

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON AUGUST 21, 2023

Present: Mike Bash, Kristine Flesher, Laura Wallander, Ali Howe, Sarah Borchers, 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, August 21, 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 Laura Wallander, seconded by Sarah Borchers, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on June 12, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Lauren Handrick, as full-time School Counselor at Orono High School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Sarah Hunter, as full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approve the appointment of Marie Techam, as full-time Mental Health Student Support Specialist at Orono Middle School and Orono High School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Brandon Hunt, as full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Kara Harwood, as full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Kristen Quill, as full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Nathaniel Uselding, as full-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Jenna Reed, as full-time First Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Tayler Leach-Smith, as full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Robin Zgutowicz, as full-time Transitions Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Paige Davis, as full-time First Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Kari Heitke, as full-time Floating Substitute Teacher at Orono Public Schools, effective August 28, 2023 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Paul Hamilton, as part-time 0.2 FTE Curriculum and Development Leader at Orono Public Schools, effective for the 2023-2024 school year
- Approved the change of assignment of Jessica Hovland, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, to full-time Peer Evaluator and Mentoring and Induction Leader at Orono Public Schools, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the sabbatical leave of absence for Kyle Johnson, full-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 28, 2023 through June 7, 2024

- Approved the resignation of Rebecca Kleive, full-time Special Education Transition Teacher at Orono High School, effective July 27, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Greta Kortemeier, full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective July 5, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Kelly Leary, as full-time Health Clerk at Orono Middle School, effective September 5, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Jessi Heitz, full-time Class II Custodian to full-time Maintenance Technician – Grounds, at Orono Public Schools, effective July 17, 2023
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Steven Hall, full-time Maintenance Technician – Grounds, at Orono Public Schools, effective July 6, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Mckenzie Randall, full-time Media Center Clerk at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective July 25, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Kimberly Kavanagh, part-time Classroom Paraprofessional and School-age Child Care Assistant at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective August 8, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Monica Kuka, part-time Assistant Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective July 31, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Lisa Richter, part-time Classroom Paraprofessional at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 17, 2023
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Darcie Malchow, full-time Special Education Paraprofessional at Orono High School, effective August 8, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Paul Brunner, as full-time Director of Athletics and Student Activities at Orono Public Schools, effective July 17, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Joel Mellor, full-time Technology Support Specialist, to full-time Cloud Services Support Specialist at Orono Public Schools, effective July 1, 2023
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$550,069.09
- Authorized the 2023-2024 LEA (Local Education Authority) Representative
- Approved the Annual MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) Statement of Assurances
- Accepted the Summary of the Superintendent’s End of Year Evaluation
- Approved Continued Membership in the following Organizations for the 2023-2024 School Year:
  - o AMSD – Association of Metropolitan School Districts
  - o BrightWorks (formerly ECSU – Metro Educational Cooperative Service Unit)
  - o MSBA – Minnesota School Boards Association
- Approved Wage Adjustments for Substitutes, Proctors, Students, Casual Employees and Athletic Coaches for 2023-2024
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 316066-316483, 1676-1707, EP Register: 901968-902029, EFT Vouchers: 249-252, 6431-6445 and Capital One: 52392-52459

#### 6. – Superintendent’s Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report with a huge thank you to Orono Community Education under the direction of Tiffany Clifton. She shared that last year, she reported that Community Ed had its best summer ever. Well, they did it again, exceeding expectations and serving a record number of students and families through camps (nearly 7,000 registrations), field trips, child care, swim lessons, adult enrichment and community engagement events. Camp Emoji returned this summer through a joint partnership with Relate Counseling. This camp focused on emotional and mental wellness and served 79 students through 10 camps. Pop in and Read! and Spartan Express brought district programming to Orono’s parks and neighborhoods, serving approximately 250 participants. Finally, Orono’s targeted services programming welcomed 165 students through 84 camps designed to provide academic enrichment and support through the summer.

Dr. Flesher also thanked special education under the direction of Corinna Graner, Director, for their excellent work this summer to meet the needs of students as well as all of the staff who served Orono’s students so well this summer.

Finally, Dr. Flesher shared that the fall athletics season officially began last week under the direction of Paul Brunner, Orono's new Director of Athletics and Student Activities. Paul reports that more than 400 student-athletes have completed registration to participate in a fall sport. Orono's first fall athletic competition was held over the weekend - Girls tennis played at the Minnetonka Invitational on Saturday. In addition, boys/girls soccer and volleyball all start their seasons this Thursday, with cross country on Friday.

#### 7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Mike Bash shared that the board met at the annual school board retreat last week. He noted that the event was very well done and extended his gratitude to Dr. Flesher and her team. Mr. Bash also shared that he attended a Zoom meeting hosted by the League of Women Voters, who were seeking input from Orono and neighboring districts about how schools are doing and what they are looking for in future school board members.

Todd Madson shared that the PTO has several new members, and that they are still in search of someone to fill the role of Vice Secretary.

Wendy Lundsgaard noted that she attended the MSBA summer leadership seminar where she learned about the READ Act as well as several new laws that will come into play this school year.

Ali Howe did not have anything to report.

Laura Wallander did not have anything to report.

Sarah Borchers did not have anything to report.

#### 8. – Old Business

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

No other old business was brought forward.

#### 9. – New Business

##### 9. A – Strategic Planning/Community Engagement

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning & Accountability reported to the board plans for the upcoming school year regarding the district's strategic planning process and community engagement initiatives.

##### 9. B – Classroom Safety Response Protocol

Dr. Scott Alger, Executive Director of Human Resources, reported to the board plans regarding the district's classroom safety response protocol for the upcoming year.

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

No other New Business was brought forward.

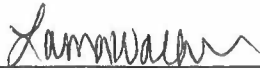
The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Bash".

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Michael Bash, *Chair*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Wallander".

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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*