

Orange Southwest School District (OSSD)
Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday September 10, 2025
Randolph Union High School 6pm

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

I. Opening (6:00 pm) Meeting called to order by Anne Kaplan, chair, at 6:03 pm

- **Board Attendance:** *Ensuring a quorum*
Anne Kaplan, Aimil Parmelee, Rachel Fish, Beverly Lauchner, Rachel Gaidys, Sam Hooper (virtual), Martha Hafner, Ryan Anderson. Administration: Michael Clark, Mindybeth Pike (virtual), Kyle Southworth and ORCA Media.
- **Meeting Purpose:** Update on future VT Ed & Reviewing Ends
- **Review and Accept Agenda:** *Meeting purpose? Are these the right agenda items? Is the right amount of time allotted?*
Agenda is accepted with no changes

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 public attending, no comments.
- **Meet the Director** of Curriculum & Student Achievement & learn about the role- Mindybeth Pike
Mindybeth discusses curriculum oversight and instructional leadership as well as elementary school proficiency report cards. STEM at the primary level vs. STEAM at upper levels, professional development for teachers and data warehouse and grant management are also reviewed.
- **Update on H 454**
 - **Meeting with Paine Mountain Recap**
Michael Clark discusses how the meeting on Aug 20th was a cordial conversation, indicating that Central Vermont school districts are interested in taking a proactive role in redistricting and communicating with their communities
 - **White River Valley Proclamation/Superintendent Conversation**
Conversation about the recent proclamation by the WRVSU Board, potential openness to a conversation with the OSSD and what a consolidation under a Supervisory Union might look like for the District. With a December deadline for the Task Force to deliver their vision for redistricting to the Legislature, Rachel Gaidys is concerned that these conversations take time, Aimil Parmelee is wary of fast-tracking. Ryan Anderson echoes that, concerned about giving the communities whip lash and all board members discuss possible loss of local control, policy governance under a new model, potential cost savings and the necessity to have someone at Michael Clark's level at each school district. Rachel Gaidys cautions that the Board can't lose sight of it's goal to support students and education.
VOTE: Beverly Lauchner moves to have Michael Clark or Anne Kaplan draft a letter to WRVSU requesting a conversation. The motion is seconded by Aimil Parmelee and passes unanimously.

- **UP for Learning**
Michael Clark reports he will reach out to teachers for recruitment of 8 interested students in each of the invited districts to participate in an envisioning project. Students will discuss what they want in their educational system, discuss regional vs specialty schools, and other topics. Students will train in leading community discussions, and Michael Clark stresses that students are being looked at to provide input, not to solve problems. The first session is scheduled for Sept 30 at Vermont State University, Randolph.
- **Transformer Project**
Facilities will be soliciting bids to replace the 70 year old transformer that currently powers a significant portion of RUMHS. Funding for the project would need to come from the Facilities Reserve Fund. At that time, the quotes and request for the expenditure will be presented to the Board for approval. Michael Clark reminds the Board that, if the school district should decide to consolidate, reserve funding would go with any potential merger.

III. Board Process (6:25)

- Appoint an OSSD Board Member or the VSBIT Board to vote at VSBIT Annual Mtg.
The Board agrees to allow VSBIT to manage the proxy vote this year.
VOTE: Anne Kaplan moves to assign proxy to VSBIT this year, Rachel Gaidys seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- Appoint an OSSD Board Member or the superintendent to vote at the VEHI Annual Mtg.
The Board agrees to allow Michael Clark to act as proxy this year.
VOTE: Rachel Gaidys moves to assign Michael Clark as proxy to VEHI this year, Anne Kaplan seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- Support Staff Negotiations
VOTE: Aimil Parmelee moves to request Michael Clark send a letter to the Association stating that the Board desires to negotiate a successor to the current '25-26 support staff agreement. Ryan Anderson seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

IV. Board Education (6:35)

- Reminder of Policy Governance Virtual Training Thursday 6pm Sept 25, 2025
- Reminder of VSBA Conference Double Tree in Burlington. Board members should connect with Kyle to register.
 - Wednesday October 29: Board Officials Meeting & Dinner Banquet 3-8pm
 - Thursday October: Partnership in Action 30 8-4 pm
- Reminder that we need a volunteer to help us review Open Mtg Law for the next meeting.
VOTE: Ryan Anderson moves to request Michael Clark reach out to legal counsel to discuss potential for training on open meeting law. Rachel Gaidys seconds, motion passes unanimously.

V. Monitoring the Organization (6:40)

- Review EL 2.0 (BMD 3.4.5) 2nd Read
VOTE: Rachel Gaidys makes a motion to accept EL 2.0 as written. Ryan Anderson seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- Review EL 2.8 (BMD 3.4.5) 2nd Read
VOTE: Rachel Gaidys makes a motion to accept EL 2.0 as written. Ryan Anderson seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- Review EL 2.9 (BMD 3.4.5) 2nd Read
VOTE: Rachel Gaidys makes a motion to accept EL 2.0 as written. Ryan Anderson seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- Financials (EL 2.3 Financial Conditions)
Michael Clark no major changes

VI. Policy Decisions for District Governance (6:50)

- Review & Discuss Updated Ends Policy 1st Read
Board discusses Ends statement revision as suggested by Rachel Fish. Beverly Lauchner would like curiosity to be added to 1.2.6. There is concern that the priorities are too broad, Anne Kaplan clarifies that, once accepted, the Ends would be taken to administrators and curriculum professionals for consideration. The Board is responsible for providing direction while giving latitude to professionals to comply with state and federal requirements.

VII. Monitoring the Board (7:30)

- Board Self-Evaluation: *Monitoring compliance with Board Governance Process and Board Management Delegation Policies.*
- GP 4.2 Board Job Description – Self Evaluation
Martha Hafner comments that community education should be improved. Anne Kaplan suggests that the letter being drafted by the Linkage Committee be submitted to the Herald of Randolph once completed. Discussion about if the Board feels they are compliant, overall.

VIII. Consent Agenda (7:30)

- 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.*
- Approve Minutes from August 13, 2025 and August 20, 2025
- New Hires/Resignees
VOTE: Ryan Anderson moves to accept the Consent Agenda as a whole, Rachel Gaidys seconds and the motion passes unanimously.

IX. Closing/Incidental Information (7:35)

- **Superintendent's Report**
 - Administrators
Michael Clark discusses the number of administrative positions within the District, breaking down Level I and Level II contracts by school. Schools with over 300 students have two Level I administrators. Smaller schools each have one Level I administrator, RTCC has one Level I and one Level II. Central Office houses the administrators that work within all the schools – Special Education, Finance, Transportation, Facilities, Food Service & Curriculum. Ryan Anderson comments that it looks like the District has a “lean, mean admin team.”
 - H454 Update that has gone out.
 - Review of Paine Mountain Meeting
 - Proclamation
 - Conversation with WRVSU Superintendent
 - Teacher of the year recipients
Michael Clark announces the recipients of the annual UVM Outstanding Teacher Awards. Patrick Martin of RUMHS, Katie Rogstad of Randolph Elementary and Peter Busha from RTCC. Congratulations!
- **Director & Principals Reports**
Michael Clark encourages all Board members to scan the QR code in the board packet and install the Parent Square app so they can get each school's newsletter more effectively.

- Action Item Recap

With no further business to conduct, Anne Kaplan adjourns the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

X. Executive Session *If needed*

Future Meetings

- Agenda Planning Meeting: Monday September 29
- Regular Board Meeting: 6pm October 8, 2025 at Brookfield

Respectfully submitted:

Kyle M. Southworth

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Administrative Assistant 9/11/2025