

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD JANUARY 13, 2025  
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM - 685 N OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD, LONG LAKE MN

Present: Laura Wallander, Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson, Wendy Lundsgaard, Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, Kristine Flesher

Absent:

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, January 13, 2025, and called to order by the acting Chair, previous Board Vice Chair, Sarah Borchers at 7:00 PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Oath of Office

Acting Chair, Sarah Borchers, administered the ceremonial oath of office to Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, and Laura Wallander who were elected or re-elected to the Orono School Board on November 5, 2024.

4. Election of School Board Officers

Acting Chair, Sarah Borchers, presided over the election of school board officers for 2025 by reading through the process for nominations and voting. She then opened the floor for nominations.

UPON MOTION, Laura Wallander nominated Sarah Borchers for the office of Chair. No other nominations were brought forward.

UPON MOTION, Sarah Borchers nominated Todd Madson for the office of Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were brought forward.

UPON MOTION, Sarah Borchers nominated Laura Wallander for the office of Clerk. No other nominations were brought forward.

UPON MOTION, Sarah Borchers nominated Wendy Lundsgaard for the office of Treasurer. No other nominations were brought forward.

All members voted aye to the motion. Motion carried.

#### 6. Set Salaries of the School Board Clerk and Treasurer

Laura Wallander MOVED, Wendy Lundsgaard seconded that the yearly salary for both the School Board Clerk and the School Board Treasurer be set at \$0 or the minimum required by law as set by state statute.

All members voted aye to the motion. Motion carried.

#### 7. Consideration of the Agenda

No request was made to modify the agenda.

#### 8. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander seconded by Todd Madson, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held December 9, 2024
- Approved the leave of absence for Brittany Jacobs, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, tentatively effective February 10, 2025 through May 5, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Emily Purnell, part-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, tentatively effective March 10, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Hannah Kenny, full-time Speech Language Pathologist at Orono Middle School, tentatively effective March 20, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Kristina Mochinski, part-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, tentatively effective May 7, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Randall Johnson, full-time Custodian at Orono High School, effective December 4, 2024 through March 4, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Ivonne Figueroa, part-time Cook at Orono High School, effective December 10, 2024 through January 21, 2025.
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$65,249.36
- Approved Collateral
- Approved Treasurer's Reports for November of 2024
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for November of 2024
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 320376-320657, 1888-1897, EP Register: 902693-902722, EFT Vouchers: 288-291, 6574-6581, and Capital One: 53049-53093

Wendy Lundsgaard, Todd Madson, Sarah Borchers, and Laura Wallander voted aye. There were zero nay votes. Gavin Tempero and Timothy Usset abstained. The vote to approve the consent agenda passed.

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

Dr Flesher opened her remarks with a heartfelt welcome to our returning Board member, Laura Wallander, and our two new Directors, Gavin Tempero and Tim Usset.

She continued by extending congratulations to senior Woody Field who is serving as President of the Minnesota Association of Honor Societies and will be part of a panel presentation, “Student Voice in Schools,” at the Minnesota School Board Association leadership conference. Later this month, Woody will have the opportunity to emcee a portion of the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals Winter Conference. At that event, he will also be presented with the MASSP President's Scholarship.

Dr Flesher shared that last week, Orono alumna Clare Gagne signed with the Kansas City Current, making Clare the first Orono soccer player to sign a professional contract! Clare is a 2020 graduate of Orono High School and completed an undergraduate degree from Brown University in health and human biology before joining the D1 North Carolina Tarheels for her graduate season. At North Carolina, Clare was part of the team that won the 2024 NCAA championship. That same year she was named the College Cup Most Outstanding Defensive Player. She is working towards her master's degree in public health. We are so proud that Clare has been a role model for all Orono students in academics, athletics, and service.

Dr Flesher recognized Macy Rasmussen and Maddy Kimbrel who were named to the U.S. Women’s U18 Hockey team that competed in Finland and brought home a silver medal. This is the second time Macy earned a spot on the U.S. Women’s team.

Dr Flesher then made a few announcements:

Alumni Awards Nominations Due February 1, 2025

The Orono Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its annual awards program. There are two categories: Promising and Distinguished. To be eligible for a Promising award, nominees must have graduated between 2010 and 2024. Distinguished nominees must have graduated prior to 2010. Nominations may be made online through the Orono Foundation website.

Activities Update

Performing Arts

Tonight is the winter choir concert at Wayzata Community Church under the direction of Nichole Brenna.

All community members are invited to attend the FREE performance of “The Brothers Grimm Spec-tac-u-lathon” on January 17 at 6 p.m. in OHS Auditorium. Our students will perform the play during the One Act competition this Saturday at New Prague High School. Our theater program is under the direction of Kelsie Balon-Peck.

Dr Flesher continued by recognizing the following teams currently ranked in the Top 10 in the state:

Girls' Hockey - Ranked 1st! They face Minneapolis on Wednesday at the Parade Ice Garden.

Boys' Hockey - Ranked 10th. Their next game is tomorrow vs. Chaska here at home.

Girls' Basketball - Ranked 3rd. The girls are traveling tomorrow to Bloomington Jefferson.

Boys' Basketball - Ranked 2nd. They will be tipping off tomorrow against Bloomington Jefferson here at OHS.

Wrestling (Individuals) - Brett Kiecker is the #6 state-ranked boys wrestler in the 114 lb. division. Emery Soukop (7th grade) is the #1 state-ranked girls wrestler in the 100 lb. division. The next wrestling match is Thursday this week here at home.

Congratulations to Orono Boys' Swim & Dive, currently ranked 5th, on placing second at True Team Sections and earning a wild card bid to True Team State next Saturday.

The Boys' Alpine Ski team took 1st place at both of the Metro West Conference races of the season. Good luck to both the boys and girls teams racing tonight at Buck Hill!

The Boys' and Girls Nordic teams had great races at the Mesabi East Invite on Saturday. The boys' placed 4th, which is the highest ever finish in program history. The boys are currently ranked 5th.

Congratulations to the Orono Dance team on taking 2nd place at the Metro West Conference Championships. They also participated in their first invite of the season at Edina with outstanding results:

JV Jazz took Gold

Varsity Jazz, Silver

Varsity Kick, Bronze

Dr Flesher closed her remarks by speaking about enrollment for the 2024-25 school year.

Our business services team is planning now for 2024-25 enrollment. We are encouraging all families with Kindergarten-eligible children to complete their first step in the enrollment process this week. Details can be found on our enrollment website.

#### 10. - Board Members Questions and Comments

Todd Madson gave an update from the recent Facilities & Finance committee meeting. The committee has been working on the Field and Facilities update and will present that to the Board during the January 27 work session.

Laura Wallander updated the board on her attendance at the following meetings:

Minnetonka Beach City Council, Community Education Advisory Council, Meet & Confer, Orono Action Steering Committee, ECFE Advisory Committee, and AMSD Legislative Session Preview.

Tim Usset reported on his attendance at the Orono Coalition meeting.

Wendy Lundsgaard updated the board on her attendance at the AMSD Legislative Session Preview and the OMSPA meeting.

Sarah Borchers had nothing to report.

Gavin Tempero had nothing to report.

## 11. – Old Business

### 11.A - Operating Levy Referendum Renewal

Dr Flesher introduced Business Director, Nick Taintor. Nick recapped the presentation and Operating Levy Referendum hearing from the December 9th Board meeting and answered questions from board members.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education approved the extension of the Operating Referendum for the '25 Pay '26 Levy for Fiscal Year 2027 through the '34 Pay '35 Levy for Fiscal Year 36 which will extend the Operating Referendum for another ten years as authorized under Minnesota Statute 126C.17, Sub. 9.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

No other old business was brought forward.

## 12. – New Business

### 12. A – Designation/Approval

#### 1. Official Local Depositories

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board of Education designate the MidCountry Bank, the Bank of Maple Plain, MN Trust, and MN School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus as depositories for the regular funds of this school district and the officers of the Board of Education are hereby authorized in the name of and on behalf of the Board of Education to open or cause to be opened or to continue or cause to be continued accounts with said banks and to execute and deliver to said banks, signature cards supplied by said banks containing said banks usual customer agreement applicable to such accounts and the signatures of the officers or other persons hereinafter named are hereby authorized to act for and on behalf of the Board of Education or otherwise to endorse or cause to be endorsed, to negotiate or cause to be negotiated, or to deposit or cause to be deposited in such accounts any money, checks, drafts, orders, notes or other instruments payable or held by this Board of Education. Said officers are: Sarah Borchers (chair), Todd Madson (vice chair), and Wendy Lundsgaard (treasurer).

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

2. Official Investment Depositories and Transfer of Funds

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Laura Wallander the Board of Education approved the following investment depositories and authorizes Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, and Rachel McQuiston, District Controller to transfer funds among these financial institutions for investment purposes:

- (1) Wells Fargo Bank
- (2) US Bank
- (3) Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus
- (4) MidCountry Bank
- (5) Bank of Maple Plain
- (6) PMA Financial Network, Inc./MN Trust
- (7) Capital One Bank

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

3. Official Publication

UPON MOTION by Timothy Usset, seconded by Gavin Tempero, the Board of Education approved the Laker Pioneer as the District's official publication.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

4. Legal Counsel

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education approved the firm of Squires, Waldspurgen, & Mace P.A. as the District's legal counsel.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

5. Office of the Clerk

UPON MOTION by Timothy Usset, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Board of Education approved the Orono District Office at 685 Old Crystal Bay Rd N., Long Lake, MN as the official office site of the Board of Education clerk.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

6. Renewal of Surety Bonds or Equivalent

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Gavin Tempero, the Board of Education approved the renewal of surety bonds or equivalent for all employees.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

7. School Auditor

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Orono Board of Education approved the firm of LB Carlson (formerly, Malloy, Montague, Kamowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.) as the district's auditor.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

8. Contract Signing Authorization

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Board of Education approved Kristine Flesher, Superintendent or Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services to lease, purchase, and contract for goods and services within the budget, pursuant to MN Statute 123B.52 subd. 2.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

9. Staffing Resolution

Laura Wallander MOVED, Wendy Lundsgaard seconded, that the Board of Education approve a resolution directing the administration to evaluate and make recommendations for increases and/or reductions in programs and positions. These changes may be necessary for the 2025-26 school year due to factors such as financial limitations, program revisions, and changing student enrollments. This provides District administration with the timeline necessary to begin planning/preparing for the 2025-26 school year, and thereby notifying those individuals impacted, as stipulated in employee contracts.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Financial Advisor

UPON MOTION by Gavin Tempero, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Orono Board of Education approved the firm of Ehlers, Inc. as the District's financial advisor.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

11. Architect and Engineer

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Gavin Tempero, the Orono Board of Education approved the firm of Wold Architects and Engineers as the District's architect and engineer of record.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

12. B - Committee Appointments

Committee Assignments for the period of January 2025 through December 2025 were proposed as follows.

Committee Name	Board Representative
Board Committees	
Negotiations	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard, Timothy Usset
Co-Curricular	Laura Wallander, Gavin Tempero
Facilities and Finance	Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson, Gavin Tempero
Board Policy	Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson, Timothy Usset
Orono Action Steering Committee	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard, Timothy Usset
Board Assignments / Liaison Work	
AMSD Board (Association of Metropolitan School Districts)	Wendy Lundsgaard, Tim Usset (Alternate)
Community Education Advisory Council	Laura Wallander, Timothy Usset
Curriculum & Accountability Council	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard
ECFE Advisory Committee (Early Childhood Family Education)	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard
ECSU (Educational Cooperative Services Unit)	Gavin Tempero
Intermediate District #287	Dr. Karen Orcutt
Middle School Parent Association	Wendy Lundsgaard
MN State High School League	Laura Wallander
MSBA (MN School Boards Association) Local Legislative Liaison	Wendy Lundsgaard, Timothy Usset (Alternate)
Orono Foundation for Education	Todd Madson, Gavin Tempero
Orono Healthy Youth	Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset
Orono Ice Arena Board	Laura Wallander
Parent Teacher Organization	Todd Madson
Special Education Parent Association	Sarah Borchers
Spartan Parent Association	Sarah Borchers
Staff Development	Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset
Teacher Meet and Confer	Laura Wallander, Wendy Lundsgaard



Community Liaisons	
Independence	Timothy Usset
Long Lake	Gavin Tempero
Maple Plain	Wendy Lundsgaard
Medina	Sarah Borchers
Minnetonka Beach	Laura Wallander
Orono	Todd Madson

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Orono Board of Education approved the committee assignments for the period of January 2025 through December 2025 as presented.

There were 6 aye votes, zero nay votes. Motion carried.

12. C - 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Dates

Dr. Fleisher introduced the proposed school board meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year for a first reading and review.

12. D - Other New Business as Necessary

No other New Business was brought forward.

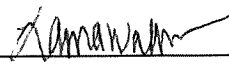
13. Informational Items

Chair Borchers brought to member's attention that the January enrollment numbers were included in tonight's packet.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

  
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 Sarah Borchers, *Chair*

  
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 Laura Wallander, *Clerk*

