

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON MARCH 10, 2025
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM | 685 OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD N, LONG LAKE MN 55356

Present: Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson, Laura Wallander, Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, Kristine Flesher. Wendy Lundsgaard arrived during Item 9C.

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, March 10, 2025 and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers, at 7:00 PM.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

5. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows, by a vote of 5 aye votes, zero nay votes, and one absent member not voting.

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 24, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Sydney Wood, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective March 13, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Abby Perrin, full-time Mathematics Teacher at Orono High School, tentatively effective May 19, 2025, through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Lanette Marchbanks, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective March 10, 2025, through June 6, 2025.
- Approved a one-time exception and waived the February 1, retirement notification deadline, and approved the resignation due to retirement of Lanette Marchbanks, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective June 7, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of LeDell Dickinson, part-time Cook at Orono High School, effective March 3, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Angela Westlund, full-time Paraeducator at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective March 21, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Heather Jackson, full-time Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective March 13, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Breanna Valverde, as part-time Discovery Kids Infant Assistant Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective February 24, 2025.
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$13,411.20

- Approved Bill Vouchers: 321072-321152, 1908-1917, EP Register: 902761-902815, EFT Vouchers: 6590-6597, and Capital One items: 53149-53156.

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing that the 11th Annual Metro West High School Visual Arts Exhibition at Normandale Community College Fine Arts Building. Eleven Orono students are showing work this year, ranging from paintings to sculpture to digital drawings. Awards will be presented March 18, 2025.

Dr. Flesher then shared that 6 students received 9 entries to the Annual National Qualifying Speech Tournament this past weekend.

McKenna Monger qualified for Nationals in *Program Oral Interpretation* with her 2nd place finish. Nationals will be held June 15-20 in Des Moines, IA.

Owen Marks was a Semifinalist in *International Extemporaneous*.

Jane Stavitzski was a Semifinalist in *Humor*.

McKenna Monger also took 4th place in *Drama*.

In Athletics, Dr. Flesher shared that the 2025 Athena Award recipient is Zoe Lopez. Zoe has committed to Minnesota State University, Mankato to play hockey.

Dr. Flesher congratulated the

Boys Hockey team and coaches on their third place finish in the State Tournament!

Girls Basketball on their Section 6AAA Runner-Up with an incredible 25-4 record this season!

Boys Basketball will play Benilde-St.Margaret's Thursday night in the 6AAA Section championship game, wanting to return to the State Tournament again this year.

Boys Swim and Dive on their 4th place finish at the State Tournament. Individual medalists were: Justin Barry, Eli Fish, Gideon Fish, Ben Mitchell, Cameron Odenino, and Stewart Royal.

Dr Flesher also congratulated Brett Kiecker and Emery Soukup on their 3rd place finishes in their respective divisions at the State Wrestling Tournament. This is the first time Orono has sent a female to state wrestling.

Dr. Flesher then reported on the History Day Regional Competition results. There were 26 projects from Orono Middle School students on display, and 15 of them moved onto the state competition.

- o Navajo Code Talkers, Jonah Abell, Leo Hoehn, and Vasudevan Kandanchatha
- o Rosie the Riveter's Story, Abily Joseph
- o Japanese Internment Camps, Aiden Sukow and Andrew Johnston
- o FDA's Regulation on Tobacco, Dori Prenevost and Lily Castle
- o Love Canal: Shattering the Illusion, Eva Loberg and Isabelle Schoen
- o The Salem Witch Trials, Evelyn Naughton, Isla Stephens, and Piper Swanson
- o Title IX, Hayden Tyler, Lila Barnholdt, and Svea Swenson
- o Dot Com Bubble Burst, Leo Callahan

- The L.A. Riots of 1992, Andrew Springmeyer and Charlie Stegemann
- The 54th Massachusetts Regiment, Asher Truax, Cole Brinkmeyer, and Nicholas Lindquist
- Endangered Species Act, Easley Chance
- Margaret Sanger and Birth Control, Elise Nelson and Mila Jeska
- Women's Suffrage, Elle Kindl and Brekkyn Oslund
- Radium Girls, Kelsie Bostrom and Manzano Magnuson
- Women's Right to Vote, Maddie Gray and Vivian Keets
- Honorable mention went to:
 - Jackie Robinson, James Jumppanen

In closing, Dr. Flesher congratulated 7th grade social studies teacher, Jared Shogren, on receiving the *Leo Weiss Courage to Teach Award*. This award, established in 2011, is through the Jewish Community Relations council of Minnesota and the Dakotas. It annually recognizes one educator who goes beyond the requirements of curriculum to teach and inspire young people about the lessons of the Holocaust. Mr. Shogren has been an advocate for Holocaust education for many years and has invited Holocaust education speakers into his classroom since 2017. He and Brian Kafura work with Kirsten Huppler and Katie Stanley in the English department to educate 7th graders on WWII and the Holocaust, far exceeding the state's mandated curriculum.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update: Gavin Tempero updated the board on the F&F committee meeting. Gavin reported that the committee discussed projects and needs at the Intermediate School and Orono Link. As well as items that will be presented in Item 9B.

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Timothy Usset updated the board on the Policy committee meeting and noted that the policies reviewed will be presented in Item 9A.

Laura Wallander had nothing to report.

Wendy Lundsgaard (report given by Timothy Usset). Wendy Lundsgaard's report noted that she attended the AMSD Meeting and received State budget information, reporting on the potential impact to Orono. Ms Lundsgaard also attended the AMSD *Day at the Capital* event. She reported on two bills before the Senate: one to transition from current High School MCA testing to the ACT or one more aligned with career and college readiness, and the other to remove the requirement to include scores of students not taking the test.

Sarah Borchers had nothing to report.

Todd Madson had nothing to report.

Gavin Tempero had nothing more to report.

Timothy Usset had nothing more to report.

8. – Old Business

8.A – Policy Review

Dr. Flesher presented the following policies for a second reading and approval. No additions have been brought forward following the first reading at the February 24, 2025 meeting.

Policy 401: Equal Employment Opportunity

Policy 402: Disability Nondiscrimination

Policy 403: Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Employees

Policy 404: Employment Background Checks

Policy 405: Veteran's Preference

Policy 407: Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances

Policy 408: Subpoena of a School District Employee

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Timothy Usset, the motion to approve the policy changes carried with 5 aye votes, zero nay votes, and one absent member not voting.

8.B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Policy Review (First Reading)

Dr. Flesher introduced Dr. Scott Alger, Director of Human Resources to present the following policies for their first reading. These policies were reviewed in committee as a part of the policy review process. The policy committee recommends approving the policy changes as presented. The policies will be presented for a second reading at the April 14 board meeting.

- Policy 406: Public and Private Personnel Data
- Policy 410: Family and Medical Leave (Previously Designated as Policy 409)
- Policy 413: Harassment and Violence (Previously Designated as Policy 410)
- Policy 415: Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults (Previously Designated as Policy 412)

9. B – Call for Public Hearing – Resolution to Consider Granting Property Tax Abatement

Dr. Flesher introduced Mr. Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, who presented the purpose, financial overview, and Public Hearing details for the Proposed Property Tax Abatement. The Public Hearing is scheduled for the April 14, 2025, board meeting, with a school board vote to follow.

UPON MOTION by Timothy Usset, seconded by Laura Wallander, the motion to approve the resolution carried with 5 aye votes, zero nay votes, and one absent member not voting.

9. C- Principal's Report

Dr. Flesher introduced Dr. Adam Lamparske, Principal at Orono Schumann Elementary, Ms. Mary Jodl, Principal at Orono Intermediate School, and Ms. Kim Van Eyll, Principal at Orono Middle School, who presented to the board the K-8 Continuous Improvement updates related to their respective buildings with an emphasis on Instructional Leadership Teams, Continuous Improvement Goals, Professional Learning Communities, Data Driven Decision Making, Professional Development and Multi-Tier Student Support Structures and Intervention.

9. D – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

10. Informational Items

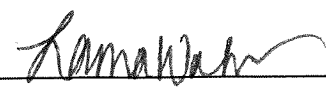
Chair Borchers pointed out the March Enrollment data included in the meeting packet.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room, Orono District Office.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Timothy Usset, and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.



Sarah Borchers, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*

School Board meetings can be viewed online by visiting the Orono School Board page on YouTube.com