

ONAWAY AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Onaway Media Center

1. 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 Mike Hart at 6:00p.m. January 21, 2025.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call.

Present: Hart, Veal, Moran, Kowalski, Veihl, Stacey Porter, and Annette Porter.

Absent: None

4. Approval of Agenda.

Hart asked if anyone had anything to add to the agenda.

Anette Porter asked that board Correspondence be added. Hart added this topic after Citizens Present Public Comment Time as item 7.

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

5. Approval of minutes for regular/special meetings.

a. January 14, 2025 Regular meeting minutes

Veihl moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 14, 2025, supported by Moran. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Wayne Vermilya addressed the board with two agenda items. No action taken.

7. Board Correspondence.

President Hart read a letter he received in the mail (letter attached) and said he also received a text message from one of the union representatives stating the same. Discussion held.

8. Information Items:

a. Superintendent's Update

- i. HVAC Bond Proposal Update - attached
Update from Craig Carmoney at IDI.
- ii. Powerschool Data Breach Update - attached

9. Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney/Client Privileged Information regarding the pending arbitration case with the former superintendent.
 - a. Motion to go into closed session

Veal moved to enter closed session at 6:27p.m., supported by Stacey Porter. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. Return to Open Session

Veal moved to enter into open session at 8:07p.m., supported by Veihl. All in Favor. Motion carried.

11. Motion made in open session.

Veihl makes a motion to wave attorney client privilege on the email we received from attorney Daniel Martin, supported by Veihl. Discussion held to clarify attorney client privilege on said email only.

Roll call vote: Moran- yes, Veal- yes, Kowalski- yes, Veihl- yes, Stacey Porter- yes, Annette Porter- yes, Hart- yes
Full email read by Veihl outlining the two options given.

Summary of Option #1:

Paying Mrs. Horn the difference in Onaway Superintendent salary at her current job, which amounts to approximately \$22,790.44 per year, plus her attorney fees of \$7,187.37 for a total payout of approximately \$30,000.00. Also, reinstating her as OACSD Superintendent beginning July 1, 2025.

Summary of Option #2:

Paying Mrs. Horn the difference in her salary at her current job and her Onaway salary over the 5-year term of her Onaway contract, which amounts to about \$112,500.00 in round numbers. Plus, pay loss of pension benefits based on her current lower salary, which she estimates at just under \$39,000.00 and reimbursement of her legal fees (\$7,187.37). Altogether, Option 2 is approximately \$157,00-160,000.00.

Veal makes a motion to direct the school's attorney to prepare an arbitration settlement agreement consistent with Option #1 subject to review and appeal by the Board of Education at a future meeting, supported by Stacey Porter. Discussion held.

Roll call vote: Moran- no, Kowalski- no, Veihl- no, Veal- yes, Stacey Porter- yes, Annette Porter- yes, Hart- yes. Motion carried.

12. Citizen Present Public Comment Time

Wayne Vermilya presented to the board. No action taken.

Scott Hill presented to the board. No action taken.

13. Adjournment.

Veal moved to adjourn at 8:26p.m., supported by Veihl . All in favor.

Motion carried.



Secretary, Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mike Hart

Lorrie Kowalski

Annette Porter

Jeremy Veal

Thomas Moran

Lain Veihl

Stacey Porter

ADMINISTRATION

Dan Bauer, Interim Superintendent

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.

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) 733-4970.