

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2023

Present: Mike Bash, Kristine Flesher, Ali Howe, Sarah Borchers, Laura Wallander, Todd Madson,
Wendy Lundsgaard

Absent: None

Community Members Questions and Comments

A member of the community addressed the board.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, January 23, 2023 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:03 PM.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

5. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 9, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Bryce Rasmussen, full-time Chemistry Teacher at Orono High School, tentatively effective January 27, 2023, but not earlier than such time that a suitable replacement is identified by the district
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$10,748.25
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 314704-314884, EP Register: 901756-901769, EFT Vouchers: 239 and Capital One: 52166-52190

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that Orono students and staff haven't missed a beat getting back in the swing of things since winter break. This week marks the end of semester 1 with final exams Wednesday through Friday. She wished all students the best on their exams.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that the Orono Boys Swimming and Diving Team swam last Saturday at the University of Minnesota at the True Team State Meet. The team placed 4th out of 12 teams. This is the highest ranking for Orono since the inception of the True Team State Meet in 2004.

Next Dr. Flesher noted that she was excited to report that three students who entered the Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards program earned recognition. Congratulations to:

- Sophomore Andrew Carlson for earning a Silver Key award for his digital drawing
- Senior John DeLong earned an Honorable Mention for his painting
- Senior Amelia Shafer earned a Gold Key for her painting and an Honorable Mention for a ceramics piece

All students will be recognized at a reception at the University of Minnesota Weisman Museum. Amelia has been invited to display her work at the Regis Art Center with other Gold Key winners. Thank you to art teacher Jayne Hudgins for inspiring our young artists and encouraging them to participate in juried contests.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that last weekend, the Orono Speech Team hosted their 8th Annual tournament titled, "The Odyssey, Your Journey Begins Here." The team hosted 20 schools and nearly 500 speakers. Orono Varsity speakers did an outstanding job and earned the following recognition:

- Emily Middleton was the Champion in Creative Expression
- Maya Haugen earned 3rd place for Storytelling
- McKenna Monger earned 3rd for Poetry Reading
- Adaline Stavitzski earned 5th for Creative Expression
- Madeleine Dore earned 5th place for Humorous Interpretation

In the Novice speaker category:

- Hanna Stegmann earned 4th place for Discussion
- Jane Stavitzski earned 5th place for Prose Reading

Thank you to Michael DiPrima, Nicolle Berg, Jody Harmon, Deb Ludowese and John Siracusa for judging at the event and a huge thanks to Head Coach Barb Shofner and the many parents who volunteered and contributed funds for supplies, snacks, and more.

Dr. Flesher concluded her report by sharing that earlier this month, Orono students in grades 8-12 attended the YMCA's Youth in Government Conference 2023. Students from across the region gathered to debate bills, pass proposals, and present court cases. The 2023 conference was a huge success for Orono students. Some students even had their bills signed by the Governor. Freshman McKenna Monger's bill was the first to be signed. Several Orono students served in appointed positions. Junior Madeleine Dore served as the Sergeant at Arms and senior Hunter Wheaton served as Committee Chair in the Sandford House. Hannah Ferber performed a Chinese dance at the talent show. Both Hannah and Simon Forbes were also recognized as Outstanding Delegates. Congratulations to the Orono student delegation and special thanks to Genna Torney who advises Orono's Youth in Government program.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she attended a teacher Meet & Confer session and provided a summary of that meeting. Wendy also noted that she attended a meeting of the Curriculum & Accountability Council as well as the MSBA leadership conference. Next, Laura Wallander shared that she attended an Orono Early Learning Parent Group meeting and she provided an update from a meeting of the ice arena board. Sarah Borchers continued by sharing that she attended a Facilities & Finance meeting to discuss the revised budget that was presented later in the

meeting. Ali Howe had no updates to provide. Todd Madson shared that he attended an Orono Foundation for Education meeting and provided a summary of topics discussed. Todd also shared that he attended an AMSD meeting where the state's budget planning was discussed. Finally, Mike Bash shared that he attended a meeting of the Spartan Parent Association and gave a brief summary of what was discussed.

8. – Old Business

8. A – 2023-2024 School Board Meeting Dates

Board meeting dates for 2023-2024 were presented for a second reading and approval.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board of Education approved the 2023-2024 school board meeting dates.

Motion carried.

8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Pay Equity Report

As required by Minnesota Statute, a Pay Equity Implementation Report must be submitted to the Department of Employee Relations every three years. Orono School District has been in compliance on all reports.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Ali Howe, the Board of Education approved the report and authorized the Board Chairperson to sign and submit the District's Pay Equity Report to the Department of Employee Relations.

Motion carried.

9. B – 2022-2023 Revised Budget

Mr. Jim Westrum, Executive Director of Business Services, presented to the board the revised 2022-2023 budget and requested that the board accept the budget as presented.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the Board of Education approved the 2022-2023 revised budget as presented.

Motion carried.

9. C – Orono Action Platform

Emily Bremner-Forbes, co-chair of the Orono Action Committee, presented the 2023 Orono Action Legislative Platform.

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board of Education endorsed the 2023 Orono Action Legislative Platform as discussed.

Motion carried.

9. D – Orono High School Registration Guide

Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal of Orono High School, presented the 2023-2024 Orono High School Course Catalog.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the 2023-2024 Orono High School Course Catalog was approved as presented.

Motion carried.

9. E – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Sarah Borchers, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM to a workshop session for the purpose of a presentation on community engagement.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*