

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON APRIL 24, 2023

Present: Kristine Flesher, Mike Bash, 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, April 24, 2023 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:00 PM.

3. Consideration of the Agenda

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Wallander, the board proceeded with the agenda as printed as no changes to the agenda were requested.

4. 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 April 10, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Madeline Kadlec, as full-time Long-Term Choir Substitute Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, Orono Middle School, and Orono High School, effective April 21, 2023 through June 9, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Julie Longstreet, as full-time Mathematics Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Cheyanne Johnsrud, as full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Public Schools, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the leave of absence for Kaila Frank, full-time Mathematics Teacher at Orono High School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year
- Approved the appointment of Shaun Lawson, full-time Facilities Manager at Orono Elementary Center, tentatively effective May 1, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Olivia Gephart, full-time Marketing and Communications Coordinator at Orono Community Education, effective June 15, 2023
- Approved the following spring coaching contracts:

Baseball

Thomas Borrell, Head Coach
Mike Dabu, Varsity Coach
Charlie Bohl, JV Coach
Mike Anderson, 9th Grade Coach

Barry Wohler, Varsity Coach
Timothy Sonnek, Varsity Asst. Coach
Harry Wingerd, JV Coach

Golf – Boys

Hunter Hoaglund, Head Coach

Tim Corlett, JV Coach

Golf – Girls

Mallory Purdy, Head Coach
John Colby, JV Coach

Jennifer Wilson, JV Coach

Softball

Christa Johnson, Head Coach
Lilly Johnson, JV Coach
Cami Dahlstrom, 9th Grade Coach

Elisabeth King, Varsity Assistant
Morgan McPherson, Assistant Coach
Chad Christians, Assistant Batting Coach

Tennis – Boys

Aaron Dvorak, Head Coach

Brian Brown, JV Coach

Track & Field

Brian McCollor, Head Coach – Girls

Jenna Rieth, JV Coach

Katie Leslie, JV Coach

Lily McKown, JV Coach

Nathan Porter, Head Coach – Boys

Mat Wistrom, JV Coach

Nate Uselding, JV Coach

Stephanie Olson, JV Coach

Lacrosse – Girls

Jane Kolar, Head Coach

Mackenzie Skatter, JV Coach

Virginia MaGuire, Varsity Assistant

Grace Guerin, Assistant Coach

Lacrosse – Boys

Cory Childs, Head Coach

Cooper Tokar, Varsity Assistant

Alexander Horras, JV Coach

Brett Templin, JV Coach

- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$6,159.58
- Approved Treasurer's Report for March 2023
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for March 2023
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 315572-315661, EP Register: 901882-901895, EFT Vouchers: 244-245 and Capital One: 52299-52325

5. Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that the Orono Foundation for Education hosted their annual bash this past weekend. Dr. Flesher thanked the Foundation Marketing Chair, Katie Hollerman, for her outstanding work planning the event. She was supported by fellow Foundation Board members, a wonderful planning committee and a large group of volunteers, including Orono High School students. Dr. Flesher also expressed gratitude for the donations from sponsors, advertisers and donors. The proceeds from this event will support so many key initiatives that impact Orono staff and students every day.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that last Tuesday, Orono athletic teams and Unified Club sponsored a Polar Plunge event at the high school. Athletes, club members—along with some parents and staff—braved the icy cold temperatures to raise money for athletic teams and Unified Club. The total raised to date is \$30,425 dollars. These funds will benefit Orono's teams and support programming and events sponsored by Unified Club. District leaders are so proud of Orono's Unified program and the efforts of advisor Michelle Swenson, student captains and leaders, and the entire student body who supports the district's goals of caring and belonging.

Dr. Flesher also noted that Orono fifth-graders competed in a Math Masters challenge last week where students turned in amazing results during this all-day, mind-bending competition. In the Fast Fact drill, three students placed in the top 10: Luka Jankovi (3rd place), Andrew Springmeyer (5th place) and Cole Brinkmeyer (10th place). In the Individual Round, Orono claimed 5 out of the top 10 spots: Charlie Stegemann (1st place), Nic Lindquist (6th place), Eva Loberg (7th place), Johan Hyrien (9th place) and Andrew Springmeyer (10th place). In the Team Round, Orono claimed 3 out of the top 5 team placements. Coming in 2nd was the team of Paxton Watkins, Trace Johnson, Nic Lindquist, Asher Truax, and Cole Brinkmeyer. Coming in 4th was the team of Andrew Springmeyer, Colton Johnson, James Wildman, and Charlie Stegemann. Coming in 5th was the team of Hayden Tyler, Svea Swenson, Evelyn Naughton, and Eva Loberg. Dr. Flesher extended a special thank you to Angie Kalthoff, the Orono 3-5 Challenge teacher, for encouraging students to participate in this fun and rewarding competition.

Next, Dr. Flesher commented on a recent History Day event at Orono Middle School, where students spend their second quarter in English and Social Studies classes mastering research methods and learning how to

present their findings. This is a choice project that showcases the best in personalized learning. History Day also has a competitive element. OMS staff chose an allotment of projects for the regional competition. There, students presented their projects to regional judges in hopes of qualifying for state. This year, 13 projects qualified—more than ever before—and six more earned honorable mention. State qualifiers are considered in the top 5% and Honorable Mentions are considered among the top 10%. At the state competition on Saturday at the University of Minnesota, nine projects made it to the final round of judging, earning honorable mentions. Earning State 5th Place in the Group Performance category was Marie Benway, Annalise Jackson, and Gaby Kastamo. They selected the “All American Girls Baseball League” as their research topic. Congratulations to all these amazing students and their instructors, Kirsten Huppler, Brian Kafura, Jared Shogren and Katie Stanley.

Finally, Dr. Flesher announced that 11 students submitted 14 original artworks to the Minnesota State High School League Regional Art Festival held this past weekend. Pieces were judged on composition; craftsmanship; process and problem-solving; and expressive qualities. Earning superior ratings were: Owen Barkley (ceramic sculpture), Noah Feldmann (digital drawing), Amelia Shafer (ceramics sculpture), Alexis Arnold (ceramics) and John DeLong (painting). Earning excellent ratings were: Kiki Kummel (painting), John DeLong (mixed media), Amelia Shafer (painting) and Lilian Hasse (painting). Art instructor Jayne Hudgins will be setting up a showcase in the main hallway of the high school and all are invited to stop in and take a look.

6. Board Members Questions and Comments

Todd Madson shared that Fun Fest is coming up on May 6th and mentioned that they are still looking for volunteers for the event.

Ali Howe commented on a recent presentation on anxiety that took place meeting of the Special Education Parent Partnership. She also noted that she attended a meeting of the Community Education Advisory Council, and an Orono Health Youth meeting where a presentation was given on assisting 9th grade students in their transition to high school.

Sarah Borchers also made comments on the presentation given at the Orono Healthy Youth meeting. She also shared that she attended a SPA meeting, where they discussed the upcoming prom and senior party plans.

Laura Wallander shared that she attended a meeting of the Early Learning Parent Group and noted that their end of year camp is full and that they are currently in the process of planning their end of year party.

Wendy Lundsgaard noted that she also attended the Early Learning Parent Group meeting with Ms. Wallander. She also shared that she attended the final teacher Meet & Confer meeting of the school year, and noted that she was very impressed with the ideas and attitude the teachers presented at the meetings this year. Ms. Lundsgaard also shared that she attended a Kindergarten Connection event for incoming kindergarten families as well as a Curriculum & Accountability Council meeting.

Mike Bash also commented on the Kindergarten Connection event, and thanked Dr. Lamparske for his work on the event. Mr. Bash also noted that the Minnesota State Senate will be voting on several education related bills tonight.

7. Old Business

7. A - Policy Review

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

- Policy 801: Equal Access to School Facilities
- Policy 802: Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material
- Policy 807: Health and Safety

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the board approved the proposed changes to policies 801, 802 and 807.

Motion approved unanimously.

7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

8. New Business

8. A - Termination and Non-Renewal of Probationary Teachers

Member Laura Wallander introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NON-RENEWING PROBATIONARY TEACHING CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40, subdivision 5, states that the first three consecutive years of a teacher's first teaching experience in Minnesota in a single district is deemed to be a probationary period of employment, and that the probationary period in each district in which the teacher is thereafter employed is one year; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40, subdivision 5, further states that any annual contract with a probationary teacher may or may not be renewed as the school board shall see fit, provided that the board gives the teacher written notice of the nonrenewal before July 1;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 278, Orono, as follows:

1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 122A.40, subdivision 5, the School Board hereby declines to renew the annual teaching contract of the following probationary teacher(s) effective at the end of this school year:

Michael Anderson
Brett Beaudry
Alicia Grochowski
Kari Heitke
Kathryn Hibbs
Kathryn Hyams
Katharine Ritland
Robert Bevars
Shannon Ryan

2. As a result of this Resolution, the District's employment relationship with the above-named probationary teachers will terminate effective June 30, 2023.

3. The School Board has reviewed and hereby approves the written notice of nonrenewal for each affected probationary teachers. Each teacher may make a written request that the Board of Education state its reasons for the non-renewal of her/his teaching contract. Such a request must be made, however, within ten (10) days after receiving notice of School Board action.

The School Board Clerk is directed to sign the written notices on behalf of the School Board. The reasons for non-renewal are classified as private personnel data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, unless the non-renewal represents the final disposition of disciplinary action.

4. The Human Resources Executive Director, or a designee, is directed to serve the affected teachers with a copy of this Resolution and the approved written notice for that teacher before July 1. If possible, the notice(s) should be hand-delivered.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Todd Madson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mike Bash, Sarah Borchers, Ali Howe, Laura Wallander, Todd Madson, Wendy Lundsgaard

And the following voted against the same: None

8. B – Community Education Update

Ms. Tiffany Clifton, Director of Community Education, presented to the board an update related to community education programming.

8. C – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned to a Work Session for the purpose of a report from K-8 principals at 7:49 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*