

**Owen D. Young Central School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
March 13, 2023**

*The mission of the Owen D. Young Central School is to provide an excellent educational environment in which all students can achieve success and become contributing citizens.*

**Minutes**

President Marshall called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Quendryth Marshall; President Holly Pullis; Vice President Ethan Durham; Trustee Paul Kennerknecht; Trustee George Mower; Trustee (6:14pm) Brennan Fahey; Superintendent Fred Seifried; Treasurer Jenn Jones; District Clerk 12 Community Members

The Board reviewed the agenda for March 13, 2023 and removed item V. b. from the agenda. The Board reviewed the minutes from February 13, 2023 and found both to be correct.

Evan Davis, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, reviewed the synopsis of the play and performed a song from the upcoming Drama Club production of Willy Wonka Jr. The play will be performed on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm both nights in the Gymnasium.

Upon a motion by Vice President Pullis, seconded by Trustee Kennerknecht, the Board approved the January 2023 Treasurer's Report and Owen D. Young students participating in track, baseball and softball with Richfield Springs for the Spring 2023 season. **MOTION CARRIED 4:0**

The Board tabled the lease of the 2023-24 Lease Agreement with Herkimer BOCES for the Pre-K classroom due to a discrepancy between the year listed on the lease agreement and the year listed on the agenda.

Upon a motion by Vice President Pullis, seconded by Trustee Kennerknecht, the Board approved items b.-d. listed below:

- b. Approve copier agreement with Ed & Ed Business Technology.  
The Board discussed the lease rotation and what items are due for renewal this year.
- c. Approve contract with Ryan Painting for corridor work in secondary and intermediate wings for no more than \$33,000.  
The Board discussed the work that was done, and what is being proposed to do, noting this is all maintenance work.
- d. Vote to approve/authorize SEQR resolution for 2023/24 Capital Outlay consisting of ceiling and lighting replacements in various locations of K-12 building. **MOTION CARRIED 4:0**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING  
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW  
CAPITAL PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Owen D. Young Central School District (the "Board") has considered the effect upon the environment of the proposed work consisting of the following Scope of Work to be completed:

Replacement of ceiling and lighting in various locations around the building

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the scope of the project and has further received and considered the advice of its architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action' and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6NYCRR part 617.5(c), now therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action as a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

Upon a motion by Trustee Durham, seconded by Trustee Kennerknecht, the Board approved the Herkimer BOCES IMA Bond Resolution. **MOTION CARRIED 4:0**

**BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 13, 2023 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$969,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE OWEN D. YOUNG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SHARE OF THE COST OF CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING BOCES FACILITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Herkimer Fulton Hamilton Otsego Board of Cooperative Educational Services (the "BOCES") has heretofore been created and the Owen D. Young Central School District, Herkimer County, New York (the "District") is one of the component school districts thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOCES has proposed to construct and equip improvements to various BOCES school facilities to increase their utility for the purposes of the BOCES at an estimated maximum cost of \$50,000,000 (the "Project") and in furtherance thereof, has entered into an agreement by and among the BOCES and each of the component school districts of the BOCES providing for such construction and equipping, the allocation and apportionment of such estimated maximum cost among such component school districts, the payment by each such component school district of its respective share to the BOCES, and other matters incidental thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, such agreement has heretofore been duly executed by BOCES and by each of the component school districts thereof, including the District; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 1950(14) of the Education Law, neither the approval of the voters of the District, nor the voting of a special tax or a tax to be collected in the installments are conditions precedent to the adoption by the Board of Education of the District (the “Board”) of a bond resolution authorizing the financing of the District’s share of the aforesaid estimated maximum cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOCES has heretofore determined that the Project constitutes a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act of the State of New York (“SEQRA”) and the applicable regulations thereunder, and therefore is not subject to review under the SEQRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now desired to authorize (but not require) the financing by the District of its share of the aforesaid estimated maximum cost, as authorized by such Section 1950(14) of the Education Law;

**NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The District has reviewed the Project, and has considered and concurs with the prior determination of the BOCES that the Project constitutes a Type II action pursuant to SEQRA and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder, and therefore is not subject to review under the SEQRA and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

**SECTION 2.** The specific object or purpose to be financed pursuant to this resolution is the payment of the District’s agreed upon and proportionate share of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, as more fully described in the preambles hereto (the “Purpose”). No money has heretofore been authorized to be applied to the payment of the cost of the Purpose.

**SECTION 3.** The estimated maximum cost of the Purpose is \$969,000, which expenditure is hereby authorized. The plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of up to \$969,000 of general obligation serial bonds of the District (and, if desirable, notes and renewal notes to be issued in anticipation thereof), all of which are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Finance Law. Investment earnings on such obligations shall be applied to either the debt service on such obligations, or to the costs of the Purpose. Such bonds and notes are to be payable from amounts which shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property in the District (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of New York), and the faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the bonds and notes that are authorized hereunder, and the interest thereon.

**SECTION 4.** It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the Purpose is thirty years, pursuant to subdivision 14(b) of Section 1950 of the Education Law.

**SECTION 5.** Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell the bonds herein authorized and the bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of such bonds, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board, as the chief fiscal officer of the District, or to the Vice President of the Board (in the event of the absence or unavailability of the President). Such bonds and notes shall be of such terms, forms and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by such President (or Vice President), consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

**SECTION 6.** All other matters except as provided herein relating to the bonds and notes herein authorized including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed herein, and the manner of execution of the same including without limitation, the authority to determine whether to accept bids electronically to the extent allowed by Section 58.00 of the Local Finance Law, the consolidation with other issues, the determination to issue bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, all contracts for, and determinations with respect to, credit or liquidity enhancements, if any, shall be determined by the President of the Board (or by the Vice President of the Board in the event of the absence or unavailability of the President). Such bonds and notes shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the President (or Vice President) of the Board shall determine, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

**SECTION 7.** The temporary use of available funds of the District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were borrowed, raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Local Finance Law, for the purpose or purposes described in Section 2 of this resolution. The District then reasonably expects to reimburse any such expenditures (to the extent made after the date hereof or within 60 days prior to the earlier of (1) the date hereof or (2) the date of any earlier expression by the District of its intent to reimburse such expenditures with the proceeds of the bonds authorized by Section 3 of this resolution (or with the proceeds of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such bonds). This resolution shall constitute the declaration (or reaffirmation) of the District’s “official intent” to reimburse the expenditures authorized by Section 3 hereof with such bond or note proceeds, as required by United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2.

**SECTION 8.** The President of the Board is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure the continued status of the interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) and may designate the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” in accordance with Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

**SECTION 9.** The President of the Board is further authorized to enter into a continuing disclosure agreement with the initial purchaser of the bonds authorized hereunder (or any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such bonds), containing provisions which are satisfactory to such purchaser in compliance with the

provisions of Rule 15c2-12, as promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

**SECTION 10.** The District Clerk is hereby authorized to publish this resolution, or a summary thereof, together with a notice in substantially the form provided by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, in the official newspaper(s) of the District, or if no newspaper(s) have been so designated, then in a newspaper having general circulation in the District, which newspaper shall be designated by the Board in a separate resolution. The validity of the serial bonds authorized hereby, or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such serial bonds, may be contested only if:

- (1) (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 publication of this resolution (or a summary thereof) 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
- (2) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

**SECTION 11.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon a motion by Vice President Pullis, seconded by Trustee Kennerknecht, the Board approved the second reading and the adoption of Policy Numbers 4300 – Borrowing Funds, 4301 – Investments Policy, 4302 – Insurance, 4303 – Reserve Funds, 4400 – Audit Committee, 4401 – Annual Audit, 4402 – Auditing Claims for Payment, 4403 – Medicaid Billing Compliance, 4500 – General Procurement Standards, 4501 Competitive Bidding, 4502 – Non-Bidding Purchasing, 4503 – Sale of Surplus Property, 4504 – Purchase Orders, 4505 – Accounting of Fixed Assets, Inventory and Tracking, 4506 – Use of Federal Funds for Political Expenditures, 4507 – Procurement – Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards, 8500 – Special Education Programs and Services

**MOTION CARRIED 4:0**

Mr. Seifried clarified a question from the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting: according to the policies pertaining to auditing, the Board must go out for bids from auditors every 5 years. If the current auditor is still the most acceptable offer, they may continue to be used.

President Marshall shared that there would be an Athletic Boosters club meeting at 6pm Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, with a back up date of Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> as a backup.

President Marshall reviewed the difference between an Open Meeting and a Public Meeting, with the main point of an Open Meeting being to allow the public to gain knowledge of the business of the school. She also commented that in many cases, what is being discussed is not something that is going to be acted on until many months of discussion has taken place. President Marshall went on to discuss why the Owen D. Young Board of Education places a Privilege of the Floor section in each meeting despite not being legally required to. The Board welcomes feedback from the public, and that the Board may not answer questions at that moment because they want to ensure that all information they are replying with is accurate. She went on to urge the public to use Facebook as a jumping off point regarding any information the school puts out, and that the school website will usually have more detailed information. President Marshall ended her report by stating that all members of the Board are part of the district and the community and that they all have a vested interest in the success of the school, the students, and the employees of the school.

Vice President Pullis reminded the Board that the week of March 20<sup>th</sup> is National Ag-Literacy week. She will be working with Mr. Dando on a lesson with students that utilizes her background as a farmer.

Vice President Pullis updated the Board on BOCES business, reminding everyone that Superintendent Sherwood would be at Owen D. Young for the Budget Presentation. She went on to comment that as she's gone to other schools to participate in their BOCES Budget Presentations, it has been interesting to see the difference in how other Boards operate. She particularly noted that some Boards have Student Representatives and proposed the Board look into what that would entail for Owen D. Young to adopt. Vice President Pullis also appreciated that there is an in-depth program update at each meeting, with different departments of the school presenting each month. Vice President Pullis ended her BOCES update by reminding everyone of the SBI Showcase on March 16<sup>th</sup> and the BOCES Annual Meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Kennerknecht asked for a STEM update at the next meeting, noting that it would be beneficial to hear from Mr. Dando as the Ag/Tech teacher, as well as Mr. Rupp regarding what he is doing with Robotics currently.

Trustee Durham reiterated that he is a community member and that he encourages all members of the community to come to him with questions and comments, both positive and negative.

Trustee Durham updated the Board on some of the ODY-RFS Sports updates, and discussed games and future events/teams.

The Board discussed the number of Discipline Write-ups compared to past years.

Superintendent Fahey presented to the Board the possibility of installing a radar speed sign around the school to remind traffic that they are in a school zone. He discussed the steps that would need to be taken, with the next step being to discuss the matter with the Town Board, as well as where the money would come from, how it would be installed, when it would be on, and how it would be powered. The Board directed Superintendent Fahey to take the next steps in fact finding and report again in April.

At 6:14pm Trustee Mower entered the meeting.

Superintendent Fahey reviewed the transportation situation with the Board, including the methods of recruitment they have been using for the last 1½ year, the shortage of drivers that is occurring across the region, and the fact that our current drivers also work other full-time jobs. He went on to inform the Board that there are 2 potential drivers that the school will be hiring once they obtain their CDLs, however that takes an extended period of time. In the meantime, the school needs to cover the gaps in our transportation so that the students do not miss out on opportunities such as academic tutoring, sports or other clubs. The pros and cons of various options were discussed from removing either the 4:15 or 5:15 bus runs to transitioning to bus stops rather than stopping at every home, to outsourcing to Richfield Springs for help with sports transportation to a short-term contract with Birnie Bus. The Board and Superintendent Fahey all agreed that none of these options would include a lay-off of current personnel. The Board directed Superintendent Fahey to continue gathering information and agreed that they are not ready to decide.

President Marshall provided a response to the Privilege of the Floor from the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The letter is attached to the end of these minutes.

Mr. Seifried updated the Board on the rotation of van and bus replacement schedule. This included discussing the difference between gas and diesel busses, and a price comparison between the two. The Board directed Mr. Seifried to find more information regarding the costs of running the busses, as well as purchase and maintenance.

Mr. Seifried reviewed the preliminary budget; this included the locked in fuel prices, and the co-operative bidding process with BOCES. President Marshall and Vice President Pullis asked questions relating back to the Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Seifried went on to review the tax cap, noting that the State would allow a raise of 7%, however the Board decided to remain with the previously agreed upon 2%.

During Privilege of the Floor, Mr. Doody asked if there was a possibility to test a gas bus to find out how it would work on the hills and country roads. Mr. Seifried replied that one had been offered, but that students would not be able to ride in it. Mr. Seifried is currently working with the bus company to obtain a loaned bus for that purpose.

Upon a motion by Vice President Pullis, seconded by Trustee Kennerknecht, the Board entered into Executive Session at 7:34pm.

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0**

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:20pm.

Upon a motion by Vice President Pullis, seconded by Trustee Mower, the Board approved the CSE/CPSE Recommendations dated March 13, 2023.

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0**

Upon a motion by Trustee Mower, seconded by Vice President Pullis, the Board approved the Personnel Report dated March 13, 2023.

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0**

Upon a motion by Trustee Mower, seconded by Trustee Kennerknecht, the Board adjourned the March 13, 2023 meeting at 8:22pm.

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jenn Jones; District Clerk

**Upcoming Events**

**March:**

16 SBI Showcase @ Herkimer BOCES 5:15-7:00pm  
16 Dance sponsored by Class of 2024  
17 NO SCHOOL Superintendent’s Conference Day  
17 & 18 All County II Music Festival at Poland Central School  
31 School Musical 7:00pm – Willy Wonka Jr.

**April:**

1 School Musical 7:00pm – Willy Wonka Jr.  
3 Board of Education Meeting 6:30 Library  
7-14 NO SCHOOL Spring Recess  
19 BOCES Budget Vote  
19-21 Grades 3-8 ELA Assessments

**PERSONNEL REPORT; March 13, 2023**

As recommended by Superintendent Brennan Fahey, the Board approve the appointments and accept the resignations, as listed in the Personnel Report, noting the salary, certification, and tenure status of all appointees, as appropriate.

**1. Appointments:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. Name: Christine Tucker<br>Position: New Teacher Mentor (Sroka)<br>Effective Dates: February 1, 2022- June 30, 2023<br>Salary: Stipend Per Contract | b. Name: Kristi Baggetta<br>Position: New Teacher Mentor (Sroka)<br>Effective Dates: September 1, 2022- January 31, 2023<br>Salary: Stipend Per Contract |
| c. Name: Christine Tucker<br>Position: Summer Program Coordinator<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$30.00 per hour      | d. Name: Lisa Wilber<br>Position: Summer Program Teacher<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour                  |
| e. Name: Holly Sroka<br>Position: Summer Program Teacher<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour               | f. Name: Cory Patterson<br>Position: Summer Program Teacher<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour               |
| g. Name: Dan Tucker<br>Position: Summer Program Teacher<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour                | h. Name: Suzzane Giachetti<br>Position: Summer Program Nurse<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour              |
| i. Name: Drusilla Relyea<br>Position: Summer Program Teacher<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour           | j. Name: Elizabeth Doxtater<br>Position: Summer Program Swim Instructor<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour   |
| k. Name: Elizabeth Doxtater<br>Position: Head Lifeguard<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$18.50 per hour                | l. Name: Luke Doxtater<br>Position: Lifeguard<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$17.50 per hour                             |
| m. Name: Logan Warren<br>Position: Summer Program Teacher<br>Effective Dates: July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023<br>Salary: \$25.00 per hour              |  |

**2. Probationary Appointment updates:**

- a. Carrie Clements probationary appointment as account clerk expires March 15, 2023. Ms. Clements will be granted permanent status effective March 16, 2023.
- b. Nicholas Reid’s probationary appointment as night cleaner expired November 30, 2022 and was granted permanent status effective December 1, 2022.

**3. Substitutes:**

- Jacob Bunce, Jacob Smithling, Kevin Horan
- Meagan Gros, Morgan Grescheck, Shontashia Giles

## **BOE letter 3/10/23 response to Privilege of the Floor**

A series of questions were posed to the BOE in the form of a letter received Friday, March 10, 2023 by a community member regarding communication with drivers and district advertising for new bus drivers.

In regards to communication with drivers this was addressed in the response to privilege of the floor from February 13th and has been an ongoing issue. There are many factors that make regular communication difficult. With drivers leaving and arriving in the afternoons at different times it is difficult to have formal meetings which is why we have recently issued memos to all drivers to ensure there was clear and consistent messages being sent. Previously we would try to meet and talk to drivers individually when they were available, on occasion missing drivers or getting to them after they heard from a peer. We are working on other means of communication. However, the suggestion to have mandatory monthly meetings with drivers is a fair one. In the past this is not something drivers felt necessary and would need to be negotiated so it is not something we could add quickly. Another area of concern expressed with communication is late notice of the need for coverage with some midday runs. When we are given advanced notice we do communicate and ensure the runs are covered in advance. Unfortunately, recently we have had a few incidents where we have learned of the need to fill a run at 8am in the morning when drivers are arriving with students. This is because drivers have reached out to substitutes without notifying Mr. Sefried or Mr. Fahey that they will be out. Great initiative but forgetting the other dominoes that must be covered. Good intentions but with some negative outcomes.

Pertaining to the question of why the district hasn't advertised on the radio or Facebook. Over the past year and half the district has invested heavily into both avenues for driver recruitment. These efforts have used radio and banner ads on social media platforms in the spring of 2022. These efforts involved the targeting of individuals in a 50-mile radius of ODY that came up in target word searches on social media. Though drawing interest, this method resulted in no new applicants. We have also listed our vacancies on Indeed, our BOCES employment search engine OLAS and our website. In addition, we recently negotiated higher salaries for our drivers that began with a raise in January of 2023 to ensure we were competitive with the salaries of neighboring districts while also increasing the districts contribution to a driver's health insurance plan for individuals. These methods were taken to entice new drivers but to also recognize our current drivers. In addition, we also offered a stipend to our drivers for recruiting a new full time driver. We know drivers with CDL licenses talk to other drivers with CDL's. An additional method used to recognize our drivers and show this is a good place to work was recognizing our dedicated drivers and support staff for their work during the past two years with three separate appreciation checks in addition to their regular pay. Finally, we have worked on incorporating driving with other duties to ensure our employees get more than the 15 hours a week a full time driver is contracted for. Currently of our 7 qualified drivers and subs 4 work for the district in other roles to ensure full time hours. We also have a driver who is contracted as a "full time driver" of 30 hours a week. All hours a driver works each month are reported to the state regardless of contractual hours or extra runs. These hours are then used by the state to calculate time towards retirement.