

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

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023 @ 6 P.M.  
RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**To be approved at the May 10, 2023 board meeting**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anne Kaplan, Katja Evans, Rachel Gaidys, Hannah Arias, Megan Sault, Chelsea Sprague, Sarah Haupt & Sam Hooper

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Layne Millington & Heather Lawler

**GUESTS:** John Helfant & sons (who left soon after public comment), Nathan Wright, Ethan Weinstein, ORCA Media Video Taping, and attached list of remote guests

**I. Opening**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Hannah Arias at 6:00 p.m.

Board Attendance: Ensuring a Quorum

Meeting Purpose: Review Ends Monitoring Report & Board Self-Evaluation on 4.1

A motion was made to add to the Consent Agenda approval to open a new bank account for the RUHS Senior Class.

By:	Megan Sault
Seconded by:	Sarah Haupt
Motion passed:	Yes

**II. Board Education and Ownership Linkage**

**a. Public comment (4.2.1) (Recognize e-communications to the Board)**

Hannah Arias read a statement regarding public comments at board meetings and then opened the meeting for public comments.

Nathan Wright spoke about the direction that the school is going and a recent survey and urged the school board to look at other types of governance for school boards. He told the board that maybe policy governance has been successful in the past, but not sure it is the best way now and asked the school board to review.

John Helfant spoke regarding his feeling about equality in filing an investigation and feels it is easier to start an investigation for certain students. He also stated the school board should look at both the survey & petition that is being circulated regarding not renewing the superintendent's contract.

**b. Ownership Linkage Committee Report**

Heather Lawler filled the board in on where the Portrait of a Graduate process is at. The team met on March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> and the team led a successful community dinner on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The data collection is out on Front Porch Forum and has been sent out to the school community. The next meeting is on April 18<sup>th</sup> to prepare a first draft of a Portrait of a Graduate. Katja Evans thanked the culinary team for their work on the dinner.

III. Monitoring: Organization

a. Board Self-Evaluation - Governance Policy 4.1 (policy enclosed)

Hannah Arias wanted to check in with the board to see if they feel this self-evaluation process still has value to the board. Monitoring is a main responsibility for the board. Hannah asked for the board's thoughts regarding the best way to review the policies annually. Feels the self-evaluation is more effective than before and likes the "chart" layout. Wonders how the board would change them. Haven't revisited one yet. Need to hold ourselves accountable and need to recommit for the process which has to have an accountability strategy. Discussed how to do this and capture everyone's input. Suggested adding a revisit date on the front of the form.

Hannah read the first part of Policy 4.1 Governing Style and Katja Evans took notes for future tracking. Discussed being proactive which is what the policies are supposed to do instead of being reactive. Discussed if the policy is working for the board and how the board could see if the policies are effective. All the board sees is reactivity as they wouldn't see if proactivity is working. Anne reminded the board that some of them are new and still have some learning to do about how to improve our policies. When the board feels they need to react to something, the board needs to look at the policies and if not what is needed, the board should change the policy. The board policies can be edited. They were adopted in 2016 and feels a lot has changed since then.

a. First Review of Ends Report (emailed separately to the board)

Layne explained that this report was from preliminary data but should be accurate within half of a percent. Layne asked if the board would like to take time to digest the report and to send any questions to him and he will create a presentation around those questions. There is more data available if the board wants more. Discussion around proficiency based rating which is subjective and of questionable value. The board also wondered what other school districts are incorporating in their Ends report. Layne told the board that they also may look at AP scores, SATs, ACTs, discipline & equity data. The Ends documents are usually short.

IV. Policy Decisions: District Governance

a. Selection of Library Materials Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (enclosed with agenda)

A motion was made to accept the Selection of Library Materials Policy as written.

By:	Katja Evans
Seconded by:	Anne Kaplan
Motion passed:	Yes

b. Selection of Curriculum Materials Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (enclosed with agenda)

A motion was made to accept the Selection of Curriculum Materials Policy as written.

By:	Katja Evans
Seconded by:	Sam Hooper
Motion passed:	Yes

c. Consider addition to EL Policy 2.0 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (enclosed with agenda)

A motion was made to approve the addition of "inequitable" to EL Policy 2.0.

By:	Katja Evans
Seconded by:	Megan Sault
Motion passed:	Yes

V. Advocacy

a. Legislative Update

Universal free meals are moving forward, the legislature is working on figuring out funding. The legislators are combining PCB testing/mitigation with construction aid which has taken the focus off PCB. RUHS was at the end of its useful life when last looked at. Parts and pieces are getting worn out. We have been providing full time preschool in our 3 schools for 4 year olds which helps mitigate potential future needs & behavior issues. The state has only been reimbursing .46 per preschool child and we hope to get a 1.0 reimbursement.

VI. Consent Agenda (4.2)

a. Approve Minutes from OSSD Regular meeting on 3/16/2023 (enclosed with agenda)

b. Approve Minutes from OSSD Special meeting on 4/3/2023 (enclosed with agenda)

Motion to approve the Minutes for 3/16/2023 & 4/3/2023

By: Megan Sault

Seconded by: Anne Kaplan

Motion passed: Yes

c. Approve Professional Contracts for 2023-2024 (form enclosed)

d. Approve Administrator Contract for 2023-2024 (form enclosed)

Motion to approve the Professional & Administrator Contracts for 2023-2024

By: Katja Evans

Seconded by: Sarah Haupt

Motion passed: Yes

e. Approve Auditor for 2023-2024 (see enclosed document)

Layne explained to the board that our federal funding may be delayed by 1 ½ months due to not getting our audit completed by the deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the last year of our current auditors and due to a staff shortage, they were not able to meet the deadline, but they have told us they would have it finalized by May 15. Nothing we can do about this. The bid for approval was the only auditor bid that we received which is for one year. Discussed adding to the auditor's contract the deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup> with consequences if not done by then. Layne reminded the board that one of his responsibilities is to protect the districts assets which is one of the EL policies.

Motion to approve RHR Smith & Company as our auditor for the 2023-2024 school year.

By: Katja Evans

Seconded by: Megan Sault

Motion passed: Yes

f. Approval of Facilities Reserve Funds request for RUHS Gym Floor replacement (quotes enclosed)

Layne told the board that water has been seeping up from the concrete underneath the gym floor and the layer of shock absorbent material needs to be replaced which has been gone for many years. They will also paint the gym and repair the broken bleachers. This work, if approved, will start next week. The board discussed the significant investment if there is a possibility of a new school in the next few years. Also discussed several needs at RUHS. The board wondered how we get started looking at a new building and discussed

some costs involved just to get started. The board will plan to add this as an agenda item at the next meeting for discussion.

Motion to approve the request for Facilities Reserve Funds of \$2,389,118 for replacement of the RUHS Gym Floor, painting of the gym & repair of the bleachers

By: Rachel Gaidys  
Seconded by: Sarah Haupt  
Motion passed: Yes

- g. Approve Change of Signers on OSSD & RTCC bank accounts (document enclosed)

Motion to approve the Change of Signers on OSSD & RTCC bank accounts as listed on the attached document dated March 30, 2023 from Robin Pembroke.

By: Katja Evans  
Seconded by: Megan Sault  
Motion passed: Yes

- h. Approve the opening of a bank account for the RUHS Senior Class

Motion to approve the opening of a bank account for the RUHS Senior Class

By: Megan Sault  
Seconded by: Sarah Haupt  
Motion passed: Yes

VII. Closing

- a. Superintendent's Report (enclosed)

This month was the Ends report.

- b. Principals' & Director Reports (newsletter links sent out separately)

- c. Financials (enclosed)

We are well in the black and should have a large surplus. We can't get grant funds until the auditor report is filed so the revenue is off until then.

- d. Staff Appreciation Update (Week of May 8 - 12)

Katja is arranging with five businesses for gift certificates for staff appreciation. She will get the names to Linda early next week. Discussed expiration dates.

Action Items Recap: Continue discussion around Policy 4.1 Governing Style  
Check VSBA site to look at quality standards  
Ends report review

VIII. Executive Session: Personnel

8:02 p.m. A motion was made by Sarah Haupt & seconded by Sam Hooper to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel with the superintendent & assistant superintendent present.  
Motion passed.

9:20 p.m. The board exited Executive Session.

As a result of the executive session: No action was taken.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Katja Evans and seconded by Megan Sault to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

OSSD Board Minutes

Page 5

April 12, 2023

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Lubold, Board Clerk

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Ownership Linkage Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 - 5:00 p.m. @ RUHS Media Center

Agenda Planning Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 - 6:00 p.m. @ RES

Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 - 6:00 p.m. @ RUHS

RTCC Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 - 5:00 p.m. @ RUHS

First name	Last name	Email	Duration	Time joined	Time exited
Felicia	Allard	alla*****@***	1 hr 57 min	6:08 PM	8:05 PM
Jessica	Allen	jall*****@***.com	1 hr 26 min	5:55 PM	7:21 PM
Dana	Decker	dana*****@***	1 hr 2 min	6:41 PM	7:44 PM
Carolyn	Exler	caro*****@***	1 hr 15 min	6:48 PM	8:03 PM
Derek	Flint	dere*****@***	1 hr 41 min	5:54 PM	7:35 PM
Chris	Hurley	chri*****@***	40 min	6:35 PM	7:15 PM
Gus Howe	Johnson	gjohnson@orange	2 hr 1 min	6:02 PM	8:03 PM
MaryBeth	Jones	gidg***@***.com	19 min	6:58 PM	7:17 PM
Tevye	Kelman	tkelman@orange	3 min	6:04 PM	6:07 PM
Heather	Lawler	hlawler@orange	2 hr 6 min	5:56 PM	8:02 PM
Layne	Millington	lmillington@orange	2 hr 9 min	5:54 PM	8:03 PM
Edit	One	edit*@***.net	2 hr 24 min	5:54 PM	8:18 PM
Rosalind	Sumner	rosa*****@***	2 hr 12 min	5:54 PM	8:06 PM
Caty	Sutton	csutton@orange	2 hr	6:02 PM	8:02 PM
Beverly	Taft	beve*****@***	1 hr 23 min	6:00 PM	7:23 PM

First name	Last name	Email	Duration	Time joined	Time exited
Heather	Lawler	hlawler@orange	1 hr 18 min	8:02 PM	9:20 PM
Layne	Millington	lmillington@oran	1 hr 17 min	8:04 PM	9:20 PM