

**OSSD Board, Regular Meeting minutes – unapproved
Oct 11, 2023 6 pm, Randolph Elementary School**

Board members present: Hannah Arias, Sam Hooper, Katja Evans, Megan Sault, Chelsea Sprague, Anne Kaplan. Board attending virtually: Sarah Haupt.

Administrators attending – Layne Millington and Heather Lawler

Guests: Neil Richardson, Bethany Silloway, Melinda Robinson, ORCA Media. Guests attending virtually: Lindsay Haupt, Haidi Arias

I Opening

Call to order 6:03 p.m. by Hannah Arias, chair.

Board attendance: Ensuring a quorum.

Introductions around the table.

II Board Education and Ownership

Review of public comment policy by Hannah Arias.

Public comment: Neil Richardson spoke regarding Ethnic and Social Equity Standards, and actions being taken on a state-wide level. He indicated interest in involvement on a local level.

Discuss upcoming Board trainings: Hannah Arias invited comment regarding the availability of free trainings through VSBA. Much conversation regarding trainings from various sources.

Board Newsletter Response – no new response, briefly touched on a letter to the editor published approx. 5 weeks ago

Possible Goal Change of Ownership Linkage Sub Committee. Discussion of tasking committee with regularly scheduled communications. Confirmed 3 committee members (Hannah Arias, Megan Sault, Katja Evans) Anne Kaplan will step off. Discussion of warning meetings, minutes, recording proceedings. Discussed connecting with Ben Merrill for design/writing input.

III Monitoring: Organization

Layne Millington presented Policy 2.1 and 2.2 (Treatment of students, parents/guardians & community and Treatment of staff) First reading. Brief conversation about the master agreement. Katja Evans confirmed superintendent is meeting with Union reps regularly biweekly. Sam Hooper notes there are broken links on the website (404 errors), Layne Millington will review.

Update on status of OSSD Ends Report -- Layne Millington reported glitches at the state-level have delayed this, but he believes the report will be produced and in the Board's hand for the November meeting

Update on Easement Request

Layne Millington worked to resolve Mr. Garrow's concerns (tree pruning, stop signs) and is awaiting confirmation Mr. Garrow is satisfied by the District's effort.

Informational Discussion – Board Job Description. This subject was included in conversations about training.

Policy F2 – Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding

Heather Lawler informed the Board the language of this mandated policy is exactly as provided by the State. The policy was adopted in Jan. 2023.

RES Mascot

Discussion led by Melinda Robinson, RES Principal, that the RES Wizards mascot was being reviewed internally to confirm it complied with state regulations, and OSSD policy.

Public Discussion

Concern that the imagery could be evocative, but there have been no complaints, no negative comments, parent groups had no difficulties. Student population is involved in democratic process of deciding if they want a different mascot, voting is scheduled for next week. Bethany Silloway spoke regarding student engagement in the mascot review process.

RES Update

Melinda Robinson spoke of the school's goals this year, leadership building among the student population, Yoga and other research-based tools being used to assure students are achieving standards at each grade level. The role of the PTO in school community events was discussed. Board initiated discussions around structured reading programs, staffing requirements to assist all students who need it, Melinda Robinson responded regarding staff burn-out, hardship, making sure teachers feel supported. Reports attendance has been very good. Board collectively agreed that moving forward, acronyms should be explained.

IV Monitoring: Board

Assess compliance with Board Governance. Layne Millington shared information about the Board's budget, expenses as well as explaining how operations reserve funds perform. Continued conversation about available trainings.

Subcommittee Reports:

Ends Subcommittee -- Megan Sault and Hannah Arias discussed need for committee to be focused on mission statement

Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – discussion about timing the evaluation to leverage the best efforts for the superintendent. Chelsea Sprague reported that 100% of the Board took the survey, currently going through data and highlighting goals. Next meeting Friday Oct 13, 2023.

Facilities Subcommittee -- Sam Hooper reported the meetings need to be warned and there needs to be more than one person on the committee for a quorum. Will wait to see if Rachel Gaidys and Sarah Haupt are interested

Annual Agenda Subcommittee – Hannah Arias spoke of the need to schedule trainings strategically, Anne Kaplan would like to move the quarterly report up to monitoring, Katja Evans would like to re-arrange the principals presentations and Sam Hooper wants check-ins.

Discuss creation of Negotiations Committee for Contract -- Superintendents contract (intention) is due by December '23. Charge of committee clarifies – to review current contract and see if changes should be made. Layne Millington commented that the VSBA had put out a model contract, suggested such changes be run by legal. Reminders that meetings need to be warned.

Discuss standing committees -- Potential expansion/revision of committees. Discussion regarding committee assignments as a Board requirement, or maintaining as a voluntary system.

Determine Board Governance budget -- Current budget seems appropriate for needs. Discussion about SVA toolkit webinars being assigned as "homework"

V Advocacy

Reminder VSBA/VSA Fall Conference at Lake Morey Inn – Hannah Arias reminded of event, several board members are planning to go

VI Consent Agenda

Approve Minutes from 9/13/23 Board Meeting – strike error from minutes (6B – Special Board Meeting did not take place)

Approve Facility Reserve Funds for Braintree walking trail – discussion of ADA requirements and review of scope of project

Approve Transportation Reserve Funds for purchase of “new” van – current vehicle will not pass inspection in January.

Approval of change of signers for Community Bank – reviewed and signed.

Katja Evans moved to approve all items, Megan Sault seconded, Sam Hooper abstained. All items approved.

VIII Superintendent’s report

Layne informed all emergency plans need to be reviewed by July 1

Principals’ & Director Reports

No comments

Financial Report

Anne Kaplan requests to move report to monitoring section, discussion of how running totals and reserve funds work by Layne Millington.

Action items

Watch the webinar (Governance Core)

Hannah Arias will edit training grid

Think about sub-committees

Chelsea will email survey results

Sam will follow up on Facilities committee

At 8:30 pm Katya Evans moved to enter executive session with the inclusion of Layne Millington and Heather Lawler. Seconded by Megan Sault. Passed unanimously.

Executive session:

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Southworth,
Board Clerk

Next meeting: RTCC, November 8, 2023 at 5:00 pm

OSSD, November 8, 2023 at 6 pm