

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2025

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

Absent: None

Community Members' Questions and Comments

No members of the community addressed the board.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, February 10, 2025, and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers at 7:03 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. 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 January 27, 2025
- Approved the renewal of Kristina Mochinski, Job share part-time Second-Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved the change of assignment of Bailey Busse, full-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, to job share part-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved the leave of absence for Allison Koester, full-time Kindergarten Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective January 10, 2025, through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Megan Ringsred, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective May 5, 2025, through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Emily Purnell, part-time Second-Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved the leave of absence for Meghan Wilson, part-time Early Learning Student Support Specialist at the Orono Discovery Center, tentatively effective March 26, 2025, through June 24, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of David Zajac, full-time Facilities Manager at Orono High School, effective February 28, 2025, due to retirement.
- Accepted donations totaling \$3,929.51
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 320791-320862, 1898-1907, EP Register: 902737-902744, EFT Vouchers: 292, 6582-6589 and Capital One: 53109-53118

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her remarks by sharing that members of the Orono High School senate met with board members before the meeting to share updates on events at the high school and input from students, as well as to answer questions from board members.

Dr. Flesher continued with updates from Orono Middle School speech team, Orono High School Wind Ensemble, the PTO Run-a-Thon, Orono Athletics and the upcoming Kindergarten Parent Night.

Speech - Last week, 11 Orono students in grades 7-9 participated in a Middle School Speech tournament in South St. Paul. The team took 2nd place overall!

First-place honors went to...

Audrey Robbins, Drama
Britta Olson, Extemporaneous Reading
Hannah Stegemann, Discussion and
Maggie Kubista, Serious Prose

Earning second place were...

Makayla Ressler, Informative category
Valerie Kottemann, Great Speeches and
Zoey Johnson, Extemporaneous Reading

Third place went to...

Caitlin Dahlberg, Extemporaneous Reading
Olivia Kottemann, Great Speeches and
Rose Lahti, Informative category

And finally, Adelyn Logelin earned 5th place in Great Speeches

OHS Wind Ensemble - Monday, Feb 10, all three Orono High School bands – Concert, Symphonic, and Wind Ensemble – participated in the MSHSL Large Group Contest. Also, OHS Wind Ensemble, led by Director Tim Arnold, was selected to perform at the Minnesota Music Educators' Association Mid-Winter Clinic Friday, February 14, at 11:30 a.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

PTO Run-a-Thon - Dr. Flesher thanked our elementary PTO for a successful fundraising effort with the Run-a-Thon.

Athletics Update - Dr. Flesher noted that it is the start of winter tournaments

Alpine Skiing. After turning in remarkable Section performances, Alpine skiers J.T. Burns and Danny Kinzer qualified for the State Alpine Tournament. The Championship races will take place at Giants Ridge in Biwabik Tuesday, February 11.

Nordic Skiing qualifiers Walter Holmes, Johnny DiPrima, Ben Masica, and Wells Huotari will participate in the MSHSL Nordic Ski State Championship at Giants Ridge in Biwabik on February 12-13.

Girls Basketball won their 20th game of the season last Thursday and improved their overall record to 20-2. *They are ranked No. 2 in the state.*

Girls' Hockey earned the No. 1 seed and advanced to the Section 5A Final to face Mound-Westonka Feb 12 at the St. Louis Park Rec Center at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Flesher congratulated Boys Basketball senior Nolan Groves on setting a new single-game school scoring record with his 57-point performance in last week's 102-98 win over St. Louis Park. The team currently has a 14-5 record and is ranked No. 5 in state.

Boys Swim & Dive sophomore Gideon Fish set a new pool and program diving record during last week's conference dual against Waconia. The team is currently ranked No. 4 in the state.

Dr. Flesher shared great news from the Orono Dance Team! Both Jazz and Kick dance teams won the Section championship and advanced to the State Tournament at Target Center on Friday, February 14 (Jazz) and Saturday, February 15 (Kick).

Dr. Flesher congratulated seventh grader Emery Soukop on qualifying for the MSHSL Girls Wrestling State Tournament after her runner-up finish at sections. Emery is the first girl in school history to qualify for state wrestling. The Girls' Wrestling State Tournament will be hosted at Xcel Energy Center on Saturday, March 1.

Kindergarten Parent Night - Dr. Flesher closed with an invitation to the Board to attend the incoming Kindergarten Parent Night Thursday, Feb 13, 6-7 p.m. at Schumann Elementary. Those attending will hear from Principal Dr. Adam Lamparske, our Kindergarten teachers, and representatives from the PTO, Foundation, and Community Education. Kindergarten rooms will be open to visitors as well.

7. - Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Report

Todd Madson reported that the Facilities & Finance Committee met and continued discussing the Facilities and Fields list of projects.

Policy Committee Report

Sarah Borchers reported the policy committee met and reviewed the policy that will be presented for its first reading later in the meeting.

Gavin Tempero had nothing to report

Wendy Lundsgaard Reported on the OMS - Book Fair. Orono Action Committee met with Minnesota Senator Ann Johnson Stewart and introduced her to Orono Schools. AMSD met on Friday, Feb 7 and those attending received a legislative report update and a presentation from St. Cloud area schools on their use of AI.

Todd Madson

Todd attended OMS History Day. He remarked on the quality of work and the range of topics presented. PTO held its Run-a-Thon last week. PTO raised over \$120,000. This was a new fundraising effort to increase both donations and volunteers.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report

Timothy Usset attended the retirement dinner and the City of Minnetrista Open House for Marvin Johnson, thanking him for his years of service to the surrounding community.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other Old Business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Policy Review (First Reading)

Kristine Flesher introduced Dr. Scott Alger to provide an overview of Policy 524 Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy, and to present it for its first reading. Dr. Alger offered an overview of the policy, its history, and the change to state statute precipitating its need for revision. He also shared the 5 guiding principles of the policy committee.

9. B - Orono Action Platform (ACTION)

Dr Flesher introduced Dr. Rena Shah and Board Director Tim Usset and recognized other members of the Orono Action Committee. Dr Shah and Mr Usset shared the committee's legislative platform for 2025.

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Oronon Action Legislative platform for 2025 was approved by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays; the motion carried.

9. C – Technology Department Mid-Year Updates

Dr Flesher introduced Sean Beaverson, Director of Technology, Bailey Nett, and Paul Ivers, Elementary and Secondary Technology Integration Specialists, and thanked the community for supporting the Technology Levy. Mr Beaverson, Ms Nett, and Mr Ivers presented an update on technology infrastructure, student learning, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.

9. D – Other New Business as Necessary

No other New Business was brought forward.

10. Informational Items

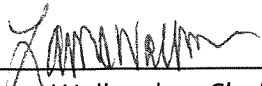
Chair, Sarah Borchers pointed out the February Enrollment included in the packet.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Laura Wallander, the meeting was adjourned by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.



Sarah Borchers, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*

A recording of this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is available online on the Orono School Board YouTube Channel.