

Orange Southwest Unified Union School District (Orange Southwest School District) OSSD

Wednesday – May 8, 2024

Randolph Union Middle and High School

6 p.m.

Opening: meeting called to order at 6:11 pm by Chair, Hannah Arias
Board attendance, ensuring a quorum – Hannah Arias, Katja Evans, Aimil Parmelee, Ryan Anderson, Sarah Haupt, Anne Kaplan, Rachel Gaidys
Virtual – Daisy, Ron Smith, Christopher Matte, Bob Worley
Guests – Layne Millington, Heather Lawler, Cara Houston, Lisa Floyd, ORCA, Kyle Southworth

Prior to business, Katja Evans moves to add items to the consent agenda for approval. Sarah Haupt seconds, the vote is unanimous.

Ryan Anderson recognizes the school and community response to the recent emergency at Brookfield School and commends Cara Houston's actions.

Board Education and Ownership Linkage

Public Comment: No public comment

Message from Board re Superintendent Transition – Hannah Arias speaks on behalf of the Board to wish Layne Millington luck and fortune in the next step of his career.

Retirees and Resignations – Heather Lawler reads the list of retirees and resignations and invites comments. Lisa Floyd speaks briefly about Karen Johnson, Lisa Matz, Jason Finley and Andrew Glynn. Cara Houston speaks of Jennifer Wellman, Heather Lawler speaks of Pat Miller, Danny Bellavance, Jim Barry, Lance Madzey and Layne Millington. Nika Oakes speaks of Cristi Arguin and Lance Madzey.

Ownership Linkage Committee Report/Plan – Committee sent out a letter for the Board to review. Anne Kaplan moves to accept the letter to be sent out to the community, Sarah Haupt seconds that motion and it passes unanimously.

ENDS Sub-committee Report – Hannah Arias proposes this be tabled until Rachel Gaidys is able to attend. It is agreed this be revisited in June.

Review and adopt meeting Rules of Procedure and Policy Governance Overview in Bd Binder – these documents were not available in the Board packet, Anne Kaplan suggests this gets tabled until hard copies of the documents are available.

Review of VSBA Webinar: Open Meeting Law and Executive Session – discussion. Katja Evans comments that the electronic board packets need to be available more quickly.

Monitoring: Organization

Aimil Parmelee moves to change the order of presentation, Sarah Haupt seconds and the motion passes unanimously. The Auditors' presentation is moved ahead of school presentations.

Auditor's Report – Ron Smith presents, says the district is financially sound and is making excellent decisions. Budgetary control is good, credits are coming in, the tech center is healthy. The audit found no flaws but did do a clean-up of processes.

Presentation from Brookfield Elementary – Cara Houston presents, highlighting winter assessments, testing, community variety show and bridge building activities with the 5th graders. Discussion of fund-raising efforts, farm to school program, and the value of community members coming into the school for presentations on bees, wool and syrup, among other things. Katja Evans comments on the reinvigoration of the parent committee.

Presentation from RTCC – Nika Oakes presents work-based learning, college credit received for some programs and the range of benefits to students. While students are not currently meeting benchmarks, many surveys have provided data and programs changes are planned – with increased math and ELA being integrated into next year's programming.

Presentation from RU Middle and High School – Lisa Floyd presents a handout, discussion about more competitive schools preferring students with AP class credits over early college credits. Nick Bent would like to see 85% of students participating next year, planning and creating more rigorous activities for younger students as well as late busses. The production of "Matilda" was a hit, Anne Kaplan commented on the play. Katja Evans questions if there are plans to hire another assistant principal. Lisa Floyd responds that position has been re-branded as a Dean of Student Experiences. Presentation continues with discussion of increasing graduation rate, graduation plans and supporting students in that process by arranging college/university tours, starting in 7th grade. World travel has increased, with trips to Peru and the Bahamas as well as Japan, and hosting students from other countries as well. Discussion o senior project.

Second Review of ENDS Report -- Layne Millington presents, while the report is complete it is still looking at last year's data. Testing was done 6 weeks earlier, and the state has not yet caught up with attendance and graduation data. Board questions if students on IEPs are included in data and clarifies the timeframe of the data release.

Monitoring: Board

Board Self-Evaluation – BMD 3.1 – Discussion about how the Board can stay in its own lane, some issues with the website and how board members can use One Voice.

Policy Decisions: District Governance

First Review of EL 2.7 Compensation and Benefits – discussion of how this relates to bus drivers specifically. Hannah Arias proposes assignment of negotiation team. Ryan Anderson volunteers for the team, Hannah Arias joins. Katja Evans moves to see if school bus drivers would be interested in entering into negotiations. Sarah Haupt seconds and the motion passes unanimously.

First Read of D3 Responsible Computer and Internet Use– This is a required policy and needs to be updated and adopted.

First Read of C13 Students who are Homeless & First Read of C15 Student Conduct and Discipline – Heather Lawler requests these be removed from review as they were amended in 2023 and so do not need to be done again.

Advocacy

Legislative Update – Layne Millington speaks about legislation to cut education funding by “right-sizing” staff, schools, districts, etc.

Consent Agenda

Approve Minutes from regular meeting 4/10;

Approve minutes from special meeting 4/15;

Approve Ownership linkage minutes;

Approve minutes from committee meeting 4/29 –Katja Evans moves to approve all meeting minutes, Ryan Anderson seconds. All minutes approved unanimously

Approve Professional/Administrative Contracts for 2024-2025;

Signing authority for new hires to be with the acting superintendent until the Board meeting in August;

District Calendar – Set last day, operational decisions, required board approval (CBA allows 2 days w/no makeup, Union agrees. Currently Tuesday June 18 except RES, which is June 19th. Proposed that all students end Monday June 17th, staff final day on the 18th;

Approve CLNA from RTCC for Perkins Funding – Katja Evans moves to approve calendar, CLNA, contracts and signing authority. Aimil Parmelee seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Closing

Superintendent's Report

Director and Principal's Reports

Financials – Layne Millington reviewed surplus of Financials, typically the budget would be spent at 83%, this year at only 63%

Staff Appreciation Update –Sarah Haupt advises gift cards were procured from 7 local businesses, checks have been cut for those purchases and cards will be distributed by end of week.

Action Items Recap – committees are to keep meeting, letter may go out to community and up on website, as well as in school newsletters and maybe an email blast. Hannah Arias reminds Board that a special meeting will be scheduled.

Executive Session

If Needed/Purpose – Personnel Issue

VOTE – Motion by Aimil Parmelee to move into executive session (VSA§313A.4 inviting Layne Millington and Heather Lawler. Seconded by Sarah Haupt, passed by unanimously and Board enters executive session at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kyle Southworth, OSSD Clerk

Spring 2024

We are proud of:

More students choosing to complete their education at RU



More inclusive after school programming options



Impressive Graduation Rate



World Travel Opportunities



Advisory, PBL, Innovation, and Community Service



We will continue to grow:



We continue to focus on:

- Building Community
- Helping students map their educational pathways
- Helping students learn to self regulate and care for themselves and their community
- Supporting staff

Our staff and students continue to prioritize academic progress and create positive learning opportunities together.

