

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM | 685 N OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD, LONG LAKE MN

Present: Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson, Wendy Lundsgaard, Todd Madson, 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, September 8, 2025, and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers at 7:00 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda

Board Member, Laura Wallander shared that she will be abstaining from the vote with regard to fall coaching contracts. Ms. Wallander will be coaching Girls Tennis B-Squad, in a volunteer capacity, and would like to avoid any potential conflict of interest that participating in the vote might elicit.

UPON MOTION by Timothy Usset, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, with 5 aye votes against, 0 aye votes against, and 1 member abstaining, the consent agenda was approved.

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on August 18, 2025
- Approved the appointment of Jane Ward, as a full-time ELL Teacher at Orono Intermediate School and Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Megan Benker, as full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Holly Howe, as full-time Second Grade Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective August 25, 2025 through November 7, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Sarah Mielke, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Dalay Perez-Negrete, as a part-time Special Education Paraeducator Bus Aid at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 2, 2025.

- Approved the appointment of LeDell Dickinson, as part-time Cook at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective September 2, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Doris Gubara, as full-time Custodian at Orono Intermediate School, effective September 8, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Peter Keding, full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, to full-time Custodian at Orono High School, effective July 21, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Susan Hornbaker, part-time Cook at Orono Schumann Elementary School, to part-time Kitchen Assistant Manager at Orono Discovery Center, effective September 2, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Natalia Mora Cruz, part-time Floating cook Substitute at Orono Public Schools, to full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, effective September 2, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Alexandra Gatchell, full-time Custodian at Orono Intermediate School, effective August 26, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Mason Kraimer, as a part-time Activities Center Monitor at Orono Activities Center, effective September 8, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Sierra Myers, full-time Community Engagement coordinator, effective September 11, 2025.
- Approved the following fall coaching contracts:

Cross Country

Brian McCollor, Head Coach (Boys)
 Nathan Porter, Assistant Coach
 Nate Uselding, Assistant Coach

Addy Hallen, Head Coach (Girls)
 Michelle Naylor, Assistant Coach

Football

Joe McPherson, Head Coach
 Craig Lachowitz, Varsity Assistant Coach
 Kyle Jensen, JV Coach
 Tom Borrell, 9th Grade Coach

Barry Wohler, Varsity Assistant Coach
 Jason Seurer, Varsity Assistant Coach
 Mitch Benson, JV Coach
 Tyrone Baker, 9th Grade Coach

Soccer – Boys

Grant Steine, Head Coach
 Luke Anderson, Varsity Assistant
 Mike Kuehn-Hajder, A Coach
 Neil Vassar, Assistant Coach

Nathaniel Kurtzweg, Varsity Assistant
 Trevon Sladek, JV Coach
 Peter Sherman, B Coach

Soccer – Girls

Erin Murray, Head Coach
 Caitlin Tripp, Varsity Assistant Coach
 Brandon Hunt, B Coach

Natalie Soper, Varsity Assistant Coach
 Nels Larson, JV Coach

Swim Dive – Girls

Mark Seguin, Head Coach
 Bret Beecher, Assistant Coach

Barb Scouler, Assistant Coach
 Jenna Lattu, Assistant Coach

Tennis – Girls

Aaron Dvorak, Head Coach
Dawn Reidinger, B Coach

Caroline Sherman, JV Coach
Brian Brown, Varsity Assistant Coach

Volleyball

Abby Perrin, Head Coach
Anders Carlson, 10th Grade Coach
Jessica Campbell, 9th Grade Coach

Laurie Jensen, Assistant Coach
Kim King, JV Coach
Benjamin Schaumburg, 9th Grade Coach

- Approved Vouchers and Payments:
 - Bill Vouchers: 322460-322617, 1968-1977
 - EP Register Items: 903011-903076
 - EFT Vouchers: 305-307, 6629-6633
 - Capital One Items: 53344-53375

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

BACK TO SCHOOL

Dr. Flesher began her report with a comment about how wonderful it's been to see our students returning across the district with such enthusiasm. Today marked the 2nd week of school on our main campus, and the first day of Preschool at the Discovery Center.

The district began this school year with a new Transportation management company, First Services. Dr. Flesher thanked Nick Taintor and the First Student drivers and team at our bus garage for helping with this transition.

HOMEcomings

Spartans will be celebrating Homecoming Week the week of September 15-20 with a Friday night football game vs. Mound Westonka. Visit the one-stop Homecoming webpage for information on dress-up days, the parade, and the pre-game community tailgate sponsored by Student Senate and the Orono Foundation for Education. Dr. Flesher thanked Mr. Joe Huber and the DECA student leaders for managing the Homecoming t-shirt design and sales. Proceeds go to DECA to cover fees and transportation costs.

AROUND CAMPUS

Orono High School held its annual Activities Fair last week, inviting students to explore the many clubs and activities available.

Cast and Crew have been named for the fall musical "Tuck Everlasting". Performances begin November 14.

The middle school fall drama production is a comedy, "Too Many Ghosts". Performances begin October 9.

SPORTS UPDATE

Girls Swim & Dive 200 Free Relay (Lola Schottler, Graycin Andreen, Ileana Berg, and Sophie Berg) set a new pool record at the St. Louis Park dual. Girls Swim & Dive is ranked 2nd in State.

Girls Volleyball is 3-1 in the season so far, after finishing 2nd place in the Westonka Invitational on Saturday.

Football lost to Byron on Friday night after an opening win against Becker HS. Football is ranked 3rd and will take on the Big Lake Hornets this Friday.

Girls and Boys Cross Country teams each placed first in the Rockford Rocket Run Invitational. Boys Cross Country is ranked 2nd and Girls Cross Country is ranked 4th.

Girls Tennis is ranked 5th and has a 5-match win streak going.

Boys & Girls Soccer have 3-game winning streaks and are both ranked in the top 10.

NEW STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Flesher highlighted a new student activity being offered, Mock Trial. Students work in teams to prepare and present both sides to a case problem written by the Minnesota Bar Association. An informational meeting will be held September 25 at 6 p.m.

Dr. Flesher closed her remarks with an announcement that the yearly athletics student passes are offered again this year. The cost is \$50 and allows entry into every regular season home game for the entire year.

7. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Sarah Borchers - Nothing to report.

Wendy Lundsgaard - Shared news from the OMSPA meeting & AMSD meeting.

Todd Madson - Nothing to report.

Gavin Tempero - Shared about the tour of the HS College & Career Center and Science Lab.

Timothy Usset - Shared news from the School Board Retreat, and the New Teacher Orientation Week.

Laura Wallander - Shared news from the Discovery Center new Parent Learning Group meeting and updates from the Discovery Center - new breakfast routine, Character Strong, and PLC Institute.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Presentation of check from Orono Foundation for Education

Ms. Katie Hollerman, Board Chair of the Orono Foundation for Education, and Miss Mollie Hollerman, Junior at Orono High School, presented the board with a check on behalf of the foundation.

9. B – 2023-2024 Superintendent Goals

Dr. Flesher shared her goals for the 2025-2026 school year with the board for a first reading.

9. C – Community Education Update

Ms. Tiffany Clifton, Director of Community Education, provided the board with an update on Community Education.

9. D – Other New Business as Necessary

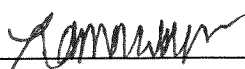
No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Timothy Usset, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, with 6 aye votes in favor, no aye votes against, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.



Sarah Borchers, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*