

OUUSD 2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

Oxbow High School Auditorium—April 28, 2026

The Annual Meeting of OUUSD was called to order at 6:32 PM by Arvid Johnson, Moderator. Prior to the meeting, an informational session was held. Each building Principal shared information about the programs and goals at their schools, and questions were answered as time allowed.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

- a. Nomination by Walter Cottrell, seconded by Nicholas DiLorenzo for Arvid Johnson to serve as Moderator. A. Johnson was elected unanimously by voice vote to serve as Moderator,

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

- a. Nomination by Peter Hatch, seconded by Bob Wing for Maegan Ballou to serve as Clerk. M. Ballou was elected unanimously by voice vote to serve as Clerk.

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year

- a. Nomination by Peter Hatch for Lyn Fischer to serve as Treasurer. L. Fischer was elected unanimously by voice vote to serve as Treasurer.

ARTICLE 4: To hear and act upon the reports of the officers of said District for the past year.

- a. Motion by Bud Haas, seconded by Nicholas DiLorenzo to approve the article. Motion voted on and the reports were approved unanimously by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: To elect two school directors of said District, one (1) to represent the Town of Bradford for a three-year term to expire 2029 and one (1) to represent the Town of Newbury for a three-year term to expire 2029.

- a. Nomination by Emmy Hausman for Tim Ross to serve as Board member from Newbury for a three-year term. Nomination by Gary Miller for Angela Colbeth to serve as Board member from Bradford for a three-year term. There being no other nominations, Tim Ross and Angela Colbeth were elected unanimously by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend twenty-three million, three hundred thirty-nine thousand, three hundred thirty-three dollars (\$23,339,333.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Oxbow Unified Union School District estimates that this

proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,410.35 which is 16.46% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

- a. Motion by Bud Haas, seconded by Lisa Tremaine to approve the article.
- b. A question was asked as to how one would come up with \$15,410.23 per pupil spending? T. Ross: explained long term average daily membership. Marvin Harrison asked if Newbury's per pupil spending is higher than BES and Oxbow?
- c. Dan Smith asked what will happen if the budget is voted down? Danielle Corti explained that the goal would be to have a number tonight. Motion by Dan Smith, seconded by another community member to reduce the budget by \$800,000. An English teacher from Oxbow reminded those present that if the budget is cut by that amount, teachers will be cut. If you take out one teacher, it affects the structure of the whole school. Josh Gravelin spoke, saying he is not in favor of cutting the budget. Jennifer Rivers reminded everyone that you don't have to instantly go to teachers. She feels there is a lot of padding in athletics.
- d. Sandra Cassidy commented that we can cut this budget now and put the money into the correctional system later. Jon Stimson reminded voters that we can't designate the line item that we want to cut.
- e. Heidi Torphy shared that often the arts is one of the first things to go. Kids remember what they did in the arts—drama, music, etc., when they grow up.
- f. Lisa Tomasi-Carr noted that when one divides the \$15,000 per student, it comes to \$12-13 per hour for a child's education, which seems well worth it.
- g. Kim Frydman moved to cease discussion. A voice vote on the amendment resulted in a division of the house. A vote was held by a show of hands, and the amendment failed.
- h. Motion by Bob Wing, seconded by Robert Munson to move the question. A voice vote was held, and a division of the house was declared. There was a request for a paper ballot. The votes were counted, and Article 6 was defeated with 119 Yes votes and 145 No votes.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of Oxbow Unified Union School District authorize the use of forty-one thousand dollars (\$41,000) of the FY25 surplus be applied to the Capital Improvement Fund?

- a. Motion by Jon Stimson, seconded by Elizabeth Friend to approve the motion. Marvin Harrison asked what is the amount in the fund now? D. Corti responded that there is about \$100,000 left in the Capital Improvement Fund, so if this article passes, it would bring the total to about \$141,000. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money in anticipation of tax receipts for the 2026-2027 school year?

- a. Motion by Emmy Hausman, seconded by a community member to approve the article. Wendy Clyburn asked why the School Board might need to borrow money. D. Corti explained that it would be to cover a gap between when bills come and when tax money comes in. Nick Spooner asked what the interest would be on the loan. Lori Blood, OESU Director of Finance, responded that the interest rate would be right around 5% and that the SU might need to borrow about three million dollars to cover cash flow so they can pay their bills.
- b. The motion was voted on and was approved unanimously by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

- a. Bob Wing asked the Board to explain to tax payers why the Finance Committee was dissolved? Carol Cottrell responded that yes, we do need help, and we do anticipate re-forming that committee, but the attendance fell away, and the committee was asked to do some things that they felt were beyond their expertise, so the committee dissolved naturally.
- b. Bradford Town Clerk Nikki Tomlinson noted that taxes for Newbury and Bradford support the budget. Even if some taxes are delinquent, we have to support the budget. The money comes in at different times.
- c. Ted Unkles and Meroa Benjamin each thanked the Board for all the work they have done. M. Benjamin believes that a budget committee needs to be a part of the work that the School Board does. She also feels that if the information meeting is held an hour and a half before the annual meeting, that there is not enough time for questions. She encouraged that the information meeting be held on another night. She further commented that the annual report looks pretty, but costs a lot of money.
- d. Bud Haas requested that Article 6 be reopened. The Moderator ruled that would be out of order. Motion by Bud Haas and seconded that the Chair be overruled and that Article 6 be re-opened. Motion voted on by voice vote, and the motion was defeated.
- e. On a motion by Bob Wing, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved at a future date.