

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

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

Absent: Sarah Borchers

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, April 8, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:26 PM.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

5. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Ali Howe the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2024
- Approved the renewal of Kristina Mochinski, job share part-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- Approved the renewal of Emily Purnell, job share part-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- Approved the appointment of Abigail Saatzer, as full-time Social Worker at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective August 21, 2024.
- Approved the leave of absence for Kirsten Pardun-Johannsen, full-time Performing Arts Teacher at Orono Middle School and Orono High School, tentatively effective April 1, 2024 through April 12, 2024.
- Approved the leave of absence for Melissa Benjamin, full-time Sixth Grade Teacher at Orono Middle School, tentatively effective April 8, 2024 through April 23, 2024.
- Approved the leave of absence for Kelly Jordahl, full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Julianne Jurek, full-time Social Worker at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective June 7, 2024.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Keith Jurek, full-time Business Teacher at Orono High School, effective June 7, 2024.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Bradley Jans, full-time Technology Education Teacher at Orono High School, effective June 12, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Tammy O'Connor, full-time Associate Principal's Secretary at Orono High School to full-time Principal's Assistant at Orono High School, effective April 1, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Jennifer Berg, full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School to full-time Secretary at Orono Community Education, effective March 27, 2024.
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Tyrell Gbayisomore, full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective March 11, 2024.
- Approved the termination due to resignation of Debra Hanson, full-time Secretary at Orono Community Education, effective April 4, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Breanna Halvorson, as full-time Discovery Kids Lead Toddler Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective March 25, 2024.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Paul Krautkremer, full-time Network Administrator at Orono Public Schools, effective April 24, 2024.

- Approved the coaching contracts for the Spring Season:

#### **Baseball**

Thomas Borrell, Head Coach  
Harry Wingerd, B Team Coach  
Joe McPherson, Pitching Coach

Charlie Bohl, JV Coach  
Bill Madigan, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach  
Tim Sonnek, Varsity Assistant Coach

#### **Golf – Boys**

Hunter Hoaglund, Head Coach  
Luke Peterson, Developmental Coach

Tim Corlett, JV Coach

#### **Golf – Girls**

George Edellstein, Head Coach

Lauren Intihar, JV Coach

#### **Softball**

Sarah Craig, Head Coach  
Ryan Hartneck, Varsity Assistant  
Sarah Hunter, Assistant Coach

Scott Peterson, JV Coach  
Mikenna Becker, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach  
Amanda Koch, Pitching Coach

#### **Tennis – Boys**

Aaron Dvorak, Head Coach

Brian Brown, JV Coach

#### **Track & Field**

Addy Hallen, Head Coach – Girls  
Jenna Rieth, JV Coach  
Katie Leslie, JV Coach  
Lily McKown, JV Coach  
Jay Nelson, JV Coach

Nathan Porter, Head Coach – Boys  
Brian McCollor, JV Coach  
Nate Uselding, JV Coach  
Stephanie Olson, JV Coach

#### **Lacrosse – Girls**

Jane Kolar, Head Coach  
Mackenzie Skatter, Assistant Coach  
Madeline Mootz, JV Coach

Virginia MaGuire, Varsity Assistant  
Grace Guerin, JV Assistant Coach

#### **Lacrosse – Boys**

Cory Childs, Head Coach  
Cooper Tokar, JV Assistant Coach

Alexander Horras, Varsity Assistant Coach  
Brett Templin, JV Coach

- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$5,029.92
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for February of 2024
- Approved Treasurer's Report for February of 2024
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 318318-318432, 1782-1791, EP Register: 902319-902341, EFT Vouchers: 269-270, 6503-6510 and Capital One: 52734-52751

### 6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by detailing the March 12-13 Strategic Plan Core Planning Team meetings where 31 members of the community (parents, staff, and community members) met to pour over school district data and provide input into strategic planning. The strategic planning process provides a structured way to ensure that we are addressing needs and providing opportunities for our students to achieve personal excellence. She remarked that the Team provided input on the strategic direction of the district that will be synthesized, presented again to the Core Planning Team in May, and then to the Orono School Board for approval in June 2024. Dr. Flesher thanked the Core Planning Team members; Dr. Scott E. Alger, Paul Allonby, Adam Benjamin, Sarah Borchers, Tiffany Clifton, Gene Couser, Jeff Craig, Dr. Kristine

Flesher, Jessica Frie, Glen Gunderson, Jessica Hovland, Mary Jodl, Dr. Becky Kanive, Stephanie Klaers, Chelsea Lee, Dr. Leslie Locke, Todd Madson, Britta McGuire, Amy Mitchell, Donna Ostvig, Dr. Katie Phillips, Melinda Ringenier, Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Becky Schultz, Dr. Rena Shah, Dr. Robby Sikka, Jane Smith, Paul Springmeyer, Katie Stanley, Timothy Usset, and Kim Van Eyll.

She also offered special thanks to facilitator Dr. Mark Wolak and guest speakers Ali Chorley, Sean Beaverson, Bailey Nett, Jennifer Ivers, Dr. Leslie Locke and Dani Putra. Please see the website to learn more on the Strategic Planning process, Core Planning Team members, and key findings from the Stakeholder Input Phase.

Next, Dr. Flesher offered congratulations to Gya Casado, Naomi Reyes, Alondra Gonzalez, Bella Nikolov, Oliver Rowan, and Aliyah Davis on their outstanding achievement representing the Student Voice Club at Orono High School. The team of six led a workshop at the National Youth Leadership Council Conference last week at the River Center in Saint Paul. Their presentation focused on the crucial topics of increasing student agency through student voice and employing the human-centered design process. Congratulations to Gya, Naomi, Alondra, Bella, Oliver, and Aliyah on their remarkable accomplishment!

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that on March 13, ten students from Orono High School were recognized for their outstanding artwork at the 2024 Metro West Conference Visual Arts Exhibition Awards Program and Reception. Congratulations to the 10 students who received certificates for their exceptional efforts. Junior Andrew Carlson was honored with a blue ribbon “Award of Excellence” for his piece entitled, “A Pair of Pears.” Congratulations also to Alexis Arnold, Kaelin Carpenter, Noah Feldmann, Leyla Lyu, Olivia Monger, Andrew Nishida, Tiegna Swanson and Maya Vanyo for their outstanding work.

Next, Dr. Flesher reported that the History Day Regional Competition results are in and Orono will be sending the following students to the state competition April 20 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

- Performance state qualifiers: Ava Darst and Isabel Holm
- Website state qualifiers: Caitlin Dahlberg, Drew Bazil and Oliver Groves and Regina Veach and Claire Severtson
- Exhibit state qualifiers: Connor Rausch and Dylan Koopman, Everleigh Sternhagen and Lauren Benjamin, Audrey Meneses and Lydia Sponsler and Lula Coffey and Sydney Dahlstrom
- Research Paper state qualifiers: Taylor Flesher, William Johnson and El Morris
- 12 more students were awarded Honorable Mentions at the regional event.

Next, Dr. Flesher gave special thanks to OMSPA for funding solar glasses for the middle school students. Students in grades 6-8 all went outside in hopes of experiencing the eclipse. With the cloudy weather, they were unable to see much, but returned to their classrooms to watch the NASA coverage. Eclipse is part of our 6th-grade science curriculum, so it was a special day for our students to experience the event with their teachers and peers.

## 7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she attended the Minnesota School Board Association “Day at the Capitol” as well as a meeting of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts. She noted that both meetings provided clarity around the newly signed SRO Bill. Ms. Lundsgaard thanked Orono Police for their uninterrupted service. The meetings also provided clarification and information on the READ Act and mentioned that additional mandates are expected.

Laura Wallander noted that the Orono Early Learning Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-10. Programming wraps up May 16. They are looking for seasonal item donations for the Jr. Spartan Closet as well as volunteers to help with Back Yard Clean Up. Those interested can reach out to the Early Learning Center.

Mike Bash did not have anything to report.

Sarah Borchers was not in attendance but submitted comments on the positive enthusiasm around the Strategic Planning process. Ms. Borchers reported the Wellness Expo will be held May 2 and is looking forward to the upcoming Orono High School performance of "The Play that goes Wrong." The show runs April 18-20, 2024.

Ali Howe did not have anything to report.

Todd Madson shared that he attended the PTO Glow Fest spring event. There was a good turnout with a lot of dancing and fun. Mr. Madson offered his kudos on the Strategic Planning process and shared that he is impressed with the work that's been done to engage the community.

#### 8. – Old Business

##### 8. A – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

#### 9. – New Business

##### 9. A - Radon Safety Presentation

David Slomkowski and Jim Westrum presented the findings from the recent Radon Sampling Report. Mr. Slomkowski reported that Radon is tested every 5 years. All classrooms and spaces were tested and every test result was below the standard levels. These are uncommonly good results.

##### 9. B - Construction Update

Jim Westrum presented a Facilities and Construction Update. As construction has begun in the Link, the Community Ed office will move to accommodate construction. The Middle School roofing modifications are on track for completion this week. Mr. Westrum included a report on the Highway 112-Wayzata Blvd. reconstruction that will impact access to campus. The preliminary plan is for construction to begin April 15 and continue into the fall. The Orono schools website will feature updates and maps.

##### 9. C - Q-Comp/ATPPS Report Approval

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning & Accountability and Jessica Hovland, Kelly Leibfried, and Teresa Widen shared with the Board the current status of the Q-Comp/ATPPS report and requested approval from the Board. The group noted that OEA members are supportive of the Q-Comp changes implemented this fall that include a revised observation and feedback schedule through the school year. Presenters also offered highlights from the Instructional Round.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the Q-Comp/ATPPS plan for 2024-2025.

Motion approved unanimously.

##### 9. C - MSHSL Boys Volleyball Co-op Agreement Approval

Dr. Flesher presented the MSHSL Boys Volleyball Co-op Agreement Document for the Spring 2025 Sports Season. The team will start with a Co-op agreement with Westonka and Waconia. Practices to be held at Mound-Westonka High School.

UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board approved the MSHSL Boys Volleyball Co-op Agreement for 2024-2025.

Motion approved unanimously.


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 22, 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 8:42 PM.

  
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Michael Bash, *Chair*

  
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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*