staff

February

- Finalize BOCES budget
- Revenue budget
- Submission of Tax Cap calculation
  - By March 1, 2026
- Presentations to the Board
  - February 10

March

- Finalize health insurance rates
- Fund Balance analysis
- Finalize Revenue
- Present Final Draft to BOE
- Resolution for capital project propositions

April

- Review IEPs
- Out of District transportation projections finalized
- Fine tune budget as information changes
- Board adopts budget (April 21)
- Board adopts Property Tax Report Card (April 21)

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Development Process

- ❑ Review the current budget to see what changed versus what was budgeted
  - Class size (enrollment)
  - High Needs students
  - Private School Transportation requests (April 1)
  - Repairs/Maintenance
- ❑ Staffing needs discussions
- ❑ Review the impact of instructional program changes
- ❑ Review facilities needs for projects covered by Transfer to Capital
- ❑ Review of long-range initiatives
  - Technology, textbooks, equipment, maintenance

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Development Process

- ❑ Salaries
  - By Building
- ❑ Supplies & Contractual Expenses
  - By Building
- ❑ BOCES
- ❑ Special Education
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Retirement Costs
  - TRS & ERS
- ❑ Insurance
  - Health Insurance (active employees and retirees)
  - Liability
  - Workers Compensation

NTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Development Goals

- ❑ Ensure the highest quality teaching and learning for all students
- ❑ Continue to maintain financial stability
- ❑ Continue refinement of budget to accurately reflect expenses
- ❑ Allocate funds to reflect Board and District goals and vision
- ❑ Maximize efficiencies where possible
- ❑ Minimize Tax Levy increase
- ❑ Maintain Reserve Funds at appropriate levels
- ❑ Continue Long term planning for Technology, Maintenance, and Capital Projects

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Current Budget Facts

- Contractual Costs
  - ONTEA expired 6/30/2025
  - OAA expires 6/30/2026
- Inflation
- Stable rates for Retirement Costs (ERS & TRS)
- Teacher Shortage
  - Decline in enrollment in Teacher Education Programs after 2009
  - Fewer benefits in Tier 6 for new teachers
  - 33% of active TRS members could retire within the next 5 years
- Anticipated 16% increase in Health Insurance expense from current year
  - Currently cover 240 active employees, 320 retirees
  - Active employees account for approx. 55.5%, retirees account for approx. 44.5%
- Uncertainty for State Aid (Governor's budget will be released soon, and NYS budget adoption by April will include final state aid numbers)
- Reduction in Federal Grant allocation for both Title and IDEA

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appropriated Fund Balance

Reserve Balance 6/30/25	
* Capital Reserve 2023	$9,666,625
* Unemployment Reserve	$748,565
* ERS Retirement Reserve	$3,842,325
* Repair Reserve	$33,340
* TRS Retirement Reserve	$2,037,787
* Employee Benefits Reserve	$1,678,105
Total Reserves	**$18,006,747**
Total Unappropriated 6/30/25	$6,218,468
Total Reserves/Unappropriated	**$24,225,215**

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Questions?

Board Meeting - Dec 16 2025 Minutes

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Woodstock School

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, Rick Knutsen, Cindy Bishop
Not Present: Caroline Jerome, Clark Goodrich
Now Present: Caroline Jerome arrived at 6:03 pm

2. Welcome

2.01 Woodstock Principal, Scott Richards will welcome the Board (duration 10 min)
Mr. Richards reported that the most recent Superintendent's Conference Day was held within the Woodstock Elementary building for all K-5 teachers and teaching assistants (TAs). The day focused on professional development. Mr. Richards expressed gratitude to Ms. Laffin for her coordination of the event.

Highlights of the sessions included:

- Powerful Word Study: Led by two teachers from

Draft

Bennett, allowing staff to share ideas and collaborate.

- Numbers with Impact: Led by David Tranter, introducing staff to School AI.
- Behavior Management: All TAs participated in a session focused on effective behavior management techniques.

Mr. Richards also shared updates from classroom initiatives:

- Mr. Richards reported that Mrs. Denter, 5th grade teacher spent the first part of the year familiarizing herself with the curriculum. Their discussions included strategies to increase student motivation, which lead to the creation of "What's Up Woodstock" Episode 1 is finished and being circulated. The video creation us engaging students through creative content. Plans are underway for Episode 2, aimed at strengthening skills across multiple subjects and integrating the behind the scenes technology in the future.

Mr. Richards noted that these initiatives align with the Portrait of a Graduate framework, fostering student engagement, school pride, and collaborative learning. He then shared a student-created video in which students interviewed staff, reported on various topics, and included lighthearted content such as jokes, highlighting both learning and school community spirit.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

3.01 Acceptance of Minutes

Board Meeting - Nov 18 2025 - Minutes - Html

The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting

Moved by: Jenny Jared

Seconded by: Eric Knutsen

Motion Carries

4. Student Representative Report

4.01 The Student Representative on the Board, Jenny Albright, will give a report

MS. Albright, student representative, provided the following updates:

- The High School Student Government has ordered holiday decorations, which are expected to arrive soon.
- The Art Club held its holiday party today, December 16th. Other clubs, including French Club, LIP Magazine, and Newspaper, will hold their holiday parties later this week.
    - Club parties are scheduled to occur after school.
- Science Olympiad will have its first competition at Mt. Academy School on January 10th.
- Basketball teams are performing well this season.
- Winter Track has a meet scheduled for Friday.
- Five-week grades were released today.

5. Proposed Executive Session

5.01 Enter Executive Session

Motion to enter into executive session to consult with legal counsel (duration 45 min)

Moved by: Caroline Jerome
Seconded by: Jenny Jared

Motion Carries

5.02 Exit Executive Session

Motion to exit executive session and return to public session

Moved by: Rory Smith
Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Motion Carries

6. Superintendent District News

6.01 The Superintendent will report District News
Vote Results

As I'm sure everyone has seen, we are accepting the vote results tonight. Proposition one passed 719 yes, to 400 no,

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and Proposition two passed 765 yes, to 348 no.

I am truly grateful for the trust and approval that go with these vote results. With this vote, we can move forward to create a districtwide K–5 elementary school in Boiceville and make important infrastructure improvements across our K–12 buildings. This outcome reflects an extraordinary amount of hard work, thoughtful planning, and collaboration by so many people across our District and our broader school community. I want to acknowledge and thank every individual who contributed their time, energy, and perspective throughout this process. Our Board of Education demonstrated tremendous dedication and leadership, and their commitment to shaping a project they could all support unanimously, which also earned the support of our community, has been genuinely inspiring.

As we move into the next phase, we begin a thoughtful and creative journey. Over the coming months, we will work with our architectural team to develop detailed designs that will be submitted to the New York State Education Department for review and approval. Our teachers, staff, and students, who know the daily flow of our buildings better than anyone, will have meaningful opportunities to share their ideas and feedback as this work progresses. Throughout this process, we remain committed to careful planning, transparency, and minimizing disruption to teaching and learning as we plan toward 2028. We will continue to provide regular updates and look forward to building this remarkable campus—together.

We also recognize that the creation of a central campus intersects with the closure of Woodstock Elementary School, a reality that carries deep meaning for many in our community. We are committed to working closely with Woodstock students, families, and staff to ensure that the school's history and its lasting impact on generations of learners and educators are honored and celebrated with great care and respect. This transition will be approached thoughtfully, with time, support, and communication at the center of our work. This vote marks an important step forward, and together we will continue building a strong,

Draft

caring, and sustainable future for all students.

Throughout this process, we will work together with the Woodstock Town Supervisor and Board. Ms. Bishop and I met this morning with the Supervisor Elect and one of her staff members and had a very positive conversation. We all feel strongly that the way to make our community a better place is to remain in dialogue with each other and to actively look for ways to partner and support each other.

NYSCOSS Legislative Priorities

As I reported previously, I serve on the legislative committee for the NYS Council of School Superintendents. We met and discussed the priorities that our organization will work to advance this year.

They include advocating to create permanent changes that will positively impact school staffing, including lowering the age at which retirees can work without a limit on their earnings from 65 to 63 and expanding certification flexibility for special education teachers, easier pathways for teachers to acquire additional content area certification, and expanded pathways for out of state candidates to achieve NYS certification.

Another priority is related to the zero emission bus mandate. We are advocating for flexibility and the elimination of the 100% mandate, creating price caps so that bus manufacturers cannot artificially inflate the prices of these vehicles simple because they know that schools will be required to purchase them, and exempting districts from complying unless local utility companies affirm that they have the capacity and expertise to support a full fleet of zero emission vehicles.

There are a number of other priorities as well, but these are high on our list of items that we feel need to be addressed.

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Annual Digital Resources Survey

We are required to survey our families regularly regarding their access to digital resources so that we can report to the NYSED. We are delivering this to our families using ParentSquare.

Snow Days/Delays/Early Dismissals

It would appear that this winter is a real winter. We have had a few years with little snow, but I think mother nature may be having a change of heart this year. You may have noticed that I have been posting our weather related schedule changes on ParentSquare. I hope that this additional information option is helpful for parents.

Middle School Social Media Parent Night

There is an independent contractor retainer on the agenda tonight that is for an internet safety speaker for our middle school students. The students will participate in an assembly during the school day, and the presenter will host a family discussion that evening that is open to all of our families.

NY Inspires - Portrait of a Graduate Work

Our team has been working, along with teams from all over Ulster County, on what this will mean for Onteora. We have noted that this work will dovetail with our policy on Culture, Climate, and Belonging. As you can see from the graphic of the NYS Portrait of a Graduate, the center of this entire initiative is the Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CR-SE Framework). This is not just a visual. As you can see from the Educator handout, the CR-SE is at the core. This is described as “affirming students’ identities and experiences through inclusive curricula and classroom practices. Recognizing and valuing students’ diverse identities, languages, and experiences as strengths”. The first county-wide meeting included Ms. Laffin and me; at the second meeting, we expanded and included Mr. Edelman; and at the next meeting, we will bring our District team, including Ms.

Draft

Turck, Ms. Grima, Ms. McGrath, and Mr. Richards. We recently met as a district team to prepare for the next county-wide meeting in January.

Superintendent Conference Day

We had a superintendent's conference day last week on Wednesday. As always, our conference day had a plethora of engaging opportunities for faculty and staff. Among other things, we had CPR and AED training to fulfill our newest requirements (which is another unfunded mandate, but is for the safety of our community so I'll not be overly negative), we had a K-5 word study workshop facilitated by our own reading teachers Amanda Kovac and Christina Countryman, a 3-5 math and AIS teacher math workshop with our BOCES specialist, our K-5 TAs and Monitors had a classroom behaviour workshop, our K-% instructional staff and related service providers participated in a demo for the platform we are piloting called School AI and an update on the work being done by our AI Circle.

Fall 2025 Scholar Athlete Teams:

We had nine fall sports teams achieve scholar athlete status and we are proud of all of their accomplishments in their sport as well as in their academic pursuits. To be designated as a scholar athlete team, 75% of the roster must maintain an average of 90 or higher for the marking period. The teams who earned this designation are:

Boys Cross Country

Boys Golf

Boys Soccer

Field Hockey

Girls Cross Country

Girls Soccer

Girls Swimming/Diving

Girls Tennis

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Girls Volleyball

Concerts

Our Middle School concert was last week, and our High School concert is tomorrow! Our students never cease to amaze and impress with their talent and I'd like to thank the music department for all that they do to inspire and showcase these young musicians. Our elementary concerts are schedule for the new year so please keep an eye out for them as well. They are our future!

Winter Break

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the winter break next week. I hope that everyone is able to spend time with their loved ones and appreciate all that we have. There are a number of families in our community who need some support during this time, and I would encourage anyone who is able, to provide what they can to these families, and keep them in your thoughts.

School AI Update

I'd like to pass the microphone over to Assistant Superintendent Laffin to provide a brief update on our AI work.

Ms. Laffin reported that since our November meeting, our District AI Circle team has recommended piloting SchoolAI for staff only. School AI is an education-focused platform designed to enhance both teaching and learning. Data security and safety are our utmost responsibility. Unlike ChatGPT and other open large language models, School AI is Ed Law 2D-compliant and provides district data security. Any information in School AI is stored within our district tenant and not shared with others, nor used to train other large language models.

Currently, this tool will be used exclusively by faculty as we

assess its potential impact. We do not have plans at this point to implement this on the student level, but if we decide to do so, SchoolAI has a student-facing side that could be used at the secondary level.

All teachers received an initial professional learning opportunity during last week's Superintendent Conference day and now have access to explore using their account for the next two months. AI Circle members will facilitate additional conversations and exploration at faculty meetings, and additional professional learning will be provided. Use of the platform is not required; it is an optional tool.

The district is committed to supporting instructional staff every step of the way as we pilot this tool and explore how it might support teaching and learning here in Onteora. Staff feedback and ideas will be pivotal in tailoring our next steps.

SchoolAI is using the OpenAI Model, particularly GPT 4.1

7. Board District News

7.01 The Board will report District News

Trustee Jared reported that the Middle School concert was well attended and showcased the students' talents. Trustee Bishop concurred and noted the strong abilities of students across music, athletics, and academics.

Trustee Jared also reported attending the Ulster County School Boards Association event virtually, during which districts discussed concerns related to foundation aid and the electric vehicle bus mandate.

Trustee Jared announced plans to attend Lobby Day alongside Trustees Bishop and Knutsen.

Trustee Mitchell-Marell reported that the Woodstock School hosted a successful book fair and holiday boutique, allowing students the opportunity to select gifts from a wide variety of items.

Trustee Knutsen reported that he was part of two concert

performances held last weekend. Trustee Knutsen highlighted that Mr. Boyer and Onteora students performed prior to him going on stage and they delivered outstanding performances.

8. Discussion and Possible Action

8.01 Approve Statement of the Chair

The Board of Education hereby approves the Statement of the Chair for the 2025 Special District Vote

Moved by: Jenny Jared

Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Motion Carries

Statement of the Chair 2025 -2026 Special District Vote December 10, 2025.pdf

8.02 Ongoing Discussion of 2025–2026 District Goals (40 mins)

The Board of Trustees engaged in discussion regarding long-term ("forever") district goals, as well as goals the Board will actively work on in the near term. Superintendent McLaren requested that these goals be extended through the 2026–2027 school year.

The Board of Trustees agreed to continue to draft proposed goals for review and discussion at the January 13, 2026 Board of Education meeting.

9. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

9.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting

no one spoke

10. Public and Student Comment

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

no one spoke

11. **Break**

Draft

11.01 The Board will take a 5 minute break if needed

12. Consent Agenda

12.01 Approve Consent Agenda

The Board hereby approves item numbers 12.02 - 12.13

Moved by: Jenny Jared

Seconded by: Rory Smith

Motion Carries

12.02 Approval of Bond Resolution

WHEREAS, at the Special District Meeting duly called and held on December 10, 2025, in Onteora Central School District, in the Counties of Ulster and Greene, New York (the "District"), a majority of the qualified voters present and voting approved a bond proposition authorizing the construction of improvements and alterations to Bennett Elementary School and site; and such qualified voters then present and voting further authorized the board of education to levy and collect a tax to be collected in annual installments to pay the principal of and interest on the $26,900,000 serial bonds authorized to be issued;

Now, therefore,

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTIES OF ULSTER AND GREENE, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all the members of said Board of Education) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Onteora Central School District, in the Counties of Ulster and Greene, New York, is hereby authorized to construct improvements and alterations to Bennett Elementary School and site (the "Project"), substantially in accordance with a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of CPL Architecture, Engineering & Planning, such Project to include (as and where necessary): the construction of building additions to provide for additional classroom, library, lavatory, office, security and other space; improvements to the heating, electrical and drainage

systems; and site and recreational improvements including new drop off loop, the reconfiguration of outdoor play space, parking and the replacement of the below slab sanitary; all of the foregoing to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site and other work required in connection therewith. The estimated total cost thereof, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, is $26,900,000 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. The plan of finance includes the issuance of $26,900,000 serial bonds of the District to finance said appropriation, and the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the District to pay the principal of said bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable.

Section 2. Serial bonds of the District in the amount of $26,900,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law") to finance said appropriation.

Section 3. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The period of probable usefulness applicable to the purpose for which serial bonds are authorized to be issued pursuant to this resolution, within the limitations of Section 11.00 a. 97 of the Law, is thirty (30) years.

(b) The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds may be applied to reimburse the District for expenditures made for the purpose or purposes for which said bonds are authorized. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department.

Section 4. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be general obligations of the District, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property

within the District without limitation of rate or amount. The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the District by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Law and pursuant to the provisions of Section 21.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, Section 30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and Section 50.00 and Sections 56.00 to 60.00 of the Law, the powers and duties of the Board of Education relative to authorizing bond anticipation notes and prescribing the terms, form and contents and as to the sale and issuance of all bonds herein and heretofore authorized and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, and the renewals of said bond anticipation notes, are hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 6. The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution, and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution, or a summary hereof, are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7. This bond resolution shall take effect immediately, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to

publish the foregoing resolution, in summary, together with a Notice attached in substantially the form prescribed by §81.00 of the Law in the District's official newspapers, each having a general circulation within the District and hereby designated the official newspapers of said District for such publication.

Carried

12.03 Approve Budget Development Calendar

The Board of Education hereby approves the Budget Development Calendar for 2026-2027 school year.

Carried

26-27 Budget Development Calendar DRAFT.pdf

12.04 Personnel Agenda

The Board of Education hereby approves the personnel agenda as attached

Carried

12-16-25 personnel agenda.pdf

12.05 Surplus Items

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 out dated kitchen equipment from the Food Service Department as surplus and authorizes the sale or disposal of the equipment.

Carried

Immersion Blender.pdf Hotbox Bennett.pdf

12.06 Donations

The Superintendent recommends approval for the attached donations, each contributing to various initiatives within our district, and increasing their respective budgetary appropriations. The total amount for approval is $11,161.40.

Draft

Carried

Donation Spreadsheet for 25-26 BOE Approval 12.16.2025 $11161.40.pdf

12.07 School Supply Donations from Kids In Need Foundation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts, with gratitude, the donation of school supplies valued at over $200.00 from the Kids In Need Foundation.

Carried

12.08 Stale Dated Check

As of December 16, 2025, the following stale dated check will be written off.

Check #53274 – Tax Overpayment, Payee: Sunny Blue Waters, LLC, Amount $16.02

Carried

12.09 Financial Report

The Board has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial reports from October 2025

Carried

12.10 Warrants

The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts Warrant Schedule 5

Carried

12.11 Memorandum of Agreement #121225

The Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement #121225 to amend the deadline for notifying the district of a member's intent to retire between the Onteora Central School District and the Onteora

Draft

Teacher's Association, as attached

Carried

MOA - Retirement Date Change 121225.pdf

12.12 Memorandum of Agreement #121225A

The Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement #121225A to change the Community Mentor stipend between the Onteora Central School District and the Onteora Teacher's Association, as attached

Carried

MOA - Community Mentor 121225A.pdf

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

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, #12/25, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Caroline Jerome

Carried

13. Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers

13.01 Approve all Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers

The Board hereby approves item numbers 13.02 - 13.08

Moved by: Jenny Jared
Seconded by: Eric Knutsen

Motion Carries

13.02 Approval Schoolhouse Construction Services LLC Proposal

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the

Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approves the proposal from Schoolhouse Construction Services LLC for the elevator upgrade and ceiling repairs for the proposal summary not to exceed $172,500.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such proposal.

Carried

Onteora CSD CM Proposal Elevator Repair and Ceiling Upgrades - 11.17.2025.docx.pdf

13.03 Approve CPL Fee Proposal: 2026 Building Condition Survey (BCS)

13.04 BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the proposal to comply with NYS Education Regulations 155.4(a)(1) Five-Year Building Condition Survey from CPL Architecture Engineering & Planning for a lump sum fee of $40,572.00 for the BCS with additional services to include Roof Scans at BES and MSHS Buildings for a flat fee of $11,521.02 and Cleaning & CCTV Inspections at Boiceville Campus for an allowance of $25,000.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such proposal.

Onteora CSD_2026 BCS Proposal_2025.11.18.pdf

13.05 D. Young - Concert Accompanist, Bennett

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 Daniel Young retained as Concert Accompanist effective November 24, 2025 to June 26, 2026 at a rate of $55 per rehearsal and $110.00 per concert to a maximum rate of $330.00 with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

Carried

Draft

13.06 C. Gordon - Presenter

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 Charlotte Gordon retained as Presenter effective February 11, 2026 (snow date February 12, 2026) at a maximum rate of $350.00 with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

Carried

C. Gordon - ICR presenter.pdf

Charlotte Gordon's *Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Her Daughter Mary Shelley* won the National Book Critics Circle award in biography. Earlier works include Mistress Bradstreet: The Untold Story of America's First Poet - a Massachusetts Honor book for non-fiction — and The Woman Who Named God: Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths. In 2012, she was selected as the Rose Thering Fellow by the Lubar Institute for the Study of Abrahamic Religions at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her new book project on the 19th century women's movement has won an award from The National Endowment for the Humanities.

Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *The Washington Post*, *The Cambridge Companion to Early American Poetry*, and *Harvard Magazine*. She has also published two books of poetry: *When the Grateful Dead Came to St. Louis* and *Two Girls on a Raft*.

A graduate of Harvard College, she received a master's degree in creative writing and a Ph.D. in history and literature from Boston University. She has been a frequent guest on NPR and the CBC, including spots on *Weekend Edition* and *The Current*. From 1999-2002 she was Elie Wiesel's teaching assistant at Boston University. Currently, she is the Distinguished

Professor of Humanities at Endicott College.

13.07 M. Nogueira - BMX Shows LLC

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 Mannie Nogueira, BMX Shows LLC retained as Motivational Speaker effective January 23, 2026 at a maximum rate of $1,149.00 with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

Carried

M. Nogueira BMX Shows LLC.pdf

13.08 NY's Finest Speakers LLC

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the Agreement between the Onteora Central School District and New York's Finest Speakers LLC for two internet awareness presentations effective January 8, 2026 at a maximum rate of $1,275.00 with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

Carried

Speaking Agreement - Two Internet Awareness Presentations.pdf

14. Policies

14.01 Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 1512 Public Be Heard: Board Meetings

Policy 1512 Public Be Heard .pdf

The Onteora Board of Education hereby adopts policy 1512 as written

Draft

Moved by: Rory Smith
Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Motion Carries

15. Committee Reports

15.01 Updates from Board Committees

Trustee Jared reported that the Safety Committee met. Mr. James Stoothoff, Environmental Compliance Coordinator from Ulster BOCES, commended the District's Building Safety Plans, referring to them as the "jewel in the crown of the district."

Trustee Jared also reported that the Audit Committee met and reviewed the District's financials. The meeting was described as very positive.

Trustee Mitchell-Marell reported that the Facilities Committee met several weeks ago at Woodstock Elementary School. The committee was shown the location for early ballot placement. No concerns surrounding the building were identified.

Trustee Bishop reported that the Communications Committee was very active in approving communications related to the vote and remained on call as needed. Trustee Knutsen expressed appreciation to Holly and Renee from Ulster BOCES for all of their hard work in preparation of the special vote.

Trustee Knutsen further reported that the propositions were well communicated to the community.

Trustee Mitchell-Marell announced that the Meet, Greet, and Eat event is scheduled for April 20, 2026, to be held in the Middle School/High School cafeteria. The time will be announced at a later date.

16. Unfinished Business

16.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

Nothing discussed

17. New Business

17.01 The Board will discuss New Business
Nothing discussed

18. Request for Information

18.01 Board Members will Request Information of the Superintendent
Nothing requested

19. Adjournment

19.01 Adjourn the Meeting. Next meeting is January 13, 2026 at Bennett Elementary. Happy Holidays!
The meeting is adjourned at 8:14 pm .

Moved by: Rory Smith
Seconded by: Caroline Jerome

Carried

_____
District Clerk

Draft

Personnel Agenda for BOE Meeting 01/13/2026

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: NON - INSTRUCTIONAL

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM -TO	REASON
4261	01/01/26 – 01/29/26	Medical Leave – extended

ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM -TO	REASON
040125	01/14/26 – 02/10/26	Extended leave and reassigned pursuant to Superintendent

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Darling, Michele	Occupational Therapist	04/01/26 – 06/27/26**	$90/hr as needed

anticipated dates

SUBSTITUTE

NAME	POSITION	RATE
Burns, Kyla*	Teacher (uncertified)	$120.00/day
Burns, Kyla*	Teaching Assistant (uncertified)	$105.00/day
Burns, Kyla*	School Monitor	$16.00/hour
Godduhn, Anna*	Teacher (uncertified)	$120.00/day
Godduhn, Anna*	Teaching Assistant (uncertified)	$105.00/day
Guiditta, Dawn*	Teaching Assistant (uncertified)	$105.00/day
Guiditta, Dawn*	School Monitor	$16.00/hour
Guiditta, Dawn*	Clerical	$16.00/hour
Wagner, Debra*	Teacher (uncertified)	$120.00/day
Wagner, Debra*	Teaching Assistant (uncertified)	$105.00/day
Wagner, Debra*	School Monitor	$16.00/hour

pending pre employment processing

	2025-2026 Onteora Capital Project Change Orders:					
PROJECT	-		BOE Date	VENDOR	Change Order Amount	New Total
	Original Budget					
RENO A	$21,500.00	CO #003 - CE #022 - Door 2-001 Threshold	1/13/26	Transitional Builders, Inc.	-$2,379.00	$19,121.00
RENO B	$1,193,298.00	CO #006 - CE #015 - Pavilion Boulders Change	1/13/26	Kingston Equipment Rental, Inc.	$7,020.00	$1,200,318.00
RENO A	$1,200,318.00	CO #007 - CE #021 - Roof & Area Drain Connections	1/13/26	Kingston Equipment Rental, Inc.	$8,316.00	$1,208,634.00
RENO	$1,357,485.00	CO #007 - CE #032 - IB-18 CR 140 Exterior End Wall	1/13/26	Transitional Builders, Inc.	$2,835.00	$1,360,320.00
RENO	$1,360,320.00	CO #008 - CE #031 - IB-17 Gap at Ranges	1/13/26	Transitional Builders, Inc.	$998.00	$1,361,318.00
RENO	$515,984.00	CO #004 - CE #034 - Card Reader Credit	1/13/26	Stone Creek Electric, LLC	-$608.00	$515,376.00
RENO	$476,810.00	CO #002- CE #033 - C&C Allowance Reconciliation	1/13/26	C&C Unliited, Inc.	-$3,553.00	$473,257.00

Print name and post office address of Collector:

Kimberly Cole
Onteora CSD
PO Box 300
Boiceville, NY 12412

If there is a separate Treasurer, print Name and post office address:

Debra D'Aprile
Onteora CSD
PO Box 300
Boiceville NY 12412

Date of Tax Warrant

11/17/2025

Date of posting Collector's Notices:

9/1/25 & 10/1/25

SUMMARY OF UNPAID TAXES

Town of Hurley	$ 437,321.42
Town of Marbletown	$ 30,106.81
Town of Olive	$ 661,198.49
Town of Shandaken	$ 816,144.28
Town of Woodstock	$ 1,503,282.17
	$

TOTAL $ 3,454,053.17

INSTRUCTIONS

List all the unpaid taxes on the School District Collector's Return of Unpaid Taxes. If the school district is in more than one town, the unpaid taxes, for each town are to be listed on separate sheets.

Complete the Affidavit of Collector on the attached sheet. Only one affidavit required for all unpaid taxes in the school district.

Give the return of unpaid taxes to the trustee or trustees so that they can complete their certificate.

The return of unpaid taxes must be made to the Ulster County Commissioner of Finance on or before November 15, 2025, following the levy of the tax

Date received in the Ulster County Commissioner of Finance Office _____

CERTIFICATION

RELEVIES, DELINQUENCIES, CHARGES OR FEES

I hereby certify that the attached list which represents School relevies,
(School Relevies, Village Relevies, Delinquent Water or Sewer Charges, Unsafe Building Ordinance Fees, Etc.)
has been duly authorized by the Onteora CSD (School, Village or Town Board)
to be included on the Tax Rolls for the current year.

The Grand Totals from the list are:

Original Amount: $ 231,548.17

Interest: $ 4,630.99

Amount to be returned to School/Village/Town: $ 236,179.16

Date: 11/17/2025

Authorized Signature: Marce Zaul-

Title: Assistant Superintendent for Business

Phone: 845-657-8499

Greene County reserves the right to reject all submissions for levy that do not include a valid and complete Tax Map I.D. Number obtained from the latest Final Town Assessment Roll. Please review the parcels contained on the list with the town assessor prior to submitting it to the Greene County Real Property Tax Service.

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412
ph. 845.657.6384 • fax 845.657.6835
www.onteora.k12.ny.us

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS
KYLE HARJES
Director
kharjes@onteora.k12.ny.us

Memorandum

Date: January 2, 2026

To: Monica LaClair, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Cc: Amanda Gates

From: Kyle Harjes

Subject: Surplus Truck

Truck # 102 a 2011 Chevrolet pick-up truck has reached the end of their useful life along with the plow and sander that was purchased for the truck. It is in poor condition and is no longer road worthy. Our office recommends that the Board of Education declare it as surplus property, after which it will be sold to the highest bidder at Auction.

Thank You,

ONTEORA
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
4166 Route 28, Boiceville, NY 12412
ph. 845.657.8499 • fax 845.657.6742
www.onteora.k12.ny.us

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
MONICA LACLAIR, CPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business
mlaclair@onteora.k12.ny.us

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RETAINER

Name: Kitty Jones - Kits Interactive Theatre

Address: 19 West Wind Dr Monroe, NY 10950

Telephone Number: 570 350 3738

In accordance with Education Law of the State of New York, and the regulations of the Onteora Central School District, you are hereby retained as Kits Interactive Theatre effective Mar 5 2026 to Mar 6 2026 at a rate of $1400.00 per day to a maximum of 2 days with no fringe benefits or deductions. Onteora CSD or its designee reserves the right to monitor all contracts, including purchase orders, from commencement until completion and to certify satisfactory and timely performance/completion of the contract prior to the District's authorization of payment of the agreed contract amount to the contractor. You will be paid on invoices submitted by you, stating the dates and hours of the services you rendered and your total fee. If applicable, you will be required to attend any meetings in reference to the evaluation/report submitted and reports must be submitted for reimbursement. The terms and conditions of this contract are subject to formal approval by the Board of Education. Please sign below and return to the Program Supervisor's Office as soon as possible.

I hereby assert that I am duly qualified as provided by the Education Law, and that I hereby accept the retainer for services under the conditions set forth above.

Signature: Kitty J — Date: 12/8/25

Kitty Jones — Print Name

[redacted] — Social Security Number or Federal Tax ID

FOR DISTRICT USE ONLY

Approved by: [signature] — Program Supervisor — Date: 12/9/25

Kits Interactive Theater — Program

A2110 449 03 — Budget Code

Approved by: _____ — Superintendent of Schools — Date: _____

Updated 09/01/2023

Mother Nature Study Guide

Interactive Plays
...are theatrical presentations where audience members - teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to simply watch the antics of their comrades.

Teachers: in order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

Planet Earth (Present Day)
The program introduces young students to a variety of environmental issues including preservation and recycling. Emphasis is placed on how humans impact various ecosystems and how conservation is our responsibility. Northeast habitats such as a pond, a forest and the sea shore are depicted using both indigenous animals and imaginary "fairy life". Messages of protecting our environment are whimsically yet poignantly explored.



Mother Nature
The mythological Mother Nature passionately strives to maintain a balance in nature. Combining ecology with mythology, she is connected to the "fairy-world" and can see, hear and talk with water sprites, fairies etc. who inhabit the forests in which we live.

Performance Objectives
To create a supportive environment wherein students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Inviting students to depict the animals in their natural environment and demonstrating how humans affects their lives - both positively and negatively
- Illustrating how young people can participate in caring for our local natural resources e.g. picking up their litter, being careful with fire and respecting all species, especially those that are endangered.

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Pre-Show Preparation

- Discuss with students the importance of respecting the plants and animals that live among us so that we maintain a healthy food chain and help to ensure the survival of the planet.

Post-Show Activities

- Create a recycling system in the classroom or at home. • Take a nature walk around the school and identify the various natural plants and animals that live right on the property. • Discuss how the presence of people affects these animals. • What can the students do to preserve the habitats of the plants and animals that share their immediate world?

Curriculum Standards

Kit's Interactive Theatre meets curriculum standards in both the Arts and Social Studies as programs combine history, dance, music, improvisation, acting and continual student participation. Throughout the programs, students and teachers are invited on stage to perform, interact, dance and co-create the show with the performer. All performances contain a period dance which is taught to then performed by the students. Dances are all accompanied by correlating period music.

The goal of each program is to ignite students' imaginations and enable them to immerse themselves in the time period in which the show is set. This is achieved as the students enter the performance space. They are addressed in proper dialect and language, hear period music, and interact using period props and costume pieces pertaining to a specific time period or literary theme.

The Artist



Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty Jones combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.

In addition to her prolific stage work, Kitty is quite proud to have provided one of the original voices for *League of Legends,* one of most widely played video games in the world.

The American Revolution Study Guide

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Philadelphia (1776)
The show depicts the major events that led up the Revolution including the taxes imposed after the French and Indian War. The participants then re-enact the March 5, 1770 Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party of 1773 and Paul Revere's historic ride to Lexington where the first shot of the Revolution was fired. 18th Century values and customs are also demonstrated, including an aristocratic formal dance led by the character and performed by students and teachers.



Abigail Datchery
Miss Datchery is a fictitious character patterned after the colonial aristocracy in the late 18th Century. Her exquisite custom made dress is complete with a bum-roll and farthingale to extend the skirt. She also sports a matching hat and powdered wig, as was the fashion of the colonial period.

Performance Objectives
To create a supportive environment wherein students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Enabling students to begin to think like a colonist
- Recreating injustices that were thrust upon the colonists before the war
- Creating a dialogue with students (as though they were colonists) and allowing them to respond to the situations as they develop

Pre-Show Preparation

- Familiarize students with key patriots and their contributions, such as
  - Samuel Adams John Adams • John Hancock Thomas Paine • Benjamin Franklin George Washington • Thomas Jefferson Paul Revere
- Discuss how King George III influenced the lives of those living in the colonies
  - 1764 Sugar Tax 1765 Stamp Tax • 1765 Quartering Act 1767 Townsend Act
- Discuss how unlikely it would be for the colonists to win the war

Post-Show Activities

- Have students set up a mock town meeting with half the townspeople siding with the revolutionaries and half remaining loyal to the crown
- Have each student choose an occupation/trade and then debate whether it is in their best interest to go to war with the most powerful country on Earth
- Let each student describe what life would be like for them if the colonists had lost

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Women's Rights Study Guide

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Nashville, TN (1920)



The show focuses on the ways women had been oppressed during the 19th and early 20th centuries and the men who came to their aid. The program opens with the Tennessee legislature voting on the Nineteenth Amendment. The story then shifts to the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, England. Susan B. Anthony arrives and her contribution to the movement is celebrated. As the 19th century waned, the social and economic climate changed dramatically for women. The exploitation of women in the workplace is then re-enacted. Women did gain some freedoms throughout their 72-year struggle. This is demonstrated by a free-spirited dance in a dance hall. The program concludes with the announcement of the legislative voting results.

Siga Schoennwolf

Miss Schoennwolf is a fictitious working class woman, living in New York City. She emigrated from Lithuania years ago. After witnessing first-hand the exploitation of women, she joined the fight for women's suffrage in spite of all the difficulties.

Performance Objectives

To create a supportive environment wherein students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Sharing the challenges and frustrations women endured in order to obtain their rights, particularly with little power to execute changes
- Demonstrating the various ways key men supported women's rights

Pre-Show Preparation

- Familiarize students with 19th century events: slavery, the abolitionists & the passage of the 14th Amendment giving all men the right to vote
- Discuss the myriad of rights denied to women e.g. the right to attend college, own property, keep children in cases of divorce, keep wages, address the public, testify in a court of law, etc.
- Discuss with students the Industrial Revolution underway at the turn of the century and the numerous new opportunities available to women to leave the home and work in factories (sweatshops), bakeries, schools, etc.

Post-Show Activities

- Discuss with students the ways our modern life differs from their great-grandmothers. What freedoms and rights do we take for granted?
- Have each student choose a powerful woman living between 1820 and 1920.
- Assign a report an historic woman who pursued her dreams despite the obstacles

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