



School District of Onalaska Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, January 26, 2026

President Aaron McDonald called the Onalaska Board of Education regular meeting to order on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:00 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 (virtually 6:10-7:09 pm, 7:20 pm-7:58 pm), Ann Garrity, Tracy Laufenberg, Brian Haefs, and Aaron McDonald.
Administrators/Directors Present - Ben Barton, Janet Rosseter, Lish Olson, Jared Schaffner, Charlie Ihle, Ben Burns, Abby Davis, Sonya Ganther, Kelly McMahon, Todd Saner, and Kristen Fay.
Others Present - Ali Abidi, Joe Haas, Alli Leair, Mary Kate Jones, Kaylee Olson, Miranda Flock, Abby Voss, Emily MacCallum.
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:** Brian Haefs 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 #14 to follow #10.
7. **Approval of Agenda:** *Motion by A. Garrity, second by B. Thomas, to approve the agenda with moving Item #14 to follow #10. Motion carried.*
8. **Public Input:** There were no public comments.

Recognition Item:

9. **Donations:**
 - \$800 from SEHAT, Inc, founded by student Ali Abidi, for health and health equity initiatives
 - \$40 from Mark & Cindy Cassellius for any district need, in memory of Harley Haefs
10. **Staff Recognition:** The following teachers were recognized for receiving their Masters degree:
 - Alli Leair, Irving Pertsch Elementary teacher
 - Mary Kate Jones, Irving Pertsch Elementary teacher

- Kaylee Olson, Eagle Bluff Elementary teacher
- Abby Voss, Northern Hills Elementary teacher
- Miranda Flock, Irving Pertzsch Elementary teacher
- Emily MacCallum, Irving Pertzsch Elementary teacher

Action Item:

11. **2024-25 Audit:** Motion by A. Garrity, second by E. Archer, to approve the 2024-25 audit and financial statements. Roll call vote: E. Archer - yes; B. Haefs - yes; T. Laufenberg - yes; A. Garrity - yes; B. Thomas - yes; M. Cassellius - yes; A. McDonald - yes. Motion carried.

Informational/Discussion Items:

12. **Student Representative, Administrator, and Board Reports:** Administrators gave an update on staff and student activities related to academics and co-curricular activities, and the Board and administrators provided a recap on the recent state education convention.
13. **Quarterly Financial Report:** Janet Rosseter presented the quarterly financial report for Board information.
14. **2026-27 Budget Projections:** Janet Rosseter reviewed possible 2026-27 budget scenarios for Board information.

Action Items:

15. **2025-26 Budget Amendment:** Motion by B. Thomas, second by T. Laufenberg, to approve revisions to the 2025-26 budget. Roll call vote: T. Laufenberg - yes; B. Haefs - yes; E. Archer - yes; A. Garrity - yes; B. Thomas - yes; M. Cassellius - yes; A. McDonald - yes. Motion carried.
16. **Phase 1A November 2022 High School Referendum Projects:** Motion by T. Laufenberg, second by E. Archer, to proceed with architectural and engineering drawings for projects of first floor classrooms, elevator, and weight room addition for Referendum Phase 1A and to update contractor firms that were prequalified from Referendum Phase 1. Roll call vote: B. Thomas - yes; A. Garrity - yes; E. Archer - yes; B. Haefs - yes; T. Laufenberg - yes; M. Cassellius - yes; A. McDonald - yes. Motion carried.

(Mark Cassellius left the meeting.)

17. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by A. Garrity, second by T. Laufenberg, to approve the following under the consent agenda, with the removal of item B1 - retirement request - administration.
- A. Budgetary Disbursements and Payroll in accordance with enclosure.
 - B. Personnel Report -
 - 1. ~~Retirement Request - Administration~~
 - 2. Retirement Requests - Certified Staff
 - 3. New Employee - Certified Staff
 - 4. New Employee - Hourly Staff
 - 5. Co-Curricular Contract

- C. *Financials - December 2025.*
- D. *Minutes - January 12, 2026 regular meeting.*

Motion carried.

Motion by A. McDonald, second by B. Thomas, to approve Item B1 - Retirement Request - Administration. Motion carried.

- 18. **Closed Session:** *Motion by A. Garrity, second by B. Thomas, 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 January 12, 2026 closed session. The Board may take other related, appropriate action in closed session. The Board will adjourn from closed session. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: B. Thomas - yes; A. Garrity - yes; E. Archer - yes; B. Haefs - yes; T. Laufenberg - yes; A. McDonald - yes. Motion carried. Convened to closed session at 8:12 pm.*
- 19. **Adjourn:** *Motion by B. Haefs, second by B. Thomas, to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Fay

Aaron McDonald, Board President

Brian Haefs, Board Clerk