

Orange Southwest School District (OSSD)
Special Board Meeting on Wednesday June 4, 2025
Randolph Elementary School
6pm

[Click Here](#) for a video of the meeting.

I. Opening (6:00 - 6:05) called to order by Board Chair Hannah Arias

- Board Attendance: *Ensuring a quorum*
Hannah Arias, Aimil Parmelee, Rachel Fish, Ryan Anderson, Matha Hafner, Rachel Gaidys, Anne Kaplan with Sam Hooper remote. Administrators: Michael Clark, Kyle Southworth. Virtually: Heather Lawler, Ron Smith
- Meeting Purpose: Staff Update – *as this is a special meeting, no changes to the agenda will be accepted.*
- Review and Accept Agenda
- Public Comment for items not listed on agenda: *Board welcomes comment but is not able to take any action. Comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker. No public attending the meeting in person or virtually. No comments.*

II. Monitoring the Organization (6:55 – 7:00)

- Auditor to review FY 24 – *Ron Smith speaks of the 2023-2024 audit. The audit found no areas of fraud or concern, and the revenue and expenses are both positive. The Career Center is healthy, and the district's financial picture looks positive with reserve in both facilities and transportation. Ron Smith comments on the above average foresight and capital projects funds and gives the district a "grade" of A-. They credit Robin Pembroke for this position. Ron Smith ends the presentation by stating the district has "a good clean audit in a healthy financial position."*

VOTE: *Martha Hafner moves to acknowledge the board's review of the audit report. Ryan Anderson seconds, the motion passes unanimously.*

- Ends Report presentation (first read) – *Heather Lawler presents, saying the OSSD is in a great place. Michael Clark credits Heather Lawler with gathering data and writing the Ends report, and would like to begin tying the Ends into monthly reports, keeping the administrators, school board and community more currently informed. Heather pointed out they added Needs and Goals to the report. Discussion about Senior Project, Portrait of a Graduate and frustration that the most recent percentages being presented reflected students who have now graduated. Martha Hafner asks how prevalent policy governance is in the State of Vermont. Anne Kaplan requests that rationale be added to the report. Discussion of Educlimber dashboard and data warehouse and the impact it will have on access to current data. Aimil Parmelee requests that acronyms be spelled out, or perhaps a key be included in the reports? Michael Clark states that each school, and each district owes every Vermont kid the opportunity to achieve what they dream. Aimil Parmelee underlines their belief that "Farming is the practical application of science and technology" and each child is entitled to a free, accessible and equal education.*

III. Ownership Linkage (6:35 – 6:45)

- H454 update – *Michael Clark reports that the status of the bill is not so different than what was noted in the Superintendent's report that was written almost a week ago. Discussion about how Vermont is in trouble and faces challenges pulling all districts together into the same vision, currently education is expected to provide social and community supports, and those needs differ radically from district to district.*
- Paine Mountain update – *Michael Clark advises that the meeting is exploratory and will need to be warned as a special meeting. This meeting is anticipated to be introductions and open conversation about H454, what people are hoping to get out of this and where everyone is currently.*
- Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement update – *Michael Clark announced that Mindybeth Gutzwiller-Pike has been hired as the Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement. They also reported that Patti Sprague has accepted a position as curriculum director in another district and will be leaving Braintree.*

IV. Board Process (6:35 – 6:45)

- Board make-up/organization – *Hannah Arias announces their resignation which will leave a vacancy on the board as well as an open chair position. A 30 day timer starts upon receipt of Hannah Aria's written letter of resignation, and the board is encouraged to discuss with interested Randolph residents. Once the letter is received, notice will be given on Parent Square, the OSSD website and the Herald of Randolph. Applicants would submit a letter of interest directly to the Board. Discussion if the board re-organization should be before or after the new member comes aboard?*
- Authorize Superintendent to approve hiring through the August meeting

VOTE: Aimil Parmelee moves to request authorization for Michael Clark to hire professional and support staff through August 2025. Martha Hafner seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

V. Board Education (6:45 – 6:55)

- Excelsior Module 7 (PG Training)
Discussion among board members.
- Potential draft agenda from Jeanne Collins for July meeting – *Michael Clark reviews the ½ day agenda Jeanne Collins presented for consideration. The "retreat" will be a public meeting on the regular evening (July 9) but will begin at 5 pm to allow for 4-4 ½ hours of training. Ryan Anderson suggests a potluck, Michael Clark is put in charge of organizing a document to track who's bringing what. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Central Office.*

VI. Policy Decisions for District Governance (7:00 – 7:10)

- C29 Equity, D23 Instructional Materials (recommended, and previously adopted by this board) – First Read
- D8 – replacing D22 Library Material (required) – First Read
Schedule second read for August regular meeting

VII. Monitoring the Board (7:10 – 7:15)

- Board Self-Evaluation: BMD 3.2 and BMD 3.4 (enclosed)
Michael Clark suggests this is something Jeanne Collins can help with. Discussion surrounding Martha's suggestion about how best to discover each board member's "strengths". Hannah Arias states they feel it is everyone's responsibility to delve into all aspects of board business, relying on any one board member might result in one member having a louder voice than any other. Aimil cautions that as this is a public board, ideally all conversations between members would be in a public setting and Rachel Gaidys comments that the board needs to assure it is governing, not managing.

VIII. Consent Agenda (7:15 – 7:25)

- Approve minutes from May 14 board meeting
- New Hires

VOTE: Rachel Gaidys moves to request the board approve the consent agenda as presented. Aimil Parmelee seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

IX. Closing/Incidental Information (7:25 – 7:40)

- Superintendent's Report
Michael Clark reviews the report as enclosed in the Board packet.
- Resignation Updates
- School Newsletters/Principal Reports
- Action Item Recap

With no further business, Hannah Arias adjourns the meeting at 8:51 pm

X. Executive Session (if needed)

Future Meetings

- Paine Mountain Board Meeting: Wednesday June 18, 2025 @ 6 pm
- Support Staff Mediation: Monday June 23, 2025
- Board Retreat (Special Meeting): Wednesday July 9, 2025 @ 5 pm
- Agenda Planning Meeting: **Monday May 26, 2025** @ remote, 6pm
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday August 13, 2025 @ RES, 6 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Kyle Southworth

Administrative Assistant, 6/10/25