School District of Onalaska
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2026

President Aaron McDonald called the Onalaska Board of Education regular meeting to order on Monday, November 9, 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, Ann Garrity, Bridget Thomas, and Aaron McDonald.
   Members Absent - Brian Haefs.
   Administrators/Directors Present - Ben Barton, Tyler Hougom, Lish Olson, Jared Schaffner, Charlie Ihle, Jana Yashinsky, Abby Davis, Kelly McMahon, Ben Burns, Sonya Ganther, and Kristen Fay.
   Student Representative - Gowri Prakash.
   Others Present - Nicole Garbers.

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 at the district office and on the district website.

6. **Agenda Revisions:** No changes.

7. **Approval of Agenda:** *Motion by A. Garrity, second by T. Laufenberg, to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried.*

8. **Public Input:** There was no public comment.

<u>Recognition Items:</u>

9. **Staff Recognition:** Nicole Garbers, school counselor at Irving Pertzsch Elementary, was recognized for receiving the Wisconsin Changemaker Award from the Wisconsin School Counselor Association.

10. **Donations:**
    - $779.92 from Office Depot for school supplies at Northern Hills Elementary
    - $2,000 from the Onalaska Enhancement Foundation for the district food pantry

Informational/Discussion Items:

11. **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.

12. **Board Report:** The Board Finance & Operations Committee chair reported on their recent meeting.

13. **2027-28 High School Course Description Book:** Jared Schaffner presented the 2027-28 high school course description book for a first reading and Board consideration.

14. **Early College Credit Program (ECCP)/Start College Now (SCN):** Lish Olson presented a report of approved ECCP/SCN courses for the second semester of the 2026-27 school year for Board information.

15. **Communications:**
    A. Notice of School Board Election - Terms of Board members Aaron McDonald, Mark Cassellius, and Tracy Laufenberg will expire in April 2027. Citizens interested in running for the Board need to circulate nomination papers and file a campaign registration statement and declaration of candidacy no later than 5:00 p.m. January 5, 2027. All incumbent Board members stated their intention to run for re-election.
    B. State Education Convention - Board members discussed attendance for the 2027 State Education Convention scheduled for January 20-22, 2027.

Action Items:

16. **Consent Agenda:** *Motion by M. Cassellius, second by T. Marshik, to approve the following under the consent agenda:*
    A. Budgetary disbursements and payroll in accordance with enclosure.
    B. Personnel Report -
        *1. Co-Curricular Resignation - **Anthony DeGaetano**, boys' basketball asst. coach, ½ contract, effective October 28, 2026.*
        2. Co-Curricular Contract Modifications -
            *A. **Austin Meier**, from boys' basketball asst. coach ½ contract, to boys' basketball asst. coach, full contract, $3,440.*
            *B. **Clifford Amundson**, from boys' wrestling asst. coach full contract, to boys' wrestling asst. coach, ½ contract, $1,505.*
        3. Co-Curricular Contracts -
            *A. **Marty Koenig**, boys' wrestling asst. coach, ½ contract, $1,505.*
            *B. **Curt Carson**, adapted sports league head coach, winter season, $1,200.*
            *C. **Sarah Ormes**, adapted sports league asst. coach, winter season, $1,000.*
            *D. **Julie Arroyo**, adapted sports league asst. coach, winter season, $1,000.*
    C. Minutes - October 26, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
    D. Unpaid Child Rearing Leave - Taylor Van Galen, middle school teacher, November 10, 2026 through January 31, 2027.
    E. Northern Hills, Eagle Bluff, and Irving Pertzsch 4K Field trip menu for the 2026-27 school year: The Nature Place, Hidden Trails, Play Grounds of La Crosse, and Clearwater Farm.

Motion carried.

17. **Adjourn:** *Motion by T. Marshik, second by T. Laufenberg, to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Fay

_____	_____
Aaron McDonald, Board President	Brian Haefs, Board Clerk