

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2024

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

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, August 19, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash at 7:00 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda

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

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on June 10, 2024
- Approved Minutes from the Special Meeting held on July 16, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Irine Arrieta, as full-time DCD Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Megan Benker, as full-time Third Grade Teacher (LTS) at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Michelle Tormanen, as full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Kelly Buchner, as full-time Fifth Grade Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Dianna Hunt, as full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 26, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Paige Awes, as full-time First Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Carrie Ellis, as full-time Spanish Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Joseph Dokken, as full-time Art Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Kari Heitke, as full-time Floating Building Substitute at Schumann Elementary, effective August 28, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Kristan Nalezny, as full-time Second Grade Teacher (LTS) at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Jennifer Oddenino, as full-time First Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 27, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Sara Hunstiger, full-time ADSIS Teacher at Orono Middle School, to full-time Associate Principal at Orono Middle School, effective July 1, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Cassandra De Leon, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 3, 2024, through October 7, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Jess Strom, full-time Sixth Grade Science Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective November 1, 2024, through March 21, 2025
- Approved the resignation of Alison Van den Bussche, full-time First Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 14, 2024

- Approved the appointment of Peter Keding, as a full-time Custodian (Class II) at Orono Elementary School, effective July 18, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Jada Olson, as a full-time Custodian (Class II) at AC, effective July 18, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Samantha Hapka, as a full-time Special Education Paraprofessional at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 28, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Jane Oyen, as a full-time Special Education Paraprofessional at Orono Middle School, effective August 30, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Patricia Bertram, full-time Special Education Paraprofessional at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 3, 2024, through October 28, 2024
- Approved the resignation of Linda Zilverberg, part-time Cook at Orono High School, effective August 8, 2024
- Approved the resignation for Katelyn Pine, full-time Special Education Paraprofessional, effective July 24, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Rachel Gustafson, as a full-time Media Clerk at Orono Middle School, effective August 29, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Abigail Schoenberg, full-time Executive Assistant to the Superintendent at Orono Schools to full-time Human Resources Generalist at Orono Schools, effective July 22, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Emily Zakashefski, full-time Media Clerk at Orono Middle School to full-time Technology Support Specialist at Orono Schools, August 1, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Kristin Palm, full-time Guidance Clerk at Orono High School to full-time Executive Assistant to the Superintendent at Orono Schools, effective August 16, 2024
- Approved the resignation of Robert Kovach, full-time Technology Support Specialist for Orono Schools, effective July 31, 2024
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$515,459.77
- Authorized the 2024-2025 LEA (Local Education Authority) Representative
- Approved the Annual MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) Statement of Assurances
- Accepted the Summary of the Superintendent's End of Year Evaluation
- Approved Continued Membership in the following Organizations for the 2024-2025 School Year:
  - o AMSD – Association of Metropolitan School Districts
  - o BrightWorks
  - o MSBA – Minnesota School Boards Association
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 319002-319413, 1812-1843, EP Register: 902458-902514, EFT Vouchers: 275-278, 6527-6541 and Capital One: 52835-52903

## 6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report tonight with several messages of gratitude.

First, Dr. Flesher shared that Community Education staff knocked it out of the park again this summer with engaging programming that met the needs of hundreds of students. In fact, there were over 6,700+ enrolled this summer - including childcare.

Next, Dr. Flesher noted that the campus has been incredibly busy with construction projects that will improve safety and enhance learning. Thank you to Nick Taintor and Chad Eischens who have led the work and managed an incredible level of detail. They will provide an update on summer construction projects later in the meeting.

Next, Dr. Flesher expressed gratitude to Orono's technology team and summer interns under the direction of Sean Beaverson, for continuing to implement secure and pragmatic solutions that bring classrooms and digital learning environments up to today's standards. Dr. Flesher took the opportunity to thank the community for supporting the Tech Levy renewal in 2022. The district could not do this important work without this consistent funding stream.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared that in mid-June Orono Schools rolled out the Strategic Plan to the community through a print newsletter, *Orono Schools Today*. Among the strategic goals is an ongoing commitment to connectedness. This is a goal in and out of the classroom.

Director of Athletics and Student Activities, Paul Brunner, shared that 447 students have registered to participate in fall athletics. This is an increase from 421 last fall. 67% of middle school students are enrolled in band or choir next year. Even with all the course choices in high school, 258 students—28%—are enrolled in band or choir. The OHS fall musical is “Anastasia.” To date, 28 students have signed up to audition September 4. These are just a few examples of how the schools are engaging students in athletics and performing arts. Clubs and activities will fill quickly once school gets underway.

#### 7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Mike Bash shared that he attended the Orono Women’s Soccer team carwash and they did a wonderful job.

Todd Madson shared that he attended the kickoff meeting of the PTO. Mr. Madson shared his gratitude for the work this group does.

Wendy Lundsgaard shared that she attended the AMSD Board of Directors meeting. Ms. Lundsgaard shared that she received updates surrounding the READ Act and there was discussion about both student and staff mental health.

Ali Howe did not have anything to report.

Laura Wallander shared that she attended a meeting of the Ice Arena Board. Ms. Wallander shared several updates and items discussed during that meeting.

Sarah Borchers 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 – Appointment of Election Clerk

The Board received a recommendation to appoint Abby Schoenberg as the Election Clerk in preparing and running the November 5, 2024 school board.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Abby Schoenberg as Election Clerk.

Motion carried unanimously.

##### 9. B – Summer Technology Implementation Update

Sean Beaverson, Director of Technology, provided the board with an update on the technology implementation that took place during the summer.

##### 9. C - Summer Construction Projects Update

Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services and Chad Eischens, Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds presented to the board information related to the construction work that has taken place across the district over the summer.

9. D – Other New Business as Necessary

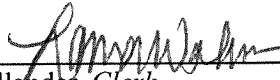
No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Sarah Borchers, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.



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Michael Bash, *Chair*



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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*