

**ONAWAY AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2023**

Call to order.

A regular meeting of the Onaway Area Community School District Board of Education was held in the Media Center. Called to Order by President, James Rieger at 7:00 p.m. on September 12, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call.

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

Absent:

Approval of minutes.

Veal moved to approve the August 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes, supported by Chaskey.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to approve the August 29, 2023 special meeting minutes, supported by Veal, All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of agenda.

Horn- I do have that one item to add to regular business, it would be 9g. The senior class is requesting to have the approval of the location for prom so that they can put a deposit down.

Kowalski- Mr. Chair, I would like to add athletic wear and key fobs to the agenda too please. Added as h and I under regular business.

Rieger- Committee meeting scheduled for Monday September, 18, 2023 and a special board meeting scheduled for Thursday September 21, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Chaskey moved to approve the agenda as amended, supported by Palmer. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Porter moved to amend the amended agenda to move citizens present time to 8c, supported by Hart. Kowalski opposed. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to approve the agenda as amended, supported by Veal. All in favor motion carried.

Information items.

Superintendent – We had a great start to the school year; many thanks to Abby and Dani for scrambling at the last minute to do hotdogs. Last year, we had the football team grill the hotdogs, and when there was going to be a football game, we scrapped that. And then, when the football game got moved at the last minute, those ladies stepped up and made a last-minute trip to Petoskey to buy several hundred hotdogs that got served; very appreciative of that. Abby said we went through almost 300. Very well attended. We had the following groups there and also set up booths made things available for students and families. Presque Isle Library was there with Friends of the Library, MSU extension was there, Michigan Works was there, Thunder Bay Community Health Center had a table there. Of course, we had Before and After School setup, the buses set up, and North East Michigan Community Mental Health was there with a table. I did get a nice email from them, too, wishing us luck for the school year, expressing their appreciation, and expressing their interest in helping any way they can, including with mock interviews, resume building for students that kind of thing. So very well attended and appreciated. Just wanted to also recognize, once again, we have a teacher in our midst who has been named a finalist this time for National Civics Teacher of the Year. She has been a State Teacher of the Year, and now she is down to the top 10. If you haven't seen it in the paper, be sure to get one because that is quite an honor, and that's what we are here for is to honor our students and staff, so I would like to acknowledge Kymberli Wregglesworth as a finalist for the National Civics Teacher of the Year. I do want to say also, the only other thing I wanted to add I'm sorry I couldn't be at the last meeting, or I would have set this record straight then. Typically, I wouldn't weigh in on this, but it is important because misinformation is worse than no information. At the last meeting, I did watch from home. I was able to tune in, and I heard some information put out there that perhaps the old board quickly changed policy in response to the election, and that needs to be put to rest. If anyone has any questions, there are meeting minutes to back that up. For those who are interested in the facts, we actually started reviewing our policy manual in October 2016. We went policy by policy until we got into the 7,000's. It was a labor of love over several years. It quickly became evident that we needed legal help because many of our policies were not in accordance with laws that had been passed over the years. We were trying to do them ourselves, and as you can imagine, keeping up with legal standards that change and Michigan's revised school code is challenging because none of us are lawyers. About the time we figured out we were in way over our heads, we also found out that our district council was offering its own policy package manual. Of course, COVID came, and that got put on the back burner, as did many things, but once we got out of COVID, we decided we needed to move forward with this. In winter of 2022, the board approved moving to Thrun, that is our district council policy manual, and in this case, the attorneys actually wrote the manual. Then they gave us some choices within that that we then met as a board through the summer last summer and that policy package was approved as a whole in August. So, for those who are under the impression that it was somehow a last-minute swift thing, it wasn't. It was six years in the making. It was approved by the board before there was even an election in the works yet. And

then after August, there was a period of four months where the then board still continued to hash out the transgender policy. They took that very seriously. All of those were done in open meetings as a committee of the whole. And again, if anyone has any questions about that, please stop into the office. I will be happy to make you any copies of meeting minutes that show that. So, just want to clear that up because that is misinformation, and I don't want that to be out there. I do have also, which is not on the agenda, but for the first time in a while, we do have a student representative here tonight.

Student Representative- report given by student representative Trinity Splan

Secondary/Athletic Report – Marty Mix-Attached.

Staff Report – Transportation-Attached.

Board Correspondence-

Rieger- Requested a printed board packet for Palmer to be ready and available for pick up the Friday before Board meetings.

Chaskey- Discussed athletic wear, making education better, and a letter from the AFT.

Palmer- Discussed athletic wear and why it is being reviewed and why the Principal/Athletic Director is not in attendance.

Veal- None.

Kowalski- Discussed policy and handbook.

Hart- None.

Porter- Discussed Volleyball uniforms and the chain-of- command.

Health Center Update – Julie Gilbert- We have a week in at school we are already really busy. Just so everybody knows, strep is back. 5-6 cases a day just already this week, so everybody, make sure you're doing lots of handwashing, teachers, please. Pass the bond, please; yes, the HVAC system we do need better circulating air. And COVID cases are going around at our other schools where we have health centers, so I'm sure it's just a matter of time before it's here too, sorry. Just wanted to let you know we have a Youth advisory council, and participating with our other school-based health center, we have a couple students who are going to be walking at the Walk for Suicide Prevention on Sunday in Roger City, and it is Out of the Darkness Suicide Walk. If anybody would like to donate for the walk, again, we have two kids doing it. We could give you the link for that. If each child raises \$150, then they get a free t-shirt, but they will be doing a walk, and afterward, we got pizza and stuff for them. To bring suicide awareness. So, things are going well, and if ever anyone has any questions, please come on in. We would love to fill you in.

Yearly Goal Update – Attached.

Financial Reports.

Approval of bills.

Hart moved to approve the bills for August as presented, support by Palmer. Dicsussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of financial report.

Veal moved to approve the financial report for August as presented, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens Present/Time:

Veronica Norman presented to the Board. No action taken.

Megan Tierney presented to the Board. No action taken.

Ellory Howell presented to the Board. No action taken.

Natalee Penfold presented to the Board. No action taken.

Carley Karsten presented to the Board. No action taken.

Greta Watson presented to the Board. No action taken.

Else Carter presented to the Board. No action taken.

Bryan Leach presented to the Board. No action taken.

Kortni Crawford presented to the Board. No action taken.

Sadie Decker presented to the Board. No action taken.

Jordan Larson presented to the Board. No action taken.

Wayne Vermilya presented to the Board. No action taken.

Lanisha Boughner presented to the Board. No action taken.

Stacey Porter presented to the Board. No action taken.

Ray Travis presented to the Board. No action taken.

Jessica Chandler presented to the Board. No action taken.

Holly Ehrke presented to the Board. No action taken.

Amber Watson presented to the Board. No action taken.

Kaylee Schopp presented to the Board. No action taken.

Max Boettger presented to the Board. No action taken.

Julie Gilbert presented to the Board. No action taken.

Regular Business.

Hart moved to approve the L-4029 form and authorize Jim Rieger to sign as President and Lorrie Kowalski as Secretary, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Veal moved to accept Marleen Brown's notice of retirement as of December 31st with appreciation for her years of dedicated service to the district and our students, supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to hire McKenzie Kammerer and Krista McConnell as special education Para pros, supported by Porter. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to update Wellness Policy, #5707, as presented, to eliminate "lunch shaming" and comply with new student meal requirements, supported by Veal. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to adopt (the new handbook with the additions), supported by Kowalski. Discussion held. Chaskey called to question. Chaskey, Palmer, Rieger, and Kowalski in favor of call to question. Porter, Hart, and Veal opposed call to question. Call to question failed. Discussion continued. Chaskey rescinded her motion.

Hart moved to approve the handbook that we received from Mindy with the most current revision on it, supported by Porter. Chaskey opposed. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to start charging for FOIA request per the Open Meetings Act formula, supported by Palmer. Roll Call Vote: Chaskey- yes, Kowalski-yes, Palmer- yes, Hart-no, Porter-no, Veal-no, Rieger-yes. Motion carried.

Porter moved to grant permission to the Senior class to host prom at the Grand Unity Center in Petoskey, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to require a 4-inch minimum length (for athletic wear straight across the board, material of their choosing including spandex,) during sports, supported by Kowalski. Discussion held. Roll Call Vote: Veal-no, Kowalski-yes, Porter-no, Chaskey-yes, Hart-no, Palmer-no, Rieger- no. Motion failed.

Discussion on key fobs skipped.

Adjournment

Hart moved to adjourn at 9:14 p.m., supported by Veal.


Secretary, Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

James Rieger, President	Mindy Horn, Superintendent
Erin Chaskey, Vice-President	Marty Mix, Secondary Principal/ AD
John Palmer, Treasurer	Robin Benson, Elementary Principal
Lorrie Kowalski, Secretary	
Annette Porter, Trustee	
Jeremy Veal, Trustee	
Mike Hart, Trustee	

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