

ONAWAY AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MINUTES  
February 27, 2025 - 7:00 PM  
Onaway Media Center

1. Call to order.

A special meeting of the Onaway Area Community School District's Board of Education was held in the Media Center. Called to order by President Mike Hart at 7:00pm on February 27th, 2025.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call.

Present: Hart, Moran, Kowalski, Veihl, Annette Porter & Stacey Porter  
Absent: Kaszonyi

4. Approval of Agenda.

Moran moved to approve the agenda, supported by Veihl. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

5. Citizens Present Public Comment Time - For Agenda Items Only.

Wayne Vermilya presented to the board. No action taken.

6. Special Agenda Items

a. New Interim Superintendent (Discussion/Interview)

Moran moved to hire Ronald (Jake) Huffman as new Interim Superintendent, supported by Kowalski. Discussion held.

Interview held with Ronald (Jake) Huffman.

Discussion held.

Roll Call Vote: Moran- yes, Kowalski- yes, Veihl- yes, Stacey Porter- yes, Annette Porter- yes and Hart- yes.

Hart- "Thank you and this will be effective immediately after the meeting."

b. Current Interim Superintendent Updated Resignation (Action)

Moran moved to accept current interim Superintendent's updated resignation supported by Veihl.

Roll Call Vote: Moran- yes, Kowalski- yes, Veihl- yes, Annette Porter- yes, Stacey Porter- Yes and Hart- yes

c. New Interim Superintendent Discussion (Discussion, Action)

Already covered per President Hart

- d. Part-Time Special Education Coordinator (Discussion, Action)  
Annette Porter moved to hire Tiffany Wade as part-time special Education Coordinator, supported by Veihl. All in favor. Motion carried.
- e. District Operations Consultant (Discussion, Action)  
Discussion held. No motion made.
- f. 3rd-Party Fact Finding Investigation (Discussion, Action)  
Discussion held.  
Veihl made a motion to table the investigation until the newly appointed Superintendent confirms what is actually being investigated, supported by Moran. This will be discussed further at the regular meeting in March. All in favor. Motion carried.
- g. Appointment of Support Staff Grievance Committee Members.  
Hart, Moran and Veihl volunteered to be on this committee.

7. Board Member Comments/Correspondence.

Hart- Agrees that an investigation could be helpful if it is warranted.

Moran- None.

Kowalski- Has concerns on information that she feels has gotten out to the public that should be confidential.

Veihl- Commented on the importance of difficult decisions by the board to keep transparency.

Stacey Porter- None.

Annette Porter- To clarify, the secondary secretary's return is solely based on the Superintendent's decision?

President Hart confirmed this.

8. Citizen Present Public Comment Time.

Kay Schnabel presented to the board. No action taken.

Wayne Vermilya presented to the board. No action taken.

Les Nixon presented to the board. No action taken.

9. Adjournment.

Annette Porter motioned to adjourn at 7:43p.m., supported by Moran. All in favor.

Motion carried.



Secretary, Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Mike Hart

ADMINISTRATION  
Dan Bauer, Interim Superintendent

Lorrie Kowalski  
Annette Porter  
Thomas Moran  
Lain Veihl  
Stacey Porter  
John Kaszonyi

Robin Benson, Elementary Principal  
Bryan Pyle, Secondary Principal

Thank you for showing an interest in the operation of your school system. If you can add information for consideration to the Board concerning the items on the agenda, please complete the necessary form and turn it in to the Secretary prior to the start of the meeting. The President will ask you to address the Board during the Citizens Time section. Your comments will be limited to three minutes under Board Policy.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting or hearing, please contact Dan Bauer, Interim Superintendent, at 989-733-4970 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.

The official minutes for every Board meeting are kept in the Superintendent's Office of the Onaway Area Community School, 4549 M-33, Onaway, MI 49765 and are available for inspection.

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