

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2024

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

Absent: Kristine Flesher

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, October 28, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash at 7:00 PM.

Board Chair, Mike Bash, recognized that Dr. Ruhland was sitting in for Dr. Flesher this evening and introduced Melissa Klukas, District School Resource Officer who was in attendance.

### 3. Consideration of the Agenda

#### 4. 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 October 14, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Kelly Jordahl, as full-time Long-Term Substitute at Orono Schumann Elementary, effective October 14, 2024 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Chelsea Palmer, as full-time First Grade Teacher at Orono Elementary School, effective November 4, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Jamie Lotzer, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective October 22, 2024.
- Approved the change of assignment of Nicholas Ruhland, full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School to part-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective October 21, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Dylan Johnson, as a part-time Activities Center Monitor, effective October 15, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Alexia Greenwaldt, as a full-time Discovery Kids Assistant Teacher at the Orono Discovery Center, effective October 21, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Catherine Christiansen, as a part-time Project Coordinator for Orono Healthy Youth and the Orono Coalition, effective October 15, 2024.
- Approved the appointment of Amelia Lang, as part-time Spartan Kids High School Aide, effective November 4, 2024.
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for June, July, August and September of 2024.
- Approved Electronic Wire Transfers for August and September of 2024.
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 319947-320007, EP Register: 902582-902597, EFT Vouchers: 282-285, 6552-6557 and Capital One: 52985-52992

#### 5. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr Ruhland began with a thank you to the Orono High School Student Voice Club for organizing a fun and informative event for Hispanic Heritage Month. There was a chance for students to practice traditional dances to authentic music and enjoy chips, salsa and empanadas from DelSur Empanadas. He then gave a Fall Sports update, highlighting accomplishments of select teams and student athletes. Orono Girls Swim and Dive won the True Team State Championship for the second consecutive year! Orono Cross Country runners Owen Chapman and Jocie Hallen were named Metro West Conference individual champions with first-place finishes at the Cross Country conference meet. The Boys Cross Country team won the Section 6AA Championship with three top-10 finishers: Owen Chapman-2nd place, Gabe Hallen-3rd place and Cooper Munsch-6th place and will compete at the State Tournament. Jocie Hallen qualified for the Girls Cross Country State Meet by placing 3rd at the Section 6AA meet. The Orono Football team defeated Mound Westonka to advance to the Section 6AAAA Championship game against

Providence Academy. Orono Girls Soccer team won the Section 6AA Championship and received a #5 seed in the State Tournament and will play in the state-semifinals against Holy Angels. The Orono Boys Soccer team won their 5AA Section Championship and will play in the state semifinals game against Holy Angels as well. Dr Ruhland reminded us that Anastasia, the OHS musical will open on November 15 and tickets are on sale now.

Dr Ruhland concluded the report with two announcements, first was that next week, November 4-8 is National School Psychology Week. He encouraged everyone to thank our school psychologists - Daemon Bronken, Dr Julie Nelson and Ericka Ronnings. The second announcement was that Friday, November 8 is a Professional Day and there will be no school E-12.

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

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Mike Bash shared that the Policy Committee met to begin reviewing the policies relating to board governance. The first six will be presented in New Business.

Todd Madson shared that he attended the PTO meeting and gave a shout out to all of the work that is done by the PTO and their volunteers this time of year. He shared the challenges that the PTO has with communication and the need that parents need to opt-in to receive communications from PTO. Todd also shared that the DECA Date Night fundraiser was a success and that Give to the Max day is coming up on 11/21 and encouraged listeners to consider a gift to the Orono Foundation for Excellence.

Wendy Lundsgaard had nothing to report.

Ali Howe reported that she attended the Special Education Parent Partner meeting. She said that it was a good meeting and the year is off to a great start.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report.

Sarah Borchers reported that she attended the SPA meeting. There were a variety of presentations from teachers and the Orono Foundation of Excellence.

Mike Bash reported that he had attended both the girls' and boys' soccer games last week. He shared a reminder that the next board meeting is being held on November 12, rather than November 11, which is Veteran's Day.

#### 7. – Old Business

##### 7. A – Policy Review

The following revised policies were presented to the board for a second reading and approval.

- Policy 101 Legal Status of the School District
- Policy 101.1 Name of the School District
- Policy 102 Equal Educational Opportunity
- Policy 103 Complaints
- Policy 104 School District Mission Statement
- Policy 522 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure, and Process

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, and seconded by Laura Wallander, the board approved the recommended revisions to policies 101, 101.1, 102, 103, 104 and 522.

Motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 6 yays and zero nays.

##### 7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward

8. – New Business

8. A – Policy Review

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability brought the following policies to the board for a first reading:

- Policy 201 Legal Status of the School Board
- Policy 202 School Board Officers
- Policy 203 School Board Procedures: Rules of Order
- Policy 203.2 Order of the Regular School Board Meeting
- Policy 203.6 Consent Agendas
- Policy 204 School Board Meeting Minutes

8. B – Orono Excellence Fund - Secondary Learning & Implementation

Dr. Aaron Ruhland introduced staff members from Orono Middle School and Orono High School that presented on their opportunities to attend conferences and trainings to enhance their professional learning and how they integrate those learnings into their teaching.

Dr. Amanda Sass-Henke and Bill Madison from the Orono Middle School.  
Brandy Randall, Grace Nohner and Michelle Naylor from Orono High School.

8. C – Resolution to support the Application to the MSHSL Foundation for a Form A Grant to Offset Student Activity Fees.

Dr Ruhland presented the resolution to approve the application.

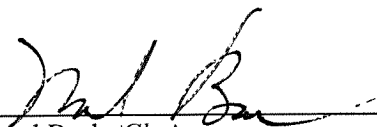
UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Laura Wallander, the board approved the application to the MSHSL Foundation for a Form A Grant to Offset Student Activity Fees.


8. D – Other New Business as Necessary

There was no other new business presented.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Wallander, the meeting was adjourned to a work session for the purpose of a report and update from the Orono Coalition at 8:08 PM.

  
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Michael Bash, *Chair*

  
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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*