

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON APRIL 13, 2026
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM | 685 OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD N, LONG LAKE, MN

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

Absent:

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, April 13, 2026, and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers, at 7:00 PM.

4. – Consideration of the Agenda

5. – Consent Agenda

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 9, 2026.
- Approved the resignation of Nicholas Stotereau, Special Education Teacher, Orono High School, effective June 5, 2026.
- Approved the resignation of Daenon Bronken, Licensed School Psychologist at Orono Schumann Elementary School and Orono Intermediate School, effective June 5, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Caleb Reader, Orono Schools Districtwide Seasonal Custodian, effective May 25, 2026.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Jeanine Weisbeck, Orono Schumann Elementary School Principal Assistant Secretary, effective June 5, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Isabelle Schoen, part-time Water Safety Aid, Orono Schools Community Education, effective March 30, 2026.
- Approved the change of assignment of Kevin O'Connor, Part-time Event Coordinator at Orono High School to Full-time Event Coordinator, effective March 30, 2026.
- Approved the resignation of Jonas Stengle, part-time Spartan Kids Program Aide, effective March 20, 2026.
- Approved the coaching contracts for the Spring Season:
 - o Baseball
 - Thomas Borrell, Head Coach
 - Parker Tabor, 9A Team Coach
 - Barry Wohler, Pitching Coach
 - Charlie Bohl, JV Coach
 - Bill Madigan, 9th Grade Coach
 - Tim Sonnek, Varsity Assistant Coach
 - o Golf - Boys
 - Hunter Hoaglund, Head Coach

- Weston Russek, Developmental Coach
 - Andrew Globoker, JV Coach
- Golf - Girls
 - Ron Weber, Head Coach
 - Jackie Johnson, JV Coach
- Softball
 - Sarah Craig, Head Coach
 - Ryan Hartneck, Varsity Assistant Coach
 - Sarah Hunter, Assistant Coach
 - Sydney Heckmann, Pitching Coach
 - Scott Peterson, JV Coach
 - Mikenna Becker, 9th Grade Coach
 - John Blanchard, Varsity Assistant Coach
 - Amy Quast, JV Assistant Coach
- Tennis - Boys
 - Aaron Dvorak, Head Coach
 - Brian Brown, Assistant Coach
- Track & Field
 - Addy Hallen, Head Coach-Girls
 - Nathan Porter, Head Coach - Boys
 - Jenna Rieth, JV Coach
 - Brian McCollor, JV Coach
 - Finn Schirmer, JV Coach
 - Nate Uselding, JV Coach
 - Ruby Stauber, JV Coach
 - Ben Hidani, JV Coach
 - Mara McNaughton, JV Coach
 - Andy Kahler, JV Coach
- Lacrosse - Girls
 - Jane Kolar, Head Coach
 - Grace Altier, JV Coach
 - Maddie Mootz, B Coach
 - Virginia MaGuire, Varsity Assistant Coach
 - Emma Eastman, JV Assistant Coach
- Lacrosse - Boys
 - Ian Edwards, Head Coach
 - Austin Bartel, JV Coach
 - Will Harris, Varsity Assistant Coach
- Flag Football – Girls
 - William “Tex” Ostvig, Head Coach
 - Christina Strey-Wells, Assistant Coach
 - Mitchell Benson, JV Coach
 - Sarah Mondschein, Assistant Coach
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$11,767.52
- Approved Treasurer’s Report for February 2026
- Electronic Fund Transfers for February 2026

- Approved Bill Vouchers and Payment Registers, as presented:
 - o Bill Voucher Register: Nos. 324263-324539, 2038-2047
 - o EP Register: Nos. 903361-903380
 - o EFT Voucher Registers: Nos. 320-323, 6680-6687
 - o Capital One Transaction Register: Nos. 53606-53641

Motion: Lundsgaard

Second: Wallander

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against.

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher highlighted the deep learning and engagement students and staff have participated in since the March 9th meeting.

Academics:

Kindergarten students concluded their "America Then and Now" unit with a visit to the Western Hennepin Pioneer Museum, where they explored how innovation has shaped daily life over time. Thanks to Mr. Bob Gasch, Mr. Kelly Shaughnessy, and museum volunteers for supporting this hands-on experience.

At the upcoming State History Day competition (April 19), 22 seventh-grade students will present nine projects: Reagan Lillejord (Hindenburg); Tommy Menozzi and Nathan Ratcliffe (Chernobyl); Lissie Toppin (Munich Massacre); Peighton Healy and Violet Wooley (Simone de Beauvoir); Everette Anderson and Libby Lundell (Great Religious Schism); Harold Campbell (Muhammad Ali: Civil Rights); Emma Barlage and Eve Hall (Match Girls Strike); Quinn Rogers and Evelyn Verplank (Donna de Verona); and Madhavan Kandanchatha (Edward Jenner and vaccination).

Additionally, Freya Blessing (Alice Paul) and Nathan Baird (Harlem Hellfighters) earned statewide recognition in the paper category—an honor awarded to only 12 students across Minnesota.

Arts:

At the April 10 solo competition, seniors Elise Meyer (flute) and Kaia Erickson (clarinet) both received superior ratings, with Kaia earning a perfect score.

Activities:

The Spartobots robotics team had a strong season, earning the Gracious Professionalism Award at the Northern Lights Regional and the Safety Award at the Granite City Regional, finishing 18th out of 51 teams and advancing to elimination rounds.

The Orono speech team placed first in the large team division at the Jordan "Last Chance" tournament. Their spring showcase is April 17, with section competition beginning April 19.

Athletics:

Senior Adrian Licursi received a National Football Foundation Honorable Mention Scholar-Athlete Award and will attend the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Mya Moore was named Orono's 2026 Athena Award recipient in recognition of her exceptional athletic achievements in basketball.

Spring athletics are underway with 449 student participants. The community is encouraged to attend upcoming competitions.

Upcoming Events:

- *Blithe Spirit* spring play: April 23–25 at the high school
- Community Wellness Expo: April 30 (featuring over 50 organizations and family activities)
- Spartan Soirée (Orono Foundation for Education): May 1 at Wayzata Country Club, with proceeds supporting district programming

7. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Todd Madson:

Reported on the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting, including a proposed \$777,000 lease purchase to construct outdoor tennis courts, funded over 10 years through a dedicated levy. He also shared an update on the revised 2025–26 budget, which remains balanced with \$46.7M in revenue and \$46.5M in expenditures, a projected 6.53% unassigned fund balance, and anticipated 1% enrollment growth.

Chair Borchers:

Reported that the Policy Committee met in late March and discussed policy updates that are included in the board packet. And shared observations from a facilities tour following the Finance Committee meeting, noting progress on repairs and improvements at Schumann Elementary following the water main break.

Tim Usset:

Provided a legislative update following Day at the Capitol and AMSD meetings. Noted encouraging bipartisan support to avoid proposed cuts to special education funding, though outcomes remain uncertain. Shared that the broader legislative outlook is mixed, with finalized AMSD priorities and ongoing discussions at the Capitol.

Laura Wallander:

Shared an update from the Community Education Advisory Council, including exploration of a new curriculum aligned with letter training that may reduce costs. Reported strong summer enrollment trends already exceeding prior pacing, with high participation in Ready-Set-Kindergarten programming. Also noted a strong interest in the Activity Center coordinator position. Additionally, highlighted engagement with the Minnetonka Beach City Council and opportunities for continued partnership.

Wendy Lundsgaard:

Reported on Discovery Center Parent Advisory Council efforts, noting increased family engagement, growth of the Junior Spartan Closet, and upcoming community-building events. Shared highlights from the Curriculum Committee, including potential science pathway updates and upcoming social studies standards implementation, emphasizing flexible student pathways and teacher input. Also provided a legislative update from AMSD/MASA Day at the Capitol, including discussions on school funding, safety, compensatory revenue, literacy aid, insurance mandates, and a potential

constitutional amendment related to School Trust lands. Additionally, shared updates from OMSPA, including support for staff appreciation and a student film festival.

8. – Old Business

A. – Other Old Business as Necessary

No old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Activities & Athletics:

Mr. Brunner shared an overview of the Athletics and Activities Department, emphasizing gratitude for the collective efforts of staff, coaches, advisors, students, and families in creating meaningful student experiences.

He highlighted the department's alignment with the district's strategic goals, noting that athletics and activities are an extension of the educational experience, focused on developing character, relationships, and a sense of belonging. Coaches and advisors are viewed as educators, with programs designed to "develop better humans," with strong outcomes following that focus.

Participation remains a point of pride, with approximately 95% of students involved in at least one activity and over 80% participating in athletics. The district offers a wide range of opportunities, including 28 athletic programs and numerous activities and clubs, with several new offerings added in recent years (e.g., debate, robotics, boys volleyball, girls wrestling, girls flag football, and mock trial), expanding access for students.

Student achievement is strong, with multiple state tournament appearances, championships, and 49 student-athletes signing to compete at the collegiate level over the past two years—well above state averages.

Mr. Brunner also highlighted the significant scope of programming, including more than 1,500 events annually, requiring extensive coordination to ensure high-quality experiences for participants and spectators.

Finally, he emphasized the importance of storytelling and community engagement, noting strong visibility of student activities through social media, and reaffirmed the department's commitment to continuous improvement while leveraging the strength of the Orono community.

9. B – ATPPS | Q-Comp Annual Report & Approval (ACTION)

Dr. Ruhland and the Q Comp team shared an overview of the district's Q Comp program, noting no major changes for the upcoming year and recommending continued implementation with minor refinements.

The program continues to focus on three core components: goal setting aligned to district priorities, job-embedded professional development through PLCs, and a comprehensive

evaluation system tied to performance pay. The district is refining its use of the Danielson framework with added “look-fors” and enhanced technology tools to improve feedback and efficiency.

Staff development remains a central focus, with educators engaging in either work products—in-depth, student-centered projects—or instructional rounds, which provide opportunities to observe peers and apply new strategies. Both approaches support collaboration, reflection, and instructional growth.

Enhancements this year include a streamlined Q Comp website, more role-specific evaluation rubrics, and the use of recording and AI tools to support more accurate feedback. Staff survey results indicate strong levels of trust, confidence, and perceived growth in the evaluation process.

The mentoring and induction program continues to provide personalized support for new staff through mentoring, coaching cycles, and targeted professional development. Looking ahead, the Q Comp structure will continue to support district priorities, including MTSS implementation, through coaching and feedback aligned to instructional practices.

Motion: Wallander

Second: Lundsgaard

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against.

9. C – Policy Review (First Reading) The following policies were presented for review:

9.C.1. Policy 521: Student Disability Nondiscrimination

9.C.2. Policy 532: Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds

9.C.3. Policy 533: Wellness

9.C.4. Policy 534: School Meals

And removal:

9.C.5. Policy 508: School-Sponsored Curriculum and Non-Curriculum Related Student Groups and Activities

9. D – Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

10. – Informational Items

10. A – April Enrollment

The Next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room, Orono District Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM

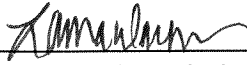
Motion: Usset

Second: Madson

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against.

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Sarah Borchers, *Chair*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Wallander", written over a horizontal line.

Laura Wallander, *Clerk*

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

A recording of this Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is available online on the Orono School Board YouTube Channel or on the oronoschools.org website.