

**ORANGE SOUTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT (Unified)
BOARD MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022 @ 6 P.M.
RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

To be approved at the February 3, 2022 board meeting

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Gaidys, Anne Kaplan, Ashley Lincoln, Brian Baker, Katja Evans, Hannah Arias, Megan Sault, & Chelsea Sprague
ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Layne Millington
GUESTS: ORCA Media Video Taping, John Helfant, David White, Betsy Baker & Zoe Newmarco

I. Opening

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Anne Kaplan at 6:04 p.m.

Board Attendance: Ensuring a Quorum

Meeting Purpose: Budget

Choose Meeting Evaluator: Megan Sault

Layne explained to the board that there were two additional requests for use of reserve funds which just came in this week. One for bus replacements and the other for facilities to replace faucets and kitchen revamp due to the lead testing results.

A motion to add the two additional requests for use of reserve funds to the Consent Agenda later in this meeting.

By: Megan Sault

Seconded by: Hannah Arias

II. Board Education and Ownership Linkage

a. Public comment (4.2.1)

John Helfant spoke regarding masking of students. Feels our schools should do away with masking. He referred to a CDC study stating that cloth masks are not effective and an UVM study re: mask and non-mask wearers. States that touching the masks introduces stuff, N95s are not a solution, and that masks are a detriment to young children for speech. Best can do is to keep hands clean & away from the face. Masks are not going to stop a virus.

David White felt that the information about the lead testing in the board packet explained the issue better than previous communication.

b. Approve Annual Report to Voters

The Annual Report to Voters was reviewed by the board. Hannah thanked Chelsea & Anne for their work on this report.

A motion was made to accept the Annual Report to Voters

By: Brian Baker

Seconded by: Ashley Lincoln

Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

c. Update on PG training date

The presenter, Jackie, wasn't feeling comfortable with coming to meet in person and felt that the training really needed to be in person and not remote. It is now postponed until after the school board re-organization in March.

III. Monitoring: Organization

a. Second Review & Possible Approval of Executive Limitations Reports (3.4)

EL 2.4 Financial Planning & Budgeting was reviewed briefly again. Layne told the board he researched about financial oversight and found that the VSBA offers financial training for board members.

A motion was made to accept the EL 2.4 Financial Planning & Budgeting report as written

By: Brian Baker
Seconded by: Hannah Arias
Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

EL 2.5 Emergency Superintendent Succession

Layne told the board that both Kayla Link & Robin Pembroke have letters regarding emergency succession and that the Cabinet meets twice a month and are filled in also.

A motion was made to accept the EL 2.5 Emergency Superintendent Succession report as written

By: Megan Sault
Seconded by: Ashley Lincoln
Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

b. Approval of OSSD Budget & OSSD Warning

Layne presented a PowerPoint of the OSSD Budget Goals which are: Adapting to new needs made manifest by the ongoing COVID Pandemic, pushing forward on achievement of the Ends as outlined in the Ends Report by creating structures that allow work to begin on the Prospective Ends while consolidating the gains made on the Critical Ends. Minimizing tax increases during uncertain times. (See his PowerPoint for more details)

Layne explained the need for each of the additional proposed staffing increases, the two sources on the local tax impact, the total expected tax impact for the three towns, the surplus and reserve funds, the 2020 - 2021 surplus and suggestions of how to use them to help reduce the tax burden in the next 3 years and to have reserve funds for future expenses. The presentation also contained the Announced Tuitions for the schools for the 2022 - 2023 school year.

The proposed total budget which includes grants would be \$22,165,294. \$746,503 in surplus funds would be used to offset the budget. The cost per equalized student would be \$19,559. (See the PowerPoint for more details)

A motion to approve the OSSD Budget & OSSD Annual Warning as presented

By: Hannah Arias
Seconded by: Ashley Lincoln
Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

- c. Approve RAVEN & RTCC Budgets (see PowerPoint for more details)
Layne reviewed his PowerPoint of the RTCC and RAVEN proposed budgets for 2022 - 2023.

The current tuition for RTCC is \$17,679. For 2022 - 2023 the tuition would be \$18,670 for the full day program. A brief discussion re: how sending superintendents would feel about the tuition increase. Layne explained that most other tech centers have a half day program and RTCC's is a full day program. Possibly may look at half days in the future and the board asked about busing if that happened. This current year RTCC added the dental program and revamped both digital media and the electrical programs.

The current tuition for the RAVEN program is \$26,693. The proposed tuition for 2022 - 2023 would be \$25,241.

A motion was made to approve the RTCC proposed budget for 2022 - 2023 as presented

By: Ashley Lincoln
Seconded by: Hannah Arias
Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

A motion was made to approve the RAVEN proposed budget for 2022 - 2023 as presented

By: Brian Baker
Seconded by: Megan Sault
Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

- d. District COVID Operating Plan (2.8)
Update on recent changes and waiting on Tuesday's staff & student testing results. The CDC recently sent out different protocols for vaccinated and unvaccinated people. They also put the close contact tracing on to the person who is positive to contact their close contacts.
- e. Monthly Financial Report (enclosed with agenda) (2.3) for November was reviewed.
There may be a month lag in Food Service reimbursements, but this year Food Service is in the black. Technology is also waiting for reimbursement from grants. Quite happy with financials at this point.

IV. Policy Decisions: Board Governance

- a. Budget Info Meeting Date was briefly discussed and calendars were reviewed.

A motion was made to hold the OSSD Budget Informational Meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6 p.m. in the Randolph Union High School Auditorium.

By: Ashley Lincoln
Seconded by: Brian Baker

Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

V. Policy Decisions: District Governance

a. Flag Policy

Layne spoke with Pietro about a possible flag policy as it has been coming up in other districts and we currently do not have a policy. The policy would be to protect the district from foreseeable events and the policy would state who has the power to protect it. Presently we don't have enough specific guidance. The board discussed if they wanted to pursue a policy or look in to exploring this as an option. Layne would ask for Pietro's recommendations and some examples. John Helfant asked if he would be allowed to fly the Gadsden flag. He suggested that the district not allow any flags other than the US & VT flags.

A motion was made to have Layne/Pietro present some examples and recommendations regarding a flag policy at the next board meeting

By: Brian Baker
Seconded by: Megan Sault
Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

b. Student Behavior Plan Collaboration and Staff Training

There was lack of clarity on a special education audit by the Agency of Ed. Heather Lynn is working on this issue to get clarity of what is needed which might be a policy.

c. Plan Meeting with Legislators (February meeting)

Discussion about having the legislators attend the February meeting since Jeff Francis has a conflict that evening and can't attend the meeting. Layne told the board that the superintendents have a meeting with the legislators in February also. The board feels that Layne covers the Legislative updates in his reports to the board. Linda will contact the legislators and let them know that they do not need to attend the February board meeting.

VI. Consent Agenda (4.2)

- a. Approve Minutes from OSSD Regular meeting on 12/2/2021 (enclosed with agenda)
- b. Approve Minutes from OSSD Special meeting on 12/14/2021 (enclosed with agenda)
- c. Approve Sabbatical Request for the 2022-2023 school year (see form)
- d. Set High School Choice Capacity Limits (see form)
- e. Approve Announced Tuitions (see form)
- f. Approve Facility Reserve for Security Camera Repair and Upgrade (see form)
- g. Approve Operational Reserve Funds to be used for 2022-2023 (see form)
- h. Approve Transportation Reserve Funds for Two Full Size Buses, One Small Bus & Three Camera Systems (see form)
- i. Approve Facility Reserve for Kitchen & Classroom Materials and Labor for Pb Remediation (see form)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

By: Ashley Lincoln
Seconded by: Megan Sault
Motion passed: Yes, unanimous

VII. Closing

- a. Superintendent's report (2.8) (enclosed with agenda) was reviewed.
Layne explained more about the lead testing results. Randolph Elementary, RUHS, and RTCC water supply is under the municipal water so are not tested as often. (see the report)
- b. Director & Principals reports (2.8) (enclosed with agenda) were reviewed.

Action Items Recap – Anne reviewed next steps.

Meeting Evaluation - Megan Sault reviewed her evaluation of this meeting.

VIII. Executive Session:

Labor Negotiations: Bus Driver Tentative Master Agreement

8:17 p.m. A motion was made by Brian Baker & seconded by Megan Sault to enter Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations with the superintendent present. Motion passed.

8:23 p.m. The board exited Executive Session.

As a result of executive session: Megan Sault made a motion which was seconded by Hannah Arias for the board to approve the bus driver agreement for 2022 - 2026 as written and to authorize Mr. Millington to sign on behalf of the board. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Brian Baker and seconded by Hannah Arias to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Lubold
Linda Lubold, Board Clerk

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Agenda Planning Meeting: Monday, January 24, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. @ OSSD

Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 3, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. @ RUHS

First name	Last name	Email	Duration	Time joined	Time exited
Betsy	Baker	bbaker@orange	29 min	6:00 PM	6:29 PM
Katja	Evans	kevans@orange	2 hr 6 min	6:09 PM	8:16 PM
Katja	Evans	katj**@***.com	3 min	8:23 PM	8:27 PM
Edit	Four	edit*@***.net	40 hr 21 min	5:55 PM	10:16 AM
Rachel	Gaidys	rgaidys@orange	2 hr 16 min	6:01 PM	8:25 PM
Layne	Millington	lmillington@oran	2 hr 28 min	5:54 PM	8:29 PM
Zoë	N	znew*****@***.co	2 hr 14 min	6:01 PM	8:15 PM
Chelsea	Sprague	csprague@orang	1 hr 46 min	5:58 PM	7:44 PM
David	White	davi*****@	1 hr 17 min	6:01 PM	7:19 PM