

Orange Southwest School District (OSSD)
Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday August 13,
2025 Randolph Elementary School
6pm

[Click Here](#) to view a video recording of the meeting.

I. Opening (6:00 pm) Meeting called to order by Anne Kaplan at 6:02 pm

Board Attendance: *Ensuring a quorum. Board members Anne Kaplan, Beverly Lauchner, Sam Hooper, Ryan Anderson, Martha Hafner, Rachel Gaidys and Rachel Fish (remote).*

Administration: *Michael Clark, Kyle Southworth. Guests: ORCA, Philip and Jen Hannigan, Steve Webster.*

- Meeting Purpose: *Reorganization of the board. Michael Clark requests to add suspension of the auto program at RTCC and consideration of a tuition request.*
- Review and Accept Agenda: *The Board is agreeable to the agenda and additions.*

II. Ownership Linkage (6:05)

- Public Comment: *Board welcomes comment but is not able to take any action. Comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker.*
- No comments.
- Tuition Request: *Philip Hannigan requests that he be heard and states he would like the opportunity to attend middle school in Bethel to pursue his academic growth. He doesn't believe finances should enter into the equation of a student's education. Ryan Anderson moves to reject the tuition request, Rachel Fish seconds. The topic is now open for discussion: Michael Clark speaks of the potential cost of paying tuition as requested, both financial and as it affects other students and programs. Rachel Fish and Ryan Anderson speak to Philip's self-advocacy but must be mindful of how this action would affect overall programming. VOTE: Rejection of the tuition request passes unanimously.*
- Update on H454: *Michael Clark review the Superintendent's Report as it summarizes committee members, upcoming changes and the foundation formula that will change budgetary voting.*
- Joint Letter: *Paine Mountain Board Meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 20 at the Williamstown Middle High School. The Superintendent's Report summarizes the letter that went out to neighboring school districts and notes that both Bethel and Barre have expressed interest in joining the conversation.*
- UP for Learning Project: *Michael Clark reports on the Up For Learning project that will involve upper grade level students in the discussion around redistricting in Vermont. This would be a student-led group and while students would not be giving testimony or speaking at the statehouse, they would work through the importance of community boards, student leadership, empowerment and the ability to work within a smaller district.*

III. Board Process (6:15)

- Discuss & Reorganize Board & Committees
- Elect Chair (currently vacant): *Aimil Parmelee nominates Anne Kaplan for Board Chair, Ryan Anderson seconds, and the motion passes unanimously. As this leaves the Vice Chair vacant, Anne Kaplan nominates Aimil Parmelee for Vice Chair and is seconded by Ryan Anderson. The motion passes unanimously.*
- Appoint Teacher contract negotiating committee (Hooper, Parmelee, and 1

vacancy): negotiations are completed for the current CBA

- Review/Discuss/Approve Annual Agenda & Goals (GP 4.3.2): *The Board discusses the format, timing and content of the agenda for next year. Anne Kaplan discusses formalizing and adopting the ENDS policy in October, Ryan Anderson and Sam Hooper thought Michael Clark and Jeanne Collins has planned to take a look at the policy and then “regurgitate” it and present to the Board. The Board is informed that the VSBA Fall Conference will be October 30 at the Hilton in Burlington. Martha Hafner suggests there be a board table at school functions to engage community but there is concern about the ability to speak as one board in such situations. Ryan Anderson comments that these things happen organically, and Sam Hooper thinks perhaps a table would violate school policies. Points out that the board wouldn’t be speaking as one voice if there’s only one member at the table. Michael Clark reminds that the first Wednesday of every month is the open meeting which is posted on ParentSquare. Aimil Parmelee moves to approve the agenda with updates, Ryan seconds and the motion passes unanimously. Discussion of Ownership Linkage goals – they may give the committee work to do. Sam Hooper and Ryan Anderson are the current Linkage committee members, Martha Hafner expresses interest and Beverly Lauchner joins. Sam Hooper comments that they’re not sure about the Board being involved in operations on campus.*
- Ratify Licensed Staff Master Agreement: *Ryan Anderson moves to accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Professional Staff as written. Motion is seconded by Beverly Lauchner and passes unanimously.*
- Approve committee reps called for in the new union agreements: *Aimil Parmelee moves to accept the committees as recommended by the Superintendent, Ryan Anderson seconds and the motion passes unanimously.*
- Suspension of RTCC Auto Program for the 25-26 school year: *Michael Clark and the board discuss the need to suspend the auto program in the absence of a qualified instructor. Any enrolled students will be moved into other programs if they desire. Ryan Anderson asks what will happen to the physical space, Michael Clark responds that it will be held open as the plan is to relaunch the program for 26-27. Beverly Lauchner makes a motion to suspend the Automotive Program at RTCC for one year. Matha Hafner seconds and the motions passes unanimously.*

IV. Board Education (6:45)

- Assess Board Education Needs (BMD 4.3.2): *The Board discusses training in policy governance. Aimil Parmelee makes a motion to allot \$450 of the Board budget to training, Ryan Anderson seconds and the motion passes unanimously. The Board discusses the option of having Jeanne Collins come back (remotely) in September for the first read of the ENDS policy. Michael Clark will discuss this with Jeanne Collins in August. Aimil Parmelee moves to allot up to \$500 for this visual consult, Sam Hooper seconds and the motion passes unanimously.*
- Decide on PD Plan for year: *Board discusses options.*

V. Monitoring the Organization (7:00)

- Review EL 2.0, 2.8, & 2.9 (BMD 3.4.5) 1st Read : *Michael Clark discusses communication and support being imperative to avoid potential difficulties and damage to working relationships. Suggests the Board review policies to make sure this is what they want to do, and how they want this addressed. Anne reminds Board members of the importance of compliance with Open Meeting Law and acknowledges the difficulty the Superintendent had in producing the memo. Rachel Gaidys and Michael Clark discuss what constitutes a quorum, and there’s a larger conversation about how the Board communicates. Aimil Parmelee notes that they missed the communication, so equity of information was lacking. Both Rachel Gaidys and Ryan Anderson suggest an annual review of open*

meeting law. Martha Hafner asks if Board members are unable to communicate about Board business outside of meetings, how can they raise concerns? Ryan Anderson suggests requesting from the Board Chair 10 minutes in public session to discuss, Michael Clark notes that if the request is denied, or too late to make the agenda, there is another opportunity at the beginning of the meeting when the agenda is confirmed. *Ryan Anderson moves to schedule a review of Open Meeting Law in October, Aimil Parmelee seconds and the motion passes unanimously.*

- Financials (EL 2.3 Financial Conditions): Business Manager Robin Pembroke will have the budget completed by October. ESSER funding is coming through. Martha Hafner asks when and how money is moved into reserve accounts, specifically a new building account. Michael Clark and Rachel Gaidys discuss the mechanics.

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

- C-29 Equity, D-23 Instructional Materials, and D-8 Replacing D-22 Library Materials - 2nd Read State Required Policies (EL 2.9): *Beverly Lauchner moves to accept the policies as presented, Aimil Parmelee seconds. Motion to accept the policies passes unanimously.* Martha Hafner comments that their definition of equity may not be the same as everyone else's, and they have concerns with reading materials being available to all students. Should these books be in our libraries for children to stumble across?

VII. Monitoring the Board (7:15)

- Board Self-Evaluation: *Monitoring compliance with Board Governance Process and Board Management Delegation Policies.*
- The Board discusses "customer relations" vs. board issues.
- GP 4.2 Agenda Planning – Self Evaluation:

VIII. Consent Agenda (7:25)

- Vote on acceptance of Consent Agenda: *Items that the Board has previously delegated to the Superintendent, but that an external authority requires the Board to approve. The entire Consent Agenda is adopted by one motion, without discussion. However, an item can be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion with a majority vote GP 4.3.4.*
- Water Main
- Approve minutes from June 4, June 18, July 9, July 16 and August 6 board meetings
- Move and approved updated signers for Bar Harbor Bank
Motion made by Aimil Parmelee to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Rachel Gaidys. The motion passes unanimously.

IX. Closing/Incidental Information (7:30)

- Superintendent's Report
- Staffing: *Michael Clark speaks of the administrative re-shuffle which is addressed in the Superintendents Report*
- Transportation/Garage: *Michael Clark advises the Board of discussion with the Town regarding use of the garage on Rand Road.*
- Water Project: *Michael Clark updates the Board on the water project at RUMHS*
- Director & Principals Reports
- Action Item Recap

X. Executive Session If needed

With no further business to conduct, the meeting is adjourned at 8:30 pm

Future Meetings

Agenda Planning Meeting: TBD

Special Meeting August 20, 2025 6p.m at Williamstown Middle High School

Regular Board Meeting: 6pm Sept 10, 2025 at RUHS

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle M. Southworth

Kyle M. Southworth 8/18/2025
Administrative Assistant