

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM AT 685 OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD N,
LONG LAKE, MINNESOTA ON DECEMBER 8, 2025

Present: Sarah Borchers, Wendy Lundsgaard, Laura Wallander, Gavin Tempero, Kristine Flesher. Todd Madson left the meeting after Item 9B.

Absent: Timothy Usset

1. Community Members' Questions and Comments

No members of the community addressed the board.

2. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, December 8, 2025, and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers, at 6:00 PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda

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

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on November 10, 2025
- Approved the resignation of Hanna Holmes, Paraeducator, Orono Intermediate School, effective January 26, 2024.
- Approved the resignation of Jerome Young, Custodial Substitute at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective November 1, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Katie Bucka, Health Specialist at Orono Schumann Elementary, effective January 2, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Dr. Leslie Locke, as part-time American Indian Cultural Liaison, effective December 9, 2025.
- Approved the winter coaching contracts:

Dance

Meghan Eder, Head Coach-Shared

Mackenzie Iverson, Head Coach-Shared

Kaitlin Budish, JV Coach-Shared

Erin McCarty, JV Coach-Shared

Jenna Reed, JV Coach-Shared

Kayla Wandersee, JV Coach-Shared

Marina Healy, JV Coach-Shared

Maddix Grady, JV Coach-Shared

Basketball – Boys

Barry Wohler, Head Coach
Luke Runka, Varsity Asst. Coach
Ty Baker, JV Coach
Mark Sembrowich, Varsity Asst. Coach
Pat Hayes, B-Squad Coach
Andrew Thilbault, 9th Grade A Coach
Jordan Helgeland, 9th Grade B Coach

Basketball – Girls

Christopher Bjorgaard, Head Coach
Michael Youngs, Varsity Asst. Coach
Marlo Stubbs, JV Coach
Hope Kanenwisher, JV Asst. Coach

Nordic Ski

Brian McCollor, Head Coach
Dennis Curran, Varsity Asst. Coach
John Ohman, Varsity Asst. Coach
Drew Huotari, Varsity Asst. Coach

Swim & Dive – Boys

Benjamin Hanson, Head Coach
Chad Johnson, Varsity Asst. Coach
Josh Johnston, Varsity Asst. Coach

Wrestling

Jeff Wichern, Head Coach
Michael Sloneker, Assistant Coach-Shared
Fred Isbell, Assistant Coach-Shared
William Ostvig, Assistant Coach-Shared
Ross Williams, Volunteer
Jesse Martin, Assistant Coach-Shared
Julian Berg, Assistant Coach-Shared
Gustavo Cano-Garnica, Assistant Coach-Shared
Garret Snater, Assistant Coach-Shared
Tim Flannery, Volunteer

Hockey – Boys

Mitch Hall Varsity Head Coach
Tom Hall, Varsity Asst. Coach
Garrett Schmitz, Varsity Asst. Coach
Maxwell Hayes, JV Head Coach
Robby Spalding, JV Asst. Coach
Mac Berglove, Goalie/Strength Coach

Hockey – Girls
Paul Antonenko, Varsity Head Coach
Tina Kampa, VarsiAsst. Coach
Mandy Moran, JV Coach
Jessica Wernli, JV Coach
Mackenzie Skatter, JV Head Coach
Lindsay Czech, JV Asst. Coach
Amanda LeVeille, Goalie Coach

Alpine Ski
Brian McGoldrick, Head Coach-Shared
Kelly McGoldrick, Head Coach-Shared
Dave Carlson, Varsity Asst. Coach

- Accepted donations totaling \$10,916.98
- Approved Treasurer's Reports for September 2025, October 2025
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for September 2025, October 2025
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 323189-323368, 1998-2007, EP Register: 903133-903252, EFT Vouchers: 309-313, 6648-6655, and Capital One items: 53473-53503

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher shared highlights from across the district, beginning with appreciation for staff and families for their engagement during fall conferences. She noted the importance of strong partnerships and thanked all who contributed to the successful conference period.

She announced several upcoming student performances, including the Orono High School Band Concert, the 5th and 6th Grade Band Concerts, and the 5th Grade and Middle School Choir Concerts.

Dr. Flesher recognized the Orono High School Debate Team for significant growth and achievement. She commended varsity debaters Keegan Klaers, Ethan Weiss, Simon Forbes, and Owen Marks for strong performances, and celebrated novice division performances by Haley Aseltine, Hannah Ferber, and Will Cotter. She expressed appreciation to Coach John Malone for his leadership in rebuilding the program.

She congratulated the Orono High School Football Team for winning the Class 4A State Championship, the first football state title in school history. The team also earned the MSHSL Academic All-State Gold Award for a team GPA above 3.75, and individual players were recognized:

- Academic All-State: Adrian Licursi
- Honorable Mention All-District Players: Dane Kanwischer, Hudson Hirt, Rory Kvern, Lucas LaBelle, Grant Eslinger, Harrison Schleeter, Sam Hultmann, and Tate Kracht
- All-District Players: Griffin Mauer, Simon Vinton, Adrian Licursi, Bennett Halverson, Lincoln Stinar, and Wes McLean
- Skyway Green District Awards:

- Most Valuable “Why We Play”: Ethan Tulkki
- Most Valuable Defensive Lineman of the Year: Simon Vinton
- Most Valuable Linebacker of the Year: Adrian Licursi
- Most Valuable Offensive Lineman of the Year: Wes McLean
- Most Valuable Quarterback of the Year: Griffin Mauer
- Vikings Senior All-Star Game: Simon Vinton
- Strib Varsity 2025 Prep Bowl All-Tournament Team: Adrian Licursi

Updates on winter athletics included:

- Dance Team: runner-up finishes in jazz and kick.
- Boys Swim and Dive: preparing for the first meet versus New Prague.
- Nordic and Alpine Ski: teams preparing for competition.
- Boys Basketball: early wins over Minnehaha Academy and Breck.
- Girls Basketball: ranked #1; notable 81–80 win over Wayzata featuring a game-winning shot by Maya Moore.
- Boys Hockey: 7–1 win over Little Falls.
- Girls Hockey: 2–1 win over Dodge County during a military appreciation outdoor game, raising \$4,500 for United Heroes League.
- Wrestling: two early-season meets completed; continued growth in girls wrestling participation.

Dr. Flesher concluded by thanking students, staff, coaches, and families for their dedication and achievements across academics, activities, and athletics.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Policy Committee Meeting Update: Vice Chair Madson reported that the committee completed the first review of Policies 512, 514, and 515, noting that updates reflect statutory changes and MSBA model language. Policy 514 includes new statutory language regarding malicious and sadistic conduct. Policy 515 incorporates revisions to directory information definitions, removing student and parent contact details.

Finance & Facilities Meeting Update: Director Tempero reported that the Finance & Facilities meeting was held to review the reports and Truth in Taxation Hearing items being presented later in the meeting.

Wendy Lundsgaard: reported increased family participation at the Discovery Center PAC meeting. Planning is underway for the January "Super Saturday" event. She noted the approval of the AMSD legislative platform and its relevance to upcoming discussions with Orono Action. She provided an update from the MSBA Delegate Assembly, where 23 of 36 resolutions were approved. She highlighted a discussion about a proposed constitutional amendment affecting the Permanent School Fund.

Todd Madson: shared that the PTO held a successful Book Fair and is planning for the annual Run-a-Thon fundraiser.

Chair Borchers reported attending the Special Education Parent Partnership Committee Meeting. The committee is working towards expanding the membership to parents of children from all grade levels.

No additional board member reports were presented.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Policy Review

Dr Flesher presented the following policies to the board for a second reading and approval.

1. Policy 509: Enrollment of Nonresident Students
2. Policy 510: School Activities

UPON MOTION by Wallander, seconded by Madson and VOTES: 5 aye in favor, 0 (zero) aye against, the board approved the adoption of revised policies 509 and 510.

8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Policy Review (First Reading)

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability, presented revisions to Policies 512 (Student Publications), 514 (Bullying Prohibition), and 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records). Updates reflect statutory changes. Notably, Policy 515 removes student and parent contact information from directory information; The policies will return for a second reading in January.

1. Policy 512: School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities
2. Policy 514: Bullying Prohibition
3. Policy 515: Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records

9. B – Facilities Update

Dr. Flesher introduced Mr. Nick Taintor, Director of Business Services, who provided a comprehensive update on district facilities and updates on upcoming projects.

Chair Sarah Borchers asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting until 7:00 PM for the 2025 Truth in Taxation Hearing. MOTION by Madson, seconded by Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

During the break, Vice Chair Madson left the meeting. Chair Borchers and Gavin Tempero sat in the vestibule. Wendy Lundsgaard and Laura Wallander remained in the Assembly Room.

Board members returned to the Assembly Room, and Chair Sarah Borchers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Dr. Flesher opened the annual Truth in Taxation Hearing and introduced Mr. Taintor to present the proposed 2025 payable 2026 property tax levy.

9. C – 2025 Truth in Taxation Hearing

Mr. Tainter reviewed the district’s funding structure, levy limitations, tax-year and fiscal-year alignment, and factors affecting the levy. He noted the completion of indoor air quality projects, inflationary adjustments tied to the operating referendum, and statutory requirements for the debt service levy. He highlighted the district’s continued strong fiscal standing, including an A3 Moody’s rating, stable enrollment, excellent financial controls, and a clean audit with no findings.

No public comments were submitted.

9. D – 2025 Pay 2026 School Property Tax Levy for Fiscal 2026-2027

UPON MOTION by Wallander, second by Tempero, and VOTES: 4 aye in favor, 0 (zero) aye against, the Board of Education approved the final 2025 pay 2026 property tax levy of \$22,921,281 and directed the Clerk to certify to the Hennepin County Auditor in that amount.

Roll Call Vote:

Gavin Tempero – aye
Wendy Lundsgaard – aye
Laura Wallander – aye
Sarah Borchers - aye
Todd Madson – absent
Timothy Usset - absent

9. E – Other New Business as Necessary

No other New Business was brought forward.

10. Informational Item

A. December Enrollment

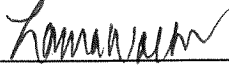
The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Wallander, seconded by Lundsgaard, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

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*