

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON JUNE 8, 2026
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM | 685 OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD N, LONG LAKE, MN

Present: Sarah Borchers, Todd Madson, Wendy Lundsgaard, Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, Laura Wallander, 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, June 8, 2026, and called to order by Board Chair Sarah Borchers at 7:00 PM.

4. Consideration of the Agenda

Chair Borchers requested that ITEM 9H (Recognition of Orono Girls' Class AA Track & Field State Championship Team) be moved ahead of ITEM 5. Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve moving item 9H ahead of item 5, Consent Agenda.

Second: Lundsgaard

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

9.H – Recognition of Orono Girls' Class AA Track & Field State Championship Team

5. – Consent Agenda

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 11, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Steven Gunz, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 19, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Daniel Murray, full-time German, World Languages and Cultures, and Academic Planning Teacher at Orono Middle School, effective August 19, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Bartholomew Johnson, full-time Science Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 19, 2026.
- Approved the change of assignment for Michele Lehtis, full-time Special Education Paraprofessional at Orono High School, to full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono High School, effective August 19, 2026.

- Approved the appointment of Dean Aiken, full-time Districtwide Seasonal Grounds custodian, effective May 26, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Matthew Mackenzie-Kenny, full-time Districtwide Seasonal Grounds Custodian, effective May 26, 2026.
- Approved the change of assignment of Nicholas Elsenpeter, part-time Activities Center Monitor, to full-time Districtwide Seasonal Grounds Custodian, effective May 26, 2026.
- Approved the resignation of Hannah Campbell, full-time Long-Term Substitute Principal's Assistant Secretary at Orono Schumann Elementary, effective June 12, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Grant Eslinger, part-time Activities Center Monitor, effective May 21, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Calvin McLean, part-time Activities Center Monitor, effective May 21, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Jonathan Lewin, part-time Activities Center Monitor, effective May 21, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Trey Dionne, part-time Activities Center Monitor, effective May 21, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Johan Ronnings, part-time Activities Center Monitor, effective May 21, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Ted Harding, Summer Student Support Specialist, effective June 1, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Klaire Hillman, part-time Spartan Kids Assistant Teacher, effective June 8, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Caitlin Dahlberg, Orono Community Education Water Safety Aide, effective June 8, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Allie Callinan, Orono Community Education Lifeguard, effective June 8, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Claire Walinga, Orono Community Education Summer Enrichment Teacher, effective June 8, 2026, through August 21, 2026.
- Approved the change of assignment of Natalie Ernhart, part-time Orono Community Education Marketing Assistant, to full-time Communications and Digital Marketing Content Specialist effective May 26, 2026.
- Approved the Orono Principals Association Master Agreement for 2026-2028
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$32,988.96
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for April 2026.
- Approved the Electronic Funds Transfer Report for April 2026.
- Approved the designation of the 'Identified Official with Authority' for the Minnesota Department of Education.
- Approved Bill Vouchers and Payment Registers, as presented:
 - o Bill Voucher Register: 324813-325089, and 2058-2067
 - o EP Register: 903403-903489
 - o EFT Voucher Registers: 325-326, and 6696-6703
 - o Capital One Transaction Register: 53679-53710

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Lundsgaard

Second: Wallander

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Academics: Summarized the 11th annual 8th Grade Capstone Festival managed by teachers Brian Buzard and Jane Nelson, and a 6th-grade solar oven STEM project.

Graduations: Acknowledged 189 kindergarteners under Principal Dr. Lamparski, the 5th-grade graduation and time capsule projects (honoring classmate Weston Paskowitz), and the high school graduation of 246 seniors on June 4, 2026, which moved into the gym due to weather.

Spring Sports: Noted baseball finished as section runner-up (20 wins); Boys Golf won conference/sections to qualify for state; Nora Benson qualified for state in Girls Golf; Girls Lacrosse won conference (Dylan Collins named Ms Lacrosse; Layla Nick named Star Tribune Player of the Year); Softball won sections, placing 6th at state; Boys Tennis took 4th at state doubles (Max Skanse, Anthony Perrill); Boys Track and Field won sections and took 6th at state with individual medalists Gabe Hallen, Cooper Munsch, Liam Barkley, Sean Henkelman, Davis Kelly, Sam Chapman, Luke Withrow, and Nicholas Pasulka.

Retirements: Honored retirees John Avalos (34 years), Diane Bacon (20 years), Julie Doyle (24 years), Brenda Dressel (26 years), Iris Erickson (24 years), Jill Leukema (11 years), Gregory Pusch (20 years), Wendy Schur (20 years), and Jeanine Weisbeck (22 years). Greg and Amy Fish were named Friends of Education.

7. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Finance & Facilities Committee Report

Vice Chair Madson reported a 1% enrollment growth and a fund balance target of 7.5%. He highlighted a review of the campus impervious surface watershed metric, noting the campus sits at 30%, safely below the 40% statutory mitigation threshold.

Other Board Member Reports

Member Usset noted attendance at the Native American graduation ceremony, commencement, and retirement breakfast. Member Wallander shared updates from the Community Ed Parent Advisory meeting including a balanced budget, and Deb Slomkowski's summer registration update (6,846 registrations up from 6,333). Due to construction, the August 6 Family Color Dash will move to the Discovery Center. Member Lundsgaard shared MSBA legislative summaries and distributed Permanent School Fund documentation alongside info on the "Minnesota Kids Rise" campaign. Chair Borchers highlighted the Spartan Parent Association meeting on May 20 and the

May 19 Orono Foundation for Education Soiree (272 tickets sold, 19 student volunteers).

8. – Old Business

A. – 2027-2028 Academic Calendar (2nd Reading)

Motion to approve: Madson

Second: Usset

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

B. - Policy Review (Second Reading)

Policy 625: Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

Motion to approve: Lundsgard

Second: Wallander

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

C. - Other Old Business as Necessary

No old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – Resolution for Continuation of Membership in Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL)

Motion to approve: Tempero

Second: Madson

Vote: APPROVED – 6 in favor, 0 against

9.B – Population Estimate Certification

Motion to approve the Resolution Certifying the Population Estimate for the 2026 Payable 2027 Revenue Calculation: Usset

Second: Tempero

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

9. C– 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget Approval

Motion to approve: Usset

Second: Wallander

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

9.D – Appoint Election Clerk for 2026 School Board Election

Motion to approve: Usset

Second: Lundsgaard

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

9.E. – Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy

Motion to approve the Resolution establishing dates for filing affidavits of candidacy for the upcoming election of school board members: Madson

Second: Lundsgaard

Roll Call Vote: APPROVED – 6 in favor, 0 against (Ayes: Usset, Wallander, Borchers, Madson, Lundsgaard, Tempero; Nays: None)

9. F – Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School district General Election

Motion to approve: Madson

Second: Tempero

Roll Call Vote: APPROVED – 6 in favor, 0 against (Ayes: Usset, Wallander, Borchers, Madson, Lundsgaard, Tempero; Nays: None)

9. G – Curriculum Report/Annual Curriculum Adoption

Motion to approve curriculum adoption for the 2026-2027 school year: Madson

Second: Wallander

Vote: APPROVED – 6 in favor, 0 against

9.I - Other New Business as Necessary

No other new business was brought forward.

10. – Informational Items

10.A June Enrollment

The Next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room, Orono District Office.

Chair Borchers moved to recess and, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(a), move into a closed session to evaluate the performance of school district personnel at 8:10 PM.

Motion to move into closed session: Lundsgaard

Second: Madson

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

Chair Borchers moved to adjourn the closed session and reconvene in open session at 8:51 PM.

Motion: Usset

Second: Wallander

Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against

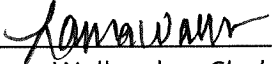
Chair Borchers moved to resume the Regular Meeting at 9:18 PM.

Motion: Usset. Second: Wallander

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM



Sarah Borchers, *Chair*



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](https://www.oronoschools.org) website.