

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

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

Absent: Wendy Lundsgaard

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, September 9, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash at 7:00 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda

Board Member, Laura Wallander shared that she will be abstaining from the vote with regard to fall coaching contracts. Ms. Wallander will be coaching through Community Education and would like to avoid any potential conflict of interest that participating in the vote might elicit.

UPON MOTION by Sara Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the Consent Agenda items, excluding Item C was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on August 19, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Erika Gmach, as full-time 1st Grade Long Term Substitute Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Holly Howe, as full-time 1st Grade (MAC) Long Term Substitute Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 27, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Kathleen Mulvihill, as full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 27, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Angela Turner, as full-time Building Substitute Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 2, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Kelly Jordahl, as full-time 4th Grade Long Term Substitute Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 3, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Alicia Gochowski, full-time 2nd Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary, to full-time 1st Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Molly Hautman, full-time Kindergarten Teacher at Schumann Elementary, to full-time 1st Grade Teacher at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Edison Fernandez, as a full-time Custodian (Class II) at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 26, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Mahalaxmi Nair, as a full-time Paraprofessional at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 3, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Sharon Spooner, as a full-time Cook at Orono High School, effective August 21, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Jessica Lewin, as a full-time High School Receptionist Cashier at Orono High School, effective August 29, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Sara Larson, as a full-time Guidance Counselor Secretary at Orono High School, effective August 28, 2024

- Approved the appointment of Lindsay Truax, as a part-time Health Specialist Short Term Substitute at Schumann Elementary, effective September 3, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Mallory Purdy, full-time Special Education Teacher & Learning Coordinator at Orono High School, effective September 9, 2024, through October 13, 2024.
- Approved the leave of absence for Katie Bucka, full-time Health Clerk at Schumann Elementary, effective August 26, 2024, through September 27, 2024.
- Approved the resignation of Kerry Lezer, part-time Cook at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 19, 2024.
- Approved the resignation of Ronald Jenkins, part-time Hall and Security Monitor, effective August 19, 2024.
- Approved the resignation of Britta McGuire, full-time Classroom Paraprofessional, effective August 19, 2024.
- Approved the resignation of Anna Streich, full-time Classroom Paraprofessional, effective August 22, 2024.
- Approved the leave of absence for Scott Alger, full-time Executive Director of HR at Orono District Office, effective August 27, 2024, through September 9, 2024.
- Approved the following fall coaching contracts:

### **Cross Country**

Brian McCollor, Head Coach (Boys)  
 Nathan Porter, Assistant Coach  
 Nate Uselding, Assistant Coach

Addy Hallen, Head Coach (Girls)  
 Michelle Naylor, Assistant Coach

### **Football**

Joe McPherson, Head Coach  
 Mark McConnell, Varsity Assistant Coach  
 Kyle Jensen, JV Coach  
 Tom Borrell, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

Barry Wohler, Varsity Assistant Coach  
 Jason Seurer, Varsity Assistant Coach  
 Mitch Benson, JV Coach  
 Mike Leuer, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

### **Soccer – Boys**

Grant Steine, Head Coach  
 Trevon Sladek, JV Coach  
 Nathaniel Kurtzweg, Varsity Assistant Coach  
 Neil Vassar, Assistant Coach

Peter Sherman, B Coach  
 Alex Tagtmeier, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach  
 Luke Anderson, Varsity Assistant

### **Soccer – Girls**

Erin Murray, Head Coach  
 Caitlin Tripp, Varsity Assistant Coach  
 Reiley Prueter, B Coach (Shared)

Natalie Soper, Varsity Assistant Coach  
 Nels Larson, JV Coach  
 Ally Swenson, B Coach (Shared)

### **Swim Dive – Girls**

Mark Seguin, Head Coach  
 Bret Beecher, Assistant Coach

Barb Scouler, Assistant Coach  
 Jenna Lattu, Assistant Coach

### **Tennis – Girls**

Aaron Dvorak, Head Coach  
 Dawn Reidinger, B Coach

John Andraschko, JV Coach  
 Brian Brown, Varsity Assistant Coach

### **Volleyball**

Abby Perrin, Head Coach  
 Anders Carlson, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach  
 Maddison Haeger, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

Kim King, JV Coach  
 Julie Schottler, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

- Approved the Resignation Agreement and Release of All Claims
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 316484-316686, 1708-1721, EP Register: 902030-902079, EFT Vouchers: 253-254, 6446-6452 and Capital One: 52460-52497

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson , seconded by Ali Howe, the Consent Agenda item approving wage adjustments for substitutes, proctors, students, casual employees, and athletic coaches for 2024-2025. Laura Wallander abstained from this vote.

Motion carried.

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

Tonight, Dr. Flesher began her report by noting that today was the beginning of the second week of school on our main campus and our first day of Preschool at the Discovery Center. She shared that it has been wonderful to see our students returning across the district with so much enthusiasm. Students and staff at the high school and middle school are adjusting well to a small schedule change, and the elementary and middle school teams worked alongside Transportation last week to ensure efficient dismissal, loading, and on-time arrival at home.

Next, Dr. Flesher shared upcoming Homecoming information. Orono will be celebrating the week of September 23-27 with a Friday football game vs. Mound Westonka. She thanked Mr. Joe Huber and the DECA student leaders for once again managing the Homecoming t-shirt design and sales. Proceeds go to our vibrant DECA club to help cover fees and transportation costs.

Dr. Flesher continued with updates from around campus. Orono High School is hosting Back to School night tonight. This is an opportunity for parents to connect with teachers and understand the curriculum planned for the school year. Last week, Orono High School held an Activities Fair during lunches so that students could learn more and sign up to explore clubs and activities. She stated her pleasure in the high level of student participation in sports and clubs and how that is key to our goals of *belonging* and *connectedness*. Cast and Crew have been named for the fall musical, “**Anastasia**.” Tickets will go on sale later this fall with performances beginning November 15. The Orono Middle School fall drama production will be “**The Alibis**” through a cooperative arrangement with 4 Community Theatre. This is a classic “whodunnit” that promises a lot of laughs during performances October 10-13.

Dr. Flesher updated the Board on the construction on campus. The Middle School is in its final stages of construction, with a goal to minimize impact to student programming. She thanked our students and staff for their flexibility, as needed. Along with a thank you to Jim Westrum, Chad Eischens and Nick Taintor for managing this important project.

Dr. Flesher continued with a Spartans Sports Update. The Football team is now 2-0 with wins over Zimmerman and Big Lake. The Spartans return to Pesonen Stadium this Friday against the SMB Wolfpack. This is an important night with the annual Tackle Cancer and Youth Night events. Girls Swim & Dive won their opening conference dual against St. Louis Park on September 5th and are currently ranked #2 in the state in Class A. In Cross Country, the boys team is currently ranked #4 in the state in Class 2A. The girls team is currently ranked #7 in Class 2A. Congrats to Owen Chapman who has taken 1st place individually in all 3 races for the boys so far this season. Dr Flesher congratulated Abby Perrin as well, who recently earned her first **Volleyball** win as varsity head coach against Zimmerman. The team also went 3-1 this past weekend in the Mound Westonka Tournament. Girls Soccer is undefeated on the season, with a 4-0-1 overall record. The girls are currently ranked #9 in the state in Class 2A. And Girls Tennis has won 4 straight matches and are 4-1 overall on the season.

After the Spartan Sports Update, Dr. Flesher concluded her report.

## 7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Todd Madson had nothing to report.

Ali Howe had nothing to report.

Sarah Borchers shared highlights and key takeaways from the AMSD meeting held last week.

Mike Bash asked Dr. Flesher to share an update on current road construction projects adjacent to campus and asked about feedback received regarding the completed entryway redesign at the middle school. Dr Flesher shared that feedback has been very positive and has expressed gratitude for the Board and the construction planners for their eye on safety during the project.

Laura Wallander reported that she attended the Middle School Parent Night and credited teachers and committee members for making that night a success.

## 8. – Old Business

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

No other old business was brought forward.

## 9. – New Business

### 9. A – Presentation of check from Orono Foundation for Education

Ms. Katie Hollerman, Board Chair of the Orono Foundation for Education presented the board with a check on behalf of the foundation.

### 9. B – 2023-2024 Superintendent Goals

Dr. Flesher shared her goals for the 2024-2025 school year with the board for a first reading.

### 9. C – Community Education Update

Ms. Tiffany Clifton, Director of Community Education, reported to the board with an update regarding the work of the community education department.

### 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 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

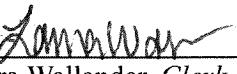
UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Sarah Borchers, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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Michael Bash, *Chair*

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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*