

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 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, September 11, 2023 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash at 7:00 PM.

Dr. Flesher began the meeting by making a statement in recognition of Patriot's Day.

4. 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.

5. Consent Agenda

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

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on August 21, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Juliann Luce, as full-time Floating Substitute Teacher at Orono Public Schools, effective August 28, 2023 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Dianna Hunt, as full-time Long Term Substitute Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 28, 2023 through June 7, 2024
- Corrected the prior approval for the appointment of Paige Davis, and approved Paige Davis as full-time Long-Term Substitute First Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 23, 2023 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Paul Brauchle, as full-time Chemistry Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 23, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Andrew Stitt, full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, to full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Abby Perrin, full-time 0.8156 FTE Mathematics Teacher at Orono High School, to full-time 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Maria Nellis, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, to full-time Media Specialist at Orono Intermediate School and Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Ryan Gallagher, full-time First Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, to full-time Kindergarten Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Megan Jochims, as part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective September 5, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Keith Moss, as full-time Custodian at Orono Activities Center, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Katelyn Pine, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Middle School, effective September 5, 2023

- Approved the appointment of April Baird, as part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective September 5, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Samantha Koscielniak, full-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, to part-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective September 5, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Lori Roberts, full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Middle School, to full-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 5, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Abby Wooley, part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 11, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Olivia Gephart, as part-time Communications Specialist at Orono Public Schools, effective August 24, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Joshua Header, as full-time Technology Support Specialist at Orono High School, effective August 28, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Tara Koltes, part-time Assistant Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective August 11, 2023
- Approved the following fall coaching contracts:

### **Cross Country**

Brian McCollor, Head Coach (Boys)  
Kathleen Leslie, Assistant Coach  
Nate Uselding, Community Education Coach

Addy Hallen, Head Coach (Girls)  
Nathan Porter, Assistant Coach

### **Football**

Joe McPherson, Head Coach  
Mark McConnell, Varsity Assistant Coach  
Bennie Joppru, JV Coach  
Tom Borrell, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach  
Jason Seurer, JV Coach / Varsity Asst. Coach

Barry Wohler, Varsity Assistant Coach  
Kyle Jensen, Varsity Assistant Coach  
Brad Anderson, JV Coach  
Mike Leuer, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach  
Max Olsen, Assistant Coach

### **Soccer – Boys**

Grant Steine, Head Coach  
Trevon Sladek, JV Coach  
Nathaniel Kurtzweg, Varsity Assistant

Peter Sherman, B Coach  
Alex Tagtmeier, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

### **Soccer – Girls**

Erin Murray, Head Coach  
Caitlin Tripp, Varsity Assistant Coach  
Emilia Johnson, B Coach

Natalie Soper, Varsity Assistant Coach  
Nels Larson, JV Coach

### **Swim Dive – Girls**

Mark Seguin, Head Coach  
Bret Beecher, Assistant Coach

Barb Scouler, Assistant Coach

### **Tennis – Girls**

Aaron Dvorak, Head Coach  
Dawn Reidinger, B Coach

John Andraschko, JV Coach  
Brian Brown, Varsity Assistant Coach

### **Volleyball**

Brandon Kuntz, Head Coach  
Anders Carlson, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach  
Erika Echaniz, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

Kim King, JV Coach  
Abby Perrin, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

- Approved Bill Vouchers: 316484-316686, 1708-1721, EP Register: 902030-902079, EFT Vouchers: 253-254, 6446-6452 and Capital One: 52460-52497



## 6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that since the last meeting in August, Orono held its annual New Teacher Workshop with mentoring and induction activities for 21 new teachers. All teachers and staff gathered for workshop week with introductory programming focused on excellence in the Orono Schools, staff development, literacy, new student assessment tools, safety and security. Dr. Flesher issued a special thanks to Mr. Bryan Buzard, the chosen faculty speaker who delivered an inspiring blend of humor and compassion, as well as building principals and team leads who planned a fantastic week of staff development. Dr. Flesher also acknowledged the Crisis Response Team that organized a half-day of safety training for all staff focused on building relationships with students and understanding new safety response protocols. Finally, Dr. Flesher offered much gratitude to the local first responders from Orono/Long Lake Fire and Orono Police who led large staff groups through a review of compression CPR and AED techniques.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that last week was a wonderful week of happy students returning to campus - Tuesday 1-12th graders and Wednesday started kindergarten. Today, Orono's preschool programs also held their first day. Dr. Flesher expressed appreciation to all the staff who worked very hard to prepare the campus for students and to host such welcoming open house events.

Dr. Flesher also shared that on August 29, *U.S. News & World Report* announced their 2023-24 Best High School Rankings. For a third consecutive year, Orono High School was ranked the #1 traditional high school in Minnesota and #4 overall. The ranking is based on six criteria from the 2020-21 school year, including college readiness and breadth of college curriculum offered to students. Dr. Flesher offered congratulations to the entire community for their efforts to support Orono's students as they reach higher and prepare for their post-secondary pathway.

Next, Dr. Flesher offered a fall sports update. Boys Soccer is unbeaten with a 5-0-1 record. Girls Tennis has won their last two matches. Football has won its first two games and enjoyed a wonderful turnout for the tackle cancer night last Friday. The preliminary donation figure is just over \$6,000 which far exceeds last year's highest figure to date which was \$2,000. Thank you to the team and the community for their generous support! Girls Swim & Dive won their dual against Bloomington Jefferson last week and will compete tomorrow against Westonka. Volleyball won their home opener last week. Girls Soccer tied their first game against New Prague and has two away matches this week. Boys Cross Country is shining out on the courses, with two second-place finishes so far this year. The Girls are also working hard with third- and sixth-place finishes to date.

Finally, Dr. Flesher shared that later this week, the district will be permitted by the College Board to announce three National Merit Semifinalists from the Class of 2024. There will be more announcements on commended scholars forthcoming. Both the Semifinalists and Commended Scholars will be recognized at a board meeting in November.

## 7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities and Finance Committee Meeting Update: Todd Madson shared that the Facilities and Finance Committee has been discussing the replacement timeline for the OMS boilers and chiller. The group has been considering all options and weighing a variety of factors as they work towards their decision. The committee is also preparing to have the necessary information ready for the required preliminary levy certification ready for the end of September.

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Sarah Borchers shared that the Policy Committee will be working on reviewing and revising the 700 policy series this year. The group will also be looking at the policies that require annual review as well as new policies that MSBA has released. First readings and review of these policies will be on upcoming board agendas.

Mike Bash shared that he has the opportunity to attend a monthly meeting hosted by AMSD with other school board chairs. He expressed his gratitude to fellow board members for the amicable and high functioning nature of their work as compared to what other districts are experiencing.

Todd Madson noted that the PTO has kicked off their work with several events already on the calendar. Mr. Madson also thank district staff for an incredible first week of school.

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she attended an AMSD board meeting, where the group heard a presentation by Morris Leatherman with the results of a public opinion poll they conducted. Ms. Lundsgaard noted that the results of the poll seemed to mirror national politics, and observed that those that were polled expressed trust in decisions surrounding curriculum and supported property tax increases to support schools. Ms. Lundsgaard also shared that OMSPA has kicked off the year and already has several fall events planned for the upcoming months.

Ali Howe had nothing to report.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report.

Sarah Borchers had nothing to report.

#### 8. – Old Business

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

No other old business was brought forward.

#### 9. – New Business

##### 9. A – 2023-2024 Superintendent Goals

Dr. Flesher shared her goals for the 2023-2024 school year with the board for a first reading.

##### 9. B – Technology Update

Mr. Sean Beaverson, District Technology Coordinator, provided an update to the board regarding his work in technology.

##### 9. C – Community Education Update


Ms. Tiffany Clifton, Director of Community Education, reported to the board with an update regarding the work of the community education department.

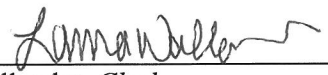
##### 9. D – Other New Business as Necessary

No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Ali Howe, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

  
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Michael Bash, *Chair*

  
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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*