

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON APRIL 14, 2025
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM | 685 OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD N, LONG LAKE, MN

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

Absent:

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, April 14, 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 Wendy Lundsgaard, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2025
- Approved the appointment of Julie Brown, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Mathematics Teacher at Orono High School, tentatively effective May 19, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Kaatrin Pearson, full-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, tentatively effective May 27, 2025 through October 17, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Sarah Mielke, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 25, 2025 through June 5, 2026.
- Approved the resignation of Kathleen Mulvihill, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective June 6, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Teresa Widen, full-time Literacy Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective June 30, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Jeffrey Wichern, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective April 7, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Michele Lehtis, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Middle School, effective March 19, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Ivonne Figueroa, part-time 4-hour Cook at Orono High School to part-time 5.5-hour Cook at Orono High School, effective March 31, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Maria Cruz Gonzalex, Food Service Substitute at Orono Public Schools to part-time Food Service Floating Substitute at Orono Public Schools, effective March 31, 2025.

- Approved the intermittent leave of absence for Jamie Lotzer, full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective February 26, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Anna Williams, full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective March 19, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Senja Leeper, as full-time seasonal Summer Program Assistant with Orono Schools Community Education, effective June 9, 2025 through August 15, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Samantha Thao, as part-time, seasonal Summer Nurse with Orono Schools Community Education, effective June 9, 2025 through August 15, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Ella Drake, as part-time Activities Center Monitor at the Orono Activities Center, effective March 4, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Adam Cox, part-time Academic Tutor with Orono Schools Community Education, effective March 10, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Simon Ablamunets, part-time Academic Tutor with Orono Schools Community Education, effective March 25, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Anvita Singh, part-time Academic Tutor with Orono Schools Community Education, effective April 3, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Breanna Halvorson, full-time Discovery Kids Lead Teacher at the Orono Discovery Center, effective March 25, 2025.
- Approved the coaching contracts for the Spring Season:

Baseball

Thomas Borrell, Head Coach
Harry Wingerd, B Team Coach
Barry Wohler, Pitching Coach

Charlie Bohl, JV Coach
Bill Madigan, 9th Grade Coach
Tim Sonnek, Varsity Assistant Coach

Golf – Boys

Hunter Hoaglund, Head Coach
Lance Hoaglund, Developmental Coach

Andrew Globoker, JV Coach

Golf – Girls

George Edellstein, Head Coach
Danielle Rymsza, Developmental Coach

Lauren Intihar, JV Coach

Softball

Sarah Craig, Head Coach
Ryan Hartneck, Varsity Assistant Coach
Sarah Hunter, Assistant Coach

Scott Peterson, JV Coach
Mikenna Becker, 9th Grade Coach

Tennis – Boys

Aaron Dvorak, Head Coach
Brian Brown, Assistant Coach

Cooper Knutsen, JV Coach

Track & Field

Addy Hallen, Head Coach – Girls
Jenna Rieth, JV Coach
Lauren Schirmer, JV Coach
Lily McKown, JV Coach
Jay Nelson, JV Coach

Nathan Porter, Head Coach – Boys
Brian McCollor, JV Coach
Nate Uselding, JV Coach
Finn Schirmer, JV Coach

Lacrosse – Girls

Jane Kolar, Head Coach
Sydney Hardy, JV Coach

Virginia MaGuire, Varsity Assistant Coach
Ainsley Malmala, JV Assistant Coach

Lacrosse – Boys

Ian Edwards, Head Coach
Sam Swearingen, JV Coach

Will Harris, Varsity Assistant Coach
Cooper Tokar, JV Assistant Coach

- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$27,938.18
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for February of 2025
- Approved Treasurer's Report for February of 2025
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 321153-321473, 1918-1927 EP Register: 902816-902839, EFT Vouchers: 294-296, 6598-6606 and Capital One: 53157-53203

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her remarks with an introduction of a slideshow displaying the artwork by Orono high school students entered into the Congressional Art Show, held each spring, sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in our Congressional District, as well as the nation. This year, 10 Orono students are entering artworks with 9 in the District 3 show at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts and 1 piece in the District 4 art show. The winning artwork will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol.

Orono held a "Community Breakfast for Connectedness" on Thursday, April 3. Staff, school board members, first responders, parent organization representatives, elected officials, and members of the clergy were invited to share in our intentional efforts toward fulfilling one of our strategic goals, *connectedness*, and stressed the importance of a connected community to serve the needs of our students and families. We also had the honor of presenting the inaugural "Guiding Torch Award" to Mr. Marvin Johnson who recently retired as Mayor of Independence after 45 years of service.

Dr. Flesher continued with updates from Athletics and Student Activities:

Speech Team Conference Champions: The Orono Speech Team won the Metro West Conference Championship, earning 15 of the 26 All-Conference awards. This past Saturday, they traveled to Mankato to compete in the 2AA Section meet. Twelve speakers competed in the final rounds with 8 speakers qualifying for the state tournament. Four were category champions! Congratulations to the following speakers who qualified for state:

- Oliver Berg, 1st place in Creative
- Hannah Stegemann, 3rd place in Discussion
- Sophie Middleton, 1st in Extemporaneous Reading
- Owen Marks, 2nd place in Extemporaneous Reading
- Sydney Sloneker, 2nd place in Great Speeches
- Jane Stavitzski, 1st in Humor
- Maya Haugen, 1st in Storytelling and
- Meg Arneson took 3rd in Storytelling

Boys Basketball: The Boys Basketball team won the Section 6AAA Championship to earn a place in the state tournament. After a narrow defeat to Mankato East in the Semifinals, Brady Wooley beat the buzzer to give the Spartans a thrilling 87-85 win over Totino-Grace to earn a 3rd Place finish in the Boys Basketball State Tournament. Other accolades include:

- Nolan Groves was named Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year—a first for Orono—and also named the MaxPreps High School Basketball Player of the Year.
- Boys Basketball Head Coach Barry Wohler who was awarded 2025 Class AAA Coach of the Year! This recognition is presented on behalf of the Minnesota High School Boys Basketball Coaches Association.

Athlete Signing Day: Thirteen student-athletes participated in Spring College Athletics Signing Day. Please check out the Orono Spartans FB for more details and photos.

Unified Polar Plunge: The Unified Polar Plunge had 234 students (from 16 different activities) sign up and raised \$25,297. The Orono Girls Soccer team raised the most with \$4,950. 35% will go back to each OHS activity, and the remaining amount will go to Special Olympics Minnesota to help fund programs like the Unified Champion Schools program.

Robotics: The Spartobots, Orono's Robotics Team, had an impressive debut in their first regional event after an multi-year hiatus. The team competed in several matches over the three-day event, winning the 2025 Rising All-Star Award! This award recognizes and celebrates the team that has persisted through challenges, despite the difficulties of being a young team. Thank you to Lead Mentor Perry Haislet, FIRST Mentor Carson Miller, Wendy Lundsgaard, and the Robotics Booster Club for the incredible support this season.

Theater: Orono High School's production of "You Can't Take it With You" opens on Thursday, April 25 for three days. The play is a madcap, idealistic comedy that reinforces the idea that you can only live life to the fullest by doing whatever makes you happy.

Right on the heels of that production is our middle school musical, Disney's "Frozen Jr." on stage May 8-10. This play is made possible through our partnership with Orono Community Education and 4 Community Theater. Tickets are available now on their website.

Orono Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Hall: Congratulations to the Orono High School Wind Ensemble that performed at Carnegie Hall on Monday, April 7, 2025. The students turned in an amazing performance and enjoyed their time touring New York City.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Wendy Lundsgaard reported on the Orono Early Learning Literacy committee meeting, the Orono Action Day at the Capitol, and the Friday AMSD Legislative updates.

Laura Wallander attended the Community Education Advisory Meeting, and announced the upcoming Wellness Expo on May 1.

Todd Madson gave a Facilities and Finance Committee meeting update, and mentioned the upcoming Orono Foundation For Excellence Red & Blue Bash fundraising event on Saturday, April 26.

Sarah Borchers had nothing to report, but thanked Mr. Arnold for leading the Orono Band on their recent trip to New York.

Gavin Tempero had nothing to report.

Tim Usset reported on the Orono Healthy Youth meeting, Orono Coalition meeting, Orono Action Day at the Capital, and the Community Connectedness Breakfast.

8. – Old Business

A. Policy Review (Second Reading)(ACTION)

Dr. Flesher presented the following policies for approval.

1. Policy 406: Public and Private Personnel Data
2. Policy 410: Family and Medical Leave (Previous Policy #409)
3. Policy 413: Harassment and Violence (Previous Policy #410)
4. Policy 415: Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults (Previous Policy #412)

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the changes to the Policies as presented.

8. B. – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Update (ACTION)(ROLL CALL)

Dr. Flesher introduced Mr. Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, to present the mid-year changes to the General Fund Budget.

UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Timothy Usset, the board approved the 2024-2025 General Fund Revised Budget as presented. The roll call votes were as follows:

Gavin Tempero aye

Wendy Lundsgaard aye

Todd Madson aye

Sarah Borchers aye

Laura Wallander aye

Timothy Usset aye

9. B – Award Bids – Orono High School Renovation (ACTION)

Dr. Flesher thanked two donors, those involved in the bid process, and our partners at Wold Architects for the renovation projects at Orono High School. Mr. Nick Taintor gave an overview of the project, the bids received, and the funding sources.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the board approved the low Base Bid and Alternate #1 Storefront at Career Center to JPMI Construction. With a vote of 6 aye, zero nay, the vote passed unanimously.

9. C – Public Hearing – Proposed Property Tax Abatement

Chair Sarah Borchers opened the Public Hearing at 7:43 PM.

Dr. Flesher introduced Mr. Nick Taintor and Ms. Shelby McQuay, Senior Municipal Advisor, Ehlers Inc., who presented information on the Proposed Property Tax Abatement process and the scope of the parking lot projects.

Chair Borchers asked for public comment. Hearing no public comment, Chair Borchers closed the public hearing at 7:51 PM.

9. D – Resolution Relating to Property Tax Abatement for Parking Lot Projects, Granting the Abatement (ACTION)(ROLL CALL)

Dr. Flesher introduced the resolution. Chair Borchers asked for a motion. UPON MOTION by Todd Madson, seconded by Gavin Tempero, the board adopted the resolution granting abatement related to property tax abatement for parking lot projects. The roll call votes were as follows:

Gavin Tempero aye

Wendy Lundsgaard aye

Todd Madson aye

Sarah Borchers aye

Laura Wallander aye

Timothy Usset aye

9. E – Resolution Stating the Intention to Issue General Obligation Facilities Maintenance, Capital Facilities and Tax Abatement Bonds, Series 2025A, in the Maximum Amount \$5,135,000; and Taking Other Actions with Respect Thereto (ACTION)(ROLL CALL)

Dr. Flesher shared the scope of the projects funded by the Bonds and turned the discussion over to Mr. Taintor and Ms. McQuay to review the Pre-Sale Report and the Proposed Debt Issuance Schedule. UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson, the board adopted the resolution stating the intention to issue general obligation facilities maintenance, capital facilities and tax abatement bonds, series 2025A, in the maximum aggregate principal amount \$5,135,000; and taking other actions with respect thereto (ACTION)(ROLL CALL). The roll call votes were as follows:

Gavin Tempero aye

Wendy Lundsgaard aye

Todd Madson aye

Sarah Borchers aye

Laura Wallander aye

Timothy Usset aye

9. F – Policy Review (First Reading)

Dr. Flesher introduced Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Director of Learning and Accountability, who presented recommended changes for the board to review. The policies will be presented for a second reading on Monday, April 28, 2025.

1. Policy 411: Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse
2. Policy 416: Drug and Alcohol Testing
3. Policy 417: Chemical Use and Abuse

9. G – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

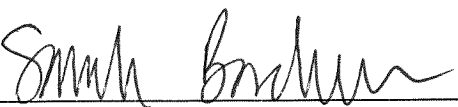
10. – Informational Items

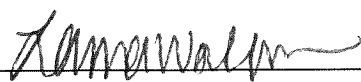
10. A – April Enrollment

11. – Adjournment

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.


Sarah Borchers, *Chair*


Laura Wallander, *Clerk*

A recording of the board meeting is available on the oronoschools.org website.