

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

February 12, 2024

Call to order.

A regular meeting of the Onaway Area Community School District's Board of Education was held in the Media Center. Called to Order by President James Rieger at 7:00 p.m. on February 12, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call.

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

Absent: Veal

Approval of minutes.

Palmer moved to approve the minutes from the January 9 (15), 2024 regular (organizational) meeting, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of agenda.

Kowalski- Jim on 8g where it says Explore course, I would like to add CTE on that.

Plamer- Mr. Chair can we move information item f down to regular business m.

Chaskey- I would like to add a, maybe n to that of the recoding and uploading the videos. Also, I would like too, we discussed it once and tabled it, I would like to review Policy 5106 again. (Added as g1 under Policies.) I don't know if we have to formally do it, I see there is no ESSER funds on here. I would like to set back up formally a ESSER meeting and a bullying meeting.

President Rieger- Just talk about that in Board Correspondence and we can set a date if that works with you.

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

Information items.

Superintendent – Mindy Horn- We have the posting up for the old pickup truck. You'll see it posted on the front page of our website. It's also been placed in local papers. We're accepting bids through the Friday before our next monthly meeting. So, I don't know if it's the 9th, maybe the 6th. Anyways, that Friday, right before our March Board Meeting. With the removal date of March 22, I believe it is to have it out of here. It is as is; although it has low miles, it's definitely seen a lot of wear and tear. I had down here to update you on some work related to CTE courses, but that is going to be discussed via Policy and Curriculum Committee tonight, and just again wanted to get out there with April back now what we would like to move ahead now. April intends to retire this year, this summer. It was pretty eye-opening for us with her gone to see what are the areas we need, what were things that we can do in-house, what are some things that we can't do in-house. So, she and I are working together to get that posting up. We will advertise

that in-house first to see if we have any takers. I'm not sure if we will or not, and then we'll go from there. I would like to move on that sooner rather than later so that person has an opportunity to train to be ready to go. A big piece I think we are going to be lacking for a while, and it's going to take a while to get that, is April is certified to train new drivers. Under the new state CDLs, someone is going to have to get that. That's going to be a little bit. Again, that is why I want to go sooner rather than later on this so we can get the most amount of stuff done in that period of time.

Elementary -Robin Benson- Attached.

Secondary/Athletic Report – Marty Mix-Attached.

Student Representative Report- None.

Staff Report – Maintenace-Attached.

Yearly Goal Update – Attached.

Financial Reports.

Approval of bills.

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

Approval of financial report.

Chaskey moved to approve the financial report (for January), supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Business.

Porter moved to designate the Superintendent's Secretary as the direct employee authorized to post Board meeting notices under the Open Meetings Act, supported by Palmer. Discussion held All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to go into closed session (to discuss Teacher Tenure at the teacher's request) at 7:18, supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey- I'll move to exit closed.

Hart moved to go out of closed session and into open meeting at 7:24, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to grant tenure to Bryan Pyle effective as of the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reviewed Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan.

Kowalski- Policy 2501: There should be policies sitting in front of you, of the policies that were bringing forward today. It's policy 2105. These are the policies that was approved, that was okayed for us by Thrun to bring to the Board. That's 2501, there's no change, and 2504, and we're bringing 3120. That's the number as of right now, but that number may change. There was three policies that I took to Thrun, and that was policy 2501 that had a three-word change on that which was we're adding for conducting a board meeting whether were going to cancel it or not; the words that was added was, there's a conflicting event. That was added to the policy.

Chaskey moved to approve 2501 as amended (to add a school-related conflicting event to the policy), supported by Palmer. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Chaskey- yes, Kowalski- yes, Palmer-yes, Porter- no, Hart- Yes, and Rieger- yes. Motion carried.

Kowalski- Policy 2504: There was no changes.

Kowalski- Policy 3120, that number may be changed: That is a policy with key fobs. It just makes it so it's clear with staff, coaches, volunteers, and school board members. The Policy Committee, down at the bottom of what you guys are looking at, the Policy Committee decided to, yes, let the staff, the coaches, the volunteers, and school board to still continue to use the facilities. What we changed instead of monthly reports down at the bottom, we changed it to on request.

Hart moved to approve 3120 as amended, supported by Chaskey. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Kowalski- yes, Palmer- yes, Porter- yes, Hart-yes, Rieger- yes, and Chaskey- yes. Motion carried.

Kowalski- Policy 3305f: Equipment of lesser value may be advertised for sale via public notice for a period of 10 days after which the superintendent can dispose of it. That way we don't have a bunch of junk laying in the back of the school.

Chaskey moved to approve 3305 as amended, supported by Palmer. Roll call vote: Chaskey- yes, Rieger- yes, Hart- yes, Porter- yes, Palmer- yes, and Kowalski- yes. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to approve the Professional Staff Policy update (4108, 4403r, 4405r, 4408, and 4409r), supported by Kowalski. Roll call vote: Palmer- yes, Hart- yes, Chaskey- yes, Porter- yes, Kowalski- yes, and Rieger- yes. Motion carried.

Kowalski- Internet Safety Course: That we're waiting until next meeting because of the fact that we need to look into a couple of things.

Horn- Explore/CTE: There is two parts to this. The first section is Explore. That was in your packet that you got over the weekend. This will replace our Peer-to-Peer class and would make it compliant with updates from the state that we just received. We would be running it as an

exploratory model with both the teacher of record and the clinical mentor, the person whose classroom they are placed in. They would both have roles. So, essentially, there would be two teachers on record. I put this on the agenda because, as Abby and I got this, we just come across this, one of the requirements is that the Explore as a class has to be approved by the board. So, we've had peer-to-peer but this is now what it has to be called. Moving forward, I'm going to try not to call it Peer-to-Peer and call it Explore.

Chaskey moved to accept the Explore course, supported by Porter. All in favor. Motion carried.

Horn- This is the presentation. I won't be as lengthy as I was to the committee; we'll be really fast. We presented to the committee that there's CTE now, stands for Career and Technical Education. It replaces the old Vocational Ed. It used to be called Vocational Ed. Now, it's called CTE. There are 17 areas that you can run an approved CTE program. Education and Training is one of them. If anyone would like this I would be happy to give it to them, for the sake of going quickly. We've been working at the Intermediate School District level, trying to see how we could add classes across the ISD. Currently, Cheboygan and Gaylord have very strong programs. Most of the rest of us have none. Indian River actually just started a Power Sports one last year. So, we're looking at several different areas. Tonight, in front of you would be the Educator/Childcare Professional. As part of Michigan just approving education as a CTE area, they have this program, it's called Launch. What it does is completers of the program end up with one of two credentials. Either the CDA, it's called a Child Development Associate, not the same as an Associate's degree from a college. It's just called a Child Development Associate. Or the School Age Youth Development Associate. Both programs require 120 hours of direct instruction and then 480 hours of clinical experience in the field. This is the National Certification for the CDA and Michigan's version of the MIYDA.

We wouldn't be reinventing the wheel. We wouldn't be creating our own course. We would be using the course that you would use if you were, an adult trying to open your own daycare and you wanted licensing. You see the two credentials, the CDA and the MIYDA. That middle column describes what our students would be eligible for if they completed the program. If you were to complete the CDA, so your 120 hours of instruction and 480 hours of field time, as long as you also pass your state licensing exam, you would be eligible to work immediately as an assistant/associate teacher in a preschool. The state runs the Great Start version of preschool. Federal, the Department of Education runs a Head Start program. We have both of those onsite. You could also be licensed to run a private daycare in your own home, with the Youth Development one that is more towards people who are interested in going on to teaching as a career. It's a stepping stone into that. However, in larger, some of the more urban areas, people with that credential could run YMCA programs, big after-school programs, different than ours, obviously. Another piece to that is in addition to taking this course, if the state approves us to be a CTE provider and the board approves this field, students could choose to earn this credential,

and they would still be eligible to dual enroll if they wanted to. So, one of the things we talked about in the committee is that potentially you could be going through this program to get that credentialing to operate a program, and you could be taking 30 credit hours towards an associate degree in business administration or you could be working towards a full degree in teaching if you wanted to. It doesn't inhibit their ability to dual-enroll. It just adds an extra layer to them. When students dual-enroll through a Michigan High School, they are entitled to up to 30 credit hours at no cost to them. It's paid for by the District, and that's the case in all schools across Michigan. If we are an approved CTE provider, it also means there are support for our students then. Whereas you might have to pay for an outside program to get your First Aid/CPR certification and also pay to take your state licensure exam, those students would receive support so that it would be no cost to them. Just an offshoot and an exciting thing that came up, and this would be down the road. So, we're required to form a board for each CTE area, and it has to be people in the field. We brought in Nichole Decker from the daycare. We brought in two of the regional ladies that oversee GreatStart/ HeadStart. I was in the meeting, and then I invited two ladies from Michigan Works, Jessica, and now I can't think of the lady's name. It was the first time I've met them. One of the things that came up with this is that they are talking about how it is so difficult when they are working with families. They have so many programs to support them, get them job training, and provide tools for the job, but childcare keeps coming up as such a barrier over and over; there is no place to go. They would be very interested if we ended up being an approved CTE provider to see how this might be able to morph into an Adult Ed piece. Where we could essentially loan out our instructor for the direct instruction piece, and then they would be able to pay for people who are taking this on the adult side to have these 480 hours as a paid apprenticeship program. They call it the daycare dessert, which is true. Having a five-year-old, we just went through this, and we don't have anything in our area. So not only will this help our students, but it will help our families as well.

Just a quick overview on the left: There is that Explore piece that we just got done voting on. In year one this would ideally be their Junior year. First semester they would take one class, second semester they would take one class, and a lot of that is to weed out the students who are not serious before you jump into year two to make sure this is what you want. In year two, in the first semester, you would take two courses of this and two courses again in the second semester, so you could get that 120 hours of direct instruction and 480 hours of time in the field. If you are very motivated, I suppose you could, theoretically, put it all in one year, but three of your five blocks all day would be devoted to this.

Chaskey moved to approve proposed CTE programming in the area of Education/ Child Development, supported by Kowalski. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to approve the attached Terms of Service and Composition of Sex Education Advisory Board as our process for identifying members, supported by Porter. All in favor. Motion carried.

Appointment of the Sex Education Advisory Board.

Co-Chair #1: Lorrie Kowalski.

Co-Chair #2: Kosrae Harman.

Sex Education Supervisor: Ted Peters, because he is the only one qualified.

Pupils- Horn I am putting feelers out to the Youth Advisory Council members through the health center and Student Council members.

Local Clergy- Alex Orta from Awaken Church.

Parents- Horn: We had five applicants, and one of the requirements of this is that at least half of the people on the committee must be parents, so we needed at least four. My recommendation to Jim at the beginning was let's just grant it to everybody who applied because there was five of them. Applications received was Lain Veihl, Katie Parr, Cliff Brewbaker, Liz Atkins-Hoskins, and Laura Wolgast. Julie Gilbert also applied. The parent piece wouldn't apply to her, but I would certainly reach out and invite her to attend. She just wouldn't be a parent member. Yes, we would want her there. She just wouldn't be able to be a parent member.

Chaskey moved to approve the committee appointments as presented, supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey moved to waive attorney-client privileges specifically for the communications sent from Thrun to Jim Rieger, Erin Chaskey and Lorrie Kowalski November 20, 2023, allowing for an unredacted copy to be provided in place of the redacted version provided to Wayne Vermilya in a recent FOIA request, supported by Kowalski. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion on Bond Milage next Steps.

Horn- I just want to ask if you're prepared at this time and if you are, then I will move forward. Obviously, we've had contact with PFM as financial advisors and already made contact with Thrun about timing and what this would look like. So, we would need you to make a decision, if you're ready at this time, whether or not you want a formal resolution prepared that would be presented for a vote at the April meeting. That resolution would be to put the Operating Millage on the August ballot. This isn't the bond; this is the Operating Millage. This is just for the Operating Millage to put on the August ballot. Discussion held.

Chaskey moved (to have a formal resolution prepared that would be presented for a vote at the April meeting), supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chaskey- I appreciate a lot of times what Mr. Vermilya sends, his ideas. I don't know if everyone read the letter he sent to us, but he had the idea of, let's just get some quotes from some local companies on the HVAC and look at that and propose a way just to finance that. That is our most important; our kids are getting sick, everyone is sick right now in school, and it's like one person sneezes in the elementary school, and it's in our high school. Discussion held on HVAC funding options. President Rieger- Would it hurt to put those bids out there just so we can see how much they cost? Let's do that.

Discussion held on the Coach Hiring Committee and having outsiders on the committee.

Horn- Can we be unified, then, right here and now? I realize that we can't squash everything, but right here and now, there was a concerted effort before to avoid coaching buddies hiring coaching buddies. If we're going to move forward like this and you would prefer me to keep it in-house, yes, I am happy to do that, but just realize there are going to be people that say no matter what, right?

Hart- If you want to put it in the meeting minutes, I will say that I understand that you did your due-diligence.

Horn- Yes, that's what it was for. I was trying to avoid someone saying well, of course, they voted for so, and so they are buddies.

Discussion was held on audio/video recordings of board meetings and recent retention updates.

Discussion was held on the incident after the game on Friday.

Board Correspondance:

Kowalski- None.

Palmer- Thanks to Marty for working on a cheer competition schedule for next year. Watching what's been going on, I wonder if we shouldn't revisit Thrun as our legal counsel.

Porter- None.

Hart- None.

Rieger- None.

Chaskey- Request to set up a meeting for Esser and bullying.

Horn- Can I ask, before we move forward with these meetings, can we set up an agenda for these meetings so there is a constructive solution-oriented meeting?

Chaskey and Horn going to work on developing an agenda before scheduling a special meeting.

Chaskey- Addressed concerns with Policy 5106.

Chaskey- I am looking to amend it, Policy 5106, I am looking to change it to read: The Board supports protecting the rights of all students. The Board prohibits unlawful discrimination, bullying, and harassment on the basis of gender, gender identity, gender expression, or gender-based stereotypes pursuant to the Title 9 of the Educational Amended of 1972. Upon notifying the District of the student's gender identity, a meeting will be held with the student, their parents or guardians, and the District to discuss whether the student requires any accommodations or support as required by law and conformed to the school policy at school and how any needed support will be communicated to staff and students. A parent may make a request to change the student's education records. A decision will be made based upon additional school policy guidelines.

Chaskey moved to change Policy 5106 to read as that, as what I just read, supported by Kowalski. Discussion held. No votes taken. Recommended policy changes being sent to Thrun for review.

Chaskey- Do I need to rescind my motion?

Citizens/Present Time:

Jocelyn Bergstedt presented to the Board. No action taken.

Stacey Porter presented to the Board. No action taken.

Max Boettger presented to the Board. No action taken.

Lain Veihl presented to the Board. No action taken.

Taed Price presented to the Board. No action taken.

Colleen Sedell presented to the Board. No action taken.

Adjournment.

Hart moved to adjourn at 8:44 p.m., supported by Palmer.



Secretary, Board of Education

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