

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2025

Present: Sarah Borchers, Wendy Lundsgaard, Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, Kristine Flesher

Absent: Todd Madson, Laura Wallander

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, October 27, 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 Lundsgaard, seconded by Usset. VOTES: 4 aye votes for, and 0 aye votes against, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on October 13, 2025
- Approved the appointment of Angela Turner as part-time Classroom Paraeducator at Orono Intermediate School, effective October 21, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Kirk Traxler, as full-time Class II Custodian at Orono High School to part-time Class I Custodian at Orono High School, effective October 20, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Brenda Dressel as part-time Spartan Kids Lead Teacher with Orono Community Education, effective October 20, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Lewis Dayton as part-time Spartan Kids Lead Teacher with Orono Community Education, effective October 20, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Alden Von Bargen as full-time Recreation and Aquatics Specialist at Orono Public Schools, effective November 3, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Tim Wheatley as Speech Team Assistant Coach at Orono High School, effective October 1, 2025.
- Accepted Donations Totaling \$10,961.18
- Approved Treasurer's Report for August 2025
- Approved Wire Transfer Report for August 2025
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 322936-323081, EP Register items: 903105-903121, EFT Voucher: 6640, and Capital One items: 53438-53453.

5. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Superintendent Dr. Kristine Flesher began her report by recognizing Grace Nohner, Orono High School Student Life Coordinator and English teacher, who received the Earl Reum Award for her exceptional contributions to student leadership. As a regional honoree, Ms. Nohner is now a candidate for the national award, which will be presented at the National Conference

on Student Activities in December. Dr. Flesher commended Ms. Nohner's dedication to inspiring and supporting student leaders at both the school and state levels.

Dr. Flesher then provided an update on fall athletic achievements as teams transition into the winter season.

- The Orono Football Team advanced to the Section 6AAAA Championship after a decisive 50–6 victory over Mound Westonka, with a state tournament berth on the line in their upcoming matchup against Zimmerman at Pesonen Stadium.
- In Girls Tennis, the doubles team of CeCe Sorenson and Mollie Hollerman earned a first-round victory at the state tournament before falling in a competitive three-set second round.
- Both Boys and Girls Cross Country teams qualified for the state meet at Les Bolstad Golf Course on November 1, with the boys capturing the Section 6AA title and Gabe Hallen earning individual medalist honors.
- The Girls Volleyball Team concluded its season after a hard-fought section quarterfinal match against the Academy of Holy Angels.
- The Girls Swim and Dive Team claimed its third consecutive True Team State Championship, defending its two-time Class A title with another all-around outstanding performance. Section competition begins November 6 in Willmar, followed by the state tournament November 13.

Dr. Flesher shared additional activities and arts updates, including:

- The upcoming Fall Signing Day for senior student-athletes on November 12 at 3 p.m. in the high school gym.
- Winter sports meetings continuing through November 4, with several teams already beginning practice.
- The Orono High School Fall Musical, *Tuck Everlasting*, opening November 14, with performances offering family-friendly entertainment for the community.
- The Veterans Day Program scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, at 8:45 a.m. in the high school, featuring the Chamber Choir, color guard from Paul Stinson American Legion Post 514, and guest speaker Todd Madson, Army veteran and Orono School Board Vice Chair.

Dr. Flesher also noted that November 3–7 is National School Psychology Week, encouraging the community to thank the district's school psychologists — Daenon Bronken, Adara

Kamarainen, and Erica Ronnings — for their expertise and commitment to supporting students, families, and staff.

She concluded by reminding the board that Friday, November 7 will be a Professional Day for all staff, with no school for students in preschool through grade 12. Staff will use the day to collaborate and advance their continuous improvement goals.

Dr. Flesher closed her report by expressing pride in the achievements and ongoing efforts of Orono's students, staff, and community.

6. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Mr. Usset - reported on the annual Orono Action Fall Coffee for elected representatives, noting expanded participation from mayors and county commissioners and strong engagement from attendees.

Ms. Lundsgaard - announced her appointment as a delegate to the Minnesota School Boards Association legislative assembly, where she will help shape the association's platform.

Mr. Tempero and Ms. Borchers had nothing to report.

7. – Old Business

7. A – Policy Review

The following revised policies were presented to the board for a second reading and approval.

- Policy 501: Weapons
- Policy 502: Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person
- Policy 503: Student Attendance
- Policy 504: Student Dress and Appearance
- Policy 505: Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees
- Policy 507: Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint

MOTION by Usset, and second by Tempero. VOTES: 4 aye votes for, and 0 aye votes against, the board approved the recommended revisions to policies 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 507.

7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

8. – New Business

8. A – Orono Excellence Fund – Summer Learnings: Building Character, Connections, and Positive Behavior

8. B – Resolution to support the Application to the MSHSL Foundation for a Form A Grant to Offset Student Activity Fees

MOTION by Tempero, second by Usset. VOTES: 4 aye votes for, and 0 aye votes against, the board approved the application to the MSHSL Foundation for a Form A Grant to Offset Student Activity Fees.

8. C – Other New Business as Necessary

There was no other new business presented.

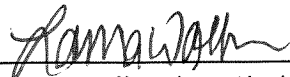
The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

MOTION by Usset, second by Lundsgaard. VOTES: 4 aye votes for, and 0 aye votes against, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM to a work session for a report from the Teacher Peer-Evaluation Team.

Portions of this document were prepared with assistance from AI-based summarization software and reviewed by district staff for accuracy.



Sarah Borchers, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*