

**ONAWAY AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
November 14, 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 November 14, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call.

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

Absent: Veal

Approval of minutes.

Palmer- Mr. Chair, in the following three items on the agenda it's got me listed in all of the minutes as the treasurer. I want to make note that for these meetings I was not the treasurer.

Hart moved to approve the minutes as amended (to remove John Palmer as Treasurer under Board of Education) for the October 10, 2023 regular meeting, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to accept the minutes as amended (to remove John Palmer as Treasurer under Board of Education) for the October 30, 2023 5 p.m. special (grievance committee) meeting, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Hart moved to accept the minutes as amended (to remove John Palmer as Treasurer under Board of Education) for the October 30, 2023 6 p.m. special meeting, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of agenda.

President Rieger- A couple things one we have to amend; we need a motion to amend it, under Regular Business item G will switch down to H and then item G will become Reading of OAQSA Resolution by Taed Price.

Palmer- Can we make an amendment to move Board Correspondence down to, make it, would be I under regular business.

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

Information items.

Superintendent Report- Mindy Horn- I am going to try and be quick so I can yield the rest of my time to Cindy, our Auditor. We had zero incidents of verified bullying this month, k-12. Wanted to make note to congratulate our Girls' Volleyball team on their run through the playoffs. We had a very nice turnout last Friday for Veterans Days, very nice program. Last week we had the babysitting class. I believe I told you about a month ago. Katy Parr headed that up through MSU Extension. We had 14 kids enrolled, and she thinks that 11 received certification. At the end of their time, they got CPR and First Aid Certified. It was a nice program for them, offered free of charge to kids. John did get his new truck last week. He got a 2020 Silverado, 2500, 33,000 miles, regular cab. It was \$50,000 on the dot. It is diesel, equipped with the plow. They were asking \$54,000 and we sent them down a copy of the meeting minutes saying look this is capped at \$50,000 and they worked with us. They were really good. It was in Ann Arbor, so I don't know off the top of my head what the name of it was. He had worked with Garms, but they couldn't even come close to that. He's been excited. You'll notice the old one was parked up to the building. The new one is parked in the covered area. He's having quite a good time with that. The last thing I wanted to say we just received new today. I had emailed you last week about a grant we had applied for to try to help fund new positions in our building, and we received that notice today that that has been awarded. So that will be a nice influx. That's all I have.

Auditors' presentation.

Elementary Report- Robin Benson- Attached.

Secondary/Athletic Report – Marty Mix-Attached.

Staff Report – Kitchen-Attached.

Yearly Goal Update – Attached.

Financial Reports.

Approval of bills.

Hart moved to approve the bills (for October) as written, support by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of financial report.

Porter moved to approve the financial report (for October) as written, supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Business.

Porter moved to accept the teachers' contract (as negotiated), supported by Hart. Discussion held. Kowalski abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Kowalski- The Anti-Bullying Policy requires two reading and the first reading was on October 30th and this is the second reading of policy #5207 is today and it is to adopt the changes presented on 10/30/23.

Palmer moved to adopt the changes made to policy 5207, supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bus bids unsealed at 7:42

Aaron LaLonde bid for bus number 6 \$552

Aaron LaLonde bid for bus number 7 \$752

Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers bid for bus number 6 and bus number 7 \$801/each

Hart moved to award the bids for the buses to the highest bidder. They would be required to have them removed from the property and paid for by 4 p.m. on 11/21 one week from today, supported by Chaskey. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Altria Settlement Resolution as read by President Rieger:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board accepts the Settlement Amount.
2. The Board authorizes and directs the District Superintendent or designee to sign Lawsuit settlement documents pertaining to the Altria Defendants on behalf of the district and to take such other action as necessary to obtain the Settlement Amount and to settle the Lawsuit against the Altria Defendants, subject to review and approval by the district's legal counsel.
3. The Board waives any applicable Board Policies and Bylaws for purposes of this settlement.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions that conflict with the provisions of this resolution are rescinded.

Palmer moved to accept the resolution (as read by President Rieger), supported by Hart. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kowalski moved to hire Ian Veal as a part-time custodian, supported by Hart. Discussion held. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Porter moved to hire an EL teacher Bree Baughman (as our K-12 ESL teacher at step 18 with signing bonus pro-rated to reflect entry at this point in the school year), supported by Chaskey. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reading of OAQSA Resolution from Taed Price.

To start with, most of you all know me, and I also know that it is a hot-button topic that I am up here wearing this shirt for the Onaway Area Queer Straight Alliance. It is a social welfare non-profit 501C4 organization that was founded this year primarily to foster cooperation and understanding between LGBTQ-plus and non-LGBTQ-plus persons in the community for the goal of keeping Onaway neighborly, collaborative, and inclusive. We have been incorporated since July in the state of Michigan. We have been having monthly board meetings, and we wanted to express our gratitude to the school district and to the school Board because of one of the policies that is on our Policy book. As probably not a lot of you know, November is Trans Awareness Month, and why this is relevant is that transgender person(s), whether students or community members, they face more bias more assaults than almost anyone else, as far as records show. So, we were excited to see that there was a policy on book for the protection of our transgender students, and we have had a couple of transgender students come up through the system. So, at our regular October 23 meeting, the Onaway Area Queer Straight Alliance Board of Directors passed board resolution 2023-01 acknowledging Onaway Area Community School District and Board for policy 5106 Transgender Students.

WHEREAS, the Onaway Area Queer Straight Alliance Board of Directors is dedicated to promoting the social welfare of LGBTQ+ persons in the City of Onaway, Michigan, with a mission to encourage community members to be and celebrate their true selves, protect all persons from assault, abuse, hate crimes, or unlawful discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and foster cooperation and understanding between LGBTQ+ persons and non-LGBTQ+ persons in both our school and community; and

WHEREAS, the Onaway Area School Board of Education has recognized that regardless of individual Board of Education members' feelings about transgender persons, transgender students, nationally and in Michigan, are targeted with physical violence and experience a hostile school environment more frequently than their peers; and

WHEREAS, the Onaway Area Community School District and its Board of Education have demonstrated their commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for all students, particularly transgender students, through the enactment of Policy 5106 Transgender Students, supporting the rights of all students to self-identify and use the name, pronouns, and facilities that correspond with their gender identity, declaring that "the person best suited to determine a student's Gender Identity is the individual student"; and

WHEREAS, the Onaway Area Queer Straight Alliance acknowledges and appreciates the Onaway Area Community school District for their dedication to creating a culture of empathy, respect, and acceptance, and for serving as an example of best practices in the field of education, thus contributing to the well-being and success of all students, which aligns seamlessly with OAQSA's mission and values;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Onaway Area Queer Straight Alliance Board of Directors that we hereby acknowledge and commend the Onaway Area Community School District and its Board of Education for their commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for all students, particularly transgender students, through the enactment of Policy 5106 Transgender Students; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our appreciation to the Onaway Area Community School District for their dedication to creating a culture of empathy, respect, and acceptance, and for serving as an example of best practices in the field of education, thus contributing to the well-being and success of all students, which is in perfect alignment with the mission and purposes of the Onaway Area Queer Straight Alliance. This resolution dually adopted this 23rd day of October, 2023. Signed by myself, as this year's Board Chairperson and Stacey Porter as Board Secretary. I thank you all very very much for your continued commitment to keeping all of our students safe.

Discussion on Bond/Millage next steps.

Board Correspondence:

Kowalski- Questions regarding the HVAC system and the possibility of getting grant money to update the heating system.

Palmer-Addressed rumors and accusations.

Porter- Addressed a rumor.

Hart- Discussed previous grievance committee ruling.

Hart moved to make a motion in the form of a resolution that reads: The Onaway Area Community School Board of Education recognizes Maddison McLean as a certified and highly qualified valued member of our faculty. That she has gained her position based solely upon her own highly qualified merits. I believe that she proved that factual in that last month's meeting. That's all that I want the resolution to say, simply that she is a qualified teacher, she has got her position based upon her own merits, and that those dispersions against her should be officially taken away, supported by Porter. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Chaskey- yes, Palmer-yes, Porter-yes, Kowalski-yes, Rieger-yes. Motion carried.

Rieger- None.

Chaskey- Talked with Judge Vizina regarding truancy and bullying. Discussed requests for how the Covid money was spent, a misunderstanding regarding testing provided at the beginning of the year, board pay, and the youth wrestling program.

Horn- Mr. Dickinson, I'm actually just repeating some information our attorneys provided to us in the spring. When you asked the same question in the spring, we did reach out at that time, so this was back in April. We asked about the distribution of Bibles and what they told us is if the general public were to distribute Bibles in school, we are running into two different issues, one would be that Separation Clause and The First Amendment and the second would be the creation of what they call a Limited Public Forum. So, in talking with Jim about this, we talked about this back in April and bringing it up again now. One possible avenue I might suggest is we have a group called the God Squad that meets after school on Monday nights. That might be an avenue, sir, if you would like to provide it to them, that they could pass them out to the students. Their caution was that when we create that forum for one group that is passing out bibles that we also have to allow extend that same curtesy to someone if they wanted to come in and pass out any kind of text from any religion, we would have to allow that as well.

Citizens Present/Time:

Jessica Chandler presented to the Board via telephone. No action taken.

Lanisha Boughner presented to the Board. No action taken.

Jannina Stiles presented to the Board. No action taken.

Erica Porter presented to the Board. No action taken.

Lain Veihl presented to the Board. No action taken.

Wayne Vermilya presented to the Board. No action taken.

Allison McLean presented to the Board. No action taken.

Larry Hull presented to the Board. No action taken.

Trudy Dickinson presented to the Board. No action taken.

Kathy Christian presented to the Board. No action taken.

Sheri LaFave presented to the Board. No action taken.

Max Boettger presented to the Board. No action taken.

Adjournment

Hart moved to adjourn at 9:06 p.m., supported by Palmer.



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) 733-4950.

