

Notes from the Future Protocol Discussion

In 2020

Project into the future (whatever timeline seems appropriate) and thoroughly describe what it looks like, sounds like and feels like having accomplished this endeavor.

Students

- Kids love Oxbow and are proud to go to school
- There is positivity on part of students, staff and community
- Staff, students, parents communicate freely
- Students (and parents) know and take advantage of all the opportunities for attending children
- Oxbow students and staff are engaged in community events and volunteer activities

Parents

- Parents love telling others that their children attend Oxbow
- Parents and wider community support Oxbow events because they love the school
- Volunteer opportunities are regularly available and made known to the parents and community
- Teachers and parents actively pursue an open line of communication with each other
- Parents love Oxbow

Teachers/Staff

- Teachers are on board with making class activities known and available for PR and promotion
- There is positivity on part of students, staff and community
- Teachers and administrators and the school board listen to each other and work well together.
- Teachers and parents actively pursue an open line of communication with each other
- Oxbow students and staff are engaged in community events and volunteer activities

Community

- OHS center of community
- Community is engaged and “hands on”
- There is positivity on part of students, staff and community
- The Community is an integral part of OHS
- School and community events are intertwined
- Community members and parents are involved in OHS life – everyone is invested in what is best for kids
- All community members have high speed internet access
- Community members and parents attend Oxbow events regularly and enthusiastically.
- OHS is the hub of the community. Lots of positive events are happening. It is the sought after school in the area and families move to town to go to Oxbow.
- Volunteer opportunities are regularly available and made known to the parents and community
- Oxbow is a community center
- The community is proud of Oxbow

- IN 2012 with Gas @ \$20 per gallon – People are more involved with school community, communities are smaller more intimate.
- There is positivity on part of students, staff and community

School and Culture

- Everybody LOVES coming to school
- Students love Oxbow and are VERY proud to go to school here.
- Students are proud to be a part of Oxbow and school spirit is STRONG
- The community is proud of Oxbow
- Everyone is happy!
- Administrators or teachers feel supported when they see approaching parents, not impending criticism
- Oxbow reaches all kids
- Exciting events happen at Oxbow and are shared with the community
- Students, staff and community members take great pride in OHS
- Community members and parents are involved in OHS life – everyone is invested in what is best for kids
- Parents and community members feel connected to the 7-12 school.
- Anyone (outsiders) can see what Oxbow stands for (kindness, respect, life-long learning)
- Everyone knows the mission
- Anyone understands what Oxbow stands for

School – Education

- Oxbow is on the cutting edge of education
- Oxbow is the leading choice for kids within a 25 mile radius
- What will happen to Oxbow with Consolidation? Oxbow is the destination for Consolidation
- Online Courses are offered
- Therapeutic riding electives
- Oxbow is the exercise hub for the community – track, swimming, etc. -
- State of the art facility that is environmentally friendly
- Model school
- Fung Sway the entrance – make the entrance more inviting and welcoming
- Handicapped accessible front
- Variety of not cookie cutter electives are offered
- Students have choices in their education
- Healthy food, more vegetarian choices – no soda machine, Bagel toaster
- Opportunities for families to grow together – relationships, classes, experts
- Increased communication between Oxbow and Riverbend
- Alternative path program – self-directed education –
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Communication

- Oxbow is a constant visual presence in local newspapers for its students and faculty achievements.
- There is a regular newsletter in print and online either weekly or biweekly
- There is a coordinated plan to produce consistent formats for communication and promote existing communication resources
- Communication about cancellations, delays, - students, faculty will be notified b their Oxbow email – text etc.
- If an incident happened at school (with students) the parent will be notified
- School ranked #1
- There is positive communication flowing from both the school and community – mutual respect and appreciation abounds!
- Annual parent student orientation – to share about means of communication
- Students “drive” communication
- Teachers and parents actively pursue and open line of communication with teach other
- There is a point person(s) who have the responsibility and authority to post website updates etc.
- Communication is Positive
- Households are connected digitally – and information is filtered –
- you only get info that is pertinent to you/your student etc.
- Students, parents and community members feel connected to Oxbow

In 2013

Look “back” from your *projected present* and describe how it looked when it started.

Students

- A high rate of students were involved in extra curricular events at OHS
- There were not strong leaders, yet at the same time teachers and students and parents felt powerless.
- Students were not at the center

Parents

- Teacher and parent communication were a problem
- People argued and talked about one another and the school behind others’ backs.
- Change was discussed and action steps taken to create a positive school and community culture
- There were not strong leaders, yet at the same time teachers and students and parents felt powerless.

Teachers/Staff

- Teacher and parent communication were a problem
- Oxbow lacked in building leadership from administration
- Teachers and staff often felt unsupported in their efforts
- People argued and talked about one another and the school behind others' backs.
- There were not strong leaders, yet at the same time teachers and students and parents felt powerless.

School/Culture

- The school lacked a strong and consistent Brand identity
- No general feeling that we were all on the same team
- Parents, students, staff weren't positive about OHS all the time
- Students were not at the center
- Oxbow pride was low to non-existing
- Respect was low
- There was much negativity
- People did not feel heard or listened to
- Change felt impossible

School/Education

Community

- Some/many families lacked internet accessibility at home
- There was a group of "like-minded" people who got together to make changes
- Change was discussed and action steps taken to create a positive school and community culture
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Communication

- Rapid changes in communication modes make it difficult to streamline communication
- Substantive communications were infrequent and poorly coordinated
- People made decisions signally without collaboration or without discussions
- Change was discussed and action steps taken to create a positive school and community culture
- There was limited communication
- 21st century tech was not used as effectively as it could be in maintaining communication within and outside of the school.
- Teacher and parent communication was problem

Other

- There was not a whole lot of variety in school lunches. They only consist of pizza and sandwiches.
- There were societal problems and socio economic problems

- There was tension in the relationship between teachers, parents, students and administrators
- Building need TLC and feel welcoming
- There was no common goal or mission that was shared by all

Continue looking back from the “projected present” and discuss how you addressed the starting place and how you moved from that to the projected present.

Students

Parents

Teachers/Staff

- We found a good Administrator
- We had respect for our teachers
- Teachers loved kids –
- We provided more useful PD onsite for our faculty and staff
- We were encourage to take risks in the classroom and felt supported

Community

School/Culture

- Everyone was clear on what the community vision was
- We respected one another
- We actively starting using the mission
- Everyone knew the mission
- We celebrated together
- We had events where groups came together, food, music
- We were kinder
- People found a better place
- We took steps to make students the face of Oxbow
- We never lost sight that we are here because of the students
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School/Education

- We hired an administrator with a vision who is bridging the gap
- We came together to be cutting edge
- Students were able to take a semester abroad to open their world view – expanding their experiences – a structure to share their experiences
- The graduation is a big deal and it is exciting, fun, and family and community want to go to communication and can go
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Communication

- There is effective communication with sending towns
- We established a culture of openness to board and administration
- We could video conference some of the exciting events happening at oxbow
- We could video conference/close circuit board meetings – podcast events
- We developed multiple methods of 1 and 2 way communication within the building and outside
- Riverbend was able to communicate with Oxbow
- greater communication between the sending schools

Other

- There was a change in funding education – more money started going to education - Government
- We wrote a grant and got 1million dollars to improve health and wellness in the district schools
- We came to collectively recognize our weaknesses and shortcomings and addressed them
- We made changes to the outside entrances – people feel excited to come into the school and not scared or grossed out
- We shared what we talked about tonight and changes happened

Next meeting May 15, 4:45 at Oxbow

- Follow up on the Futures Protocol
- Follow up on Parent Conference Info
- Larry will email the NEASC survey to Communications group

To do:

Gabi will compile/organize notes