

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2023

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

Absent: None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, February 27, 2023 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:00 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 13, 2023
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Peggy Adam, part-time Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective June 9, 2023
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Patricia Wroten, full-time Principal at Orono Middle School, effective June 30, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Carin Jablonsky, as part-time Short Hour Cook at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective February 13, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Molly Haglin, full-time ADSIS Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective March 7, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Nina Hammer, full-time Facilities Manager at Orono Elementary Center, effective March 10, 2023
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$41,896.61
- Approved Payment Agreement and Release Agreements
- Approved Treasurer's Report for January of 2023
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for January of 2023
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 315019-315184, EP Register: 901776-901840, EFT Vouchers: 241 and Capital One: 52213-52233

6. Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by offering congratulations to the Orono Jazz Dance Team for winning the State Championship for the first time in Orono history. The High Kick team competed at State as well, earning a third-place medal for the first time ever. The Jazz team and retiring coach, Sharon Forde, were honored at a recognition event prior to the meeting.

Next, Dr. Flesher offered congratulations to Orono Girls Hockey, who won the Section championship for the first time, securing a State appearance. Congratulations was also extended to Mae Grandy, Zoe Lopez and Celia Dahl who were honored and named to the all-tournament team. Special thanks was given to Coaches Larry Olimb, Mackenzie Skatter, Claire Bjerrke & Hannah Williams for a special season.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that last Saturday, the Orono Boys Swim and Dive team finished second at Sections and will compete as one of the top teams at the State meet this week at the University of Minnesota. Orono Boys Hockey beat Hutchinson 56 seconds into overtime securing a 2-1 win. The boys will play Minneapolis Tuesday, February 28 for the Section Semifinal game. Orono Boys Basketball defeated #1 Benilde-St. Margaret's 77 to 69 on Friday night. Their last two Conference games are this week against St. Louis Park and Chaska.

Next, Dr. Flesher noted that Orono High School administered the American Mathematics Competition this fall. Based on outstanding performance, senior Michael Rascher qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Competition. The Orono Math team qualified for its third consecutive State Tournament. Led by a strong senior class of Michael Rascher, Zara Coakley, Sam Ertmer, and Colin Parker, the team finished 2nd out of 55 teams in Class AA, and 13th out of 160 teams overall. Orono performed especially well in the Metro Alliance Division, taking first place of six teams. Rascher (1), Ertmer (2), Coakley (4), Parker (6), Barrington (8) and Eugster (9) all finished as top-ten individual scorers. Michael Rascher also qualified for the State Tournament as an individual for the third straight season. He turned in his best season as the highest point scorer in class AA and 13th highest overall in the entire state.

Dr. Flesher noted that since the last board meeting, the Orono Speech team has competed in two tournaments with outstanding results.

At the Chaska Tournament, top-three honorees were:

- Madeleine Dore, 1st place in Humor
- Sophie Middleton, 1st place in Prose
- Axel Duke, 2nd place in Drama
- Barrett Buck, 3rd place in Prose

At the Quinlan Legacy Tournament, 11 students placed in the top 5. The following four students earned top-three placements:

- Emily Middleton, 1st place in Creative Expression
- Madeleine Dore, 2nd place in Humorous Interpretation
- Maya Haugen, 2nd place in Storytelling
- Adaline Stavitzski, 3rd place in Poetry

Thank you to Head Speech Coach, Barb Shofner, for leading this great team!

Finally, Dr. Flesher highlighted some of the ways the buildings have been honoring Black History Month since the start of February. These are only a few examples:

- Third-graders completed a study packet celebrating the achievements of nine Black Americans throughout history.
- Our middle and high schoolers learned about the achievements of Black artists and playwrights into her programming for students in grades 6-12.
- Mr. Montgomery's high school American History classes created a display in the OHS entryway to share the history of influential African Americans. Each story includes a QR code that takes students to a student-created website with more information.
- Special shout-out to the OHS Student Voice Club for their outstanding efforts this year.
 - Each school day in February, a Club member shared the achievements of one individual during morning announcements.
 - They brought the history of Sweet Potato Comfort Pie *—and homemade samples—*to OHS students and staff.
 - Student Voice will be delivering a culminating Black History Month presentation tomorrow during Spartan Hour.

7. Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities and Finance Committee Update: Sarah Borchers began by providing an update from the most recent meeting of the Facilities and Finance Committee. Ms. Borchers provided details about two different projects that the district is working towards and shared the necessity and potential financial impact of each.

Wendy Lundsgaard provided an update from a recent Curriculum & Accountability Council meeting as well as information about some initiatives that she is participating in with the Orono Action Committee.

Laura Wallander shared a summary from a recent Community Education Advisory Council meeting where information was provided regarding a classroom engagement model currently being utilized, and shared details about summer registration for community education programs.

Sarah Borchers noted that she had only the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting to report on and had already done so.

Ali Howe shared a couple of additional items from the Community Education Advisory Council meeting, as well as a summary of a Orono Healthy Youth meeting that she attended. She also noted that the Negotiations Committee has met since the last board meeting, and that negotiations with the nutrition team are ongoing.

Todd Madson shared details from a meeting of the PTO. Mr. Madson also shared information about some legislative items being discussed that he learned about during an AMSD meeting.

Mike Bash shared that he attended the Orono Boys basketball game and was pleased with the support the team received from fans.

8. Old Business

8. A – Policy Review

The following revised policies were presented to the board for second reading and approval.

- 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

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the proposed changes to policies 607, 608, 609, 611 and 613.

Motion approved unanimously.

8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. New Business

9. A – AIPAC Compliance

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning & Accountability, Ms. Donna Ostivg, Integration and Engagement Coordinator and Ms. Anna Williams, Paraeducator and Orono parent reported to the board regarding their work on the AIPAC Committee and the impact they've seen. They also discussed the vote of concurrence process, a requirement of the Minnesota Department of Education to ensure American Indian voices are heard.

9. B – Approve Contract Negotiations for 2023 Orono Schools Wireless Network WLAN Upgrade Project with CDW-G

Mr. Sean Beaverson, District Technology Coordinator, presented to the board the details of the RFP process that the district has engaged in regarding the district-wide WLAN upgrade project. As a result of the findings, Mr. Beaverson recommended that the board approve his proposal allowing the district to enter into contract negotiations with Computer Discount Warehouse (CDW-G).

UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Laura Wallander, the board approved the proposal allowing the district to enter into contract negotiations with Computer District Warehouse (CDW-G).

Motion approved unanimously.

9. C – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

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

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Wallander, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM to a Work Session for the purpose of an Administrative Mid-Year Report.



Sarah Borchers, *Vice Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*