

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD JANUARY 26, 2026
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM - 685 N OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD, LONG LAKE MN

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

Absent: None

Before the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, board chair Borchers, along with board members Wallander and Usset, hosted Coffee & Conversation with community members. No community members attended.

1. - Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, and called to order by Board Chair Sarah Borchers at 7:00 PM.

3. - Consideration of the Agenda

4. - Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 14, 2025
- Approved the resignation, due to retirement, of Wendy Schur, full-time speech-language pathologist, Orono Intermediate School, effective June 10, 2026.
- Approved the resignation, due to retirement, of Diane Bacon, full-time sixth-grade science teacher, Orono Middle School, effective June 30, 2026.
- Approved the termination of the contract for Viktoriia Myrna, part-time Child Nutrition cook, Orono High School, effective December 31, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Margaret Lindsay, part-time Spartan Kids program aid, effective January 13, 2026.
- Approved the resignation of Amelia Lang, part-time Spartan Kids program aide, effective January 13, 2026.
- Approved the Board Chairperson the authority to sign and submit the District's Pay Equity Report to the Department of Employee Relations on or before January 31, 2026.
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$9,192.00
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for December, 2025
- Approved the Electronic Fund Transfers for December, 2025
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 323658-323816, EP Register: 903272-903289, EFT Voucher: 6664, and Capital One items: 53547-53558.

Motion: Wallander

Second: Madson

Vote: Approved – 6 in favor, 0 against

5. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher highlighted numerous student accomplishments and activities across academics, arts, and athletics.

Speech Team

- Placed third at the RiverPark Tournament (21 schools) and at a home tournament (15 schools).
- Simon Forbes qualified for the national tournament in Extemporaneous Speaking.

DECA District Competition

- Approximately 75% of participants advanced to state.
- 83 of 111 students qualified in at least one event; 26 students qualified in multiple events.

One Act Play

- Placed third at the subsection competition with *The Scarlet Letter*.

BizTown

- Sixth-grade students completed the annual BizTown experience on January 21.

Athletics

- Girls Hockey: Record 11-12-1; ranked No. 8 in the state; section play begins next week.
- Girls Basketball: Record 14-2; ranked No. 1 in the state.
- Boys Basketball: Defeated No. 4-ranked St. Paul Johnson at a Breakdown Event.
- Dance: Jazz placed second and Kick placed third at the Wayzata Invite; Ella Baugus, Lindy Keto, Braylin Uselding, and Ava Balow named All-State.
- Boys Swim & Dive: Finished second at True Team State; 5-0 in conference; ranked No. 4 in the state.
- Nordic Ski: Preparing for conference championships.
- Alpine Ski: Danny Kinzer named Minnesota Star Tribune Athlete of the Week.
- Wrestling: Brett Kiecker placed first at 114 pounds at the Orono Invitational; ranked No. 4 in the state at 121 pounds.
- Girls Flag Football: Inaugural season announced for spring 2026 in partnership with the Minnesota Vikings.

6. – Board Members Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting Update: Mr. Madson reported on the recent Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. Updates included strong competitive bidding for window and door projects, allowing the district to complete the full scope originally planned within budget, discussion of accelerated parking lot project timelines, approval of a two-year extension of the district's transportation contract in accordance with state law, and an update on ongoing HVAC and water remediation efforts at Schumann. Appreciation was expressed for staff and community members supporting the remediation work.

Policy Committee Meeting: Ms. Borchers provided an update from the Policy Committee, noting that the committee met on January 22 and that the meeting was brief, with few policy changes expected to move forward.

Timothy Usset: nothing to report

Laura Wallander: nothing to report

Todd Madson: nothing more to report

Wendy Lundsgaard: Ms. Lundsgaard shared highlights from her attendance at the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference, describing it as a valuable professional learning experience. She highlighted student participation in the Student Voices session, noting Sienna Sether for her poise and leadership, and also recognizing Jim Westrom and Grace Nohner for representing the district.

Gavin Tempero: Mr. Tempero shared reflections on attending the sixth-grade BizTown experience as a parent volunteer, describing it as an impressive and meaningful learning opportunity for students and expressing appreciation for the teachers and staff involved.

7. – Old Business

7. A – 2026-2027 School Board Meeting Dates

The Board of Education approved the 2026-2027 school board meeting dates.

Motion: Madson

Second: Usset

Vote: Approved - 6 in favor, 0 against

7. B Policy Review

The Board approved Policies 516-521 following a second reading.

1. Policy 516: Student Medication and Telehealth
2. Policy 516.5: Overdose Medication
3. Policy 517: Student Recruiting
4. Policy 518: DNR/DNI Orders
5. Policy 519: Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies
6. Policy 520: Student Surveys
7. Policy 521: Student Disability Nondiscrimination

Motion: Lundsgaard

Second: Usset

Vote: Approved - 6 in favor, 0 against

7. C – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

8. – New Business

8. A – Orono Action Legislative Platform

Orono Action Committee members Lundsgaard and Usset presented the Orono Action Guiding Principles for 2026. These principles will inform the committee's decisions on which bills to support, monitor, or oppose, ensuring that the committee acts in the best interests of Orono students, staff, and community.

Motion: Usset

Second: Tempero

Vote: Approved - 6 in favor, 0 against

8. B – Orono High School Registration Guide

Dr. Amy Steiner, Principal of Orono High School, presented the 2026-2027 Orono High School Course Catalog, updated the board on changes to graduation requirements, and shared the new courses being offered.

The Board approved the 2026-2027 Orono High School Course Catalog as presented.

Motion: Wallander

Second: Madson

Vote: Approved - 6 in favor, 0 against

8. C – Policy Review

Dr. Scott Alger, Executive Director of Human Resources, presented Policies 522 and 524-531 for a first reading. A second reading and recommendation for approval will be scheduled for the February 9, 2026, meeting.

1. Policy 522 – Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination
2. Policy 524 – Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use
3. Policy 525 – Violence Prevention
4. Policy 526 – Hazing Prohibition
5. Policy 527 – Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles
6. Policy 528 – Student, Parental, Family, Marital Nondiscrimination
7. Policy 529 – Notification to Staff of Violent Behavior by Students
8. Policy 530 – Immunization Requirements
9. Policy 531 – Pledge of Allegiance

8. D – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM to a work session on Community Engagement.

Motion: Usset

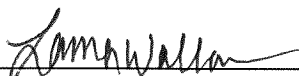
Second: Wallander

Vote: Approved - 6 in favor, 0 against

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*