

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD JANUARY 8, 2024

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

Absent: None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, January 8, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:00 PM.

4. Election of School Board Officers

Board Chair, Mike Bash, presided over the election of school board officers for 2024 by opening up the floor for nominations.

Sarah Borchers MOVED, Laura Wallander seconded that Mike Bash be elected as Chairperson. No other nominations were brought forward.

Mike Bash MOVED, Todd Madson seconded that Sarah Borchers be elected as Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were brought forward.

Ali Howe MOVED, Sarah Borchers seconded that Laura Wallander be elected as Clerk. No other nominations were brought forward.

Laura Wallander MOVED, Sarah Borchers seconded that Ali Howe be elected as Treasurer. No other nominations were brought forward.

All members voted aye to all nominations. Motion carried.

The board was alerted to a technical difficulty as it pertained to the recording and live streaming of the meeting. The Board entered into a brief recess as the issue was resolved.

5. Set Salaries of the School Board Clerk and Treasurer

Laura Wallander MOVED, Wendy Lundsgaard seconded that the yearly salary for both the School Board Clerk and the School Board Treasurer be set at \$0 or the minimum required by law as set by state statute.

All members voted aye to the motion. Motion carried.

6. Consideration of the Agenda

No request was made to modify the agenda.

7. Consent Agenda

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

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held December 11, 2023
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Sarah Hunter, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective January 1, 2024
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Ryan Gallagher, full-time Kindergarten Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective January 30, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Nicholas Ruhland, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective January 2, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Sarah Hunter, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective January 2, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Angela Westlund, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Discovery Center, effective January 2, 2024
- Approved the termination of Krissa Baillargeon, full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective December 28, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Timothy Domka, as full-time Facilities Manager at Orono Elementary Center, effective December 26, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Leslie Persson, as full-time Parent Educator at Orono Discovery Center, effective December 1, 2023
- Approved the appointment of Jason Woyak, as full-time Systems and Security Specialist at Orono Public Schools, effective January 4, 2024
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Brandon Kuntz, Head Volleyball Coach at Orono Public Schools, effective December 15, 2023
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Katherine de Bustamante, full-time Discovery Kids Preschool Assistant Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective January 2, 2024
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Ross Luken, full-time Coordinator of Facilities & Finance at Orono Public Schools, effective January 31, 2024
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$14,664.87
- Approved Collateral
- Approved Treasurer's Report for November of 2023
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for November of 2023
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 317444-317583, EP Register: 902193-902217, EFT Vouchers: 262-263 and Capital One: 52618-52646

8. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that Orono's DECA participants recently concluded a successful fundraiser through a five-day "Survivor Week Challenge" at Orono High School. In total, more than \$5,000 was raised for the Troncones students and school district in Mexico. The funds will go directly to the school to provide supplies and new doors that will provide additional security for district facilities. Over the past 23 years, DECA has raised nearly \$40,000 on behalf of education and student well-being in Troncones.

Dr. Flesher noted that there is a choir concert taking place tonight at 7 p.m. at Wayzata Community Church.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared information about the upcoming winter one act play, "The Final Call," and shared that it will be performed on Friday, January 19 at 6 p.m. in the OHS Auditorium. Tickets are not required for this free performance. Students worked together to devise this original piece of theater, written by Orono High School Junior, Greta Rolfzen. They will be taking the show to the annual MSHSL One Act competition at New Prague High School on January 27. The plot follows six people who are working on the 105th floor in the south tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, a very

deep and meaningful topic. Congratulations to Greta, cast, crew and Director Kelsie Balon Peck for undertaking an original script.

Next, Dr. Flesher offered a winter athletics update.

The Orono Dance Team competed in the University of Minnesota's "Best of the Best" Dance Showcase on Saturday at Williams Arena on the U of M campus. Varsity Jazz earned silver and Varsity Kick placed 4th place.

Boys basketball defeated No. 3 state-ranked Alexandria on Saturday. The boys are currently 6-3 on the season and ranked 5th in state and girls basketball defeated No. 2 state-ranked Alexandria on Saturday. Metro West Conference play begins tomorrow at home vs. St. Louis Park.

Boys hockey defeated No. 4 state-ranked Delano on Saturday by a score of 3-2. They are currently 10-4 overall and ranked 6th in state and girls hockey is 12-4-1 overall and ranked 1st in state. Junior Macy Rasmussen is currently in Switzerland competing for a gold medal with the USA U18 girls team.

Wrestling participated at Buffalo High School on Saturday. Brett Kiecker took first place in the lightweight division.

Boys swim and dive have won their first 3 duals of the season. Orono is hosting the True Team Section Meet this Friday and Saturday.

The Nordic Ski team has raced several times at Elm Creek Park Reserve in Maple Grove, and most recently at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, MN over the weekend. The Mesabi race is one of the largest youth races in North America. Orono boys took 5th place as a team, with Ben Mascia and Wells Houtari placing in the top 12. In addition, Erica Kazin placed first in the Mesabi Classic race, with Sindri Bonner placing 18th. Congratulations also to the boys teams for taking first place at the first Metro West race of the season. Alpine Ski competed in their first race of the season on Saturday at Wild Mountain in Taylors Falls, MN. Congratulations to the boys team for taking first place overall. The team will compete again tonight at Buck Hill in Burnsville.

Next, Dr. Flesher offered a reminder to the community - 2023-24 is a Strategic Planning year for Orono Schools. The district is currently in *Phase 2: Stakeholder Input*. The district will be hosting in-person, facilitated Community Conversation events in each school building to listen and hear community member thoughts as the direction for the district is set for the next several years. All parents/guardians are invited. Links to RSVP are located on the Strategic Planning webpage and will also be included in formal invitations from building principals. The district looks to partner with all parents in a conversation about our schools, to learn about their experiences and hopes for Orono students. These will be held in January and early February. Please sign up.

Finally, Dr. Flesher concluded her report with a tribute to Dr. Thomas Mich who passed away over the holidays. He served Orono for nearly two decades as Superintendent of schools and was a long-time Orono community member. He worked in education for 48 years, serving as Associate Superintendent in Burnsville and Headmaster at St. Thomas Academy for 10 years. Dr. Mich cared deeply about public education and about Orono Schools. In the last three years, he has come to visit and called to show

support and care for the school district. He will be greatly missed by his wife Catherine, and children Thomas, Patrick and Katie, as well as the many educators whose lives he touched.

9. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update: Todd Madson shared that at the most recent meeting, the Facilities & Finance Committee was presented with the results of the 22-23 audit. Mr. Madson noted that the audit results were clean and favorable, and that the group would be hearing more about them in detail later in the meeting. Sarah Borchers also shared that enrollment numbers are looking very positive.

Mike Bash did not have anything to report.

Sarah Borchers noted that she attended an Orono Healthy Youth meeting where the group heard from the Sojourner Project, a non-profit serving victims of domestic violence. Ms. Borchers shared that the presentation was very informative and many great connections were made.

Ali Howe did not have anything to report.

Laura Wallander shared that she attended an Orono Ice Arena meeting, and noted that it is a very busy time for them. She shared that they are in a good place financially and are fully staffed. Ms. Wallander also commented that she attended a meeting of the Community Education Advisory Council and offered an overview of that meeting.

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she attended an AMSD meeting where it was reiterated that this year would not be a budget year, but rather a year focused on policy.

Todd Madson did not have anything to report.

10. – Old Business

10. A – Policy Review

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

- Policy 711: Advertising, Sponsorships and Fundraising
- Policy 712: Canvassing or Selling on School Premises
- Policy 713: Student Activity Accounting
- Policy 714: Check Signing
- Policy 715: Emergency School Closing
- Policy 716: Establishing of Meal Prices
- Policy 717: Fund Balance

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the proposed changes to policies 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716 and 717.

Motion approved unanimously.

10. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

11. – New Business

11. A – Designation/Approval

1. Official Local Depositories

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education designated the Lake Community Bank, the Bank of Maple Plain, MN Trust, and MN School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus as depositories for the regular funds of this school district and the officers of the Board of Education are hereby authorized in the name of and on behalf of the Board of Education to open or cause to be opened or to continue or cause to be continued accounts with said banks and to execute and deliver to said banks, signature cards supplied by said banks containing said banks usual customer agreement applicable to such accounts and the signatures of the officers or other persons hereinafter named are hereby authorized to act for and on behalf of the Board of Education or otherwise to endorse or cause to be endorsed, to negotiate or cause to be negotiated, or to deposit or cause to be deposited in such accounts any money, checks, drafts, orders, notes or other instruments payable or held by this Board of Education. Said officers are Mike Bash (Chair), Sarah Borchers (Vice Chair) and Ali Howe (Treasurer).

Motion carried.

2. Official Investment Depositories and Transfer of Funds

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the Board of Education approved the following investment depositories and authorized Jim Westrum, Director of Business Services and Rachel McQuiston, District Controller to transfer funds among these financial institutions for investment purposes:

- 1) Wells Fargo Bank San Francisco, CA
- 2) US Bank
- 3) Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus
- 4) Lake Community Bank
- 5) Bank of Maple Plain
- 6) PMA Financial Network, Inc./MN Trust
- 7) Capital One Bank

Motion carried.

3. Official Publication

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Board of Education approved the Laker Pioneer as the District's official publication.

Motion carried.

4. Office of the Clerk

UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board of Education approved the Orono District Office at 685 Old Crystal Bay Rd. N, Long Lake, MN

55356 as the official office site of the Board of Education clerk.

Motion carried.

5. Renewal of Surety Bonds or Equivalent

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education approved the renewal of surety bonds or equivalent for all employees.

Motion carried.

6. School Auditor

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Orono Board of Education approved the firm of Malloy, Montague, Kamowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A. as the district's auditor.

Motion carried.

7. Contract Signing Authorization

UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education approved Kristine Flesher, Superintendent or Jim Westrum, Director of Business Services to lease, purchase, and contract for goods and services within the budget pursuant to MN Statute 123B.52 subd. 2.

Motion carried.

8. Staffing Resolution

Todd Madson MOVED, Laura Wallander seconded, that the Board of Education approve a resolution directing the administration to evaluate and make recommendations for increases and/or reductions in programs and positions for the 2024-2025 school year. This provides District Administration with the timeline necessary to begin planning/preparing for the 2024-2025 school year, and thereby notifying those individuals impacted, as stipulated in employee contracts.

All members voted aye to the motion. Motion carried.

9. Financial Advisor

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the Orono Board of Education approved the firm of Ehlers, Inc. as the District's financial advisor.

Motion carried.

10. Architect and Engineer

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Orono Board of Education approved the firm of Wold Architects and Engineers as the District's architect and engineer of record.

Motion carried.

11. B – Committee Appointments

Committee Assignments for the period of January 2024 through December 2024 were proposed as follows. The board discussed who should fill the remaining few vacancies available.

Committee Name	Board Representative
Board Committees	
Negotiations	Laura Wallander, Ali Howe, Wendy Lundsgaard
Co-Curricular	Mike Bash, Laura Wallander, Ali Howe
Facilities and Finance	Mike Bash, Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson
Board Policy	Mike Bash, Sarah Borchers
Orono Action Steering Committee	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard
Board Assignments / Liaison Work	
AMSD Board (Association of Metropolitan School Districts)	Wendy Lundsgaard, Sarah Borchers (Alternate)
Community Education Advisory Council	Laura Wallander, Ali Howe
Curriculum & Accountability Council	Sarah Borchers, Wendy Lundsgaard
ECFE Advisory Committee (Early Childhood Family Education)	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard
ECSU (Educational Cooperative Services Unit)	Mike Bash
Intermediate District #287	Karen Orcutt
Middle School Parent Association	Wendy Lundsgaard
MN State High School League	Mike Bash
MSBA (MN School Boards Association) Local Legislative Liaison	Todd Madson
Orono City/School Communication	Todd Madson
Orono Foundation for Education	Todd Madson
Orono Healthy Youth	Ali Howe, Sarah Borchers
Orono Ice Arena Board	Laura Wallander
Parent Teacher Organization	Todd Madson, Laura Wallander
Special Education Parent Association	Ali Howe
Spartan Parent Association	Sarah Borchers
Staff Development	Todd Madson, Wendy Lundsgaard
Teacher Meet and Confer	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard
Community Liaisons	
Independence	Ali Howe
Long Lake	Mike Bash
Maple Plain	Wendy Lundsgaard
Medina	Sarah Borchers
Minnetonka Beach	Laura Wallander
Orono	Todd Madson

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Orono Board of Education approved the committee assignments for the period of January 2024 through December 2024 as presented.

Motion carried.

11. C - 2024-2025 School Board Meeting Dates

Proposed school board meeting dates for the 2024-2025 school year were presented for a first reading and review.

11. D - Annual Audit Report

Mr. Bill Lauer of Malloy, Montague, Kamowski, Radosevich and Co., P.A. (MMKR) gave a detailed presentation regarding the district's annual audit. Orono Schools received a clean report on the audit.

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard seconded by Todd Madson, the board accepted the 2022-2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as submitted by MMKR. More information surrounding the district's audit can be found on the district website.

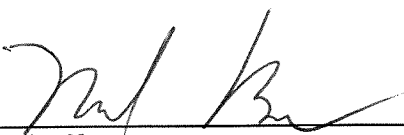
Motion approved unanimously.

11. E – Other New Business as Necessary

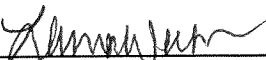
No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.



Mike Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*