

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON OCTOBER 9, 2023

Present: Kristine Flesher, Laura Wallander, Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson, Wendy Lundsgaard

Absent: Mike Bash, Ali Howe

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, October 9, 2023 and called to order by Board Vice Chair, Sarah Borchers at 7:00 PM.

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

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on September 25, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Michelle Tormanen, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective October 9, 2023 through January 19, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Kendall Johnson, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Middle School, tentatively effective January 22, 2024 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Maria Barlow, 0.80 FTE Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, tentatively effective January 24, 2024 through April 30, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Sean Moss, as full-time Class II Custodian at the Orono Activities Center, effective October 1, 2023
- Approved the change of assignment of Jon Eliason, full-time Class III Custodian at Orono Elementary Center to full-time Class III Custodian at Orono Discovery Center, effective September 25, 2023
- Approved the termination of Megan Stansberry, part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective September 1, 2023
- Approved the termination of Lindsay Carlson, part-time Cook at Orono High School, effective September 20, 2023
- Approved the resignation of Ana Shurson, part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective October 13, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Ali Chorley, as full-time Director of Orono Partnership for Youth at Orono Community Education, effective October 2, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Dalay Perez-Negrete, as full-time Discovery Kids Assistant Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective September 25, 2023
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Karen Pennaz, full-time Orono Early Learning ECFE Parent Educator at Orono Discovery Center, effective November 3, 2023
- That the Board of Education approve the following fall coaching contracts:

Soccer – Boys

Luke Anderson, Varsity Assistant Coach

- Accepted donations totaling \$54,989.34
- Approved the Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination

- Approved Bill Vouchers: 316808-316885, 1722-1731, EFT Vouchers: 6453-6458 and Capital One: 52520-52528

6. – Superintendent’s Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that last Monday, she received the news that Orono High School has earned a place on the Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll at the Platinum Level based on student achievement during the 2022-23 school year. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to welcome more students into AP courses and support them on their path to college success. The Honor Roll offers four levels of distinction with Platinum Level being the highest. The high school met or exceeded the Platinum threshold for all three evaluation criteria that they utilize. AP coursework provides early exposure to college-level work and contributes to a college-going school culture.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that last week was Orono’s annual homecoming celebration filled with traditions and celebrations. Dr. Flesher thanked the Orono High School Student Senate, Ms. Grace Nohner, Mr. Jarret Lundquist, and Orono High School staff and administration, Dr. Steiner, Mr. Aman and Mr. Brunner, for their careful planning and creative approach to getting the entire community involved. Dr. Flesher offered a shout-out to Keith Jurek and the DECA club for organizing the annual t-shirt design and sales for all grades and thanked Orono’s parent associations and the Orono Foundation for Education for their contributions to making this a memorable week.

Dr. Flesher also shared that the Orono Partnership for Youth (OPY) Coalition, in conjunction with the district, has been awarded the federal Drug-Free Communities Grant through the Office of National Drug Control Policy. This has been a project several years in the making and the district will be able to focus additional resources on preventing youth substance use and increasing mental wellness. This is a \$125,000/year resource to help our students. Dr. Flesher welcomed Ms. Ali Chorley as the program director and Gina Byers as the Coordinator. Ali is a 2004 Orono graduate with extensive experience in this area and personal knowledge of our community. She comes to Orono following a 10-year directorship with Wayzata Schools’ “Partners in Prevention” program.

Dr. Flesher also offered a fall activities update. Last week, Orono had students perform at the Metro West Tenor Bass Festival in New Prague, as well as at the Metro West All-Conference Choir Concert in Chanhassen. They did a great job and represented OHS very well. The Orono Football Team are 6-0 on the season with their most recent win on Friday night over Providence Academy. They are currently ranked second in the state, and will host Totino-Grace this Friday night in a game that will be featured as the Kare 11 Prep Sports Extra Game of the Week.

Girls Swim & Dive remain undefeated in conference duals on the season with a 5-0 record. They are currently ranked third in the state. In their last meet in Litchfield, the Boy’s Cross Country Team took first place overall, and the girls took second place. The boys are currently ranked fifth in the state. Both teams will compete in the Metro West Conference Championship next Tuesday. Girls Soccer received the number 6 seed in their section and will face Blake on Thursday in the first round of the section tournament. The game will be played at Blake at 5:00 PM. Boys Soccer finished the regular season with a 13-1-2 overall record and received the number 1 seed in their section and an opening round bye. They will host a semifinal game this Thursday at 7:00 PM. They are still currently ranked second in the state.

Volleyball had a very competitive week as they hosted Westonka and Saint Louis Park for Youth Night and Dig Pink Night. After their match on youth night, they signed autographs for all youth players in attendance. Girls Tennis received the number 5 seed in their section. They hosted an opening round game against Anoka and defeated them, 7-0. They were then defeated by Delano in the next round. They will compete at the individual section tournament next week. Orono also honored all officials at home events last week as part of the Minnesota State High School League’s ‘Thank a Ref’ fall campaign. Orono recognized officials pre-game and our team captains presented them with certificates of appreciation, and then took a picture together.

Next, Dr. Flesher recognized a tremendous gift of \$50,000 given to the Orono Schools. This gift was given by Mr. Bill Fenholt as part of his estate, as he passed on March 9th of this year. For those in the community who may not remember him, Mr. Fenholt served as Orono's Business Manager and Assistant Superintendent

Finally, Dr. Flesher closed her report with recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day. The governor officially proclaimed a state-wide holiday, the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2019. The district recognizes the importance of Indigenous Peoples' Day as an opportunity to honor and celebrate the rich cultural heritage, contributions, and resilience of Indigenous peoples.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities and Finance Committee Meeting Update: Mr. Madson shared that discussion at the most recent meeting of the Facilities and Finance Committee revolved around enrollment and increasing the district's fund balance.

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Ms. Borchers shared that the result of the work done at the most recent meeting of the policy committee would be shared in detail later in the meeting.

Todd Madson commented on the Art in the Park event hosted by Orono Community Education, and noted that he attended the OFE alumni breakfast and appreciated getting to see how far Orono graduates have come.

Wendy Lundsgaard updated the group on a recent SPA meeting that she attended as well as the Art in the Park event hosted by Orono Community Education at Veteran's Memorial Park. Ms. Lundsgaard shared that the event was very well attended and that it was wonderful to see all of the families coming together.

Laura Wallander shared that she attended the Orono Early Learning Parent Meeting and noted that they are off to a great start. Ms. Wallander also noted that she attended a meeting of the Community Education Advisory Council and provided an update on what was discussed there. Ms. Wallander also shared that she attended the Caring for Kids breakfast alongside Dr. Flesher.

Sarah Borchers did not have any updates to share.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Policy Review

The following revised policy was presented to the board for a second reading and approval.

- Policy 506: Student Discipline

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the board approved the proposed changes to policy 506.

Motion approved unanimously.

8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Policy Review

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability presented to the board the following revised or reviewed policies for first reading and review by board members. Dr. Ruhland offered brief descriptions of the proposed revisions for each policy.

- Policy 516.5: Overdose Medication
- Policy 534: School Meals Policy
- Policy 724: Public Data Requests
- Policy 806: Crisis Management

9. B – Orono Educator Excellence Presentation

Several staff members presented to the board regarding the opportunities for professional growth they've been given as a result of the Orono Educator Excellence Fund.

9. C – Other New Business as Necessary

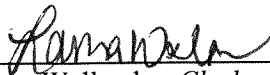
No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.



Sarah Borchers, *Vice Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*