



School District of Onalaska

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 28, 2026

President Aaron McDonald called the Onalaska Board of Education regular meeting to order on Monday, September 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at 237 2nd Ave S, Onalaska, WI.

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Roll Call/Verification of Quorum:** Aaron McDonald verified a quorum is present.
Members Present - Tesia Marshik, Tracy Laufenberg, Mark Cassellius, Brian Haefs, Ann Garrity, Bridget Thomas, and Aaron McDonald.
Administrators/Directors Present - Ben Barton, Tyler Hougom, Lish Olson, Jennifer Gimmer, Jared Schaffner, Ben Burns, Kelly McMahon, Jana Yashinsky, and Kristen Fay.
Student Representative - Gowri Prakash.
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:** Mark Cassellius read the School Board Mission Statement.
5. **Public Notice:** Public notice was given to the requesting news media. The agenda was posted at the district office and on the district website.
6. **Agenda Revisions:** No changes.
7. **Approval of Agenda:** *Motion by T. Marshik, second by M. Cassellius, to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried.*
8. **Public Input:** There was no public comment.

Recognition Items:

9. **Board Student Representative:** Jared Schaffner introduced the 2026-27 Board Student Representative, Gowri Prakash.
10. **Board Recognition:** Administration recognized the Board for the 2026 Wisconsin School Board Week which is October 5-11, 2026, and recognized Brian Haefs for receiving a Level 4 Award from the WASB.

Informational/Discussion Items:

11. **Administrator and Student Representative Reports:** Administrators and the student representative gave an update on staff and student activities related to academics and co-curricular activities.
12. **Board Report:** The Board Policies Committee chair reported on their recent meeting

Action Items:

13. **2026-27 Preliminary Budget Adoption for Budget Hearing:** *Motion by T. Laufenberg, second by M. Cassellius, to approve the preliminary 2026-27 budget. Roll call vote: B. Haefs - yes; T. Laufenberg - yes; M. Cassellius - yes; B. Thomas - yes; T. Marshik - yes; A. Garrity - yes; A. McDonald - yes. Motion carried.*
14. **Consent Agenda:** *Motion by A. Garrity, second by B. Haefs, to approve the following under the consent agenda:*
 - A. *Budgetary disbursements and payroll in accordance with enclosure.*
 - B. *Personnel Report -*
 1. *New Employee - Hourly Staff - **Elizabeth Heiman**, 1.0 FTE 210-day school nutrition administrative assistant, effective September 28, 2026 at \$26.42 per hour. This position was vacated by Melissa Tillman.*
 - C. *Minutes - September 14, 2026.*
 - D. *Financials - August 2026.**Motion carried.*
15. **Adjourn:** *Motion by B. Haefs, second by T. Laufenberg, to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Fay

Aaron McDonald, Board President

Brian Haefs, Board Clerk