

**ONAWAY AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

January 15, 2024

Call to order.

An organizational meeting of the Onaway Area Community School District's Board of Education was held in the Media Center. Called to Order by Superintendent Mindy Horn at 7:00 p.m. on January 15, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call.

Present: Kowalski, Palmer, Porter, Hart, Rieger, Veal, and Chaskey

Absent:

Election of Officers.

Chaskey moved to nominate Jim as President, supported by Palmer. Roll call vote: Kowalski-yes, Porter-no, Veal-no, Palmer-yes, Hart-yes, Chaskey-yes, and Rieger-yes. Motion carried.

Palmer moved to nominate Lorrie Kowalski for Secretary, supported by Rieger. Roll call vote: Porter-yes, Veal-yes, Palmer-yes, Hart-yes, Chaskey-yes, Kowalski-yes, and Rieger-yes. Motion carried.

Rieger moved to nominate Ms. Porter for Treasurer, supported by Hart. Roll call vote: Veal-yes, Palmer-yes, Hart-yes, Chaskey-yes, Kowalski- yes, Porter-yes, Rieger-yes. Motion carried.

Rieger moved to nominate Erin for Vice President, supported by Palmer. Roll call vote: Palmer-yes, Hart-yes, Chaskey-no, Kowalski-yes, Porter-yes, Veal-yes, and Rieger-yes. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes.

Chaskey moved to approve the minutes from December 12 (2023) regular meeting, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of agenda.

Hart moved to approve (the agenda) as presented, supported by Veal. All in favor. Motion carried.

Information items.

Superintendent – Mindy Horn- I am going to introduce you to Kristine from PFN, this is our financial group. I'm going to make sure she can hear us first, then I'll get out of the way here. Kristine, can you hear us? Barry, I might need your help here. While he does that, I will say that I just want to take a minute and acknowledge Karen McDonald and Sheila and her crew. They have been covering for April while she is downstate with Jeff since the beginning of December. And it's a lot more than I even knew it was. So, I really appreciate all that they've been doing making it work. We have a sub-driver that has been very committed back there making it work in the meantime, Tiffany, so I really appreciate them. April was scheduled to be back, I believe, the third, but that looks like it might be moved back now, another week at least. While he is going with that do we want to go ahead and go on with our questions through principal's report/athletic report while we are waiting for that part?

Elementary -Robin Benson- Attached.

Secondary/Athletic Report – Marty Mix-Attached.

Student Representative Report- None.

Staff Report – Maintenance-Attached.

Yearly Goal Update – Nothing added this month.

Financial Reports.

Approval of bills.

Chaskey moved to approve the (December) bills as written, supported by Veal. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of financial report.

Chaskey moved to approve the financial report (for December) as written, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Business.

Hart moved to designate regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 :00 p.m., with the exception of Februarys meeting and we will do that on the 12th on Monday and the scheduled workshop is on the 4th Tuesday of June at 7:00 pm, supported by Veal. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Palmer moved to remove John Palmer from Citizen's National Bank accounts: general fund, school lunch, and payroll and add the new Treasurer, Annette Porter, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to authorize the Superintendent, Business Manager, and Treasurer to sign General Funds Accounts Payable Checks, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Veal moved to authorize the Superintendent, Principals and Business Manager to sign elementary and/or senior trust and agency fund checks, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Presentation by Kristine from PFN Financial.

Chaskey requested to add ESSER and COVID funds explanation to the agenda in February. Horn added it to the agenda for February and March.

Hart moved (to set Board salaries) for \$40/month, payable on the first pay cycle of December, supported by Chaskey. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to renew Thrun's retainer for counsel of the school district, supported by Veal. No votes taken.

Chaskey moved (to amend the first motion) to retain Thrun for special ed and financial counsel for the District, supported by Palmer. Discussion held. Roll call Vote: Chaskey- yes, Porter-no, Palmer-yes, Hart-no, Kowalski-no, Veal-no, Rieger-no. Motion failed.

Veal moved to renew Thrun as District counsel, not just for me, for the whole District, supported by Hart. Roll call vote: Porter-yes, Palmer-no, Hart- yes, Kowalski- no, Chaskey- yes, Veal- yes, and Rieger- no. Motion carried.

Kallman to be added to next month's agenda if it is not a two-year contract. A copy of Kallman's contract will be sent to the Board as a whole.

Curriculum and Policy Committee:

Hart moved to elect the Curriculum/Policy committees, Erin, Jeremy, and Lorrie as these committee members, supported by Palmer. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried

Negotiations Committee:

Palmer moved (to elect to the Negotiations Committee) John, Jim and Mike Hart, supported by Veal. All in favor. Motion carried.

COP-ESD Board:

Porter- I nominate Erin.

Palmer- I think Jeremy would be a fine representative.

Chaskey nominated Annette, supported by Veal. No votes taken.

Rieger- We will vote on Erin first and then we will go from there.

Porter moved to appoint Erin as volunteer representative of the COP-ESD Board, supported by Veal. Palmer and Chaskey opposed. All others in favor. Motion carried.

PA System Bids presentation by Technology Director Barry Fitzpatrick-

So, I am basically here to answer any questions. I gave you guys all a copy of the spreadsheet with all of the bids that we've received on it. I'll go over a brief history on how this came about. Mindy and I worked back in January/February of 2022 to create an RFP, Request for Proposal, to replace the paging system. We posted it in January/February of 2022, with the work to be done over the Summer Break of 2022. We received two bids. The RFP was posted on our website and on the SIGMA website, which is the state bidding website, and like I said, we received two bids. Both of the vendors retracted their bids due to, they stated, the lack of manpower and just the time frame to complete it. They just didn't have the manpower to get it done before the school started that year. So, we had to rebid it in September of 2023. We posted it again to the website, and the SIGMA and bids were due December 8th and open for review on the 10th. The original reward date on the RFP was December 12th, but due to the fact that we received 12 bids for this

project, there was just no way I could get through them all in two days. So, we moved the date to January 8th, which was supposed to be last week's meeting that was canceled, so it's moved to tonight.

The project, again, this is ESSER 3 funding, needs to be completed and paid for by June 1st. The spreadsheet that I have is basically a breakdown of their bid, and this is in the order that I would recommend them both based on price/what's offered. As you can see, if you go across that spreadsheet, the different options that each one has. I also included a little more detailed description of what each bid was, the pros and cons of each one. I think I gave you a sheet that's got that Telecenter University that explains, fifteen years ago, paging was just paging; you picked up the phone, and you could talk, and you could send somebody to the office. Everything has changed now with notifications, alerts, and lockdowns. So, we had to be a little diligent in looking for this. There was no way to do apples-to-apples reviews because these bids they are all very different. So, we picked out the best options, and after, I think I had like six people come and walked through the school with me that have done other districts; I learned a lot just doing that. We did some reviews. We were going to do an all-IP-based system and learned that we didn't really need it in the hallways because the hallways are all connected to each other, just kind of daisy-chained, and it was just a lot of extra money that we didn't really need to spend.

The big thing is, I was getting to that Telecenter thing. If you look at that, there is a map on, I think, the third page, and it breaks down what. This is one of the reasons I recommended this; Mindy looked at this. Dave Schmoltdt and myself went through a demo with these guys and they had a really, really good system. It has a call button in a classroom, so if a lockdown is done by anybody, whoever does it, all of the rooms they will have a map at some point on a phone in the main office and then any of the computers that we choose to do it on, the principals' can trigger a lockdown from their cellphones. The map will turn red whenever we're in lockdown. There is a call button that the teacher, once they are secured and the room is locked, they go over and hit the button. They check in, and it turns all of them green. The add-ons to these systems are that you can get indicator lights that are out in the halls so that if law enforcement comes to the school, they would be able to look and see that rooms clear, that rooms cleared, that one's cleared, and if ones red. If a teacher has an emergency and they hit a, there's a panic button, and they hit that, then that room turns red. You can have these systems where they will automatically trigger cameras that are near there because we don't have them in the classrooms, but we have them in the halls. You can listen in and get two-way communication hear what's going on in the room. Most of the bids did a lot of that, but as you can see, the price, you know, \$60,000, was our low bid up to \$289,000, which is three times what we had budgeted. I believe (the total budget) was around \$90,000.

Horn- When we get down to the end here with Esser there will be a little more flexibility I mean within a couple thousand dollars. It's going to be jointly covered by ESSER 3 funds and then there's a school safety grant that we're carrying forward.

President Rieger- You are recommending Rauland?

Fitzpatrick- Yes.

Discussion held.

Chaskey moved give the bid to Rauland Sound (for the PA system), supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board Ethics:

Chaskey moved to not act (to not investigate the ethical violations against President Rieger), supported by Kowalski. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Veal- no, Chaskey- yes, Porter- no, Palmer-yes, Hart-no, Kowalski-yes, and Rieger- abstained. Motion failed.

Board Correspondence:

Rieger- Question regarding band financials.

Veal- None.

Chaskey- Plaque for Mrs. Dunston to put on the piano, requested to set up a meeting to discuss youth wrestling, and a separate meeting as a whole in the next week or two, to address bullying. Special Meeting to discuss bullying scheduled for next Wednesday, January 24 at 7 p.m.

Kowalski-None.

Hart-None.

Porter- Request that any/all communication be extended to all board members.

Palmer- Questions in regards to curriculum and implementing teaching cursive handwriting. Requesting an audio/video system put in to stream our meetings live on our website. Inquiring on if we need to renew Jeanie Flory's contract.

Kowalski-none.

Horn- Reviews for the Daycare and ECE classes came back great.

Citizens/Present Time:

Wayne Vermilya presented to the Board. No action taken.

Max Boettger presented to the Board. No action taken.

Layne Veihl Presented to the Board. No action taken.

Max Boettger read a question on behalf of Jessica Chandler. No action taken.

Karen Vermilya presented to the Board. No action taken.

Kathy Christian presented to the Board. No action taken.

Adjournment.

Hart moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., supported by Chaskey.



Secretary, Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION

James Rieger- President
Erin Chaskey- Vice President
Annette Porter- Treasurer
Lorrie Kowalski- Secretary
John Palmer- Trustee
Jeremy Veal- Trustee
Mike Hart- Trustee

ADMINISTRATION

Mindy Horn, Superintendent
Marty Mix, Secondary Principal/ AD
Robin Benson, Elementary Principal

The Onaway School shall not discriminate in its policies and practices because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, height, weight, marital status, political belief, disability or handicap which does not impair an individual's ability to perform adequately in that individual's particular position or activity. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Superintendent at Onaway Area Community Schools, Onaway, MI 49765(989) 733-4956