

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON OCTOBER 12, 2026

Present: Sarah Borchers, Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, Laura Wallander, and Kristine Flesher

Absent: Wendy Lundsgaard, Todd Madson

Community Members Questions and Comments

No members of the community addressed the board.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, October 12, 2026, and called to order by Board Chair Sarah Borchers at 7:00 PM

4. Consideration of the Agenda

5. Consent Agenda [00:00:42]

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on September 28, 2026
- Approved the resignation of Katherine Hoffman De Bustamante, Infant Lead Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective October 5, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Viktoriia Myrna, part-time Short Hour Cook at Orono High School, effective September 1, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Heather Rivera, part-time Paraeducator – English Language Program at Orono Intermediate School and Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective October 19, 2026.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Susan Hornbaker, full-time Kitchen Assistant Manager at Orono Discovery Center, effective October 9, 2026.
- Approved the resignation due to retirement of Martin Boss, full-time Maintenance Technician-Grounds at Orono School District, effective November 2, 2026.
- Approved the resignation of Marina Silvanovskaia, Food Service-Cook at Orono High School, effective September 3, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Crosby Van Patten, part-time Activities Center Monitor at Orono Activities Center, effective June 15, 2026.
- Approved the appointment of Ben Johnson, part-time Activities Center Monitor Lead at Orono Activities Center, effective June 15, 2026.
- Accepted donations totaling \$3,150.17
- Approved Treasurer's Report for June 2026, July 2026, and August 2026
- Approved Electronic Fund Transfers for June 2026, July 2026, and August 2026
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 325934-326073, 2098-2107, EP Register: 903648-903659, EFT Vouchers: 6723-6727, and Capital One items: 53827-53843

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: WALLANDER

Second: USSET

Vote: APPROVED - 4 in favor, 0 against

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence [00:01:36]

Dr. Flesher opened by recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day and honoring the local history, including artifacts on display at the Pioneer Museum. She thanked the newly renamed Orono Native American Parent Advisory Council, alongside Native American students, families, and staff.

Homecoming & 75th Anniversary: Dr. Flesher celebrated a highly successful homecoming week that featured sellout crowds and a special lunch honoring the opening of the 1951 time capsule for the high school's 75th anniversary. She specifically thanked staff members Kristin Palm and Lyssa Campbell for organizing the event.

Performing Arts: Dr. Flesher praised the middle school students for their performance in the fall production, *Olympiaganza*. She also highlighted the high school band's Fall Pops concert, the upcoming fall choir concert, and the November opening of the high school musical, *Cinderella*.

Athletics Updates:

- Girls Cross Country: Secured a first-place finish at the Litchfield Invite, led by student Jocie Hallen, who set a new school record.
- Football: Remained undefeated at 6-0 and ranked number one in the state.
- Soccer: The boys' team received the number one seed, and the girls' team received the number two seed in their section tournaments.
- Girls Swim and Dive: Finished as section runner-up and earned a wild card berth to the True Team state tournament.
- Girls Tennis: Fought hard in the 5AA section final and were congratulated as section runners-up for their incredible season.
- Girls Volleyball: Advanced to a 12-9 record after picking up three wins at the Twin Cities Challenge.

Winter Activities & MEA Break: Dr. Flesher concluded by announcing that winter sports registration is open on MyPaymentsPlus and wished students and staff a safe MEA fall break, thanking Orono Community Education for providing programming during the days off.

7. – Board Members Questions and Comments [00:07:02]

Sarah Borchers – Chair Borchers gave the Facilities and Finance Committee Meeting report, stating that preliminary talks have begun with Ehlers regarding the management of upcoming expenses, such as roofs, over the next 10-15 years, with the goal of keeping taxes flat for taxpayers. Borchers also highlighted a presentation by CenterPoint Energy regarding a geothermal solution unit, noting that Orono is one of three finalists for the project. She reported that the Policy Committee had met to discuss changes to policies that will be presented in new business.

Gavin Tempero – Shared his enjoyment of the middle school play, *Olympiaganza*, about Greek mythology, noting that the students did a fantastic job.

Timothy Usset – Reported that he attended the Hennepin County Farm Bureau dinner.

Laura Wallander – Reported on the Community Education Advisory Council meeting held on October 9th. She noted that the committee received presentations on the permanent school fund and fall enrollment, which is strong with many classes already full. She mentioned the committee is seeking new community members to serve. Additionally, she highlighted a cost-saving measure where community education brochures are now sent via mail carrier routes rather than specific addresses, allowing them to mail 11,000 brochures for less money than the previous 7,000.

8. – Old Business

8. A – Policy Review [00:10:30]

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

- Policy 506: Student Discipline
- Policy 722: Public Data and Data Subject Requests
- Policy 608: Instructional Services – Special Education
- Policy 610: Field Trips
- Policy 611: Home Schooling

Motion to approve policies as presented: WALLANDER

Second: USSET

Vote: APPROVED - 4 in favor, 0 against.

8. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

9. – New Business

9. A – District History – The Orono Junior-Senior High School Cornerstone 1951 Time Capsule [00:11:09]

Lyssa Campbell, Director of Communications, and Bob Gasch, local historian, led a presentation on the district's history following the recent discovery of a 1951 time capsule placed behind the original high school's cornerstone. They showcased foundational documents and photographs recovered from the handmade copper box to celebrate the high school's 75th anniversary and to honor the community members who established the district and the schools.

9. B – Policy Review (First Reading) [00:49:25]

- Policy 609: Graduation Requirements
- Policy 613: Graduation Requirements
- Policy 615: Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students
- Policy 617: Out-of-School Tutoring For Pay
- Policy 618: Copyright

9. C – Other New Business as Necessary

10. A – Informational Item - October Enrollment

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

Motion to adjourn: USSET

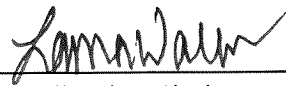
Second: TEMPERO

Vote: APPROVED - 4 in favor, 0 against.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.



Sarah Borchers, Chair



Laura Wallander, Clerk