

**School District of Onalaska  
1821 East Main Street  
Onalaska, WI 54650**

**Board of Education 2017**

Ann Garrity, President

Heather Sysimaki, Vice President

Brian Haefs, Clerk

Jim Driscoll, Treasurer

Tim Smaby, Deputy Clerk

Jake Speed, Director

Tom Smith, Director

**Who Governs the Schools? Onalaska – A Unified School District**

**Governance:**

The Board of Education, the elected representatives of the School District of Onalaska, governs the school district. The Board consists of seven members elected at large for terms of three years. On July 1, 1982, the district was reorganized under Unified School District Laws of Wisconsin. The basic change provides that the district is fiscally independent, that is, the Board is empowered to levy a school tax for the operation and maintenance of the district.

**Agenda:**

The meeting agenda is posted in each school, on the district web site, at City Hall, the Community Center, Omni Center, the public library, and sent to the media 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**Meetings:**

Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Onalaska High School Board Room at 700 Hilltopper Place. The public and news media are invited to attend.

**Minutes:**

The minutes are posted in each school, on the district web site, at City Hall, the Community Center, Omni Center, and the public library. The approved minutes are published in the [Onalaska/Holmen Courier Life](#) and posted on the district web site at [www.onalaskaschools.com](http://www.onalaskaschools.com).

**Functions of the Board of Education**

The Onalaska Board of Education is the elected Board for the School District of Onalaska. It is similar to a corporation's board of directors. Board policies are established for all phases of operating a PreK-12 school district. One major function of the Board is to establish broad policies for all phases of operating and maintaining a comprehensive PreK-12 educational system. Policies must address the day-to-day operations as well as provide directions for future growth and development. The Board functions within state laws, which usually provide specific powers and rules. In areas not highly specified, the Board has wide discretionary powers. The Board is charged with the responsibility of providing the best possible educational programs for the District's students based upon state and federal requirements, and community, state, and federal support. In order to carry out the day-to-day operations, the Board employs a full range of professional and support personnel. Once the Board has set the policies for the educational programs and direction for the district, it is required to develop, approve and levy the necessary finances to implement the programs.