ONTONAGON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
5:30 pm, Monday, July 20, 2026
701 Parker Avenue, Ontonagon, MI 49953
Ontonagon Area School Library

CALL TO ORDER A regular meeting of the Ontonagon Area Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 PM by President, Natalie Morgan, in the Ontonagon Area School Library, Ontonagon, Michigan on Monday, July 20, 2026. Present – Natalie Morgan, Nancy Mattson, Tammy Strasser, Heather Beck, Josh Yaklyvich and Robert Zyhowski. ABSENT: Carl Lockhart.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA Beck made a motion to accept the agenda, supported by Strasser. All voting AYE, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES Mattson made a motion, supported by Zyhowski, to accept the minutes from the June 29, 2026 public hearing meeting. All voting AYE, motion carried.

Beck made a motion, supported by Strasser, to accept the minutes from the June 29, 2026 special meeting. All voting AYE, motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS Mattson made a motion, supported by Zyhowski, to acknowledge the June/July General Fund invoices in the amount of $7,876.76.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

Strasser made a motion, supported by Beck, to approve the July General Fund invoices in the amount of $17,768.06.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE None.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

GOISD / ALAN TULPPO

Alan Tulppo from the GOISD was on site and provided a presentation about the GOISD related to their budget, services provided and structure based upon questions from the board of education. Dr Tulppo Provided a handout to members that included budget details, grant management, investments.
A short question and answer session followed the presentation.

STAFFING

Recommend the Board approve the posting of a 6th grade teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.
Mattson made a motion, supported by Strasser, to approve the posting.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

Recommend the hire of Kim Berglund as a bus driver contingent on passing all bus driver requirements.
Strasser made a motion, supported by Beck, to approve the hire.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding counselor position.
Superintendent Johnson reported that the position has not been filled at this time. Need to review models to move forward and make changes to the position.
All were in favor of reviewing the position needs.

Recommend the Board approve the resignation of Greg Nelson, Bus Driver/Parapro, effective July 20, 2026.
Beck made a motion, supported by Zyhowski, to accept the resignation.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

CTE BUSING DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding ISD request for CTE busing. (EXHIBIT C)
Superintendent Johnson reported that the GOISD reached out to see if OASD would have interest to provide the busing on a cost reimbursement basis; this would be a six hour per day position.
Superintendent Johnon would like to proceed to have further discussion and explore the opportunity.
All in favor to move forward with CTE busing exploration.

EDUCLIMBER DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion regarding Educlimber contract with ISD (EXHIBIT D)
Held discussion around Educlimber data tool to either go under the GOISD or hold a separate contract with Educlimber. A draft contract with the GOISD was discussed.
Mattson made a motion, supported by Strasser, to contact the GOISD about Thrun contract for recommended changes and to move forward with Educlimer or move to our own contract.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

APPROVE 2026-2027 COCAA/HEAD START RENT CONTRACT

Recommendation to approve the contract with GOCAA (Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency) to rent two rooms for the Head Start program in the amount of $11,220 for the 2026-2027 school year. (EXHIBIT E)
Mattson made a motion, supported by Strasser, to approve the contract.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

POLICY / 2026-2027 STUDENT HANDBOOK / FIRST READING

Recommend that the Board acknowledge a first reading of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook with the proposed changes. (EXHIBIT F)
Combined elementary and high school into one handbook.
Strasser made a motion, supported by Beck, to approve the handbook.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

POLICY / 2026-2027 ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK / FIRST READING

Recommend that the Board acknowledge a first reading of the 2026-2027. Athletic/CoCurricular Student Handbook with the proposed changes. (EXHIBIT G)
Strasser made a motion, supported by Mattson, to approve the handbook.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

POLICY/ 2026-2027 CURRICULUM GUIDEBOOK / FIRST READING

Recommend that the Board acknowledge a first reading of the 2026-2027 Curriculum Guidebook with the proposed changes. (EXHIBIT H)
Mattson made a motion, supported by Beck, to approve the guidebook.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

POLICY/ 2026-2027 STAFF HANDBOOKS / FIRST READING

Recommend that the Board acknowledge a first reading of the 2026-2027 Employee Handbook. (EXHIBIT I1)
Mattson made a motion, supported by Strasser, to approve the handbook.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

Recommend that the Board acknowledge a first reading of the 2026-27 Coaching handbook. (EXHIBIT I2)
Mattson made a motion, supported by Beck, to approve the handbook.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

Recommend that the Board acknowledge a first reading of the 2026-27 Paraprofessional handbook. (EXHIBIT I3)
Strasser made a motion, supported by Beck, to approve the handbook.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

BOARD POLICIES / THRUN CONVERSION / FIRST READING

Discussion (EHIBIT J1)
Held discussion regarding student use of cell phones and wireless communication devices, Thrun Policy 5209, options 1 and 2 for both elementary and high school students. Recommendation was made to move forward with a policy that limited lunch hour/transition usage in lower grades but allowed usage in high school. Also discussed changes to the policy on discipline, related to the number of days administration can suspend vs board of education and recommendations of keeping it the same as current policy.

Recommend that the Board acknowledge a first reading of the Thrun Board Policies. (EXHIBIT J2)
Beck made a motion, supported by Strasser, to approve the policies.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

BOND RENEWAL DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding bus bond renewal for the potential purchase of 3 buses. Ballot language deadline is August 11, 2026.
This will need to be placed on the November ballot. Need to work with firms to get language ready for the ballot. A special board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 for action.
Beck made a motion, supported by Matton, to approve the action item.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

REPORTS

COMMITTEES:
The Education/Athletics Committee met on July 13, 2026.
-Discussed math/science position, Title 1, MTSS social/emotional and new board policies.
The Operations Committee met on July 14, 2026.
-Discussed state budget passage, facility project updates and new policies.

Assistant Principal Uotila was absent. No report.

Superintendent Johnson reported:
-Bus garage: State permit update, holding kick off meeting with contractor.
-Gym floor project in progress, will be completed this week.
-Summer cleaning is going well.
-Staff trainings will be held August 18-20, 2026
-Staffing update was given.
-SRO contract is on hold as the position has not been filled.
-Back to school open house will be held from 4-6pm on August 20, 2026 .

KUDOS/THANK YOUS

-Kudos to Scott DeHut and Reece LaBine for a successful summer school.
-Thank you to Superintendent Johnson for her hard work on the policy transition work.
-Kudos to Bob Clark and the summer custodians for their hard work.
-Thank you to the bus garage helpers for their input on the project.

SHORT TERM ADJOURNMENT

Beck made a motion, supported by Strasser, to enter into a short adjournment prior to entering into closed session at 7:50 p.m.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION - CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS / OESP CONTRACT RATIFICATION (EXHIBIT N)

CLOSED SESSION - SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Beck made a motion, supported by Zyhowski, to return to open session at 8:09 p.m. All voting AYE, motion carried.

Action Contract Ratification
Beck made a motion to approve the OESP Contract as presented, supported by Mattson.
AYE: Morgan, Mattson, Beck, Strasser, Zyhowski, Yaklyvich.
NAY: None. ABSENT: Lockhart. Motion carried.

Potential Action Superintendent Evaluation
No action was taken.

ADJOURN

Beck made a motion, supported by Strassert, to adjourn at 8:10 PM. All voting AYE, motion carried.

Natalie Morgan, President

Josh Yaklyvich, Secretary