

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2024

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

Absent: None

Community Members Questions and Comments

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, February 12, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash at 7:09 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

Mike Bash requested that current agenda item 9A - Student Recognition be moved to the start of the meeting. The board recognized OHS junior Macy Rasumussen for her outstanding achievement in girls hockey.

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 January 22, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Peggy Adam, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective January 8, 2024 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Marybeth Liebsch, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective January 22, 2024 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Michelle Tormanen, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective January 22, 2024 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Sarah Ragan, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Fifth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective January 22, 2024 through February 29, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Marcia Pankonin, full-time Fifth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, tentatively effective January 22, 2024 through February 29, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Kim Van Eyll, full-time Principal at Orono Middle School, tentatively effective January 31, 2024 through March 13, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Jaime Peters, as full-time Class II Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective January 22, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Tyrell Gbayisomore, as full-time Class II Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective February 2, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Viktoriia Myrna, as part-time Cook at Orono High School, effective February 12, 2024
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Hanna Holmes, part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective January 26, 2024
- Accepted donations totaling \$35,941.29
- Approved Treasurer's Report for December 2023
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for December 2023
- Approved official local depositories
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 317784-318015, 1762-1771, EP Register: 902218-902244, EFT Vouchers: 266, 6483-6492 and Capital One: 52671-52699

6. – Superintendent’s Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that seventh-grade students once again exhibited amazing projects at the History Day Showcase on January 30. Students spend their second quarter in english and social studies classes mastering research methods and presenting their findings through a choice of research paper, exhibit, website, documentary or performance. This year, Orono is sending 40 students to the Regional competition on March 2nd, with great expectations that some students will qualify for state and compete on April 20 in Minneapolis.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that OHS DECA participants had an outstanding showing at the regional competition last month. 86 students qualified for the State Career Development Conference scheduled for March 10-12. This outcome far surpassed Advisor Keith Jurek’s expectations. When the state qualifiers were announced at the awards ceremony, DECA student leaders honored Mr. Jurek, recognizing his outstanding efforts for more than 30 years supporting high school students and the DECA program.

Next, Dr. Flesher noted that Orono’s strategic planning initiative has now moved to the Core Planning Team Phase and that she is pleased to have concluded the Community Stakeholder Input phase. Dr. Flesher noted that the team is now analyzing input from various stakeholders and recording key findings and areas for improvement. These details will be presented to the Core Planning Team during the two-day retreat in March.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared some information about the Kick Off to College Planning night scheduled for Monday, March 4. This event is targeted for our sophomores, juniors and their families. Orono counselors have pulled together a variety of experts to host 11 unique breakout sessions. The district is excited to welcome presenters from two- and four-year colleges and organizations that help students with the college planning and admissions process. The Kick Off website is live with all the breakout session details.

Finally, Dr. Flesher offered a winter athletics update. Both the Jazz and High Kick Dance Teams recently won their section championships and qualified for state. The state tournament is this Friday and Saturday at the Target Center. Good luck to both teams.

In Boys Basketball, congratulations to Nolan Groves who recently set a new boys basketball single-game scoring record with his 50-point performance. In Girls Basketball, congratulations to sophomore Maya Moore who recently scored her 1,000th career point.

Boys Hockey is entering the final week of the regular season as the 6th-ranked team in the state. Postseason play begins next Wednesday, February 21. Girls Hockey earned the #1 seed in the section 5A tournament. They have advanced to the section championship this Wednesday where they will face Mound Westonka/Southwest Christian at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Louis Park Rec Center.

The Wrestling and the Boys Swim & Dive teams have wrapped up their regular season and will participate in upcoming team and individual section tournaments.

In Nordic Ski, congratulations to state qualifiers: Walter Holmes, Johnny DiPrima, Drew Hutori, Erica Kazin, and Sindri Bonner. The state tournament is Wednesday and Thursday at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. Congratulations to Alpine Ski state qualifiers: Fletcher Stoen, Jack Shideman, and Jonathan Burns. The state tournament is tomorrow at Giants Ridge in Biwabik.

As a reminder, the OHS Spring Sports Information Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, at 7 p.m. in the OHS Competition Gym.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she had the opportunity to volunteer at the OMS book fair recently and noted that it was a nice event and that the children were very excited to be there. Ms. Lundsgaard also shared that she attended a recent AMSD legislative session preview and provided a summary of what she learned to the group.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report.

Sarah Borchers had nothing to report.

Mike Bash had nothing to report.

Ali Howe had nothing to report.

Todd Madson 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 – Student Recognition

This item was moved to the start of the meeting as requested.

9. B - 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 a brief overview of the proposed revisions for each policy.

- Policy 711: Advertising, Sponsorships and Fundraising
- Policy 718: Petty Cash
- Policy 719: Purchasing
- Policy 720: Salary Payments and Deductions
- Policy 721: Naming Rights
- Policy 722: Video Recording on School Buses
- Policy 723: Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources
- Policy 730: Post-Issuance Debt Compliance

9. C – Activities and Athletics Update

Mr. Paul Brunner, Athletic Director, reported to the board an update on activities and athletics so far this school year.

9. D – Other New Business as Necessary

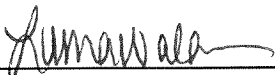
No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned to a work session for the purpose of a presentation of community survey results from Peter Leatherman at 8:08 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*