

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2025

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

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, August 18, 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 Todd Madson, seconded by Laura Wallander, the Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 6 aye votes in favor and 0 aye votes against, as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on June 9, 2025
- Approved the appointment of Kristan Nalezny, as full-time Second Grade Teacher (LTS) at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 20, 2025 through June 5, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Sydney Wood, as full-time Fourth Grade Teacher (LTS) at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 20, 2025 through June 5, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Ladisbel Jiminez Vergara, as full-time Spanish Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 20, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Sara Drezdson, as full-time Kindergarten Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 20, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Margo Mattei, as full-time Second Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 20, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Bryce Pettit, as 0.75 FTE Physical Education Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 20, 2025.
- That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Greta Kortemeier, as full-time Second Grade MAC Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 25, 2025.
- That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Kari Heitke, as full-time Floating Building Substitute at Orono Schumann Elementary, effective August 27, 2025 through June 5, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Mary Madsen, as full-time Floating Building Substitute at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 27, 2025 through June 5, 2026.
- Approved the change of assignment of Ryan Fiskey, full-time Physical Education Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, to 0.7 FTE Peer Evaluator at Orono Public Schools and 0.3 FTE Physical Education Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Kelly Jordahl, full-time Second Grade MAC Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, to full-time Third Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Kelli Silva, full-time ELL Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective August 12, 2025.

- Approved the appointment of Katelyn Miles-Senthill Kumar, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Discovery Center, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Kathleen Danielson, as full-time Special Education Paraeducator at the Orono Elementary Center, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Hannah Campbell, as full-time Principal Assistant Secretary at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 11, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
- Approved the change of assignment of Sue McCabe, 0.5 FTE Counseling Office Clerk at Orono High School, to 0.8 FTE Counseling Office Clerk at Orono High School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Sara Larson, 0.8 FTE Counseling Office Clerk at Orono High School, to 0.5 FTE Counseling Office Clerk at Orono High School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Brenda Dressel, full-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective August 31, 2025
- Approved the resignation of Samantha Koscielniak, part-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Ryan Haas, as full-time Facilities Manager at Orono High School, effective July 1, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Jessica Campbell, as full-time Discovery Kids Lead Toddler Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective September 2, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Owen Schaber, as part-time Activities Center Monitor at the Orono Activities Center, effective August 5, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Wesley McLean, as part-time Activities Center Monitor at the Orono Activities Center, effective August 12, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Jill Leukuma, full-time Kitchen Manager at Orono Discovery Center, effective July 11, 2025.
- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with SEIU (Service Employees International Union) regarding the Child Nutrition Preschool Staff Member
- Approved wages for substitutes, test proctors, students, summer grounds workers, and athletic coaches for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$136,692.62
- Authorized the 2025-2026 LEA (Local Education Agency) Representative
- Approved the Annual MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) Statement of Assurances
- Accepted the Summary of the Superintendent's End-of-Year Evaluation
- Approved Continued Membership in the following Organizations for the 2025-2026 School Year:
  - o AMSD – Association of Metropolitan School Districts
  - o BrightWorks
  - o MSBA – Minnesota School Boards Association
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 321986-322459, 1948-1967, EP Register: 902941-903010, EFT Vouchers: 301-304, 6619-6628, and Capital One: 53270-53343

## 6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by thanking Community Education staff who have worked tirelessly over the summer to bring outstanding programming to our community. Community Ed reports more than 7,600 enrollments over 560 camps and classes, serving preschool students through adults.

Dr. Flesher continued by citing the construction projects across the campus and gave thanks to Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, and Chad Eischens, Coordinator of Building and Grounds, for their project management. More thanks went to Sean Beaverson, Director of Technology, and his team for their continued elevation and improvement of technology districtwide. Dr. Flesher took the

opportunity to thank the community for supporting the Tech Levy renewal in 2022, which gives this important work a consistent funding stream.

Dr. Flesher shared a report from Athletics and Activities Director, Paul Brunner. Mr. Bruner reports that fall athletics are officially in full swing with 417 students participating across programs.

The Orono High School fall musical, "Tuck Everlasting," will hold auditions on September 3.

Dr. Flesher recognized staff members who spoke, or will be speaking soon, at national conferences:

Bailey Nett & Laura Young - ISTE (International Society of Technology Education)

Ali Chorley - Utah State Board of Education conference

Grace Nohner - National Conference on Student Activities in Michigan

Kendra Eichstadt & Paul Hamilton - National Science Teachers Association

Nick Taintor - ASBO (Association of School Business Officials)

and closed her comments by inviting everyone to check out the back-to-school website.

## 7. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Sarah Borchers - reported on the recent Board Retreat.

Todd Madson - nothing to report

Wendy Lundsgaard - nothing to report.

Laura Wallander - report from the Orono Early Learning Parent Advisory Council meeting. Discovery Center is now serving breakfast and lunch. Open House Kick-off Sept 4. And, report from the Ice Arena Advisory Committee. Ms Wallander reported on ice time and the potential upcoming fundraising efforts to build another sheet of ice in the district.

Gavin Tempero - nothing to report

Timothy Usset - nothing to report

## 8. – Old Business

### 8.A – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

## 9. – New Business

### 9.A – Construction Projects Update

Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, updated the board on construction projects completed across the district during the past year and provided an overview of planned work for the upcoming school year. Dr. Flesher thanked Richard and Jennie Goelz, along with the Nickerson family, for their contributions to fund the College & Career Center at the High School and the new Science Lab at the

High School.

9. C - Annual Summer Technology Update

Sean Beaverson, Director of Technology, provided the board with an update on the technology projects that took place during the summer. Mr. Beaverson was joined by Joel Mellor, Cloud Systems Specialist, Lia Staples, Operations Specialist, Jason Woyak, Network & Security Specialist, and Paul Ivers, 6-12 Digital Learning Specialist.

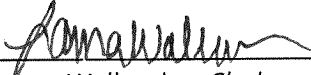
9. D - Other New Business as Necessary

No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 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 8:24 PM.

  
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Sarah Borchers, *Chair*

  
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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*