

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

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

Absent: Ali Howe

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, September 23, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash at 7:00 PM.

3. Consideration of the Agenda

4. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on September 9, 2024
- Approved the change of assignment of Joseph Suchomel, part-time Teacher at Orono Middle School, to full-time German Teacher at Orono High School, effective September 23, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Shaun Elling, as a full-time Special Education Paraprofessional at Orono Middle School, effective September 10, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Carin Jablonsky, part-time Food Service at orono Public Schools, to a Food Service Substitute at Orono Public Schools, effective October 4, 2024.
- Approved the leave of absence for Lauren Spoke, full-time Child Nutrition Specialist at the Orono District Office, effective September 1, 2024 through January 2, 2025.
- Accepted donations totaling \$3,521.48.
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for May 2024.
- Approved the Electronic Fund Transfers for May 2024, June 2024 and July 2024.
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 319609-319751, 1844-1857, EP Register: 902560-902568, EFT Vouchers: 6542-6551 and Capital One: 52936-52954

5. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher opened her report by expressing her gratitude to our six Orono School Board members, observing Minnesota School Board Recognition Month. She thanked the Board on behalf of district students, families and staff for the tremendous work that they do on behalf of all students.

Dr. Flesher then announced our National Merit Scholars for the Class of 2025. These five students - two Semifinalists - Jorja Kenworthy and Quinn Martini and three Commended Scholars - Thomas Martin, Henry Shafer and Alisha Shah will be invited to our recognition program before the November 12th School Board meeting.

Dr. Flesher shared that this week is Homecoming week! This week is filled with activities and celebrations of Spartan Pride in all buildings and at all grade levels. She invited our community to visit the Homecoming web page that lists the public events in addition to information for students. The parade is a highlight every year. This year, it will start at 1:20pm on Friday at the north end of Old Crystal Bay Road with participation from band, student clubs, the Homecoming Court and our community first responders.

Dr. Flesher continued her report with a Fall Sports Update highlighting this week's sporting events. She reported that Orono teams continue their impressive fall seasons and noted teams ranked in the Top 10 of the state! The Boys Cross Country team is ranked 10th, Boys Soccer is ranked 8th, Girls Soccer is ranked 7th, Football is ranked 3rd and Girls Swim and Dive is ranked 2nd! The Orono athletics department offered a

yearly athletics student pass for \$50 this year. It has been a hit with over 300 purchased so far this year. The pass allows entry into every regular season home game for the entire year. The pass is designed to encourage students to attend more games and get a feel for sports they may want to participate in.

Dr. Fleisher closed her report by sharing news of two new team offerings this year - Debate and Robotics.

6. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities and Finance Committee Meeting Update:

Todd Madson and Sarah Borchers shared updates from the Facilities and Finance Committee that met on Thursday, Sept 19. The committee met to discuss the Preliminary Finance Report and Proposed Levy Certification and shared a financial update on the time and budget completion of construction projects across the district over the summer.

Policy Committee Meeting Update:

Sarah Borchers shared that the Policy committee met on Sept 18th to review the three policies that require annual review. These will be discussed during New Business. The committee will meet Oct 7 to continue to review Policies that had legislative changes in the past several months.

Board Member Updates:

Mike Bash had nothing to report.

Todd Madson highlighted upcoming Foundation events this week: Homecoming Tailgating event on Friday and a “What’s Brewing” event on Wednesday morning. He mentioned that the MSBA has released their 2024 Legislative Recap and where the board members could find it for review.

Wendy Lundsgaard had nothing to report.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report.

Sarah Borchers had nothing more to report.

7. – Old Business

7. A – 2024-2025 Superintendent Goals (ACTION)

The 2023-2024 Superintendent Goals were presented for a second reading and approval.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, and seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the 2024-2025 Superintendent Goals as presented.

Motion Approved unanimously.

7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

8. – New Business

8. A – Policy Review (First Reading)

Dr. Flesher brought the following policies, which need an annual review, to the board for a first reading and presented proposed changes.

- Policy 506: Student Discipline
- Policy 722: Public Data and Data Subject Requests
- Policy 806: Crisis Management

9. B – Navigating the College Admissions Landscape Update

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability, Dr. Amy Steiner, Orono High School Principal presented to the board an update on the work the district has done related to the process of navigating the college admissions landscape. Their presentation covered college course credit opportunities for students, the work School Counselors are doing to support students along with the college selection process and successes of our Class of 2024 students.

9. C – Preliminary Financial Report

Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, presented the Fiscal Year-end 2023-24 Preliminary Financial Report and highlighted key points regarding the report. He shared that the Annual Audit Report will be presented at the November 12, 2024 School Board meeting.

9. C – Preliminary Levy Certification

Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, presented the 2024 Pay 2025 Property Tax Levy and highlighted key points regarding the levy.

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, and seconded by Sarah Borchers, the board approved the proposed 2024 Pay 2025 Property Tax Levy.


Motion Approved unanimously.

9. C – Other New Business as Necessary

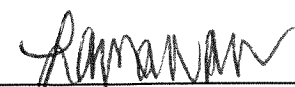
No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned to a work session for the purpose of a report on learning and accountability at 8:24 PM.



Michael Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*