

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON APRIL 25, 2022

Present: Bob Tunheim, Mike Bash, Kristine Flesher, Ali Howe, Laura Wallander, Sarah Borchers,
Martha Van de Ven

Absent: None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, April 25, 2022 and called to order by Board Chair, Bob Tunheim, at 7:01 PM.

3. – Consideration of the Agenda

Member Mike Bash requested that the agenda item ‘Approve Transportation Contract with First Student, Inc.’, originally included as part of the Consent Agenda, be relocated to Old Business to allow for comments and discussion.

4. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Martha Van de Ven, seconded by Mike Bash, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 11, 2022
- Approved the change of assignment of Maria Barlow, full-time Special Education Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, to full-time Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Orono Discovery Center, effective July 1, 2022
- Approved the resignation of Lindsey Kesanen, full-time First Grade Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary School, effective June 10, 2022
- Approved the change of assignment of Keith Clark, full-time Custodian at Orono Elementary Center, to full-time Districtwide Floater Custodian at Orono Public Schools, effective April 25, 2022
- Approved the change of assignment of Adrienne Wikman, part-time Short Hour Cook at Orono Intermediate School, to full-time Media Clerk at Orono High School, effective April 18, 2022
- Approved the appointment of Sommer Elsenpeter, full-time Payroll and Benefits Manager at Orono Public Schools, effective April 19, 2022
- Approved the resignation of Amy Groschen, full-time District Accountant at Orono Public Schools, effective May 13, 2022
- Approved the resignation of Marcia Zajac, full-time MARSS Coordinator/Assistant to the Executive Director of Business Services, effective June 30, 2022
- Approved the following spring coaching contracts:

Golf – Girls

Jennifer Wilson, JV Coach

Tennis – Boys

Brian Brown, JV Coach

Track & Field

Nate Uselding, JV Coach

Lily McKown, JV Coach

Lacrosse – Boys

Brett Templin, Assistant Coach

- Accepted Donations Totaling \$8,700.00

- Approved the Paraeducator Master Contract for 2021-2023
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 312793-312872, 1536-1542 and Capital One: 51754-51765

5. – Superintendent’s Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher began her report by sharing with the board that the Orono speech team sent two students to the state tournament this past weekend. At the end of the preliminary competition, 8th-grader McKenna Monger ranked 12th in Dramatic Interpretation and sophomore Emily Middleton ranked 13th in Creative Expression. Dr. Flesher shared that although only the top 8 competitors move on to the finals, she is incredibly proud of these rankings. This team is young and has already built a fantastic foundation for success in years to come. Thank you to Barb Shofner, Orono’s head speech coach, who has led the team through a fantastic season.

Next, Dr. Flesher highlighted that last week, Orono High School hosted their junior and senior awards nights. During the junior program, the following five students were surprised with book awards:

- o Dartmouth Book Award - Nora Chouanard
- o Harvard Book Award - Michael Rascher
- o Yale University Book Award - Caleb Vaughan
- o St. Lawrence Book Award - Roxy Neset
- o Bowdoin Book Award - Frances Edwards Hughes

Congratulations were extended to all students on their pursuit of excellence.

Dr. Flesher also shared that Tuesday, May 3 is the Wellness Expo, which is a reimagined event that includes Empty Bowls and Family Service Night along with many wellness activities for families and students of all ages. Dr. Flesher mentioned that the organizers are looking for donations and volunteers to make this event all it can be.

Finally, Dr. Flesher shared that Matias Maule of the Orono boys tennis team was highlighted in a recent *Star Tribune* article. He and many of his teammates competed on Orono’s state championship boys’ soccer and table tennis teams.

6. – Board Members Questions and Comments

7. – Old Business

7. A – 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

The 2023-2024 academic calendar was presented for approval. The calendar came before the board for a first reading on April 11, 2022.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Laura Wallander, the board approved the 2023-2024 academic calendar.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. B – Policy Review

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

- Policy 401: Equal Employment Opportunity
- Policy 402: Disability Nondiscrimination
- Policy 403: Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees
- Policy 404: Employment Background Checks
- Policy 405: Veteran's Preference
- Policy 406: Public and Private Personnel Data
- Policy 407: Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances
- Policy 408: Subpoena of a School District Employee

UPON MOTION by Mike Bash, seconded by Ali Howe, the board approved the proposed changes to policies 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407 and 408.

Motion approved unanimously.

7. C – Approval of Transportation Contract with First Student, Inc.

Mr. Jim Westrum, Executive Director of Business Services, elaborated on the details of the transportation contract between Orono Schools and First Student, Inc. Mr. Westrum engaged in discussion with the board surrounding the contract, and recommended that the board formally approve it.

UPON MOTION by Sarah Borchers, seconded by Martha Van de Ven, the board approved the transportation contract between Orono Schools and First Student, Inc. as recommended.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. D – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

8. – New Business

8. A – Policy Review

Dr. Scott Alger, Executive Director of Human Resources and Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability, presented to the board the following revised policies for first reading and review.

- Policy 413: Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Policy 414: Chemical Use and Abuse
- Policy 415: Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School
- Policy 416: Tobacco-Free Environment
- Policy 417: Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions
- Policy 418: Gifts to Employees and School Board Members
- Policy 419: Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions and Creations
- Policy 420: Employee-Student Relationships
- Policy 421: License Status
- Policy 422: Acceptable Use of Electronic Technologies – Personnel
- Policy 423: Expense Reimbursement
- Policy 424: Conflict of Interest
- Policy 425: Donations to Athletic Teams, Coaches or Other Staff

8. B – Spotlight on Summer Support for Students

Mr. Jeff Aman, Orono High School Associate Principal and Ms. Tiffany Clifton, Director of Community Education reported to the board about enhancements to summer support for students.

8. C – Other New Business as Necessary

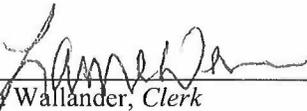
No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Ali Howe, the meeting was adjourned to a workshop session for the purpose of a Community Education report at 7:55 PM.



Bob Tunheim, *Chair*



Laura Wallander, *Clerk*