

**Orange Southwest Unified Union School District
(Orange Southwest School District) OSSD
"Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday -- February 14, 2023"
Randolph Union High School
6:00 p.m.**

DRAFT -- Minutes

I Opening:

6:06 Board Attendance: Ensuring a Quorum Arias

Hannah Arias, Anne Kaplan, Sam Hooper, Katja Evans, Sarah Haupt, Rachel Gaidys, Heather Lawler, Layne Millington

Guests: Martha Hafner, Patti Sprague, Nika Oakes, Lauren Futtner, Nicolle Canales, Deborah Allen

Meeting Purpose: Meet w/ Legislators, Search update, Braintree & RTCC updates

Meeting called to order by Hannah, 6:06 pm

II Board Education and Ownership Linkage

Public comment Arias

*Board welcomes comment but is not able to take any action
Comments limited to three minutes per speaker*

Martha Hafner -- addressed group regarding parental rights, transparency and parental engagement with curriculum and what transactions are happening at the nurses office. Presented unsigned petition.

III Advocacy

Meet with Legislators Introduction/ Q&A Hooper

Sam Hooper introduces guest legislators Jay Hooper and Larry Satcowitz. Conversation mainly revolves around educational budget process and Act 127. Other topics include 5% cap, future of remote access to class, meetings, etc.

IV Monitoring: Organization

RTCC Update Oakes

Nika Oakes shared updates about incoming work-based learning instructor Marty McMahon, VT Works for Women events, bringing back summer camp, discussion of programs and the learning barn!! Looking to start an academy program that would be working to offer pathways to college after RTCC. Katja Evans notes programs are able to address the disparity between male/female. Chelsea Sprague asks for more details on the learning barn. Heather Lawler adds there will be approx. \$200k unspent in the ESSER/ARP grant that must be expended by Sept 30, 2024. Vision is a 30x40 barn, a large classroom and smaller “stalls” (learning spaces). This project is very much in development, and is currently awaiting approval. Anne Kaplan suggests connections for sustainable agriculture, discussion of greenhouse work, low enrollment, specialized courses, vet tech, internships. Martha Hafner asks what percentage of RTCC students are interested in college? Nika Oakes doesn’t know offhand but will get back to her.

Braintree Elementary Update Sprague

Patti Sprague presents a slide show – Braintree School currently has roughly 101 students K-6. They were named #5 elementary school in Vermont, and the only school in top 25 with a high poverty rate. Discussion of connection to community with volunteers and visitors sharing skills and time, Reading Buddies program, Farm to School and outdoor classrooms as well as monthly chances to harvest, cook, and taste produce from the school’s own campus. Surplus, plus some consignment goods, are for sale at the farmstand “Braintree Blossoms”, and RTCC students have outfitted the farmstand with solar power! Students were involved in the project with ideas, proposals & funding sources, and RTCC worked with the 5th and 6th graders as though they were clients. Student council is settling in, playground improvement and increasing afterschool programming are on the Council’s agenda. The school is seeing increased material needs – clothing, food, medical care, housing – and have installed a washer and dryer. Patti Sprague speaks about the hiring of Rebecca Walter, their new .5 guidance counselor that started this week. Sam Hooper asks what the biggest priority/hurdle is? STEM programming, kindergarten readiness, involving families. What lessons can we take from Braintree? Really strong teacher to student relationships, working on student to student relationships. Layne Millington says Braintree actively embraces every new thing that gets thrown to them.

Review EL Reports 2.3 & 2.6 (enclosed)

Lawler

Policy 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities and Policy 2.6 Asset Protection

Annual Meeting on Budget

Millington

The Informational Meeting to be held in the high school auditorium, 6 pm on Feb 29th is the last opportunity to get questions answered prior to the budget vote. School District Meeting on the Monday, March 4 at 6 pm.

Update on Colin Andrzejczyk Request

Millington

Business manager Robin Pembroke is working with the state – they have all the information they need and are assessing how far back can they go. Hannah Arias asks about the process – if the amount is low enough, it can be absorbed in the local budget. If larger, reserve funds can be used. Discussion about special contracts, union eligibility, etc. Holding for reply from state

Katherine Fredericks has a similar situation.

Update on Superintendent Search: consideration of recommendation, and discussion of search schedule

Katja addressed with process info, explained switch of consultants and interview process. Michael Clark and Lisa Floyd are the announced candidates, and they will be available at the community forum tomorrow night. Sean Robinson will be moderator for tomorrow night's forum.

Thurs 22, 4-8 pm for follow up Board meeting (to interview candidates?). There will be public comment, needs to be warned. Get details from Board

V Monitoring: Board

Assess Board's compliance with Board Governance Policy 3.0 (enclosed)

Select area of improvement/leader/when to reassess: Discussion of how the Board handles staying within the lines, Katja Evans observes that the Board, when they are together, recognize what is within their purview more easily. Anne confirms that their role is

not solving problems, but directing to who/where the problem can be addressed most appropriately.

Report out on Governance Training Kaplan

The training was excellent, and the entire Board has access to the entire maintenance program, virtual sessions, drop-ins, shared folders, other districts who are using the same process.

VI Policy Decisions: District Governance

Equity Policy (report out, data report) enclosed Lawler

Heather states there is interest in having students work on this and come back in May, shared data that has been gathered so far -- 880 students, 149 on IEP, 65 on 504 and 74 on educational support. This can become a bit of a hot topic, divided by school. Discussion of disparity in opportunity gaps, and some discussion about how best to increase engagement. Mostly white males in AP and RTCC. There is work to be done.

Discussion about where the data comes from? Medicaid and food assistance data is used, the district's numbers are so significant there is a 3 year lock in having to prove numbers. Data surrounding opportunities for some communities not noted by SIS comes from instructors and administrators. It would be good to involve students in these conversations.

VII Consent Agenda Arias

- Approve minutes from regular board meeting on 1/10/2024 (enclosed)
- Approve Minutes from special Board Meeting 1/12/24 (enclosed)
- Approve minutes from special Board meeting 1/18/24 (enclosed)
- Approve mid-year contracts for educators (enclosed)
- Approve hospitality budget for Superintendent Search (enclosed)
- Approve change of signatories at M&T Bank
- Approve combined balance statement (Cowdrey Fund)
- Approve Funds request from Facilities for HVAC (enclosed)
- Approve Funds request from Facilities for radios (enclosed)

Katja Evans makes a motion to approve all consent agenda items, Anne Kaplan second. Motion passes unanimously.

VIII Closing

- Superintendent's Report (enclosed) Millington 5 mins Listen
- Principals' & Director Reports (newsletter links sent out separately)
- Financial Report (enclosed)
- Action Items Recap Arias

Adjournment -- Sarah Haupt makes motion to adjourn public session and move to executive session, inviting Layne Millington and Heather Lawler to attend. Katja Evans seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 8:24 p.m.


IX Executive Session:

- Personnel Wilson
- 4500 Report Link

Future Meetings

- Agenda Planning Meeting: Monday, February 20, 2024 p.m.
- Budget Info Meeting: Thursday, February 29, 2024 @ RUHS Aud. 6:00 p.m.
- OSSD Annual Meeting: Monday, March 4, 2024 @ RUHS Aud. 6:00 p.m.
- OSSD Budget Vote: Tuesday, March 6, 2024 @ Town Voting Places
- OSSD Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 @ RES 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

 2/16/24

Kyle Southworth