

**Oxford Board of Education Budget Workshop Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**  
**Oxford High School Media Center**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Chairman D. Soracco

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Members present: Susan Kiernan, Stephen Brown, Melissa Cole, Gerard Carbonaro, Diane Soracco, Paula Guillet, John Hatchell and Amy Cote

Members absent: David Yish

Also present were: Mr. Timothy F. Connellan, Superintendent of Schools, Rosemary Hanson, Director of Finance

D. Soracco read the mission statement.

**Report of Chairman – Diane Soracco**

D. Soracco spoke about the Town Charter, what the budget process is and how the budget is adopted. D. Soracco reviewed the agenda from the prior Board meeting (February 18, 2014) with the Board's legal council and it was recommended by legal council that a motion be made to rescind the motion that removed funding for Full Day Kindergarten from the proposed Board of Education 2014-2015 budget. The possible action was not indicated on the agenda and therefore the Board members and community were not properly notified.

**Motion 1**

- Motion to rescind the motion of February 18, 2014 to remove all funding for the Full Day Kindergarten from the proposed Board of Education budget **was made by D. Soracco, seconded by A. Cote. All in favor. Motion carried.** Conversations ensued amongst the Board members.

**Audience of Citizens I**

1. Jennifer Meyers, 124 Chestnut Tree Hill Road – Is an administrator and was very upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
2. Timothy Lee, 5 Silano Drive – Referenced the survey. Mr. Lee was upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
3. Christin Kimball, 178 Punkup Road – Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
4. Michael Macchio, 25 Silano Drive – Spoke about the political aspect of this. Mentioned that The Democrats that ran used Full Day Kindergarten in their campaign and they still didn't make it on the Board.
5. Heather Goldstein, 11 Labordle Road – Is a teacher at Amity. Talked about DRG C test scores and how Oxford is almost the last district in DRG C. Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.

6. Liza Logan, 76 Christian Street – Recently moved to Oxford in 2012. She invested in the town's future. Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
7. Linda Czaplinski, 30 Freeman Road – Thanked the Board for being fiscally responsible.
8. Mat Hoccoly, 10 Oakwood Drive – Is an Ansonia Teacher. Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
9. Kate Gelineau, 2 Little Valley Road – Disappointed in the elected official. Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
10. Kerry Mizak, 42 Ancient Highway – Ms. Mizak is a teacher. Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
11. Lauren Blair, 6 Little Valley road – Full Day Kindergarten is needed. Upset that it was taken out of the budget.
12. Stacey Marcell, 143 Freeman Road – Is for Full Day Kindergarten. Just moved to Oxford.
13. Alinette Montain, 11 Chauncey Drive – Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
14. Julia Kecko, 261 Riggs Street – Has lived in Oxford since 1997. Devastated that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget. Indicated that people are moving out of this town.
15. Elizabeth Alves, 486 Quaker Farms Road – Mentioned that daughter was behind in the 09-10 school year. Money needs to be spent for Full Day Kindergarten.
16. Jen Wolyniec, 40 Silva Terrace – Special Education Teacher in Shelton. Has lived in Oxford for more than 10 years. Give us Full Day Kindergarten.
17. Jeff Lockshier, 4 Skyline Drive – Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
18. Chris Reddy, 9-1 Macintosh Drive – Will not vote for the budget without Full Day Kindergarten or members.
19. John Mele, 2 Tetlak Lane – Full Day Kindergarten petition. The petition has been up for two days and 278 signed it so far.
20. Joann Briganti, 20 Middlefield Road – Ms. Briganti has been an educator for 20 years in Bridgeport. We need Full Day Kindergarten.
21. Stacey Randolph Gendron, 54 Highland Road – Supports Full Day Kindergarten. She wants to vote for Full Day Kindergarten.
22. Rocco Trungadi, 336 Spruce Hill Drive – Kids are being pushed too much. Not in favor of Full Day Kindergarten.
23. Keith Somers, 13 Martin Drive – Oxford needs to change with the times. In favor of Full Day Kindergarten.
24. James Latefield, 20 Chauncey Drive – Oxford is below in their test scores. Full Day Kindergarten is needed.
25. Mandy Brodacki, 7 Oakwood Drive – Upset that Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget.
26. Kelly Traverse, 46 Greenbriar Road – Has a five year old and a 2 year old. Too much pressure is being put on the kids and teachers. Full Day Kindergarten is needed.
27. Christina Dyer, 3 Shagbark Drive – Was at the last meeting. Times are changing.
28. David Kimball, 178 Punkup Road – Is an assistant principal at a high school. Please reinstate Full Day Kindergarten. Mr. Kimball will not vote for the budget without Full Day Kindergarten.
29. Brodwell Bowen, 58 Larkey Road – Child is in preschool in Oxford. Full Day Kindergarten is needed.
30. Susan O'Brien, 8 Country Farms Road – The board can answer questions – Do you support Full Day Kindergarten?
31. Jennifer Florin, 3 Jem Woods Road – Ms. Florin is a second grade teacher. Has been teaching for 9 years. Think for our kids.

32. Amy Motes, 22 Palmer Lane – Owns a child daycare service for 4 and 6 year olds. Is for Full Day Kindergarten.
33. Brian Logan, 76 Christian Street – In favor of Full Day Kindergarten. Put the money back into the budget.
34. Lisa Lee, 5 Silano Drive – Is an educator and parent. Will not vote for the budget without Full Day Kindergarten.

## **Motion 2**

- Motion of Board of Education to support the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten concept at some point in time **was made by G. Carbonaro, seconded by A. Cote. All in favor. Motion carried.** Conversations ensued amongst the Board members.

Mr. Connellan, Superintendent of Schools took the floor and referenced the Budget document from January 28, 2014. The budget was presented at the January 28, 2014 meeting at 6.16% increase. Two possible options for reducing the budget further were noted at the February 18, 2014 budget workshop. The first option involved working with the Town to apply funds that were reimbursed by Cigna toward the Board of Educating operating budget. After further discussion with Town officials after that meeting it was determined that this option was no longer available. The second possible option to reduce the budget first introduced at the budget workshop involved reducing the number of certified and non-certified staff requested to implement the Full Day Kindergarten program. By removing one teacher and four paraprofessionals from the budget draft that was presented at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the budget would decrease to 5.16% increase. If all of Full Day Kindergarten was taken out of the budget entirely, the budget increase would be 4.08%. Mr. Connellan recommended that the Board adopt a proposed budget of \$28,548,584, an increase of 5.16% that includes funding to implement Full Day Kindergarten with the reduced staffing suggested. Mr. Connellan mentioned that Kindergarten registration is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion regarding the proposed budget ensued among Board members.

## **Motion 3**

- Motion to accept the Superintendent's 2014-2015 Budget as presented at 5.16% over last year's budget **was made by S. Brown, seconded by A. Cote. Ayes from A. Cote, M. Cole, S. Brown, S. Kiernan, P. Guillet and D. Soracco. Nays from G. Carbonaro and J. Hatchell Motion carried.**

Audience of Citizens II

1. Kate Gelineau, 2 Little Valley Road – Said thank you.
2. Susan O'Brien, 8 Country Farms Road – Said thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelina Cevetillo, Substitute Board Clerk  
Oxford Board Education