

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023

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

Absent: None

Community Members Questions and Comments

No members 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, February 13, 2023 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:03 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

Vice Chair Sarah Borchers requested that agenda item 9A Student Achievement Recognition be moved to the 'Superintendent Report on Excellence' portion of the meeting. She also requested that a negotiations committee update be added under agenda item 7. Board Members Questions and Comments..

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Wallander, the requested adjustments to the agenda were approved.

5. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 23, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Molly Meyer, full-time Coordinator of Special Education at Orono Public Schools, to full-time School Psychologist at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Jayne Hudgins, full-time Art Teacher at Orono High School, effective June 9, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Britta McGuire, as part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective January 19, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Lindsay Carlson, as part-time Short Hour Cook at Orono High School, effective February 9, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Katlin Lee-Radke, full-time Business Office Support Specialist at Orono Public Schools, to full-time MARSS and Enrollment Coordinator/Purchasing Specialist at Orono Public Schools, effective December 20, 2022.
- Approved the change of assignment of Angela Reader, full-time District Office Secretary at Orono Public Schools, to full-time Business Office Accounting Specialist at Orono Public Schools, effective February 8, 2023
- Approved the following winter coaching contracts:

Swim & Dive - Boys

Chad Johnson, JV Diving Coach – Shared

Sarah Neve, JV Diving Coach – Shared

Alpine Ski

John Koch, JV Coach

- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$1,037.98
- Approved Treasurer's Report for December of 2022
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for December of 2022
- Approved the Custodial Master Contract for 2022-2023

- Approved Bill Vouchers: 314885-315018, 1626-1635, EP Register: 901770-901775, EFT Vouchers: 240, 6391-6398 and Capital One: 52191-52212

6. Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by honoring Andrew Carlson, John DeLong and Amelia Shafer for their achievements in the arts. Art teacher Jayne Hudgins provided an introduction and spoke about each student. Students were presented with a certificate and were recognized by the board for their outstanding work.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that last 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. Several students had their bills signed by Governor Walz, with freshman McKenna Monger's being the first. Junior Madeleine Dore and senior Hunter Wheaton served in appointed positions, Hannah Ferber performed a Chinese dance at the talent show and Hannah and Simon Forbes were recognized as outstanding delegates. Congratulations to Orono student delegation and special thank you to Genna Torney who advises the Youth in Government program.

Next, Dr. Flesher recognized the Nordic and Alpine Skiing teams. The Orono-Delano boys Nordic Ski team won the Metro West Conference Championship. Miles Miner of Orono was the overall Individual Champion and all-conference honorees were Sindri Bonner and Ben Masica. Walter Holmes made all-conference with his Delano teammate. The Nordic Ski team also saw success at the Section Meet with the boys team finishing 3rd and the girls team finishing 4th. State individual qualifiers were Miles Miner and Sindri Bonner. Walter Holmes and Wells Huotori qualified as spring relay team members. There will also be three state qualifiers from the Alpine Ski team this year: J.T. Burns, Jack Schideman and Eva Pinske. Best of luck to these individuals and special thank you to coach Heidi Butler.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that two Orono students were selected as nominees for the MSHSL Academics, Arts and Athletics award (the Triple A award). These students are Avery Anderson and Kayla Kallenbach, with Avery also being selected as the Region 2AA Triple A award winner.

Dr. Flesher went on to report that the both the Orono Jazz and High Kick dance teams have qualified to compete at the state competition. The Jazz team ended its season with a first place finish at Sections, and the kick team earned a second place finish landing both teams a spot in the state competition.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that all four National Merit Semifinalists from the class of 2023 were named National Merit Finalists. Congratulations to seniors Zara Coakley, Eli Hamer, Rylan Hunt and Michael Rascher. A special thank you to Brandy Randall, Orono Challenge Coordinator, and all of Orono's high school counselors for their work with the students in this process.

Finally, Dr. Flesher reported that in late January, Orono High School's DECA chapter competed in the District Career Development Conference. Of the 600+ students participating, 65 Orono students will advance to the state competition.

7. Board Members Questions and Comments

Policy Committee Update: Sarah Borchers began by providing an update from the most recent meeting of the Policy Committee and noted that detailed information about proposed policy changes that resulted from that meeting would be shared later in the meeting.

Negotiations Committee Update: Ali Howe shared that the Negotiations Committee continues to meet to discuss nutrition contracts.

Todd Madson shared that he did not have anything to report, as the committees he is a part of have not met since the last board meeting.

Ali Howe reported on an update from a meeting of the Special Education Parent Partnership Committee where an individualized approach to summer opportunities was discussed with the Community Education department.

Sarah Borchers shared that prior to the regular meeting, the board met with the OHS Student Senate for dinner and discussion. She also commented that the local paper has reported a lack of available pickleball courts and noted that the Orono Activities Center does have courts available.

Laura Wallander reported to the board with updates from a PTO community meeting, Early Learning Parent Group meeting and a Teacher Meet and Confer meeting.

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she attended an OMPSA meeting, and provided information regarding the upcoming plant sale and the 'Letters for Love' initiative the middle school participated in. She also shared that she attended a meeting of the Orono Action Committee and provided an update on what was discussed.

Mike Bash commented on his work on the policy committee and shared that he attended an AMSD board meeting and an MSBA school board officer's training.

8. Old Business

8. A – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. New Business

9. A – Policy Review

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning & Accountability brought the following policies to the board for a first reading and shared proposed revisions.

- Policy 607: Instructional Services – Special Education
- Policy 608: Special Accommodations and Services for Students with Special Needs – Section 504
- Policy 609: Religion
- Policy 611: Home Schooling
- Policy 613: Graduation Requirements

9. B – Other New Business as Necessary

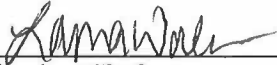
No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*