Bond
Sinking Fund
VOTE
November 7th
Dear Oxford Community,

We are less than a month away from the election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 where we have placed two proposals on the ballot for your consideration.

The District has taken considerable time and effort to evaluate the current status of our buildings, grounds, bus fleet, technology, roofs, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, and general conditions. The feedback we received via surveys, board meetings, community meetings, and general conversation made it clear that our community was asking for improvements in the categories mentioned above.

In cooperation with our architect and construction manager, we have estimated a cost of over $30 million to address all of these areas of critical renovations and major improvements. While I would love to tell you our operational budget can provide the money and resources to accomplish these needs, that simply is not the truth. Therefore, we have placed two different proposals on the ballot, each utilizing a different financial approach to help us accomplish our goals.

These proposals are premised on the following:

- Use the most appropriate financial vehicle for each of the categories, which will ensure the best return on our investments.
- Maintain our current tax rate for the bond, resulting in NO INCREASE on your taxes.
- Ask for only the amount we need with the sinking fund, resulting in a proposal of .75 mills each year for five years.
- Align our proposals with the District’s defined improvement goals and comprehensive Strategic Process.
- Make recommendations based on what we believe are in the very best interests of our students and the communities we serve.

Oxford Community Schools is proud of our programs, facilities, employees, students, and community members. While our neighboring school districts and those across the state continue to cut programs, we work to maintain and expand the opportunities that we extend to our students. We still provide NO pay-to-play or participation fees for any of our art or athletic programs and free entry for senior citizens. We offer PLTW, pre-engineering and biomedical tracks, robotics programs and Fifth Core (K-10 daily foreign language instruction). In the last two-and-a-half years, we have almost doubled our CTE (Career and Technical Education) course offerings. We are committed to becoming better every day. Your voice — your vote — is crucial in helping us to become our best.

For further information and the rationale behind the recommendations, please do not hesitate to give me a call (248-969-5114) or review the detailed plans on our website.

Sincerely,

Timothy Throne, Superintendent
Oxford International Program welcomes students from India and China for the 2017-18 school year. The school year is off to an amazing start for seven students who came to Oxford High School from across the globe to fulfill their dreams of experiencing an American education. Although they have been here only a short time, they have already endeared themselves to their Oxford host families, the OHS student body, and their teachers. They are setting aside any fear and diving in to become part of a community that continually opens its doors and minds to new cultures and ethnicities.

This year’s Oxford International Program students come from diverse backgrounds and bring with them many skills and passions. In addition to their stellar academic records, they excel in other areas as well. OIP students include a national chess champion, an award-winning yoga contestant, a national debate champion, a cricket enthusiast, an esteemed aeromodeler who started his own engineering company, and talented ping pong players.

Our student body has embraced these students and lived up to the Oxford reputation of being a friendly, openhearted, and accepting learning environment. It is our hope that we can all learn from each other as these students navigate their way through unfamiliar territories and share their talents and views. As one student so simply put it, “Dude, it’s the best day ever, I finally opened my locker!” … a foundational accomplishment to which we can all relate!

Oxford Schools Early College was awarded the esteemed recognition of a bronze medal in the 2017 U.S. News Best High Schools rankings. According to the official award letter sent to Principal Janet Schell on June 26, 2017 from United States Senator Gary Peters, “The teachers and administrators of your school have created an environment that challenges students and pushes them to strive towards academic achievement.”

M-STEP AND SAT SCORES

The adjacent tables show the M-Step proficiency percentages of students for each grade level and subject in comparison to the state and Oakland County. District scores are above the state average in every grade level and subject. Scores are also at or above the Oakland County average in 12 of 18 grade level subject areas. At the high school level, our SAT scores improved dramatically over last year’s scores showing a 27.9 point increase.

We would like to acknowledge all who had a part in our school district’s success from students, parents, support staff, administrators, and especially our teachers. In general, we are very happy with our results, however, we continue to take the challenge to “Become our Best”.

As a reminder, while M-STEP and the high school college readiness assessments are a very important set of tests, it is just one measurement of student academic achievement. Oxford Community Schools will continue to serve the community of Oxford to best of its ability.

SPONSORS MAKE NEW SCOREBOARDS POSSIBLE

Thanks to the generous donations of local businesses, Oxford Schools are the proud owners of five new digital scoreboards. Oxford Bank contributed $150,000, Maclaren Oakland gave $25,000, and Jim Riehl Friendly has sponsored a total of $25,000 as well. The scoreboards serve ten Oxford sports teams, and without the sponsors contributions, this purchase would have not been possible.

The district plans to use the new scoreboards as a revenue source by selling advertising space on and around them. The funds generated will aid in the continued effort to offer zero pay-to-play fees for middle and high school athletes. The new LED screens will also offer learning opportunities to OHS video, and graphic design classes as the students learn to create content for the new boards.
This fall, the Oxford Marching Band entertained audiences with its performance of Les Misérables. On October 7, the band competed in the Alma College Marching Band Invitational taking first place in Class A and achieving the band’s best score of the season to date with a total of 89.4. They earned the highest marks for all categories: Best Performance, Best Music, Best Marching, Best Percussion, and Best Color Guard. Excellent job, Wildcats!

Oxford Choir students pushed themselves physically and mentally as they worked together in team building activities during the 6th annual Oxford Choir Boot Camp, September 7-9 at Covenant Hills Camp. In addition to the fun physical activities, students were challenged through discussions on developing personal discipline and strong character.

On September 22, the Oxford varsity football game was played in honor of the courageous and selfless men and women of our U.S. Armed Forces. Football players purchased special camouflage jerseys to wear for the game, dedicating each to a specific service person by putting his or her name on the back. Additionally, the team chose a charity to support the warriors. Throughout the evening funds were raised in various ways to benefit Miracle Quilts. This organization creates hand-made quilts for wounded troops and veterans along with active duty service men and women. A portion of the players jersey cost was donated to the charity. The cheer and dance teams rushed the stands during “Miracle Minutes” between quarters to collect money, and a hand-made quilt was raffled off to raise funds as well.

In total, $1,800 was gifted to Miracle Quilts to help provide comfort and hope to our nation’s brave soldiers and veterans. At the end of the game, the players presented their special jersey to the veterans, active-duty service people or families they represented that night to commemorate their valiant service.
**OHS STUDENT CROWNED AT OAKLAND CO. FAIR**

Oxford High School student Alex Johnston was honored this summer at the Oakland County Fair with being crowned both the overall Oakland County Fair King and the fair’s Poultry King. Alex became involved in 4-H in 2016 raising Cornish Cross chickens to show in competition at the county fair that were then auctioned and sold for approximately $180 each. This year, he also added 20 Serama chickens and a Belgian Bearded d’Uccle chicken to his entries.

As the 2017 Oakland County King, Alex’s responsibilities include representing the county in various events, participating in area parades and assisting with the 4-H auction, dinner and competition judging. Alex is honored to carry this title and encourages others to get involved in the 4-H program. “It has been a really great experience. It has taught me a lot about responsibility, helped me develop my communication skills and has inspired me to push myself.”

**OSEC STUDENT HOSTS CHARITY CAR SHOW**

Each Oxford Early College Student is required to complete a capstone project with the mission to give back to the community. When student Michael Gula considered his project he chose to combine two things close to his heart, his 70-year-old grandmother Judy Tamagno and his love for cars. Michael’s grandmother is battling ALS, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

Michael organized and hosted a charity car show to benefit the Michigan Chapter of ALS in honor of his grandmother on August 13, 2017. Admission was free, and funds were raised through donations and food sales. The show was a great success with 75 participating vehicles and a total of $1,800 collected for ALS. Michael was energized with the turnout. Car enthusiasts came from near and far including entries from some of our own students along with participants traveling from hours away to partake in the show. Michael was especially humbled when worldwide Head of Design for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Ralph Gilles arrived with his family, bringing a half-dozen spectacular vehicles for the show.

**STUDENTS FULFILL 1,000 MIN. CHALLENGE**

A total of 73 Clear Lake students fulfilled a commitment to learning over this past summer. Students were challenged to complete either 1,000 minutes of reading or 1,000 minutes of math practice throughout the summer break. Students who achieved the 1,000 minutes of learning were awarded a certificate, a small gift and enjoyed a pancake breakfast on October 3, with Mr. Bigelow, Mrs. Niemi, and Mrs. Benjamin.

**2017 NHS INDUCTION**

Congratulations to the 42 students inducted on October 12, 2017, into the Oxford High School Freda Quayle Chapter of the National Honors Society. NHS is a national organization recognizing students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.
HOME COMING COURT

KING & QUEEN:
Trent Evans & Hope Watson

SENIORS:
Griffin Burk & Nina Neumann
Trent Evans & Melissa Lockwood
Robert Savich & Hope Watson
Jimmy Claudio & Alexis Jahlas

JUNIORS:
Thomas Pletta & Anna Peruski
Hunter McGuire & Carla Zawadzki

SOPHOMORES:
Dylan Rebtoy & Lauren Methner

FRESHMEN:
Collin Trevino & Abbey Twichell

PRINCE & PRINCESS:
Cole Petit & Taryn Moore

COMPETITION RESULTS:

Varsity Football: Oxford Wildcats fall to Bloomfield Hills Blackhawks 14-26
Powderpuff: Seniors defeat Juniors / Sophomores defeat Freshmen
Float Awards: 1st- Sophomores, 2nd- Freshmen, 3rd- Juniors, 4th- Seniors
INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

2017 NEW STAFF

Oxford Community Schools District welcomed many new staff members to its team this year. Each and every employee of the Oxford Community School District is valued for the daily contribution they make to our students. Look for more new staff introductions in the next edition of the Wildcat Review.

KATHLEEN ALEXANDER
POSITION: Lakeville Parapro

LORI BALLARD
POSITION: Human Resources Assistant

DEVON BANKS
POSITION: OMS Dean of Students
EDUCATION: B.A. in Elementary Education, M.A. in Educational Leadership, University of Michigan-Dearborn

KRISTA BROWN
POSITION: OMS Math and Science Teacher
EDUCATION: B.A. in Elementary Education, University of Detroit Mercy; M.A. in Educational Administration, Michigan State University

MERIDITH CERVENAK
POSITION: OMS Social Worker
EDUCATION: B.S. in Social Work, Marygrove College; M.S.W., University of Michigan

KRISTEN DAHLKE
POSITION: OVA Content and Mentor Teacher
EDUCATION: B.S. in Elementary Education, Central Michigan University
The 2017-18 school year brought new additions to our district’s administrative team.

Steve Wolf joins us as the new Oxford High School Principal. He holds a B.S. in secondary Education from Central Michigan University, a Masters in School Administration from North Carolina State University and an Ed.S. in Leadership from Oakland University. Steve shares, “I’m so excited to join this wonderful community and help us build on our current momentum. Oxford offers such a wide range of programs other districts just don’t offer. I’m looking forward to helping us strengthen each of these opportunities and lead us to be the best version of Oxford High School we can be.”

Jordan Ackerman is the district’s new Athletic Director coming to Oxford with a B.A. in Education from Rochester College and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Central Michigan University. Jordan says, “I am looking forward to developing relationships with students, coaches, and the Oxford Community. I am blessed to be able to work at a place where I can interact with students that will inevitably become the leaders of the community in the near future. I cannot think of a more rewarding position.”

Kristie Saterstad, who previously served as the Oxford Middle School Dean of students, was named the new Assistant Principal of the middle school. She is a graduate of Central Michigan University and the University of Michigan and currently holds a Masters of Public Administration as well as an Education Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Kristie shares, “I am looking forward to continuing to build positive relationships with students, parents, staff and our community members so that together, we can become better every day!”

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JANELLE LIE
POSITION: OHS Biomedical Science Teacher
EDUCATION: B.S. in Science and Health Sciences, Oakland University; M.A. in Secondary Education and Teaching, University of Michigan

OCTI MEZIN
POSITION: OHS Career & Tech. Ed. Teacher
EDUCATION: B.B.A. in Marketing, M.Ed. in Education Leadership, Grand Valley State University

ANNE OLIVER
POSITION: OMS Special Education Teacher
EDUCATION: B.S. in Family and Consumer Science, Michigan State University; Elementary Education and Special Education Certificate, Madonna University

RACHEL POLLACK
POSITION: Crossroads Teacher
EDUCATION: B.S. in Psychology, Western Michigan University; M.A. in Secondary Education, University of Michigan- Flint

CARLEEN QUINT
POSITION: OHS Teacher
EDUCATION: B.S. in Special Education and Teaching, Central Michigan University

CHELSEA RICHARDSON
POSITION: OELC Assistant Teacher

BRAD SCHMALTZ
POSITION: OMS Band Teacher
EDUCATION: B.M. in Music Education, Michigan State

MICHELLE TIMES
POSITION: Bridges Parapro

KATELYN WEBB
POSITION: DA Spanish Teacher
EDUCATION: B.A. in Spanish and ESL, Oakland University
With great sadness the Oxford School Community mourns the recent loss of two beloved staff members, Michelle Black and Cathy Sullivan. Both of these women have left a legacy of love and kindness that will go on forever. They will be missed immeasurably.

Michelle Black
1965-2017

Michelle Black passed away on July 26, 2017 after a courageous three year fight against cancer. She has been part of the Wildcat community all of her life, she was a 1983 graduate of Oxford High School, and has raised her three children in Oxford as well. Michelle worked for the district in a part-time capacity for many years before she was hired as a full time para professional for Oxford Bridges High School in 2011. Her dedication and passion in working with at-risk students set an example for all. She supported students not just in academics, but also emotionally so they could be successful and meet their goal of graduation. Michelle was loved by everyone, her devotion to her children, her family and the Bridges community was incredible.

Cathy Sullivan
1960-2017

Cathy lost her eight-month battle with cancer on September 4, 2017. For the past 18 years, Cathy devoted her days to serving Oxford Middle School's special needs students. She was a kind, gentle and genuine soul who always had a smile and a positive word to share with those she encountered. Teaching was her passion and she was a true champion for hundreds of students throughout her career. Cathy's colleagues and students all echo the same sentiment when describing her: patient, warm-hearted, passionate for helping others, generous and incredibly thoughtful.

SUPERINTENDENT
OFFICE HOURS

Please join Superintendent Tim Throne for informal conversation and updates in the district:

• Monday, Jan. 22 @ 9:30 am - 10:30 am
• Monday, Mar. 26 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All meetings will be held at:
Board of Education Office
10 N. Washington St.
Oxford, Michigan 48371

ONCE A WILDCAT,
ALWAYS A WILDCAT.

CATCHING UP WITH AN OXFORD ALUM...

State Representative Brad Jacobsen is a lifelong Oxford resident who graduated from Oxford in 1975. After earning his degree from the James Madison College within Michigan State University he returned to his family business at Jacobsen’s Flowers in Lake Orion. Brad married a fellow Oxford graduate Teri Patterson, and together they have 3 children: Lauren, Emily and Bradford, all Oxford graduates. Ethel Jacobsen, Brad’s Grandmother, was in the OHS class of 1922!

Jacobsen has served the Oxford community in many capacities including Oxford Township Trustee for 16 years, Oakland County Commissioner for four years and serving in the Michigan legislature as a State Representative for six years. Jacobsen was recently appointed to serve on the Michigan Liquor Control Commission by Gov. Rick Snyder. We asked Rep. Jacobsen to reflect on how his Oxford experience has influenced who he has become today and to share his advice for current Wildcats.

“It has been a privilege and honor to serve Oxford and the North Oakland Community as an elected official and a small business owner. What was once a small town has now grown tremendously thanks to the support of its fine residents. Oxford is built on the success of our students and future generations to come. I feel fortunate to have attended Oxford Schools. I believe it is you... the residents, parents, teachers, coaches, boosters, and volunteers that have turned this tiny town into a thriving, competitive and wonderful community to live in. Just take a look at the number of Oxford grads who remain in or return to our community to work, play and start a family. We are all blessed to be Wildcats.

Thinking back on my years in our schools, two Oxford instructors come to mind that have aided to my success, Don Lovell and Dan Gehman. Mr. Lovell stressed class participation and round table discussions in history, government and political science courses, which obviously resonated with me and helped drive my desire to serve the public. Mr. Gehman’s debate and speech class taught me how to organize my thoughts into logical sequences to deliver a meaningful presentation to an audience. Both of these gentlemen gave me the opportunity to develop skills in listening, critical thinking and public speaking. Being able to understand another person’s point of view, analyze it, form your own stance and defend it are important skills in every profession or personal relationship.

As friends, families, coworkers, teachers, coaches, parents and elders we all try to pass down important life skills to the next generation in hopes that our Oxford students can transform and enrich their lives. Wildcats give back and that is why our community is one of kind.

Recently, I was interviewed by a group of Clear Lake Elementary students for an International Baccalaureate Project on the Flint Water Crisis. I must say, it was a delight to speak with thoughtful and concerned students who had some very tough questions. Their skills and thought processes are well beyond that of the elementary students of my day at Daniel Axford. Again, providing evidence that the quality of our school programs continues to advance and prepare them for this rapidly changing world. I’m proud to be an OHS grad and I wish all the Wildcats out there the very best of luck. Keep working hard, good things will happen!”