

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Present: Sarah Borchers, Kristi Flesher, Todd Madson, Gavin Tempero, Laura Wallander,  
Wendy Lundsgaard.

Absent: Timothy Usset

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, September 22, 2025, and called to order by Board Chair Sarah Borchers at 7:00 PM.

3. Consideration of the Agenda

4. Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, and seconded by Todd Madson, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows. VOTES: 5 aye votes in favor, 0 (zero) aye votes against.

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on September 8, 2025
- Approved the appointment of Alex Pilakowski as a part-time Activities Center Monitor at Orono Activities Center, effective August 5, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Cade Hovland as a part-time Activities Center Monitor at Orono Activities Center, effective September 18, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Lewis Johnson as a part-time Member Services Associate at Orono Activities Center, effective September 16, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Joanne Montoya-Dominguez as a part-time Childcare Assistant at Orono Discovery Center, effective September 9, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Lavinia Pottios as a part-time Water Safety Instructor with Orono Community Education, effective September 15, 2025
- Approved the resignation of Abigail Schoenberg, full-time Human Resources Generalist at Orono Public Schools, effective October 10, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Keith Kruse as Robotics Team Assistant Coach at Orono High School, effective August 25, 2025.
- Accepted donations totaling \$4,379.63.
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for May 2025, June 2025, and July 2025.
- Approved the Electronic Fund Transfers for May 2025, June 2025, and July 2025.
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 322618-322754, EP Register items: 903077-903094, EFT Voucher: 6634, and Capital One items: 53376-53399.

5. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her remarks by recognizing our six Orono School Board members during Minnesota's School Board Recognition Month, thanking them for their unwavering commitment to Orono Schools. Dr. Flesher continued with the updates on the following:

HOMECOMING –

Homecoming week was filled with fun events and traditions. Dr. Flesher thanked staff, students, alumni, family members, community leaders, first responders, the Orono Foundation for Education, Orono Student Senate, and our entire community for helping celebrate Homecoming and this year's Promising and Distinguished Alumni award recipients, as well as the Orono Class of 2000, and all of the events across campus all week.

#### NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS –

Five members of the Class of 2026 were recognized as National Merit Scholars. Evelyn Miller and Parker Stephens, are National Merit Semifinalists, and Kaia Erickson, Cannon Lewis, and Kiara Vaughan are Commended Scholars. Each will be invited to our recognition program before the November 10 School Board meeting.

#### ATHLETICS –

Dr. Flesher highlighted the recent achievements of the Fall Sports teams.

#### 6. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Facilities and Finance Committee Meeting Update: Mr. Madson shared that the F & F committee met to review the materials that will be presented later tonight. He thanked the community for their continued support through things like the Tax Levy, which allows us to invest in our schools and help meet the demands while delivering high-quality education and stewardship.

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Chair Borchers reported that the Policy Committee met to review 3 policies being presented tonight for a first reading, and will be reviewing the 500 series this year.

#### Board Member Updates:

Sarah Borchers - Invited the public to attend Coffee & Conversation held before the 2nd board meeting each month.

Wendy Lundsgaard - attended the Highly Selective Colleges presentation held in the new Career & College Center at Orono High School.

Todd Madson - nothing to report

Gavin Tempero - nothing to report

Timothy Usset - absent

Laura Wallander - the Orono Action Committee met to plan the annual coffee event for elected officials. They are expanding the event to mayors and county commissioners.

#### 7. – Old Business

### 7. A – 2025-2026 Superintendent Goals (ACTION)

The 2025-2026 Superintendent Goals were presented for a second reading and approval. There were no adjustments made following the first reading at the September 8th meeting.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, and seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the board approved the 2025-2026 Superintendent Goals as presented. VOTES: 5 aye votes in favor, 0 (zero) aye votes against.

### 7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

### 8. – New Business

#### 8. A – Sharing Excellence – ISTE Presenters

Dr. Flesher presented members of the district's technology team, who served as ISTE presenters. The group provided an overview of their experiences and a summary of the content they presented. Presenters were: Sean Beaverson, Director of Technology; Bailey Nett, Digital Learning Specialist; Laura Young, Teacher, MAC 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade; Jennifer Ivers, Instructional Development Facilitator, English & Reading Teacher; and Paul Ivers, Digital Learning Specialist.

Dr. Flesher shared gratitude for the Orono Educator Excellence Fund, which provides resources for learning and experiences for staff to participate in professional development.

#### 8. B – Policy Review (First Reading)

Dr. Flesher presented three policies for review as required by the annual policy review process. Dr. Flesher noted that changes were not substantive, but changes in punctuation and format.

- Policy 506: Student Discipline
- Policy 722: Public Data and Data Subject Requests
- Policy 806: Crisis Management

### 9. C – Preliminary Year-End Financial Results

Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, presented the Fiscal Year-end 2024-25 Preliminary Financial Report and highlighted key points regarding the report. He shared that the Annual Audit Report will be presented at the November 10, 2025, School Board meeting.

### 9. D – Preliminary Levy Certification (ACTION)

Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, presented the 2025 Pay 2026 Property Tax Levy and highlighted key points regarding the levy.


UPON MOTION by Gavin Tempero, and seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the proposed 2025 Pay 2026 Property Tax Levy. VOTES: 5 aye votes in favor, 0 (zero) aye votes against.


9. E – Other New Business as Necessary

No other New Business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Wendy Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned to a work session for a report on Learning and Accountability at 8:08 PM.

  
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Todd Madson, *Vice-Chair*

  
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Laura Wallander, *Clerk*