

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Present: Kristine Flesher, Mike Bash, Ali Howe, Laura Wallander, Sarah Borchers, Wendy Lundsgaard

Absent: Todd Madson

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, November 13, 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 Wendy Lundsgaard, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on October 23, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Amy Kohler, as part-time Long-Term Substitute Early Childhood Family Education Teacher (Part B) at Orono Discovery Center, effective January 15, 2024 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Kelly Biller, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Middle School, tentatively effective November 22, 2023 through January 8, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Thomas Harvey, as full-time Class II Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective November 6, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Toni Muhonen, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective November 13, 2023
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Elizabeth Schoff-Johnson, full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Discovery Center, effective January 5, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Virginia Byers, as part-time Program Coordinator of Orono Partnership for Youth at Orono Community Education, effective October 2, 2023
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Shaun Lawson, full-time Facilities Manager at Orono Elementary Center, effective November 3, 2023
- Accepted donations totaling \$15,837.28
- Approved the Cooperative Agreement with Delano High School in Speech for the 23-24 school year
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 317077-317234, 1732-1741, EP Register: 902108-902124, EFT Vouchers: 257-258, 6459-6466 and Capital One: 52561-52588

6. – Superintendent’s Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that just before the board meeting, there was a celebration of Orono’s National Merit Semifinalists, National Merit Commended Scholars, AP Scholars with Distinction and students earning an AP Capstone Diploma. Also honored was Madeleine Dore who, in addition to several honors, earned a perfect score on the AP Research exam—one of only 357 students in the world to earn this score. Also recognized were teachers who earned tenure in Orono Schools.

Next, Dr. Flesher offered a fall activities update and started by sharing that the fall musical, “Bright Star,” is currently playing at Orono High School. Dr. Flesher also shared that boys soccer won the state quarterfinal against Northfield (1-0) in overtime, defeated DeLaSalle (4-3) in the state semifinal, and was the #1 seed going into the State Tournament. The boys lost to Hill-Murray in a fast-paced and relentless match, finishing

second in State. Congratulations to the team, coaches, and to the following players for being named to the Class AA All-tournament team: Lisle Cherwien, Nate Halloff, and Elliot Tysdal.

OHS football was the #1 seed headed into the 6AAAA Section Tournament. They defeated Providence 37-15 and beat Delano 35-14 to win the Section Championship and advance to the State Tournament. The boys lost to Rocori in the state quarterfinal game. Congratulations to the players and coaches.

Girls and boys cross country teams both advanced to the Class AA State Tournament, racing at the University of Minnesota on November 4 and the girls team qualified for State for the first time as a team. They finished in 12th place. The boys cross-country team finished in 4th place at State. Gabe Hallen finished 15th individually, earning All-State Honors. Congratulations on an outstanding season to both teams and coaches Addy Hallen, Speedy McCollor, Katie Leslie, Nate Porter and Nate Uselding.

Girls hockey has started their season and tied Simley on Saturday.

Dr. Flesher also recognized girls swim and dive, who won the Section 3A championship in Willmar over the weekend. The girls had an outstanding showing in the pool with several section championship races. The following swimmers will be competing at the State meet in these events:

- 200 Medley Relay - Reilly Anderson, Celia Howard, Soph Berg, Lila James
- 200 Free - Graycin Andreen (Section champion), Lola Schottler
- 200 IM - Mallory Knutson, Reilly Anderson
- 50 Free - Elle Davis
- 100 Fly - Graycin Andreen (Section champion)
- 100 Free - Elle Davis
- 500 Free - Lola Schottler (Section champion), Mallory Knutson
- 200 Free Relay - Elle Davis, Lila James, Mallory Knutson, Graycin Andreen (Section champion relay team)
- 100 Back - Reilly Anderson
- 400 Free Relay - Elle Davis, Lola Schottler, Mallory Knutson, Graycin Andreen (Section champion relay team)

Next, Dr. Flesher offered a note of gratitude to the OHS Student Voice Club for working so hard to create an interactive event on Halloween Day that celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month. There was dancing, food, projects and a lot of fun.

Finally, Dr. Flesher shared an update from the annual Veteran's Day program held last week. Dr. Flesher extended thanks to Julie Maas-Kusske, Mayor of Maple Plain, for her outstanding work organizing the event and Dr. Amy Steiner and Jeff Aman. During the program, students and staff heard from Orono alum-Sergeant Chris Spacek—who committed to the Marine Corps as a senior in high school and is now a Reservist. He recounted his training and experience as a Marine and reminded us all to understand and thank a veteran for their service and sacrifice. In addition to our honored veterans, Dr. Flesher also thanked:

- Paul Stinson American Legion Post 514
- Rotary Club of Orono
- OHS Chamber Choir - with Director Nicole Brenna and Accompanist Mark Hemingway
- Kevin Anderson, Hennepin County Commissioner
- Kristin Robbins, State Representative
- Marge Beard, Three Rivers Parks Commissioner
- Warren Limmer, State Senator
- Dawanna Witt, Hennepin County Sheriff
- Luis Gonzalez, Senior Constituent Advocate from Congressman Dean Phillips' office
- Marvin Johnson, Mayor of Independence
- Charlie Miner, Mayor of Long Lake
- Joe Pagano, Mayor of Minnetonka Beach

- Denny Walsh, Mayor of Orono
- Correy Farniok, Orono Police Chief; and
- Gary Kroells, Director of West Hennepin Public Safety

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Sarah Borchers shared that as always, the work of the Policy Committee will be shared later in the meeting. Mike Bash noted that the policies surrounding transportation that will be presented for a first reading come with an extensive amount of legislation the district must consider.

Finance & Facilities Meeting Update: Mike Bash shared that the district underwent an audit of the food service department and that the results were discussed at the most recent Facilities & Finance meeting. Also discussed were the processes necessary to remain in compliance as it pertains to concessions. Mr. Bash also noted that the annual audit presentation will take place at the December 11 board meeting.

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she attended an AMSD (Association of Metropolitan School Districts) meeting where the discussion centered around a review of the legislative platform, proposed hearings scheduled for this year's legislature and a University of Minnesota principal survey and its results.

Laura Wallander shared that she was able to attend, alongside several other board members, a tour of the OHS auditorium and the new AV equipment that has been installed there. The group was also given a brief preview of the upcoming fall play. Ms. Wallander also noted that she attended an Ice Arena Board meeting where she was given a tour of the newly installed cooling system.

Sarah Borchers had no updates to share.

Mike Bash shared that he also attended the preview of the play, and was very impressed by the talent and theatrical knowledge of Orono's students. Mr. Bash commented that he and a couple of other board members met with Representative Myers, and noted that he was supportive local schools and understanding of the issues. Mr. Bash also highlighted a presentation done by the district's Technology Coordinator Sean Beaverson at a recent AMSD conference, and noted that it was very impressive. Finally, Mr. Bash encouraged fellow board members to begin meeting with local city councils in an effort to engage cities in the district's strategic planning process.

Ali Howe shared that she attended a Orono Healthy Youth meeting, where a presentation was given by Ali Chorley of the Orono Partnership for Youth, a newly founded program funded by a grant given to the district. Ms. Howe also noted that she attended a meeting of the Special Education Parent Partnership where presentations on the READ Act and the district's Unified Group were given. Ms. Howe also commented that she attended the fall play and found it to be very impressive.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Policy Review

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

- Policy 701: Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget
- Policy 702: Accounting
- Policy 703: Annual Audit
- Policy 704: Development and Maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets and a Fixed Asset Accounting System
- Policy 705: Investments
- Policy 706: Acceptance of Gifts

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the board approved the proposed changes to policies 701, 702, 703, 704, 705 and 706.

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. Scott Alger, Executive Director of Human Resources presented to the board the following revised or reviewed policies for first reading and review by board members. Dr. Alger offered a brief overview of the proposed revisions for each policy.

- Policy 707: Transportation of Public School Students
- Policy 708: Transportation of Nonpublic School Students
- Policy 709: Student Transportation Safety Policy
- Policy 710: Extracurricular Transportation

9. B – Resolution to Support the Application to the MSHSL Foundation for a Form A Grant to Offset Student Activity Fees

**RESOLUTION OF GOVERNING BOARD SUPPORTING
FORM A APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE
HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Orono Public Schools recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the MSHSL Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist schools in recognizing, promoting and funding extracurricular participation by high school students in athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of Orono Public Schools supports the school's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM A grant to offset student activity fees.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Ali Howe, the foregoing resolution was approved and adopted by the school board of Independent School District No. 278.

Motion approved unanimously.

9. C – Navigating the College Admissions Landscape Update

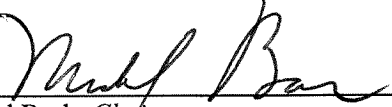
Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability, Dr. Amy Steiner, Orono High School Principal, Brandy Randall, Gifted and Talented Teacher and Tiffany Clifton, Director of Community Education presented to the board an update on the work the district has done related to the process of navigating the college admissions landscape.

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, December 11, 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 8:18 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*