

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD JANUARY 27, 2025
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM - 685 N OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD, LONG LAKE MN

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

Absent: None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, January 27, 2025 and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers, at 7:00 PM.

3. – Consideration of the Agenda

4. – Consent Agenda

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

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 13, 2025
- Approved the appointment of Jennifer Justen, as full-time Long-Term Substitute xth Grade Social Studies Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective January 21, 2025 through February 21, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Rosemary Willenbring, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, tentatively effective February 10, 2025 through May 5, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Melissa Benjamin, full-time Sixth Grade Social Studies Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective January 9, 2025, through February 21, 2025.
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$21,111.87
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for December, 2025
- Approved the Electronic Fund Transfers for December, 2025
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 320658-320790, EP Register: 920723-902736, and Capital One: 53094-53108

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr Flesher began her report with great news from the performing arts and fine arts programs.

After taking first place at their Conference One Act performance, Orono Drama's "The Brothers Grimm Spec-tac-u-lathon" took first place at the One Act Play subsection competition in New Prague. Congrats to our talented cast, crew, and Director Kelsie Balon-Peck. The Spartans now advance to next weekend's section finals at Shakopee High School.

In case you didn't know, the One Act Play is an MSHSL activity. The League sponsors the section postseason competition and the state tournament in February.

Cast and crew include:

- Julie Metcalf
- Lucy Keating
- Henry Shafer
- Alex Tufvander
- Greta Rolfzen
- Gabe Sherman
- Axel Duke
- Anna D'Alessandro
- Colin Von Kaenel
- Siya Singh
- Audrey Quale
- Daria Mayo
- Oliver Bertram
- Carly Olson
- Kayla Seely
- Klaire Hillman
- Ava Klug
- Natalie Swenson
- Hayley Aseltine
- Lilah Moorhouse

Dr Flesher continued to highlight The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, as the nation's longest-running and most prestigious program recognizing creative achievement among middle and high school students. With categories ranging from visual arts to creative writing, the program provides young artists and writers with opportunities for scholarships, exhibitions, and national recognition. She congratulated the following students who received awards this year:

- Leyla Lyu - earned Honorable Mention in Drawing & Illustration for her piece titled "Abby"
- Linden Cooper - awarded an Honorable Mention in Painting for "Summers Over"
- Mary Jane Stephens - earned Honorable mention for her Personal Essay & Memoir titled, "Ready or Not"
- Greta Rolfzen - earned a Gold Key Award for her original dramatic script, "The Final Call" which was the OHS theatre One Act play last year. A Gold Key in script writing may be an Orono first! Greta's script will move on to the national competition for consideration.

Dr Flesher then highlighted the students that placed in the top 5 in their category at the Wayzata Speech Tournament last weekend:

- Hannah Stegemann, second place in Discussion
- McKenna Monger, third place in Prose Reading
- Sophie Middleton, third place in Extemporaneous Reading
- Sydney Sloneker, third place in Great Speeches

- Owen Marks, third place in International Extemporaneous Speaking
- And the team of Ruby Gehrman and Sophie Middleton, fourth place for Duo Interpretation

She gave specific congratulations to Ruby Gehrman and McKenna Monger who have *already qualified* for the National Individual Event Tournament of Champions in May.

In athletics, Dr Flesher congratulated the following teams that are currently ranked in the Top 10 in the state.

- Boys' Nordic Ski - Ranked 6th, won the 2025 Metro West Conference Championship last Wednesday. This is the third consecutive conference championship for the Spartans.
- Girls' Basketball - Ranked 5th
- Boys' Basketball - Ranked 2nd
- Boys Swim & Dive - Ranked 4th, placed 5th at True Team State.
- Boys' and Girls' Hockey each played a game outdoors at Valleyfair last week as part of Hockey Day Minnesota. The boys lost to Delano, and the girls defeated Northfield 3-1 for their 5th win in a row.
- Girls' Hockey - Ranked 2nd
- The Alpine Ski team is at Wild Mountain this week. (ranking?)
- Orono Dance Team announced that four members were selected for the 2025 All-State Dance Team: Loren Grothaus, Skye Schelle, Maddyn Nelson, and Addison Mushitz.

Dr Flesher then thanked Orono Wrestling for hosting a vibrant invitational with participants from 12 schools competing in boys wrestling, girls wrestling, and JV divisions.

She then closed her comments with an announcement that the Orono Middle School is hosting its annual History Day Showcase on January 31st from 8:10 a.m. - 2:40 p.m in Gym B. Exhibits, papers, and websites will be available for public drop-in viewing all day. This is a great opportunity to see the amazing level of research our seventh-grade students are engaged in.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update:

Todd Madson shared a high level update on Phase 2 of Fields & Facility prioritization project that will be discussed with Wold Architects during the Board Worksession after the board meeting.

Todd continued to share about the Orono Foundation held a fundraiser at Urban Air. Over 350 students attended! Todd shared that the upcoming Orono Foundation Bash, their largest fundraising event of the year, will be held April 26. He urged listeners to mark their calendars. He gave a "shout-out" to the PTO for their Runathon fundraising efforts. Since kick-off last week, they've raised

Timothy Usset reported that the Orono Action committee met last week and they will present the legislative priorities to the board at the February 10th meeting.

Laura Wallander attended the Ice Arena Board meeting and shared that things are going well.

Sarah Borchers attended the SPA meeting and presented to the Medina City Council on 1/21/25.

Wendy Lundsgaard and Gavin Tempero had nothing to report.

7. – Old Business

7. A – 2023-2024 School Board Meeting Dates

Board meeting dates for 2024-2025 were presented for a second reading and approval.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the Board of Education approved the 2025-2026 school board meeting dates.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

8. – New Business

8. A – Orono High School Registration Guide

Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal of Orono High School, presented the 2025-2026 Orono High School Course Catalog, updated the board on changes to graduation requirements, and shared the new courses being offered.

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Todd Madson, the 2025-2026 Orono High School Course Catalog was approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. C – Other New Business as Necessary

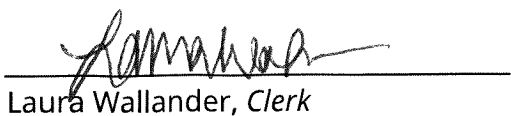
No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the meeting was adjourned to a work session with our partners from Wold Architects and Engineers at 7:35 PM.



Sarah Borchers, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*