

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM AT 685 OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD N,
LONG LAKE, MINNESOTA ON DECEMBER 9, 2024

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

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 Monday, December 9, 2024 and called to order by Board Chair, Mike Bash at 6:00 PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Consideration of the Agenda

Board Chair, Mike Bash, proposed a change to New Business item 9A Policy Review to reflect that the policies presented will be for a first reading, second reading and a vote. He also stated that he anticipates a recess will be called before agenda item 9B Truth in Taxation Hearing, as that item can't start before 7:00 PM.

5. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Todd Madson, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on November 12, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Colleen Westlund, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective January 6, 2025
- Approved the leave of absence for Andrew Stitt, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective January 6, 2025 through January 31, 2025
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Leslie O'Meara, full-time Business Teacher at Orono High School, effective June 6, 2025.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Lisa O'Halloran, full-time Business Teacher at Orono High School, effective June 7, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Gretchen Gubbins, as part-time Cook at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective December 2, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Samantha Koscielniak, part-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective January 15, 2025 through May 19, 2025
- Approved the change of assignment of Natalia Mora Cruz, Food Service Substitute at Orono Public Schools to part-time Cook at Orono Middle School, effective November 11, 2024

- Approved the appointment of Leo Bock, as part-time Activities Center Monitor at the Orono Activities Center, effective December 2, 2024
- Approved the appointment of Eleanor Robinson as full-time Activities Center Monitor Lead at the Orono Activities Center, effective December 4, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Katherine Hofmann de Bustamante, full-time Discovery Kids Lead Infant Teacher at the Discovery Center, tentatively effective December 19, 2024 through March 14, 2025
- Approved the temporary change of assignment of Abigail Wooley, part-time Assistant Teacher for the Orono Early Learning Clubhouse Program at the Orono Discovery Center, to full-time Discovery Kids Lead Infant Teacher at the Orono Discovery Center, tentatively effective December 19, 2024 through March 14, 2025.
- Approved the winter coaching contracts:

Dance

Meghan Eder, Head Coach-Shared
 Mackenzie Iverson, Head Coach-Shared
 Kaitlin Budish, JV Coach-Shared
 Erin McCarty, JV Coach-Shared

Jenna Reed, JV Coach-Shared
 Kayla Wandersee, JV Coach-Shared
 Marina Healy, JV Coach-Shared

Basketball - Boys

Barry Wohler, Head Coach
 Rustin Olson, B-Squad Coach
 Mark Sembrowich, Varsity Asst. Coach
 Mat Wistrom, 9th Grade Coach

Bryan Goudy, JV Coach
 Luke Runka, Varsity Asst. Coach
 Andrew Thibault, 9th Grade Coach

Basketball - Girls

Christopher Bjorgaard, Head Coach
 Michael Youngs, Varsity Asst. Coach

Marlo Stubbs, JV Coach
 Hope Kanenwisher, JV Asst. Coach

Nordic Ski

Brian McCollor, Head Coach
 Dennis Curran, Varsity Asst. Coach

Mara McCollor, Varsity Asst. Coach

Swim & Dive – Boys

Benjamin Hanson, Head Coach
 Chad Johnson, Varsity Asst. Coach

Isabelle Kalb, Varsity Asst. Coach
 Naomi Hamer, Volunteer

Wrestling

Jeff Wichern, Head Coach

Jesse Martin, Assistant Coach - Shared

Michael Sloneker, Assistant Coach - Shared
Fred Isbell, Assistant Coach - Shared
William Ostvig, Assistant Coach - Shared
Ross Williams, Volunteer

Julian Berg, Assistant Coach - Shared
Gustavo Cano-Garnica, Assistant
Coach-Shared
Pete Keding, Volunteer

Hockey - Boys
Mitch Hall, Varsity Head Coach
Tom Hall, Varsity Asst. Coach
Garrett Schmitz, Varsity Asst. Coach

Garrit Otten, JV Head Coach
Will Adamson, JV Asst. Coach
Mac Berglove, Goalie/Strength Coach

Hockey - Girls
Paul Antonenko, Varsity Head Coach
Hannah Williams, Varsity Asst. Coach
Claire Bjerke, Varsity Asst. Coach

Mackenzie Skatter, JV Head Coach
Lindsay Czech, JV Asst. Coach
Amanda LeVeille, Goalie Coach

Alpine Ski
Brian McGoldrick, Head Coach – Shared
Kelly McGoldrick, Head Coach - Shared

Dave Carlson, Varsity Asst. Coach

- Approved Memorandum of Understanding for Schedule C of the Master Agreement
- Approved Memorandum of Understanding for the READ Act
- Accepted donations totaling \$17,719.84
- Approved Treasurer's Reports for October 2024
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for October 2024
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 32041-32098, 320177-320375, 1878-1882, 1883-1887, EP Register: 902610-902692, EFT Vouchers: 286-287, 6566-6573 and Capital One: 53015-53048

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher shared updates on several student activities. She began with the **Debate Team**, sharing that two teams competed at the Mounds Park Academy Tournament on Nov. 23. The team of Simon Forbes and Ethan Weiss finished the tournament 3-1. The team of Grace Fisher and Keagan Klaers finished the tournament 4-0 and won the 18-team Novice Division. Grace and Keagan took 1st and 2nd place in Division Speaker Points, respectively. This past week, Ethan Weiss and Simon Forbes competed in the quarterfinal round at the Minnesota Classic State Debate Tournament. Dr. Flesher recognized **John Malone** as the new OHS Debate Coach.

In **Spartan Athletics**, juniors Evelyn Miller and Eli Fish were named the MSHSL ExCEL Award recipients and seniors Sulli Neubauer and Brady Wooley were named MSHSL Triple 'A' Award Recipients for excellence in Academics, Athletics and the Arts.

In competition **Dance**, Jazz has taken first place in the first two conference meets of the season, and Kick has placed 2nd in both meets.

Boys Basketball is off to a 2-0 start after defeating the top state-ranked teams from Minnesota (Wayzata) and North Dakota (Fargo Davies). Spartans are currently ranked #4 in Class 3A.

Girls Basketball is off to an outstanding 6-1 start, including a win over defending 4A state-champion Minnetonka. Spartans are currently ranked #10 in Class 3A.

Boys Hockey has a 4-2 record on the season and is currently ranked #11 in Class 1A. Junior **Jackson Knight** currently leads the state in goals scored with 13.

Girls Hockey is off to an impressive 7-2-2 start and ranked #3 in Class 1A.

Boys' Nordic Ski took first place at the opening Metro West Conference skate race on Thursday. The Spartans swept the top 4 individual spots with **Wells Huotari, Ben Masica, Walter Holmes**, and **Connor Loop**.

Girls Nordic Ski team also placed third in the skate race. Congratulations skiers!

Wrestling is enjoying record participation numbers, including multiple girls on the team for the first time in school history. This past weekend, the team participated in the St. Michael-Albertville Invite and 7th grader **Emery Soukup** finished in 2nd place in the varsity girls division! Congratulations Emery!

Dr. Flesher shared the honors and awards that **Orono High School's Anastasia** received from the Hennepin Arts Spotlight Education, run by the Hennepin Theatre Trust. Anastasia will be featured in their Spotlight Showcase in June. In addition, Anastasia received Outstanding in Overall Technical Production, Costume Crew, and Sound Crew. They also earned Honorable Mention for Ensemble Dance Performance, Run Crew and Achievement in Musical Theater. Individual honors went to:

Henry Shafer and **Axel Duke** - Outstanding in a Leading Role

Greta Rolfzen - Honorable Mention in a Leading Role

McKenna Monger - Outstanding in a Supporting Role

Lucy Keating (costumer) and **Ava Klug** (board operator) - Outstanding in a Technical Leadership

Klaire Hillman (stage manager) and **Celia Fries** (student director) - Honorable Mention in Technical Leadership. Dr. Flesher congratulated Director **Kelsie Balon Peck** and the entire cast and crew of Anastasia.

Dr. Flesher completed her report by recognizing **School Board Members Mike Bash and Ali Howe**, who will end their terms this month. She thanked **Ali Howe** for her years of service. Ali started on the Board in January, 2020. She served on the negotiations committee and served on the special education parent partnership, Orono Healthy Youth, the Community Education Advisory Board, and was the board liaison with the City of Independence.

Dr. Flesher continued by recognizing **Mike Bash** and his long history of service to the greater Orono community and his dedication and leadership. Mike was sworn in during the January 12 meeting in 2004, serving as Board Chair during the past two years. Mike served on

numerous committees in Orono, including Facilities and Finance, Policy, AMSD, Educational Cooperative Service Unit, MSHSL and was the board liaison with the City of Long Lake.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Chair Mike Bash reported that the Policy committee met and discussed the 300 Series, which will be presented tonight.

Finance & Facilities Meeting Update: Todd Madson shared that the Finance & Facilities committee met to review the Operating Levy Hearing and Truth in Taxation Hearing information that will be presented during tonight's meeting. Todd reported that the committee continues to review and prioritize the findings of a years-long needs assessment and will present a more detailed update on those findings in January. Todd also reported that the District received an update on its rating from Moody's.

Mike Bash shared his thoughts after attending the Orono Action Legislative breakfast.

Sarah Borchers had nothing to report.

Ali Howe reported that she attended Anastasia and was pleased to hear all of the awards. She then read a statement of appreciation and gratitude, closing by saying "it truly is a great day to be a Spartan!"

Wendy Lundsgaard reported that she attended the Orono Action Legislative breakfast with State Senator Warren Lemmer and State Representative Andrew Myers in attendance. She also attended the AMSD Board meeting and the OMS band concert.

Todd Madson reported that he met with the PTO last week and announced an upcoming Run-a-Thon that will kick off in January. The group is looking for donors to sponsor the event.

Laura Wallander stated that the Orono Action committee is working to set the platform for the upcoming year. She asked anyone with ideas to share them with her or her co-chair Tim Usset. The platform will be presented to the Board in January.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Public Hearing for the proposed extension of the Operating Referendum by School Board approval (ACTION)

Mike Bash opened the public hearing. Dr Flesher gave a brief history of the Orono Operating Levy and introduced Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services who presented a recap of the Operating Levy Referendum prior to the invitation for public comment. No members of the community address the board during public comment. Board members, Mike Bash, Ali Howe, and Laura Wallander made comments. Chair Mike Bash closed the Public Hearing.

8. B – Policy Review

Dr Flesher presented the following policies to the board for a second reading and approval.

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

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the board approved the adoption of policies 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 211, and 214.

Motion approved unanimously.

8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Policy Review (First & Second Reading) (ACTION)

Dr Flesher presented the following policies for a reading and action tonight.

1. Policy 301 School District Administration
2. Policy 302 Superintendent
3. Policy 303 Superintendent Selection
4. Policy 304 Superintendent Contract and Evaluation
5. Policy 305 Policy Implementation
6. Policy 306 Administrator Code of Ethics

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the first and second readings and adoption of policies 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 211, and 214.

Chair, Mike Bash asked for a motion to recess the meeting until 7:00 PM for the 2024 Truth in Taxation Hearing. UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Ali Howe, the meeting was recessed.

Chair Mike Bash called the meeting back to order at 7:00PM. He turned the meeting over to Dr. Flesher who re-introduced Mr. Nick Taintor.

9. B – 2024 Truth in Taxation Hearing

Mr. Nick Taintor presented information regarding Truth in Taxation. The district is required by Minnesota State Statute to hold a Truth in Taxation meeting annually. The public was given an opportunity to comment. There were no comments. Chair Mike Bash closed the public comment and asked for Board comments. Board members, Wendy Lundsgaard, Laura Wallander, Mike Bash and Todd Madson added comments following the presentation.

9. D – 2023 Pay 2024 School Property Tax Levy for Fiscal 2024-2025

UPON MOTION by Ali Howe, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board of Education approved the final 2024 pay 2025 property tax levy of \$23,530,674 and directed the Clerk to certify to the Hennepin County Auditor in that amount.

Roll Call Vote:

Todd Madson - aye

Ali Howe - aye

Wendy Lundsgaard - aye

Mike Bash - aye

Laura Wallander - aye

Sarah Borchers - aye

Motion approved 6 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.

9. E – Other New Business as Necessary

No other New Business was brought forward.


10. Informational Item

A. December Enrollment


The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

Chair Mike Bash thanked everyone on behalf of himself and Ali Howe, for the opportunity to serve on the School Board.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Ali Howe, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.



Sarah Borchers, Chair



Laura Wallander, Clerk