



School District of Onalaska

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026

President Aaron McDonald called the Onalaska Board of Education regular meeting to order on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:02 p.m. at 237 2nd Ave S, Onalaska, WI.

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Roll Call/Verification of Quorum:** The Board President verified a quorum is present.
Members Present - Erik Archer, Bridget Thomas, Mark Cassellius, Ann Garrity, and Aaron McDonald.
Members Absent - Tracy Laufenberg and Brian Haefs.
Administrators/Directors Present - Ben Barton, Janet Rosseter, Lish Olson, Jared Schaffner, Jason Thiry, Ben Burns, Jana Yashinsky, Sonya Ganther, Kelly McMahon, Todd Saner, and Kristen Fay.
Student Representative - Kaarina Dunn.
Others Present - Noah Looney, Claire Bartol, Jessica Breuer, and Dakota Lawrence.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag:** Aaron McDonald led the group in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Reading of the Mission Statement:** Bridget Thomas read the School Board Mission Statement.
5. **Public Notice:** Public notice was given to the requesting news media. The agenda was posted in district buildings, and on the district website.
6. **Agenda Revisions:** Request to move item #11 and #12 to follow #9, and #14 to follow #10.
7. **Approval of Agenda:** *Motion by A. Garrity, second by M. Cassellius, to approve the agenda with moving Items #11 and #12 to follow #9, and #14 to follow #10. Motion carried.*
8. **Public Input:** There were no public comments.

Recognition Item:

9. **Donations:**
 - \$50 from the Onalaska American Legion Auxiliary Unit #336 for school supplies at Northern Hills Elementary
 - \$500 from Catholic Financial Life for the Kid Wind Club at Onalaska High School
 - \$100 from Fran & Billie Finco for the district holiday meal drive
 - \$150 from Mike & Mary McKee for the lunch fund at Irving Pertzsch Elementary

- \$1,000 from ALM Charities/Mathy family for winter clothing and the lunch fund at Northern Hills Elementary
- \$600 from Brooke Rihn for the district food pantry
- Winter coats from Patti Brethel for students at Irving Pertzsch Elementary
- \$500 from Elizabeth Brock Jones for food needs for students at Onalaska High School in memory of Tom Brock and in honor of Jan Brock
- \$500 from Katharine Brock for food needs for students at Onalaska High School in memory of Tom Brock and in honor of Jan Brock
- \$400 from Bob Raasch & Colleen Brogan-Raasch for the district food pantry
- \$625 from the Bruce & Margie Bartschenfeld family for the district food pantry

Informational/Discussion Items:

10. **Student Representative and Administrator Reports:** The student representative and administrators gave an update on staff and student activities related to academics and co-curricular activities.
11. **High School Building Project Update:** Jared Schaffner gave an update on the high school building project.
12. **Resolutions to be Considered by the 2026 WASB Delegate Assembly:** Ben Barton presented the 2026 WASB Delegate Assembly Proposed Resolutions for Board recommendations.

Action Item:

13. **Action Research Projects:**
 - A. *Motion by A. Garrity, second by M. Cassellius, to approve an action research project by Eagle Bluff Elementary teacher Noah Looney as part of his masters program. Motion carried.*
 - B. *Motion by B. Thomas, second by E. Archer, to approve an action research project by Eagle Bluff Elementary teacher Claire Bartol as part of her masters program. Motion carried.*

Informational/Discussion Items:

14. **Venture Upward:** Representatives from Venture Upward were in attendance to discuss their program and possible online schooling options for the School District of Onalaska.

Action Items:

15. **Pre-Kindergarten Program:** *Motion by E. Archer, second by M. Cassellius, to start an all-day pre-kindergarten program effective the 2026-27 school year. Roll call vote: A. Garrity - yes; M. Cassellius - yes; E. Archer - yes; B. Thomas - yes; A. McDonald -yes. Motion carried.*
16. **Open Enrollment:** *Motion by A. Garrity, second by B. Thomas, to approve the 2026-27 open enrollment restrictions:*

Grade Level	Projected Enrollment 2026-27	Space for Open Enrollment

	(as of 1/5/26)	2026-27 (# of Students)
PK	Unknown	No Restrictions
K	154	No Restrictions
1	168	No Restrictions
2	175	No Restrictions
3	185	No Restrictions
4	196	No Restrictions
5	211	No Restrictions
6	206	No Restrictions
7	222	No Restrictions
8	205	No Restrictions
9	202	No Restrictions
10	216	No Restrictions
11	237	No Restrictions
12	228	No Restrictions

Open Enrollment Space Determination - Special Education 2026-27

For the 2026-27 school year, the following space restrictions are recommended for open enrollment applications in special education.

Program	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Cross Categorical Program	12	6	11
District Early Childhood Program	0 Total for District		
District OnaPALS Elementary Alternative Program	0 Total for District		
District Speech and Language Program	0 Total for District		
District Vision Impairment Services	0 Total for District		

District Occupational Therapy	0 Total for District
District Physical Therapy	0 Total for District
District Adaptive Physical Education	0 Total for District

Paraprofessional Support in IEP - If an open enrollment applicant has an IEP with para/adult support we will deny the application due to not having the program/services to meet the IEP needs since additional staff would need to be hired and positions are difficult to fill.

17. **WIAA Co-ops:** *Motion by A. Garrity, second by B. Thomas, to approve the following co-curricular co-ops:*

- *Gymnastics with Luther (We are host) for the 2026-27 school year*
- *Boys Wrestling with Luther (We are host) for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years*
- *Boys Hockey with Central and Logan (We are host) for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years*
- *Girls Hockey with Holmen, Central, Logan, Aquinas, West Salem, Bangor, and GET (West Salem is host) for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years*
- *Boys Lacrosse (Central is host) for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years*

Motion carried.

18. **Consent Agenda:** Request to remove items B1 and B2 for separate consideration. *Motion by A. Garrity, second by E. Archer, to approve the following under the consent agenda, with the removal of B1 and B2:*

- A. *Budgetary Disbursements and Payroll in accordance with enclosure.*
- B. *Personnel Report -*
 - 1. ~~*Retirement Request - Administration*~~
 - 2. ~~*Resignation Request - Administration*~~
 - 3. *New Employees - Hourly Staff*
 - 4. *Position Creations*
 - 5. *Co-Curricular Resignations*
 - 6. *Co-Curricular Contracts*
- C. *Minutes - December 8, 2025 regular meeting.*
- D. *Financials - November 2025.*
- E. *Fundraiser request - OHS Choir Parent Support Group - Pizza Ranch Dine Out Night.*

Motion carried.

Motion by A. McDonald, second by A. Garrity, to approve Item B1 - Retirement Request - Administration, and Item B2 - Resignation Request - Administration. Motion carried.

19. **Closed Session:** *Motion by E. Archer, second by M. Cassellius, to convene in closed session pursuant to s.19.85 (1)(c)(d)(e) and/or (f), to discuss, and, when appropriate, to take action on individual administrator employment contracts, and to consider and take action, as appropriate, on minutes from the following closed sessions: June 2, 2025, July 28, 2025, October 8, 2025, and December 8, 2025. The Board may take other related, appropriate action in closed session. The Board will adjourn from closed session. Roll call vote: B. Thomas - yes; M. Cassellius - yes; E. Archer - yes; A. Garrity - yes; A. McDonald - yes. Motion carried. Convened to closed session at 8:02 p.m.*

17. **Adjourn:** *Motion by E. Archer, second by M. Cassellius, to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Fay

Aaron McDonald, Board President

Brian Haefs, Board Clerk