

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD NOVEMBER 12, 2024

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

Absent: None

1. Community Members Questions and Comments

No members of the community addressed the board.

2. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash, at 7:02 PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda (ACTION)

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

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held October 28, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Emalee Farley, full-time First Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 26, 2024, through November 25, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Ronda Greeninger, as part-time Cook at Orono Middle School, effective 11/4/2024
- Approved the resignation of Olivia Yarmoluk, full-time Discovery Kids Assistant Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective 11/1/2024
- Approved the resignation of Dalay Perez-Negrete, full-time Discovery Kids Assistant Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective 11/1/24
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$9,141.34
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 320008-320176, 1868-1877, EP Register: 902598-902609, EFT Vouchers: 6558-6565, and Capital One: 52993-53014

6. - Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr Flesher began her report by saying that she and the Board had just come from the annual program recognizing the Advanced Placement Scholars of Distinction, National Merit Scholars, and staff that have earned tenure in Orono Schools. She extended her congratulations to everyone recognized.

Dr Flesher continued by congratulating the Orono High School Debate Team of Owen Marks, Ethan Weiss, and Simon Forbes who took 4th place out of 20 teams in their first event last weekend. She reminded everyone that the OHS fall musical, Anastasia, opens Friday, November 15 and encouraged everyone to visit the Orono Theater website for details and tickets.

The playoff season of Fall sports continues. Dr Flesher congratulated the Boys' Cross Country team on their 6th place finish at the State Meet and Owen Chapman for his 3rd place finish and his All-State Honor recognition. Gabe Hallen also earned All-State Honors with his 13th place individual finish and Jocie Hallen, from the Girls Cross Country team finished in 33rd place. Dr Flesher recognized the Girls' Soccer team and Boys Soccer team both earned a fantastic 4th place finish in their respective state tournament appearances. She extended congratulations to the Orono Girls Swim and Dive team for winning the Section 3A Championship. The team will participate in the State Meet this Thursday-Saturday at the University of Minnesota. Last, but not least, she conveyed that we will all be cheering on the Football team as they advance to the State Semifinals and will play Totino-Grace this Friday at 11:30am at The US Bank Stadium.

The Orono Winter sports season is just getting underway with our Girls' Hockey team traveling to Westonka for tonight's matchup with the White Hawks. The Spartans are looking to open the season with three straight wins.

Dr Flesher concluded her report by sharing that Wednesday afternoon, 15 student-athletes will be recognized at the Athletics College Signing Day at Orono High School. These students will be playing 10 different sports in college at the NCAA level. She extended congratulations to:

Owen Chapman	Mallory Knutson	Macy Rasmussen
Elle Davis	Zoe Lopez	Anna Rausch
Nolan Groves	Ben Masica	Robert Teele
Ava Hanneman	Sullivan Neubauer	Colin Werremeyer
Susanna Johnson	Rae Pearce	Cullen Winter

7. - Board Members Questions and Comments

Mike Bash - shared that he attended the Veteran's Day recognition event at Orono High School. Many distinguished members of the community were present and that it was a great opportunity to recognize those that have served.

Sarah Borchers - reported that the Policy Committee members met and discussed the policies presented later in tonight's meeting. Orono Healthy Youth Board met and received an update from the Americorp rep and a presentation from Ali Chorley.

Ali Howe - nothing to report

Wendy Lundsgaard - nothing to report

Todd Madson - shared thoughts on the Financial Audit being presented tonight. As well as the financial health of the Orono District.

Laura Wallander - nothing to report

8. - Old Business

8. A - Policy Review

Dr Flesher stated that there were no further changes to the policies presented at the last board meeting and that the following policies are being presented for a second reading and approval.

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

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the board approved the following changes to policies 201, 202, 203, 203.2, 203.6, 204.

Motion approved unanimously.

8. B - Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. - New Business

9. A - Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes in School District General Election

Member Sarah Borchers moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION CANVASSING RETURNS
OF VOTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL ELECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 278, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the general election of the voters of this School District held on November 5, 2024, in conjunction with the State General Election was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

2. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 11,966 voters of the School District voted at said general election on the election of three (3) school board members for four (4) year term vacancies on the School Board caused by expiration of term on the first Monday in January next following the general election as follows:

<u>Gavin Tempero</u>	<u>3,458</u>	<u>write-in</u>	<u>589</u>
<u>Timothy Usset</u>	<u>3,686</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Laura Wallander</u>	<u>4,233</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

3. Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, and Laura Wallander, having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four (4) year terms beginning on the first Monday in January, 2025.

4. The Clerk is hereby directed to certify the results of the election to the County Auditor of each county in which the School District is located in whole or in part.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Todd Madson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Todd Madson, Ali Howe, Sarah Borchers, Mike Bash, Laura Wallander, and Wendy Lundsgaard

and the following voted against the same: None

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

9. B - Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates of Election

Member Sarah Borchers introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES
OF ELECTION AND DIRECTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK
TO PERFORM OTHER ELECTION RELATED DUTIES**

WHEREAS, the board has canvassed the general election for school board members held in conjunction with the State General Election on November 5, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 278, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The Board Chair and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute Certificates of Election on behalf of the School Board of Independent School District No. 278 to the following candidates:

- a. Gavin Tempero
- b. Timothy Usset
- c. Laura Wallander

who have received a sufficiently large number of votes to be elected to fill vacancies on the board caused by expiration of term on the first Monday in January next following the election, based on the results of the canvass.

2. The Certificate of Election shall be in substantially the form attached hereto.

3. After the time for contesting the election has passed and the candidate has filed all campaign financial reports required by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 211A, the Clerk of the School Board is hereby directed to deliver a certificate to each person entitled thereto personally or by certified mail.

4. The Clerk is hereby directed to enclose with the certificate a form of acceptance of office and oath of office in substantially the form attached hereto.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard and upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof

Todd Madson, Ali Howe, Sarah Borchers, Mike Bash, Laura Wallander, and Wendy Lundsgaard

and the following voted against the same: None

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

9. C - Audit Report

Dr Flesher invited Director of Business Services, Nick Taintor and Bill Lauer, Principal from MMKR (Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.) to present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2023-24.

9.D - Operating Levy Presentation

Dr Flesher invited Director of Business Services, Nick Taintor and Shelby McQuay, Senior Municipal Advisor from Ehlers, Inc. to outline Orono School District's current operating levy and its options for renewal.

9. E - Policy Review

Sarah Borchers presented the following policies for a first reading.

- Policy 205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings
- Policy 206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings
- Policy 208 Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies
- Policy 209 Code of Ethics
- Policy 210 Conflict of Interest - School Board Members
- Policy 211 Criminal or Civil Action
- Policy 214 Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members

9. F - Other New Business as Necessary

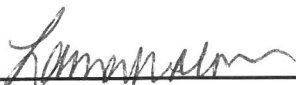
No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Ali Howe, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.



Mike Bash, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*