

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON JUNE 10, 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, June 10, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:00 PM.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

Mr. Bash requested that agenda item 9A be moved to the start of the meeting. Dr. Kristi Flesher, Superintendent, presented a certificate of gratitude to Officer Jay McCoy for his years of service to the Orono Schools.

5. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Ali Howe, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 13, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Mitchell Benson, as full-time Chemistry Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Douglas Jetton, as full-time Engineering and Technology Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Emily Binder, as full-time Eighth Grade Science Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Shelly T. Howell, as full-time .75 FTE English Language Teacher at Orono Middle School and Orono High School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Paul Ivers, full-time Spanish Teacher at Orono High School to full-time Digital Learning Specialist at Orono Schools, effective June 10, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Kristin Quill, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School to full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 25, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Gayle McDonald-Jonassen, full-time Fifth Grade Generalist Classroom Teacher at Orono Intermediate School to full-time Fifth Grade Math and Science Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 25, 2024
- Approve the change of assignment of Shelagh Gamble, full-time Art Teacher at Orono Middle School to full-time Art Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 25, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Maria Barlow, full-time .8 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center to full-time .6 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center
- Approved the change of assignment of Brittany Oppen, full-time .8 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center to full-time 1.0 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center
- Approved the leave of absence for Chelsea Palmer, full-time First Grade MAC Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective May 28, 2024 through November 1, 2024

- Approved the resignation of Kyle Jensen, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective June 7, 2024
- Approved the resignation of Michael Kray, full-time Associate Principal at Orono Middle School, effective June 30, 2024
- Approved the appointment Yesica Ruiz, as full-time Custodian (Class II) at Orono Elementary Center, effective April 19, 2024
- Approved the appointment of John Timpe, as full-time Summer Grounds Worker at Orono Schools, effective May 15, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Zhou Benson, as a ESY Paraprofessional at Orono Intermediate School, effective June 25, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Viktoriia Myrna, part-time cook at Orono Schools, to full-time Seasonal Custodian at Orono Schools, effective June 10, 2024 through August 1, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Sean Beaverson, full-time Coordinator of Technology at Orono Schools to full-time Director of Technology at Orono Schools, effective July 1, 2024
- Approved the resignation of Kellina Samuelson, full-time Human Resources Generalist for Orono Schools, effective July 8, 2024
- Approved the following Master Agreements: 2023-2026 Food Service Personnel Agreement, 2023-2026 Custodial Personnel Agreement, 2023-2025 Paraeducator Personnel Agreement, 2023-2025 Educational Support Agreement
- Approved the Superintendent's Contract
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$16,901.08
- Approved Treasurer's Report for April of 2024
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for April of 2024
- Designated Dr. Kristine Flesher as the 'Identified Official with Authority' to authorize access by local education agency users to Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) secure websites
- Approved the 2024-2026 First Student Transportation Agreement
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 318769-319001, 1802-1811, EP Register: 902377-902457, EFT Vouchers: 274, 6519-6526 and Capital One: 52824-52834

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that the Strategic Plan Core Planning Team met for the final time to provide input on the draft documents. The district is grateful for their insights and perspectives which are captured in the Proposed Strategic Plan that will be discussed later tonight. Once again, thank you to the 30+ committee members who dedicated many hours to this effort and offered up their voices to ensure this plan represented the interests of all.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that the Orono Coalition, under the direction of Ms. Ali Chorley, concluded their meetings for the year. This is the first year of a five-year grant and robust plans are in place to continue understanding the needs of the community, building a support structure to reduce substance use, and improving mental well-being among students.

Dr. Flesher noted that Schumann Elementary held their annual Imagination Fair with 156 second-grade participants and scores of visitors, including students from Schumann and IS. Thank you to Ms. Jane Smith, Dr. Katie Phillips, and Jamie Jeska for organizing, guiding, and inspiring students to dig deep into a topic of interest.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that Orono Middle School concluded the month of May with two memorable efforts. First, the 8th Grade Capstone Festival at the Orono Activities Center was an amazing display of student projects and collaboration around the theme, "Breaking Barriers." The depth of understanding and the skillful presentations in front of high school judges was amazing. Next, about 110 OMS students ended the year volunteering to share their WIN time with residents of the Stone Bay of Orono Senior Living Center. This year, students have walked to Stone Bay to play cards, visit, and perform music for residents.

Dr. Flesher offered congratulations to the Orono High School Wind Ensemble, one of only five high school bands nationwide to be selected as a *finalist* for the Band/Wind Ensemble Performance-High School division of The American Prize. This is a national non-profit competition in the performing arts. The American Prize will announce division winners in late 2024.

Dr. Flesher also recognized the class of 2024 and noted that the annual staff recognition breakfast was held Friday morning. Congratulations and best wishes were extended to Orono's retirees: Bradley Jans, Julie Juerk, Keith Jurek, Darcie Malchow, Karen Pennaz, Carol Sulander and Paul Krautkremer.

Dr. Flesher concluded her report with a Spring Athletics Update. She shared that the spring athletics season will come to an end following the conclusion of the upcoming boys and girls golf state tournament on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Throughout the year, Orono has had teams or individuals qualify for and participate in a remarkable 22 MSHSL state tournaments (75% of Orono's programs were represented at state).

Last week, boys tennis had three individuals compete in the State Tournament at Baseline Tennis Center: Hugh Perrill, Anthony Perrill and Quinn Martini. Congratulations to Anthony & Quinn who finished as doubles runner-up and earned a 2nd-place finish.

The track and field team had a school record 14 students compete in 12 different events at the state track and field championship meet last week.

The following students earned All-State Recognition for their performances: Owen Chapman - 8th place in 1600 meter & 6th place in the 3200 meter, Victor Ruhland - 2nd place in the 100 meter dash, Johnny Skoog, Gabe Hallen, Charlie Gronholz, and Owen Hirt - 2nd place in the 4x800 meter relay, Alivia Uselding, Taylor Walsh, Sindri Bonner, and Rynne Andreen - 8th place in the 4x800 meter relay.

Three students are participating in the State Golf Tournament beginning tomorrow at Bunker Hills Golf Club. Congratulations and best of luck to Dylan Kringen, Nora Benson and Ava Hanneman.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update: Todd Madson shared that the revised 2024 and proposed 2025 budgets were the topic of discussion at the most recent meeting. Mr. Madson also noted that the district is working on approving the fund balance, and are moving towards that goal.

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she listened in on the most recent AMSD meeting that offered additional clarity on recent legislative changes.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report.

Mike Bash shared that the board recently held an information meeting about what it means to be a school board member. He noted that the presentation was very informative and important for those interested in running for the board. Mr. Bash also commented on the annual recognition breakfast, and presented Dr. Flesher with a plaque and gift for her 30 years of service to the district.

Sarah Borchers noted that she attended a meeting of Orono Healthy Youth where they discussed summer programming and the turnout of the recent wellness expo. Ms. Borchers encouraged community members to look at summer programming opportunities offered by community education.

- * Ali Howe shared that she attended a meeting of the Community Education Advisory Council where they discussed staffing updates, program updates, fall planning, an upcoming Supporting our Spartans event, several presentations about adult enrichment opportunities and budget.

Todd Madson shared that he attended a meeting of the Orono Foundation for Education where he expressed gratitude to the community for their donations to the foundation and acknowledged Laura Kloss, a recently hired staff member

who has done great work for the foundation this year. Mr. Madson also shared that he attended an end of year picnic hosted by the Orono Rotary club and appreciates all that they do.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9.A - Certificate of Gratitude - Officer Jay McCoy

This item was moved to that start of the meeting at the request of the board chair.

9. B - Termination and Non-Renewal of Probationary Teaching Contracts

Continuing contract law in the state of Minnesota requires that Boards of Education take explicit action of non-renewal or the contract continues automatically into the coming school year. All of the individuals who are being proposed for non-renewal will have been notified prior to the evening of June 10, 2024.

Member Laura Wallander introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL
OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT OF NICHOLAS HINIKER, A PROBATIONARY TEACHER.**

WHEREAS, NICHOLAS HINIKER is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 278.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 278, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, subdivision 5, that the teaching contract of NICHOLAS HINIKER, a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 278, is terminated and non-renewed effective with the close of the 2018-19 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that written notice be sent to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of her or his contract as provided by law, and that said notice be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND NON-RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Hiniker,

You are hereby notified that at a regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 278 held on June 10, 2024, a resolution was adopted by majority roll call vote to terminate your contract effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year and not to renew your contract for the 2024-2025 school year. Such action of the Board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subd. 5.

You may make a written request that the Board of Education state its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract. Such a request must be made, however, within ten (10) days after receiving this notice.

Yours very truly,
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #278

Clerk of the Board of Education

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Sarah Borchers and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mike Bash, Sarah Borchers, Ali Howe, Laura Wallander, Todd Madson, Wendy Lundsgaard

And the following voted against the same: None

Hereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

9. C - Resolution for Continuation of Membership in Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL)

Every year, the Minnesota State High School League requires districts to adopt a resolution to continue its membership in the league.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board of Education adopted the resolution to continue the district's membership in the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Motion carried unanimously.

9. D - Budget Approvals

Mr. Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, presented the 2023-2024 revised budget to the Board.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Board approved the 2023-2024 revised budget as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Nick Taintor presented the preliminary budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Ali Howe, the Board approved the preliminary budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. E - 2024 Population Estimate Certification

Mr. Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, presented to the board and recommended that the board adopt the resolution to certify the 2024 population estimate.

Member Ali Howe introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE POPULATION ESTIMATE FOR THE 2024
PAYABLE 2025 LEVY OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 0278-01**

WHEREAS, the Independent School District #0278-01 has experienced an increase in population from the 2020 census figure of 12,711, to the current census figure of 13,209 as determined by the State Demographer.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District #0278-01 that the census figure of 13,209 be certified to the State Demographer for approval of use in the 2024 payable 2025 revenue calculations.

For the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Sarah Borchers 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: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

9. F - Strategic Plan Approval

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning & Accountability and Dr. Kristi Flesher, Superintendent presented to the board the proposed draft of the strategic plan and requested the board's approval.

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Sarah Borchers, the Board approved the district's Strategic Plan as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. G – Other New Business as Necessary

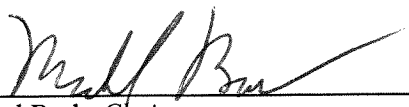
No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

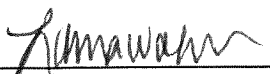
UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Ali Howe, the board moved into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(a) to evaluate the performance of school district personnel at 8:23 PM.

The board reconvened to open session at 10:12 PM.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Sarah Borchers, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*