

Orange Southwest School District (OSSD)
Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday August 14, 2024
Randolph Elementary School
6pm

I. Opening (6:00 - 6:05)

Meeting called to order by chair, Hannah Arias, 6:02 p.m.

- Board Attendance: *Ensuring a quorum*
Board attending: Hannah Arias, Sam Hooper, Aimil Parmelee, Sarah Haupt, Ryan Anderson, Rachel Gaidys, Anne Kaplan. Other attendees: Michael Clark, Kyle Southworth, ORCA Media, Cory Scoppe. Virtual attendees: Heather Lawler.
Aimil Parmelee moves to add items to agenda, Ryan Anderson seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Items added are letter of interest from Rachel Fish, letter regarding student representation on Board and request for funding from RTCC.
- Meeting Purpose: Approve Annual Agenda, ENDS Policy, Board Vacancy
- Review and Accept Agenda

II. Ownership Linkage (6:05 - 6:20)

- Public Comment: *Board welcomes comments but is not able to take any action. Comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker. There are no comments.*
- Katja Evans Resignation – *Although Katja Evans announced their resignation at the last meeting, the letter of resignation was submitted to the Board for consideration as well as a letter of interest submitted to the superintendent by Rachel Fish. Discussion of the mechanics of selecting a replacement for the Braintree representative seat. Selectboard must be consulted. Decision to hold a special meeting Thursday, August 22. Hannah Arias will reach out to Rachel Fish to invite them to speak. Ad regarding the vacancy will not run in the Herald August 22. Committee vacancies due to Katja Evans' resignation are resolved as follows: Anne Kaplan will take Evans' seat on the support staff negotiations committee and the new board member will take Kaplan's vacated seat on the ownership linkage committee.*
- Discuss Ownership Linkage Plan – *Ryan Anderson introduces a draft letter describing an initiative to have student representation on the Board. Discussion includes VSBA's direction that this inclusion should be best practice, equity in education and while the Board thinks the idea could have a positive impact there is concern about how the representative(s) would be chosen, what kind of responsibility would they have, and the difference between "reporting" and "engaging" with the members. More investigation will be done, and the discussion will be picked up at a later date.*

III. Board Process (6:20 – 6:30)

- Approve Annual Agenda & Goals (4.3.2) – *Discussion of agenda timeline, Michael Clark will invite central office staff to report in rotation with principals and other parties. This is the first read, decision to edit and then vote to approve at September meeting.*
- VSBIT Proxy Votes – *Michael Clark leads discussion; Anne Kaplan shares their experience attending last year. Hannah makes motion to appoint Michael Clark as proxy for this year's VSBIT vote. Rachel Gaidys seconds, motion passes unanimously.*

IV. Board Education (6:30 – 6:40)

- Assess Board Education Needs – *Anne Kaplan suggests Policy Governance Maintenance Training as a relatively inexpensive option for consideration. Training is one Saturday plus a series of 1 hour trainings over several months. Cost for superintendent plus Board would be \$1750, chair requests budget report for decision to be made in September.*

V. Monitoring the Organization (6:40 – 7:00)

- Review and Discuss Executive Limitation 2.0 (3.4)
Discussion of function and definition of executive limitations, Michael Clark discusses how to balance board and superintendent definitions. Conversation around proactive vs. reactive, and candid discussion rather than reporting compliance. Hannah Arias suggests the EL is a living document, not a final grade. Proposes the Board review 2.0 and revisit on September agenda.

VI. Policy Decisions for District Governance (7:00 – 7:15)

- First read of Revised ENDS Policy (enclosed) – *Discussion about the difference between an ENDS statement and a mission statement,*
- First read of Video Surveillance Policy (enclosed) – *Discussion about the policy in general, while it's not required, it is recommended. As a policy, it would have the weight of the Board behind it. As a process, it would be at the discretion of the superintendent. The decision is made to clarify the policy, then bring it back in September for first read.*

VII. Monitoring the Board (7:15 – 7:25)

- Board Self-Evaluation: GP 4.2 (enclosed) –
Hannah Arias moves to accept the self-evaluation

VIII. Consent Agenda (7:25 – 7:30)

- Move and approve updated signers for Northfield Savings Bank and Bar Harbor Bank
- Approve minutes from June 12 and July 10 board meetings – *Board requests correction to June 12 minutes Hannah Arias moves to approve bank signers and minutes with edits, Sam Hooper seconds. Motion passes unanimously.*
- RTCC Request for funding – *RTCC requests surplus funding for hiring of a health careers instructor. Michael Clark speaks to enrollment at RTCC, currently 123 students which tracks in a place the tech center was 6 semesters ago. Institutional knowledge is limited, and classes will be small. Heather Lawler details the qualifications of the educators for the dentistry and health careers classes and explains what certification would be available for students. Ryan Anderson moves to approve, Sarah Haupt seconds and the board votes unanimously to approve the request.*

IX. Closing/Incidental Information (7:30 – 7:45)

- Superintendent's Report (to include financial report) – *Michael Clark speaks on the Cabinet Retreat, completion of the power project and changes in the district's cybersecurity processes, as well as necessary changes to the afterschool programming. Discussion surrounded the district-wide surplus, and an \$82,000 deficit in food service that will be reviewed more thoroughly.*
- Bus Driver Employment Policy/Procedure/Guidelines – *the Board asks if de-escalation and other training is available for bus drivers. Michael Clark responds that the district allows non-union employees to attend but does not make it mandatory. Proposed changes to the pay grid for drivers are reviewed.*
- Cyber Security – *discussion about how cyber threats impact the school district and its use of technology.*
- After School Programing Staffing – *thorough discussion of changes to the afterschool programming, the necessity of bussing Braintree kids to RES, as well as the challenges of hiring for the needed 5 positions for maximum 60 kids. Michael Clark credits Cory Scoppe and Heather Lawler for their hard work on this*
- Action Item Recap – quick review of meeting actions by chair Hannah Arias.
- With no further business, Aimil Parmelee moves to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Haupt seconds the motion which passes unanimously.

X. Executive Session *If needed*

Future Meetings

- Agenda Planning Meeting: Tuesday September 3, 2024 @ remote
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday September 11, 2024 @ RUHS (RTCC mtg before)

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Southworth, Administrative Assistant