

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON JUNE 12, 2023

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

Absent: Laura Wallander

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, June 12, 2023 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:00 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

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

5. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Ali Howe the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 8, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Michael Kray, as full-time Associate Principal at Orono Middle School, effective July 1, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Kathryn Steele, as full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment Daenon Bronken, as full-time School Psychologist at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective August 21, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Brett Beaudry, as full-time Innovative Technology Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Alicia Grochowski, as full-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Samantha Sadler, full-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, to full-time Reading Interventionist at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Andrew Stitt, full-time Fifth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, to full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the leave of absence for Christine Gagnon, full-time Technology Integration Specialist at Orono Public Schools, effective for the 2023-2024 school year
- Approved the appointment of Katie Bucka, as full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective June 12, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Krissa Reemts, as full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective June 12, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Sierra Myers, as full-time Marketing & Community Engagement Coordinator at Orono Community Education, effective June 5, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Melissa Martin, as full-time Special Education Coordinator at Orono Public Schools, effective July 1, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Cornelius Mieras, full-time Athletics Director at Orono Public Schools, effective June 30, 2023
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$85,498.86

- Approved the Treasurer's Report for April 2023
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for April 2023
- Approved a change of board member committee assignment
- Designated Dr. Flesher as the 'Identified Official with Authority' for Minnesota Department of Education
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 315758-316065, 1666-1675, EP Register: 901913-901967, EFT Vouchers: 246-248, 6415-6430 and Capital One: 52345-52391

## 6. Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report with a spring athletics update. The Track & Field State Tournament was held June 8-10 at St. Michael-Albertville High School. Jack Fischer qualified for state in the 110 hurdles and 300 hurdles. Jack ran a 39.69 in the 300 hurdles, finishing in 8th place and earning All-State Honors. Dr. Flesher also noted that in the 6AA Section Finals, Jack broke a 37-year-old school record in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 39.11. August Heinen matched a personal record of 6' 2" in the High Jump, tied for 9th place and earned All-State honors. Eighth-grader Ryanne Andreen qualified for the 400m race and competed in the preliminaries. Owen Hirt ran a personal best of 4:27.42 in the 1600-meter run and finished in 11th place.

Two 4 x 800 relay teams also qualified for state. The boys 4 x 800 team of Gabe Hallen, Miles Miner, Charlie Gronholz and Owen Hirt ran 8:11.62 finishing 8th and earning All-State Honors. The girls 4x800 team of Taylor Walsh, Alivia Uselding, Eva Pinske and Sindri Bonner ran 9:51.74 finishing 9th and earning All-State Honors

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that the boy's tennis team finished the season as section runner-up. Hugh Perrill and Owen Skanse qualified for individual state as a doubles team. The boys competed last week at the University of Minnesota, finishing 4th. Dr. Flesher also noted that boy's golf is proud to be sending two golfers to state competition. Nolan Jensen and Cruz Fey. Girl's golf also has a third-time state qualifier in Ava Hanneman.

Dr. Flesher also shared that last week, 22 seniors completed the requirements for the Senior Spartan Experience. Seniors participating in the program attend monthly club meetings at 7 a.m. Friday mornings, organize a career panel in the fall, and have opportunities to hear guest speakers throughout the year. During the last two weeks of school, students must complete a minimum 20-hour internship or job shadow with a mentor from their field of interest. Thank you to Orono High School counselors Jamie Menne and Kayte Haagenon for advising students all year.

Next, Dr. Flesher noted that on Wednesday last week, seniors participated in the first annual Senior Service Day. Dr. Flesher recognized the Orono High School National Honor Society leaders for their hard work to plan this day. They asked district staff and community leaders to identify needs. Then, seniors self-selected where they would spend their day. Students spent hours giving back to the community by supporting elementary students at track and field day, visiting senior living homes, and removing buckthorn, to name a few. Congratulations to the Class of 2023 for starting a tradition that will end students' senior year with a positive impact on others.

Finally, Dr. Flesher commented on the commencement ceremony last week. Orono graduated 246 students—one of the biggest classes in recent years. The stands were full of friends and family to support and cheer on the graduates.

## 7. Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update: Sarah Borchers shared that all of the items discussed at the most recent meeting will be shared in detail later in the board meeting.

Todd Madson shared that he is grateful to MSBA for all of the information they have provided regarding the recent legislative updates and appreciates what a great resource they have been. Mr. Madson also gave a shoutout to the PTO for all of their work this year, noting that he was very impressed with all they were able to accomplish and that he enjoyed his time working with the group.

Ali Howe extended a thank you to all parent organizers of the senior class party. Ms. Howe acknowledged all of the work that went into the planning of what turned out to be a safe and fun event for students.

Sarah Borchers started her report by offering an update from a recent Orono Healthy Youth meeting, sharing that they did a wellness expo debrief and were proud of what a success the event was. Ms. Borchers also shared an update from Supporting our Spartans, noting that they will continue to focus on mental health supports for secondary students. Ms. Borchers also offered a reminder that the district is still in search of a promise fellow, noted that there will be a technology internship available through Community Education this summer, and extended her gratitude to the OEA for their work on the retirement breakfast.

Wendy Lundsgaard expressed her appreciation for the ECFE committee and all of the work they've done. Ms. Lundsgaard also provided several updates surrounding the Orono Action Committee as well as some summary information from AMSD about the new legislative changes that will impact the district.

Mike Bash commented on what an honor it was to participate in the commencement ceremony. Mr. Bash also shared that he was proud of Orono's educators as he listened to their stories during the retirement breakfast, noting that these are the kind of people we should want our children spending time with.

## 8. Old Business

### 8. A – Policy Review

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

- Policy 901: Community Education
- Policy 902: Use of School Facilities and Equipment
- Policy 903: Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites
- Policy 904: Community Notification of Predatory Offenders
- Policy 905: Rewards

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the proposed changes to policies 901, 902, 903, 904 and 905.

### 8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

## 9. New Business

### 9. A – Presentation of Check from Orono Foundation for Education

Ms. Amy Mitchell, Board Chair of the Orono Foundation for Education presented the board with a check on behalf of the foundation.

### 9. B – Resolution for Continuation of Membership in Minnesota State High School League

Every year, the Minnesota State High School League requires districts to adopt a resolution to continue its membership in the league.

UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Board of Education adopted the resolution to continue the district's membership in the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9.C – Adoption of the District’s E-Learning Plan

An e-Learning plan is required of school districts by state statute for instances when on-campus instruction is not possible, due to inclement weather or another unexpected event that causes a significant disruption to regular on-campus learning schedules. Dr. Scott Alger, Executive Director of Human Resources, presented the district’s plan.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Board of Education adopted the district’s e-learning plan as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9. D – Physical Education/Health Curriculum Adoption Recommendation

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning & Accountability, presented to the board regarding the physical education and health curriculum.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the board adopted the curriculum as recommended.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### 9. E – Budget Approvals

Mr. Jim Westrum, Executive Director of Business Services, presented the 2022-2023 revised budget to the Board.

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Ali Howe, the Board approved the 2022-2023 revised budget as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Jim Westrum also presented the preliminary budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Ali Howe, the Board approved the preliminary budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9. F – Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan Approval

Mr. Jim Westrum, Executive Director of Business Services, presented to the Board the district’s most recently updated long term facilities maintenance plan and requested Board approval.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the Board approved the updated long term facilities maintenance plan.

Motion approved unanimously.

#### 9. G – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the board moved into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.03 to discuss labor negotiations strategy at 8:25 PM.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the board reconvened to open session at 9:15 PM.

UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the board moved into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sections 13D.05, Subdivision 3(a), to evaluate the performance of school district personnel at 9:16 PM.

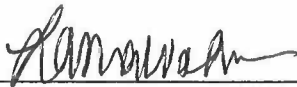
UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Sarah Borchers, the board reconvened to open session at 10:40 PM.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsard, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 PM.



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Michael Bash, *Chair*



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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*