MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2026

Board Members Present: Sarah Borchers, Wendy Lundsgaard, Todd Madson, Gavin Tempero, Timothy Usset, Laura Wallander.

Board Members Absent:

Superintendent: Kristine Flesher

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, October 26, 2026, and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers at 7:03 PM.

3. Consideration of the Agenda

4. Consent Agenda

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on October 12, 2026
- Approved the appointment of Jennifer Beam, part-time Short Hour Cook at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective October 21, 2026
- Approved the contract change and change of assignment of Josie Vollbrecht, full-time Class II Custodian at Orono Middle School to full-time Assistant Kitchen Manager at Orono Discovery Center, effective October 26, 2026
- Approved the appointment of Lori Roberts, part-time Spartan Kids Program Staff Lead with Orono Community Education, effective October 12, 2026
- Accepted Donations Totaling $6,005.31
- Approved Treasurer's Report for September 2026
- Approved Wire Transfer Report for September 2026
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 326074-326193, EP Register items: 903661-903669, EFT Voucher: 337-338, 6728, and Capital One items: 53844-53858.

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda: WALLANDER
Second: LUNDSGAARD
VOTE: APPROVED – 6 in favor, 0 against

5. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher's report highlighted staff awards, the success of unified programs, and numerous fall athletic achievements. She congratulated district custodian Mike Daniels (nominated by Tim Domka) on receiving the MEFMPA Metro Chapter Award, high school science teacher Jeremy Buke (nominated by Ava Klug) on winning the Sarah L. Tillman Science Teacher Award, and girls soccer coach Erin Murray on her induction into the MSHSSCA Hall of Fame. Dr. Flesher also celebrated the Middle School's unity walk and the Orono Unified Flag Football team's state championship, recognizing coaches Finn Dyvick, Lucas LaBelle, Ben Staloch, and Devin Warner, along with athletes and partners Maddie Cardinal, Gideon Fish, Laylay Gilmer,

Grant Hansen, Molly Holasek, Connor Larson, Cora Palm, Ella Palm, Grant Pierson, and Jake Thalhuber.
In athletics, the boys and girls cross country teams both finished as MetroWest Conference runners-up, with honors going to Eddie Loberg, Davis Kelly, Liam Barkley, Drew Gronholz, Kamran Shah, Bennett Williams, Jocie Hallen, Maryn Leary, Delaney Stephens, Peyton Nordstrom, and Audrey Quale. Additionally, she recognized the undefeated football team, the boys soccer team's section championship (noting Teddy Prodahl's tying goal), the girls soccer team's strong season, Audrey Crawford's new school record in girls swim and dive, Mollie Hollerman and Bluma Molitor's state qualification in girls tennis, and the girls volleyball team's upcoming section tournament.

6. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Tim Usset had nothing to report.

Laura Wallander reported on the Orono Action legislative committee, announcing the annual legislator coffee scheduled for December 1 at the Orono Activities Center to build relationships with legislators. She noted the committee is actively seeking concise, Orono-specific ideas to build the district's legislative platform for the coming year.

Todd Madson had no committee updates to report.

Wendy Lundsgaard shared an update on the expansion of local robotics programs, noting the creation of a new 15-student middle school robotics team and the successful continuation of a parent-hosted fifth-grade LEGO League.

Gavin Tempero had no committee reports but highly recommended the Pioneer Museum in Long Lake as a great, free local historical activity for families.

Chair Borchers reported on the Special Education Parent Partnership Committee, sharing their enthusiasm for the MTSS program and a successful summer program that helps students experience college. She also issued a call for new parents of children with special education needs to join the committee.

7. – Old Business
7. A – Policy Review

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

- Policy 609: Religion
- Policy 613: Graduation Requirements
- Policy 615: Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students

- Policy 618: Copyright

MOTION to approve policies as presented: LUNDSGAARD
Second: MADSON
VOTE: APPROVED – 6 in favor, 0 against

7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary
No other old business was brought forward.

8. – New Business
8. A – Orono Excellence Fund – Orono High School: College Admissions, Character & Belonging

Principal Dr. Amy Steiner, school counselor Katye Haagenson, and student life coordinator Grace Nohner presented on the profound impact of the Orono Excellence Fund innovation grants on high school programming. They detailed how funded professional development and conference attendance have improved college counseling—resulting in exceptionally high applicant acceptance rates at highly selective universities—and fostered an outstanding 91% student belonging rate through targeted school culture initiatives like Catalyst and Character Strong.

8. B – Resolution to support the Application to the MSHSL Foundation for a Form A Grant to Offset Student Activity Fees

MOTION to adopt the Resolution to Support the Application to the MSHSL Foundation for a Form A Grant to Offset Student Activity Fees: WALLANDER
Second: USSET
VOTE: APPROVED – 6 in favor, 0 against

8. C – Other New Business as Necessary

There was no other new business presented.

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

Motion to adjourn: USSET
Second: LUNDSGAARD
Vote: APPROVED - 6 in favor, 0 against.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM to a work session for the Annual Literacy Work & Implementation Progress Report

Sarah Borchers, *Chair*

Laura Wallander, *Clerk*