

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON MAY 13, 2024

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

Absent: None

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, May 13, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7 PM.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

5. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 22, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Karen Rowan, full-time ESY Elementary Special Education Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective June 21, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Erin Head, full-time Art Teacher at Orono High School to full-time Associate Principal at Orono High School, effective July 1, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Ellie Davenport, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 21, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Tina Dickinson, full-time Reading Intervention at Schumann Elementary to full-time Kindergarten or 1st Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Megan Hand, full-time 1st Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary to full-time Literary Interventionist at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Mitchell Benson, as a full-time Science Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 29, 2024.
- Approved the resignation of Jill Sowada, full-time ELL Teacher at Orono Middle and High School, effective June 7, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Chad Eischens, as a full-time Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds at Orono Schools, effective June 3, 2024.
- Approved the resignation of Virginia Byers, full-time Program Coordinator for Orono Partnership for Youth, effective May 6, 2024.
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$20,611.29
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 318610-318768, 1791-1801, EP Register: 90236-902376, EFT Vouchers: 272-273, 6511-6518 and Capital One: 52780-52797

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report recognizing the celebration of many appreciation days for staff, including School Lunch Hero Day, National School Nurse Day, National Communications Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. Dr. Flesher expressed her gratitude for all staff who were honored last week, and thanked the parent organizations who go "all out" year after year.

Next, Dr. Flesher reported that there was an outstanding turnout for the third annual Community Wellness Expo on May 2nd. Community Education estimates that more than 850 people came together to learn about well-being resources, participate in service activities, enjoy a meal, and pet the llamas. Dr. Flesher thanked Director Tiffany Clifton, the entire team at Orono Community Education, and Ms. Kristin Nafstad for organizing this amazing event.

Dr. Flesher reported that tomorrow is the follow-up day with the core planning team to review the analysis of all feedback and the writing work that has occurred since the March retreat. Dr. Flesher looks forward to their feedback that will go back to the administrative team before the June 10, 2024 board meeting.

On May 2, Orono High School held its annual junior and senior awards ceremony. 94 juniors were honored for achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

- Junior Book awards were announced:
 - Dartmouth Book Award - Henry Shafer
 - Harvard - Quinn Martini
 - St. Lawrence - Alex Paulsen
 - Yale - Ashley Ishaug

108 seniors were designated Honor Graduates, with 54 already earning one of three AP Scholar honors. The awards ceremony also honored senior Javonte Wilson for receiving a \$25,000 national Horatio Alger Scholarship and Charlie Gronholz who received an appointment to West Point military academy at the ceremony.

Dr. Flesher offered an Athletics Update on Spring Sports. Boys tennis recently wrapped up Metro West conference play with a perfect 7-0 record and received the #2 seed in Section 5AA. Softball closed out last week with three wins in three days over Chanhassen, DeLaSalle, and Delano. 8th grade pitcher Gabby Kastamo picked up all three wins for Orono. Girls lacrosse continued its impressive play and has now won six games in a row. The Spartans are 8-1 on the season and are currently ranked #7 in the state. Boys lacrosse has won three games in a row including an overtime thriller over Armstrong on Thursday, and a 13-2 victory over Mound Westonka on Saturday. Girls golf earned a first-place finish last week at the prestigious Hazeltine National Golf Course. Both the girls & boys team will compete in the Metro West Conference championship next Monday at Braemer Golf Course in Edina. Track and field is preparing for the Metro West conference championship meet at New Prague High School. Both teams have continued to perform well throughout the season with many individuals achieving personal bests at each meet.

Orono Middle School held the spring play *Matilda, Jr.* over the weekend. Congratulations to the students, who always put on an outstanding production.

Dr. Flesher closed by announcing that the district is holding an information session for prospective School Board candidates on Wednesday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room. She noted that three seats will be on the ballot for the November 5, 2024, election. The information session will cover candidacy, the governance role, committee responsibilities and more. Any member of the community is welcome to attend.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update: Mr. Madson reported that the meeting provided an opportunity to learn and understand Other Post-Employment Benefits other than pensions eligible to retirees. The committee will meet again to dig deeper into the complexities and mechanics and will work with actuaries at the next meeting.

Wendy Lundsgaard attended the AMSB meeting on the legislative session. They heard from Secretary of State Steve Simon on how schools play a vital role in elections.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report.

Mike Bash asked Dr. Flesher about the high school choir performance in New York City at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Flesher remarked that it was a fantastic experience and that in addition to performing, the students spent time exploring New York City. Dr. Flesher and Mr. Bash complimented Nichole Brenna on her efforts. Dr. Flesher also mentioned that congratulations were in order for the Orono High School band following their performance at Ted Mann Hall at the University of Minnesota.

Sarah Borchers shared that she attended the SPA meeting and noted that Prom ticket sales are going well and that SPA funded requests for tickets to maximize student impact. She also remarked on the positive energy at the Wellness Expo.

Ali Howe reported that she attended the SEPPC Meeting to hear their priorities for next year. She also attended the High School band concert at Ted Mann Hall remarking that the band sounded amazing.

Todd Madson added his compliments to the Well-being Expo organizers. It helps put the District as the true hub of the community. He offered his kudos to the Orono Foundation for the funds raised at their gala.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Academic Calendar 2025-26 Second Reading

Member Sarah Borchers motioned to approve the plan as presented. The motion was duly seconded by member Laura Wallander. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. – New Business

9.A - Contract Signing Authorization

Upon Motion by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education approved Kristine Flesher, Superintendent or Nick Taintor, 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.

9.B - 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 Nick Taintor, 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.

9.C - Long term Facilities Revenue for Orono School District 278

Jim Westrum, Director of Business Services, presented the updated 10-year long term facilities maintenance plan for approval.

Member Todd Madson motioned to approve the plan as presented.

The motion to approve the plan as presented was duly seconded by member Wendy Lundsgaard.

And upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mike Bash, Sarah Borchers, Ali Howe, Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard, Todd Madson

And the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly approved.

9. D - Long Term Facilities Revenue for Intermediate School District 287

Member Laura Wallander motioned to approve the plan as presented.

The motion to approve the plan as presented was duly seconded by member Todd Madson.

And upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mike Bash, Sarah Borchers, Ali Howe, Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard, Todd Madson

And the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly approved.

9. E - READ Act Update

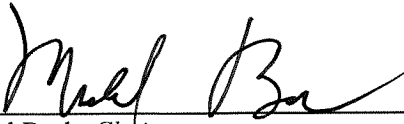
Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Director of Learning and Accountability and Beth Pearson, District Literacy Specialist provided an update on READ Act implementation for the 24-25 school year.

9. C – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 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 8:14 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*