

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON MARCH 11, 2024

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

Absent: None

Community Members Questions and Comments

Several 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, March 11, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:11 PM.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

Mike Bash requested that agenda item 9A - Michele Kunz Recognition be moved to the start of the meeting. The board recognized former board member Michele Kunz for her years of service to the district as both a member of the Orono Schools Board of Education as well as the district's representative serving on the ISD 287 board for many years.

5. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Ellie Davenport, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective March 18, 2024 through June 7, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Ryan Fiskey, full-time Physical Education Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, tentatively effective May 1, 2024 through June 6, 2024
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Lauren Handrick, full-time School Counselor at Orono High School, effective June 14, 2024
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Paul Brauchle, full-time Chemistry Teacher at Orono High School, effective June 7, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Amarilis Pivaral Quevedo, as full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective February 28, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Reed Anderson, as full-time Custodian at Orono Public Schools, effective March 18, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Mary Frances Fitzpatrick, as part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective February 26, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Shannon Sponsler, as part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective March 5, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Brian Maharaj, as full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective March 11, 2024
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Samantha Landon, full-time Principal Secretary at Orono High School, effective April 5, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence of Kellina Samuelson, full-time Human Resources Generalist at Orono Public Schools, tentatively effective April 11, 2024 through July 5, 2024
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$13,954.46
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for January of 2024
- Approved Treasurer's Report for January of 2024
- Approved the Orono Education Association Master Agreement for 2023-2025

- Approved Bill Vouchers: 318161-318317, 1772-1781, EP Register: 902302-902318, EFT Vouchers: 267-268, 6493-6502 and Capital One: 52711-52733

6. – Superintendent’s Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that she had the pleasure of attending the Minnesota DECA Career Development Conference earlier in the day. This year, Orono High School qualified 86 students for state competition. After tomorrow, the district will know which students have qualified to participate in the international conference in Orlando in April. Congratulations to all the students who worked so hard to prepare for state. Thank you to coaches Mr. Keith Jurek and Ms. Sara Noznesky for their leadership and support of students again this year.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that while the Orono Speech and Debate team always excels, this year has an incredible stand-out. Madeleine Dore has qualified her humorous speech for the 2024 National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) Tournament. Congratulations to Maddie and thank you to advisor, Barb Shofner.

Next, Dr. Flesher noted that as spring approaches, there is a full calendar of music and performing arts events from band and choir to middle school and high school theater. Please see the website ‘News’ area for a full list of performances and details.

Finally, Dr. Flesher offered a student athletics update. Boys hockey earned a shot at the state title and earned the Class A State Tournament Consolation Championship in their win against Northfield. Boys basketball will compete in the Section 6AAA Championship on Thursday this week vs. Benilde St. Margaret’s. Boys swim and dive took 5th place overall at the 2024 Class A State Swim and Dive Championships. All of Orono’s swimmers placed in the top 10:

- 200 Medley Relay - 3rd place
- 200 Free - Walter Royal, 7th place
- 200 IM - Eli Fish, 8th place
- 100 Fly - Walter Royal, 4th place
- 500 Free - Eli Fish, 7th place
- 200 Free Relay - 4th place
- 100 Breast - Owen Gagne, 7th place
- Bjorn Jaenchen - 6th place in diving

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update: Todd Madson shared that enrollment was the topic at the most recent meeting of the Facilities & Finance Committee, and noted that numbers continue to look strong.

Laura Wallander noted that the Orono Action Committee recently attended an event at the state capital where they had the opportunity to meet with all four of the district’s legislators. Ms. Wallander shared a brief overview of the topics that were discussed.

Wendy Lundsgaard offered some additional information about Orono Action’s time spent at the capital.

Mike Bash shared that he had the opportunity to read through the recently released Community Education summer course catalog, and shared an overview of the many course offerings available. Mr. Bash noted that he is so impressed with the volume and range of courses Orono is able to offer for a small district.

Sarah Borchers did not have anything to report.

Ali Howe did not have anything to report.

Todd Madson did not have anything to report.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A - Michele Kunz Recognition

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

9. B - AIPAC Compliance

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning & Accountability, Katie Yandell, AIPAC Chairperson and Donna Ostvig, Engagement and Integration Coordinator reported to the board regarding their work on the AIPAC Committee and the impact they've seen. They also discussed the vote of concurrence process, a requirement of the Minnesota Department of Education to ensure American Indian voices are heard.

9. C- Principal's Report

Dr. Adam Lamparske, Principal at Orono Schumann Elementary and Ms. Mary Jodl, Principal at Orono Intermediate School and Ms. Kim Van Eyll, Principal at Orono Middle School, presented to the board an update related to their respective buildings with an emphasis on Instructional Leadership Teams.

9. E – Other New Business as Necessary

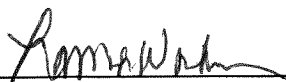
No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*