

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

**May 14, 2024**

**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 James Rieger at 7:00 p.m. on May 14, 2024.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

**3. Roll Call.**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes.**

Palmer moved to approve the minutes for April 9, 2024 regular meeting, supported by Chaskey. All in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Approval of Minutes.**

Veal moved to approve the minutes for April 9 (2024) closed session meeting, supported by Kowalski. All in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Approval of Minutes.**

Chaskey moved to approve the minutes from April 10, 2024 special meeting, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Approval of Minutes.**

Veal moved to approve the minutes from May 6 (2024) special meeting, supported by Palmer. All in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Approval of Agenda.**

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

## 9. Information Items.

a. **Superintendent** – Mindy Horn- I told you at the workshop prior to this that I have accepted Scott Steensma's retirement. We still are currently posting for April Bentley's position.

We had last month, when the kids got back from spring break, we had the space globe. The Ski Lab came to the elementary school. It's like a story and a half tall, and it's a giant inflatable sphere. The kids crawl through a kennel and go in and then, it looks like space. It's projected, and it shows all the different constellations in there, and kids got to experience that. It was a rollover from reading month. Then we had two of our alumni. I don't know if anybody knows Amy Crawford that works down at the old Sunoco, but it was her kids, Cameron Penny and Tori Penny. I had the pleasure of teaching Tori in my classroom and she was one of those kids that always kept you on your toes, asking why for everything you did. So, I knew she would be good when she graduated. She now works for Jeff Bezos out in Seattle on their Blue Organ, the lunar lander, directly with him. I did also put a plug that the next time Jeff Bezos is looking for a charity event, we'll take it. She came in, and she talked about what she did, and her brother Cameron talked about what he did. He works for this company in Traverse City, and they actually go up, and they're collecting space waste. It is just the coolest thing. Apparently, you can do that remotely, which is what I'd like my next job to be. They presented on what they are doing, where they're going, space, taking care of the Earth. Each one of our kids filled out a postcard. They just put their name on it and then Onaway School. Kindergarteners wrote Marlayna; we stamped it Onaway School. They either wrote a little note on it or they drew a little picture, something age-appropriate. All those postcards are going to go up on the next lunar module that goes up, all those postcards from the Onaway Kids. So, they're all following up, that was really cool of them. It was really good to see the little kids giving Tori a hard time because she deserved it. I got a kick out of that, she did, she deserved it. She knew it, too. She did a good job.

This month is Teacher Appreciation month, and I received notice that three of our teachers, Ms. Doud, Mrs. Watson, and Mrs. Makela, were nominated by some of the students. They're going to have videos playing statewide they made about their teacher nominating them. When those are posted, we'll share a link to those on our school website so people can go and view them.

I also want to take a second to thank Destanae Smillie. Some of you know that one of the side businesses that she operates is a photo booth that she does for different events. She has a new photo booth, and she wanted to test it out before she does weddings and her summer events. She allowed the Junior and Senior class to have it at their prom for no charge. I'm told that that was the hit of the night. Most of the activity was the kids in the photo booth. She did that for free for the kids. So, just wanted to let her know how much that was appreciated and how much the kids enjoyed that.

They're here, and they are going next, but I wanted to make sure everybody knows that tomorrow night in the cafeteria, from 6-7 o'clock, our Robotics team is having a community open house. They want to share with you what they did. They want to share the robot. They want to share their experiences. I believe Indian River schools is coming over too to help set up. Did I hear that correctly? OK, there was talk about that, so scratch that. They want to show what their robot does and what a competition looks

like and also just to express their thanks to the community. The community raised, in less than a week, over \$35,000 to send those kids. So, with that, that will be it for me, and I will turn it over to Lorrie and the robotics kids.

**b. Onabots Recognition.**

Awards presented to the Onaway Onabots for qualifying for the FIRST World Robotics Championship.

**c. Principals Reports:** Robin Benson Elementary Principal/ Marty Mix Secondary Principal- Attached.

**d. Athletic Report-** Attached.

**e. Resource Officer Report-** Attached.

**f. Yearly Goal Update-** None.

**10. Financial Reports.**

**a. Approval of bills.**

Veal moved to accept the (April) bills as written, supported by Hart. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

**b. Approval of Financial Report.**

Chaskey moved to accept the financial report (for April) as written, supported by Veal. All in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Regular Business.**

**a. 2024-25 District Calendar.**

Porter moved to approve Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024 as the opening day of school for the 2024-2025 school year, supported by Palmer. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

**b. 2024-25 PD Plan**

Porter moved to approve August 28 (2024), November 1 (2024), January 27 (2025), February 28 (2025), April 18 (2025), May 16 (2025) and June 9 (2025) as staff PD (Professional Development) days, supported by Veal. All in favor. Motion carried.

**c. Process to Notify for Special Meetings.**

Chaskey moved to (create policy stating) specially scheduled Board meetings shall be called by the President of the Board, or by request of any two current Board members, or by the Superintendent, in accordance with policy. Such request(s) for a meeting shall be emailed to the School Secretary for record-keeping. The Secretary shall notify all other Board members of the specially called meeting via email, SMS, or some other recordable form of communication, requiring a response as proof of receipt, and maintaining records of such, supported by Palmer. Discussion held. All in favor. Motion carried.

**d. COP ESD Budget Resolution. (return resolution to COP by 6/1/24)**

Chaskey moved to approve (the COP ESD Budget Resolution), supported by Hart. All in favor. Motion carried.

COP Budget Resolution read by President Rieger:

The board of education has received and reviewed the proposed intermediate school district budget in accordance with Section 624 of the Revised School Code, as amended, and by the adoption of this resolution, expresses its support for the proposed intermediate school district budget.

The secretary of the board of education or his/her designee shall forward a copy of this resolution to the intermediate school board or its superintendent no later than June 1, 2024.

All resolutions insofar as they conflict with this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

**e. Truancy**

Presque Isle Prosecuting Attorney Ken Radzibon- What I want to start with in addressing you is; I'm going to read you part of the juvenile code which deals with truancy. This is what gives the probate court jurisdiction.

The juvenile willfully and repeatedly upsets himself or herself from school or other learning program intended to meet the juvenile's educational needs or repeatedly violates rules and regulations of the school or other learning program, and the court finds on the record that the juvenile, the juvenile's parent, guardian or custodian and school officials or learning program personnel have met on the juvenile's education problems and educational counseling and alternative agency help has been sought. As used in this subdivision, only learning program means an organized educational program that is appropriate given the age, intelligence, ability, and psychological limitations of the juvenile in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, writing, and English grammar.

Truancy presentation by Presque Isle Prosecuting Attorney Ken Radzibon continued with discussion and questions from the Board and Mrs. Horn.

Work-bee to be scheduled with Horn, Benson, Radzibon, and Porter to discuss elementary truancy issues.

**f. Hiring: Varsity Football Coach.**

Horn- So, the recommendation I'd like to make is that we continue to employ Eddy as the secondary coach and that we hire Micah Bailey as the middle school football coach. For Micah, I think that would be a great first step for him to get into this, get into coaching, and eventually take over. Discussion held.

Veal moved to take Mindy's recommendation to a vote, yes, I'm making that motion (Eddy as varsity and Micah as middle school), supported by Porter. Discussion held. Veal rescinded his motion.

Veal moved to hire Eddy Szymoniak as the head coach for football, for varsity, supported by Porter. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Palmer- no, Porter-yes, Veal-yes, Chaskey-no, Kowalski-no, Hart- yes, and Rieger-no. Motion failed.

Palmer moved to hire Micah Bailey as the High School Varsity Football Coach, supported by Chaskey. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Hart-no, Porter-no, Palmer-yes, Kowalski-yes, Chaskey-yes, Veal-no, Rieger-yes. Motion carried.

**g. Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation.**

Veal moved to approve the Superintendent's evaluation, supported by Hart. Veal, Kowalski, Hart, and Porter in support. Chaskey, Rieger, and Palmer abstained.

Kowalski- We had Mrs. Horn's evaluation and for the second year in a row, this time she got an 88%, which is very good.

**h. Graduation.**

Discussion on graduation setup and procedures.

Horn- As far as whether I'm going to turn in my graduation speech ahead of time for the Board to approve, the answer is no. Haven't even written it.

Chaskey moved to make sure that these speeches, just by superintendent and principal, are approved by the Board. Discussion held. No support.

**i. Release of Emails.**

Chaskey- We would like to talk about legal fees. I will bring up so that way the community can make up their own mind about what exactly happened. Specifically with the election and all that money. Specifically with the \$500 bill that was just handed out for the evaluation. Specifically, for how many times went on about the two signatures. Specifically, about how many times it went on about not being able to make policy because they never got the results. So, if this is what we would like to do, I will bring every single email and I will vote to release it.

Discussion held on legal fees.

**j. Parent Request.**

President Rieger- Parent request has been canceled.

**k. Board Correspondence.**


Kowalski-None.  
Palmer-None.  
Porter-None.  
Hart-None.  
Rieger-None.  
Veal-None.  
Chaskey-None.

**12. Citizens Present/Time.**

Lanisha Boughner presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Les Nixon presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Jodi Brewbaker presented to the Board No action taken.  
John Kaszonyi presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Jordan Larson presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Jackson Grainger presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Stacey Porter presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Shari LaFave presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Jeanie Flory presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Ken Szymoniak presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Scott Hill presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Angie Leach presented to the Board. No action taken.  
Sue Middaugh presented to the Board. No action taken.

**13. Adjournment.**

Palmer moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., supported by Kowalski.



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

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