

OSSD

ORANGE SOUTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

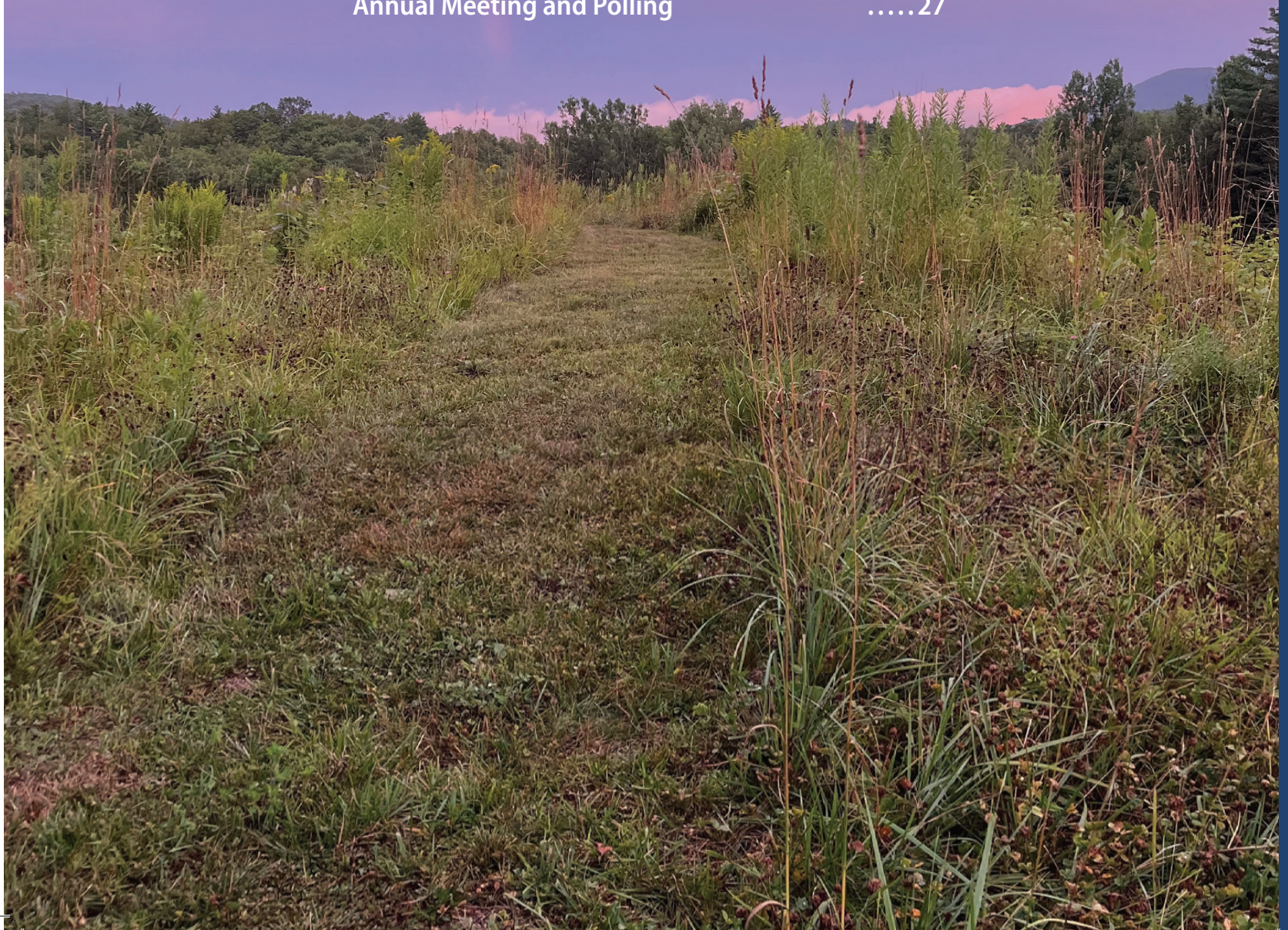
ANNUAL REPORT

25/26



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FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Communities Members,

It has been a busy and important year for our district.

Much of our time has been spent unpacking and trying to understand the potential impact of Act 73 on our district, as well as on how we should respond. With the establishment of the statewide Redistricting Task Force—charged with drawing new school district maps—we chose to be both cautious and proactive.

On the proactive side, we met this past fall with neighboring districts, including Paine Mountain, Echo Valley, and White River Valley, to better understand their perspectives, concerns, and needs; and to discuss the shared challenges we all face. On the cautious side, we held off moving forward with replacing any of our aging school buildings - two of which require a fair amount of repair work. We do not want to invest in a major bonding project only to learn later that state-driven consolidation will require us to merge with another district. To that end, until the future of our district is more clear, we will continue to maintain our infrastructure as best we can. Like many others across Vermont, we are watching closely to see what the Legislature decides in the months ahead.

This year we also encouraged our Superintendent, Michael Clark, to give students a voice regarding their vision for the future of education in Vermont. Act 73 had no formal mechanism for students to share their thoughts and perspectives. To address this deficiency, Superintendent Clark partnered with Up for Learning and brought together a group of students from area districts to discuss their vision for the future of education. UP for Learning is an organization that helps educational institutions fully engage youth in their own learning and in reimagining and transforming education. As their work progresses, these students will have the opportunity to testify before the Legislature, and hopefully have an impact on the future of education here in Vermont.

We are also exploring the possibility of adding student representation to the school board. This idea has surfaced before, and remains of strong interest. Our next steps include developing a clear process: defining the role students would play on the board; communicating the expectations; identifying interested students; and determining a fair method of selection. The VT School Boards Association (VSBA) has provided resources on this topic, and we are also considering connecting with a national organization that supports student participation on school boards. We believe student input will be both essential, and beneficial, as we lead the district into the future.

In other achievements, the Board completed a full update and revision of our Ends policies, which we have now officially accepted. These policies have evolved considerably since they were first created more than a decade ago. The next step will be to work with our administrators to determine how they will

meet the outcomes outlined in the Ends. We look forward to sharing this information with the community as the work unfolds.

As we began looking at the budget for the upcoming year, we wanted to be sensitive to the cost increases —across the board— that our taxpayers are facing. As we all know, there was a substantial increase in the statewide education property tax last year, driven in part by rising property values. As we began this year's budget development, we were committed to being as transparent as possible about our process and timeline and we encouraged the public to attend our meetings and participate in our deliberations. It is our hope that this year's proposed budget reflects not only what our schools need to educate our children, but also what our taxpayers have told us they can support. Although some of the cost increases we are looking at are outside our control —especially state mandated out-of-school placements— we believe the budget we are presenting is supportable and sustainable.

On a more personal note, we navigated a few changes in Board leadership this year. We said goodbye to our Board Chair, Hannah Arias, at the end of last summer and appointed Beverly Lauchner of Randolph to fill her seat. Anne Kaplan stepped into the role of Board Chair. We are grateful for Hannah's time, effort, dedication, and leadership over the years.

As we look to the coming year(s), much still remains uncertain. We will not know the full implications of Act 73 until the Legislature returns in January and continues its work on education reform. To that end, and like many districts, we find ourselves in a bit of a holding pattern. We do not want to commit to major projects —especially those requiring significant funding— without clarity about the state's direction, yet we must continue fulfilling our fundamental responsibility to educate our children. Our newly revised Ends policies will guide this work and help shape our priorities in the year to come.

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve on your School Board. We invite you to join our meetings, share your perspectives, and stay engaged in the decisions that shape our schools. As always, we remain committed to providing the best possible education for your children and preparing them for the next stages of their lives.

From the Board,

ANNE KAPLAN
OSSD Board Chair



SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

To the communities of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph

As the 2025 calendar year draws to a close and we approach the midpoint of the 2025–2026 school year, I am pleased to share that a great deal of high-quality learning is taking place throughout the Orange Southwest School District (OSSD).

I regularly visit our five campuses and I see firsthand students who genuinely enjoy learning. I hear laughter in the hallways and it is gratifying to witness the excitement and pride in their eyes as they master new skills and accomplish new tasks. Our teachers enthusiastically deliver curriculum in innovative and engaging ways, and parent and community volunteers generously contribute their time and expertise to support the outstanding work occurring across OSSD.

I am grateful for, and proud to be part of, the OSSD school community.

ACT 73

Act 73, passed during the 2025 legislative session, makes significant changes to Vermont's public education system in the areas of governance, funding, accountability, and operations.

The law established a School District Redistricting Task Force charged with recommending up to three new statewide district configurations by December 1, 2025. The Task Force's final report did not propose the anticipated new school district maps outlined in the legislation. Instead, it recommended the creation of Cooperative Education Service Areas, Strategic Voluntary Mergers, and Comprehensive Regional High Schools.

Act 73 also:

- Establishes minimum average class sizes for grades 1–12, with a waiver process through the State Board of Education
- Requires the Agency of Education to recommend statewide graduation standards by January 1, 2026
- Mandates the development of a statewide school calendar beginning in the 2027–2028 school year
- Creates a school construction aid program without dedicated funding
- Modifies State Board of Education appointments to include one member each from the House and Senate

The law transitions Vermont to a foundation funding formula. Under this model, voters will no longer vote on school budgets that remain within the established base amount. The base funding level is set at \$15,033 per student, with weighted factors for disability, English learner status, and economic disadvantage. Act 73 also includes provisions for small and sparse school grants, transportation reimbursement, and a four-year transition period to mitigate fiscal impacts.

Additionally:

- A homestead exemption will reduce taxable value for households with low and moderate incomes
- Non-homestead properties will be divided into residential and non-residential tax categories
- Tuition will be set at the base amount plus applicable weights, with limited authority for receiving schools to charge up to an additional 5% with approval
- Voter-approved supplemental spending will be allowed through 2037, with the allowable percentage gradually decreasing over time





I see firsthand students who genuinely enjoy learning. I hear laughter in the hallways and it is gratifying to witness the excitement and pride in their eyes as they master new skills and accomplish new tasks.

If Act 73 is fully implemented according to the timeline outlined in the legislation, OSSD would cease to exist after the 2027–2028 school year and would be merged with other districts to form a new district serving between 4,000 and 8,000 students.

FY 27 Proposed Budget (School Year 2026-2027)

During the FY27 budget development process, our primary focus was maintaining as many student-centered services as possible while limiting budget growth. As a result, the proposed budget reflects a **decrease** of \$191.69, or -1.22%, in the cost per equalized student.

This was achieved by limiting the overall expenditure increase to 3.07% while increasing our long-term weighted average daily membership by the equivalent of 28.01 students (a 2% increase).

Significant service and budget adjustments include:

- Transitioning a 0.5 FTE elementary physical education position from grant funding to the local budget
- A projected \$800,000 increase in out-of-district special education placements
- Eliminating the Assistant Superintendent position and replacing it with a Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement
- Eliminating the Associate Principal position at Randolph Union High School and restructuring responsibilities
- Eliminating the Assistant Director of Special Education position (0.5 FTE local / 0.5 FTE IDEA) and replacing it with an Inclusion Specialist funded through Medicaid surplus and IDEA funds (with sufficient surplus to sustain the position for approximately three years)
- Removing an unfilled OSSD-level interventionist position
- Transitioning teacher laptops to high-end Chromebooks

Overall Impact

This results in an estimated cost of **\$15,539.41 per equalized pupil**, keeping OSSD under the Excess Cost Threshold.

Preliminary Tax Rate Outlook

Please note that these projections depend on state decisions still under consideration by the legislature. Based on data released with the annual tax letter:

- The OSSD Equalized Homestead Tax Rate is projected at \$1.7561, **down 4.22%** from last year's \$1.8301.

The table below shows the expected tax rate for each of our towns, taking all of the factors discussed above into account.

Town	*2025-26 Tax Rate	CLA	*2026-27 Tax Rate	**Annual Change	**Monthly Change
Braintree	\$1.9254	62.87%	\$1.9644	\$97.50	\$8.13
Brookfield	\$1.5723	76.60%	\$1.6123	\$100.00	\$8.33
Randolph	\$1.2842	94.93%	\$1.3010	\$42.00	\$3.50

*Per \$100 of assessed value

**Based upon a \$250,000 property value

Ballot Language

Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the school board to expend \$29,159,606, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Orange Southwest School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,339.41, which is 1.22% lower than per pupil education spending for the current year.





Surplus and Reserve Funds

In addition to approving the overall budget this March, voters will be asked to determine the use of surplus funds. It is important to understand what these funds are and how they benefit both students and taxpayers.

- **Surplus funds** are unspent monies left over at the end of a budget year.
- **Reserve funds** are surplus monies voters have set aside for specific future purposes. For example, voters typically approve transferring funds into the facilities reserve to address building maintenance and repairs without borrowing or increasing taxes.

Surplus Amount and Proposed Allocations

Article X asks voters to transfer \$1,887,000 in surplus funds to the Building Reserve Fund. A "yes" vote will;

- Make funds available for future, unforeseen building needs or toward potential new construction
- Reduce future borrowing costs

In Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Orange Southwest School District. As shared earlier, I have the privilege of witnessing our students, faculty, and staff engaged in exceptional teaching and learning every day. The resources provided by our community are being used effectively to ensure that students are growing, learning, and reaching their full potential.

Together, we are making a positive impact on the future of our students and our community. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. CLARK

Orange Southwest School District
Superintendent

UPDATES FROM OUR SCHOOLS



BRAINTREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Braintree Elementary, our students thrive in a vibrant, place-based learning environment that nurtures curiosity, creativity, and a deep appreciation for the natural world around us.

Through meaningful partnerships and enriching opportunities, we celebrate learning that connects students to their community and the environment. Guided by our school-wide **PAWS expectations—Prepared for success, Attitude of respect, Willingness to help, and Show responsibility**—we empower students to grow as leaders in every setting.

Farm to School

Our Farm to School program brings learning to life. Students roll up their sleeves to grow, harvest, cook, and enjoy fresh produce—experiences that build both practical skills and joyful memories. Our community-supported farm-stand, Braintree Blossoms, proudly showcases items created by students of all ages, from applesauce and pies to granola and, this year, pizza! With the help of our amazing community, we launched our first outdoor pizza kitchen—stay tuned for upcoming events where everyone can gather and enjoy a slice together.

Our intermediate students take their learning even further by running the farm-stand as a small business. They set prices, design advertisements, manage inventory, engage with customers, and analyze their finances—all authentic, real-world experiences that strengthen their confidence and leadership.

STEM Learning

Every week, students in kindergarten through grade six dive into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) lessons that spark innovation and build

problem-solving skills. These hands-on experiences deepen classroom learning as students explore bird adaptations, design interactive online books, and engineer robots using Makey Makey and LittleBits. STEM at Braintree is all about wonder, discovery, and the joy of building something new.

Family & Community Engagement

Our students are once again adventuring beyond the classroom, engaging in field trips that extend learning and create shared memories. From apple orchards and local farms to the Randolph Playhouse; from hiking Mount Cardigan to exploring other nature trails, these experiences enrich the curriculum and deepen students' connection to the world around them.

Families continue to play a vital role at Braintree. Our Parent Advisory Committee serves as a trusted partner—encouraging transparent, respectful communication and collaborating on shared goals that make our school a welcoming, joyful, and academically rigorous place. Together, we are building a community where students feel empowered, supported, and excited to contribute. Your thoughtful participation in our community's decision-making helps ensure our schools remain strong, supportive, and able to provide the best opportunities for every student. Thank you! From all of us at Braintree Elementary!

GO BOBCATS!

DAN MORRISON

Principal



BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



As we reflect on this school year, we are proud to share the continued growth that has taken place at Brookfield School. Our work has been strongly supported by our dedicated School Club, our committed staff, and the ongoing partnership of families and community members who care deeply about our students' success.

Farm to School: Sustaining a Valued Tradition

Thanks to the generous support and fundraising efforts of our School Club, we have been able to continue funding our Farm to School program. This initiative remains a point of pride for Brookfield, connecting students with hands-on learning opportunities, healthy locally sourced foods, and real-world agricultural experiences. These efforts not only enrich curriculum but reinforce our community's commitment to wellness, sustainability, and experiential learning.

Strengthening Our School Community Through Family Engagement

Family engagement continues to be a cornerstone of the Brookfield experience. This year, we maintained and expanded beloved school traditions supported by our School Club, including family events, student celebrations, and fundraising opportunities. These activities play a vital role in creating a positive school climate and ensuring that families remain active partners in our students' education. Our School Club's dedication to fostering inclusion, connection, and joy is evident in every event it sponsors.

Building a Sustainable Behavior Response System

Recognizing the changing needs of our students, Brookfield School has worked diligently to develop a clear behavior response system. This framework enhances communication, provides predictable supports for students, and strengthens our ability to respond compassionately and effectively to behavioral needs. By working collaboratively, our staff has created a system that fosters growth, emphasizes skill-building, and helps maintain a safe and welcoming school environment.

Refining Supports for Enrichment and Intervention

This year, we have focused on fine-tuning our systems of academic support to better address the needs of all learners. Our team has worked to strengthen intervention practices for students requiring additional help, while also expanding enrichment opportunities for those ready to be challenged further. Through improved data use, clearer processes, and stronger collaboration among staff, we are building a more responsive and equitable system that supports every student's academic journey.

Looking Ahead

We are grateful for the ongoing support from our families, staff, School Club, and the broader Brookfield community. Together, we continue to build a school environment that values connection, celebrates progress, and places students at the center of every decision.

Thank you for your partnership, your trust, and your belief in our work. We are excited to carry this momentum into the year ahead.

CARA HOUSTON

Principal



RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Randolph Elementary is a strong place of learning and belonging for our students. We balance our social emotional needs with our push towards strong academics. Please see some highlights below:

Student Leaders

We continue to foster student leadership at RES and we now have over 70 student leadership positions. This year, in addition to our leadership positions on the kindness committee, fish committee, bird feeder group, and flag leaders, we have added several other leadership roles. One of these is our "grab and go" cart leader. The students take on the task of managing the grab and go cart each morning while helping the younger students get their breakfasts. We have also added our PBIS Student Leaders group. This group runs our monthly PBIS assembly, with the support from two teachers who have taken it upon themselves to manage this group.

There have also been moments when students see a need in the building and simply step up to help fill that need. For example, a young kindergartener was struggling with getting to the bus each day, and a fifth grade boy has taken on a supporting role in helping the young man get to the bus. Another few students have taken on shoveling our sidewalks each morning during the snowy mornings. We have given students the opportunity to see a need and step up to meet that need.

PBIS Targeted and Intensive Interventions

We have been focusing on universal level social emotional needs in our school for several years. Every student is screened 3 times a year for SEL competencies and needs. Based on these screenings and data pulled from our behavior log system, we have identified students who need additional targeted and intensive interventions. Our SEL team meets twice monthly to brainstorm supports for these students in partnership with the classroom teachers. We have worked creatively to meet the needs of our students through classroom teacher supports and supports outside of the classroom.

Strengthening our Community through Family Engagement

RES has made a concerted effort over the last few years to add opportunities for our families to be engaged in the school community. We have a strong Parent Teacher Organization that has grown in numbers over the past three years. Also, we have monthly events that bring our families together to have fun in the evening. We brought our families together to celebrate a Thanksgiving Feast, and we have opened our building to volunteers throughout the year. Together, we can celebrate all that is taking place at RES as we work together to support our families.

MELINDA ROBINSON

Principal



RANDOLPH UNION MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



This year, we continued to prioritize students and their learning while remaining aware of the shifting educational landscape in Vermont. Every day, regardless of what is happening in the state, nation, or world around us, teaching and learning are taking place at RU.

Administrative Restructuring

Last year, we heard loud and clear from the community that there were concerns about the district and, in particular, some schools having a top-heavy administration. With that in mind, when it came time to explore areas where our budget could be trimmed, we looked closely at our administrative model and sought creative ways to serve students well while supporting cost-saving efforts.

We also closely monitored the information shared by the Agency of Education regarding class sizes, graduation standards, and more. We assessed where we are already aligned with their expectations and where further work is needed to better meet both regulations and the needs of our students. As a result, we have decided to retire the role of Associate Principal at RU, starting next year. Herb Perez has served this role well, and we deeply appreciate the time and dedication he has devoted to our school community over the past two years. The responsibilities previously held by the Associate Principal, including 504 plan coordination, student support, and test coordination, will be redistributed among staff members. These staff members will receive either a stipend or additional prep time to compensate for the extra duties they will take on.

This restructuring will result in a cost savings of approximately \$150,000.

Curriculum

To better support students and meet (or come as close as possible to meeting) the class size thresholds outlined by the legislature last year, we have decided to reduce the number of core class sections offered. This adjustment will free up time for teachers to provide more intervention and support while maintaining opportunities for electives within our schedule.

The Math department is researching whether the Carnegie Learning math program is the best fit for our students. This spring, they will pilot portions of different programs with the support of our Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement, Mindybeth Pike.

The English and Social Studies departments continue to focus on communication. They engage students with lessons and research that help them develop critical thinking skills and communicate their ideas effectively, both in writing and verbally. Students gain the ability to read, synthesize information, and articulate their thoughts, backed by relevant data and evidence. We continue to see the benefits of this work through student presentations to the community, in our Project-Based Learning program, and within the school community at Portfolio and Senior Project Defenses.

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In a world where concerns exist about students' preparedness for life after high school, we are focused on ensuring they acquire the skills they need to thrive.



RANDOLPH UNION MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL CONT'

The Practical Arts department remains committed to helping students maintain their health and safety. This department includes Drivers Ed, Health, Physical Education, and “On Your Own,” a life skills class now required for graduation. In this class, students learn essential skills such as managing personal finances, cooking nutritious meals, and repairing clothing. In a world where concerns exist about students' preparedness for life after high school, we are focused on ensuring they acquire the skills they need to thrive.

Our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs continue to grow. Students engage with content in both core and elective classes that offer meaningful learning experiences. Whether in Integrated Science, AP classes, or the Innovation Center, students gain valuable insights into our world and learn to design and create solutions to real-world problems. This year, we added an engineering class focused on biomimicry, and our AP Biology class transitioned to an AP Environmental Science class, both of which are well-enrolled.

Additionally, students can take Outdoor Education classes to learn primitive skills and experience outdoor learning, which benefits their overall well-being. This helps foster a stronger connection to the school community and promotes positive engagement with the learning environment.

The Fine and Performing Arts departments continue to impress with their performances and projects. Whether performing classical stories, creating music and dance, or using visual art to communicate meaningful messages, students in these programs are making a profound impact on our community.

The World Language Department offers Spanish and French, providing students with valuable opportunities to learn a second or even third language. For a school our size, this is an impressive accomplishment. Beyond language acquisition, students also gain an understanding of the cultures and cuisines associated with these languages. The department organizes fundraising efforts for trips to places where these languages are spoken, including recent travels to Canada and upcoming plans for Morocco in the spring.

Special Education may often go unnoticed unless directly involved in a student's education, but it remains a vital part of our school. The department meets the needs of learners across the spectrum, supporting staff in developing equitable lessons and providing one-on-one instruction. Special Education professionals are integral to our school's infrastructure and success.



The Student Services team, including counselors, the school nurse, nurse practitioner, school-based mental health clinician, and Student Assistance Program Counselor, plays an essential role in supporting the physical and mental health of our students. They work in classrooms to ensure compliance with Act 1, delivering critical education about consent and addressing issues related to sexual violence and abuse. They also collaborate with content area teachers to provide education on addiction and wellness.

Project-Based Learning continues to be a cornerstone of our educational experience in Randolph. Students design and implement projects aimed at improving our community, addressing concerns related to the environment, equity, and school life. They work closely with supportive adults to think critically, collect data, and determine actionable solutions for the challenges they identify.

Behavior

We remain focused on guiding student behavior in a pro-social direction, emphasizing professional conduct that is reasonable and kind. One of our primary goals is to graduate students who are prepared for success in college, career, and the workforce. To achieve this, we ensure that our graduates can behave in ways that allow them to thrive in the world beyond our doors. Every day, we strive for progress, not perfection, and continue to see the positive effects of consistent efforts over time.

Community

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our community, and we strive to give back in meaningful ways. This takes many forms, such as students participating in Project-Based Learning activities like building a Día de los Muertos altar, helping to green our communities, NHS members assisting at Veggie Van Go, or hosting a holiday toy drive. Our students are dedicated to making a positive impact.

In addition, Colin Andrzejczyk, our Dean of Students, has continued to lead the Food For Thought program, keeping our Help Yourself Shelves stocked. Any student or family member within the Randolph Union community can grab a bag of groceries, no questions asked, whenever the school is open. This remains a crucial part of our school's outreach and another way RU gives back to the community.

We invite all community members to join us at our athletic events, performing arts shows, and our Winter and Spring Celebrations of the Arts. These events, including our May Celebration of Learning, are an essential part of our school culture, and we hope you can experience the students' demonstrations of learning in person. Seeing these presentations firsthand provides a deeper understanding of their achievements that my words can hardly convey.

With gratitude,

LISA MANNING FLOYD

Principal

RANDOLPH TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER

Career & Technical Education (CTE) is shaping the future of Vermont. As today's workforce transitions into retirement, the next generation, our students at Randolph Technical Career Center, is stepping up to meet the needs of our state. Through hands-on, technology-driven learning inside and outside the classroom, our graduates are preparing to keep Vermont running strong.

They're the ones who will build your homes, repair your vehicles, design your media, and respond to your emergencies. They'll power your communities, grow your food, and innovate in ways we can't yet imagine. RTCC students aren't just learning trades... They're shaping the future!



It's an exciting time to be part of CTE. Across Vermont, employers are eager to hire skilled, motivated graduates ready to make an impact. At RTCC, our students are becoming the next generation of professionals, entrepreneurs, and community leaders.

An RTCC education offers some of the most dynamic and relevant learning opportunities in Vermont.

Students can:

- Earn Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs) to boost their employability
- Gain college credits while in high school
- Participate in Work-Based Learning, earning real wages and experience during the school day

Our students graduate career and college ready, with real-world skills, confidence, and connections that last a lifetime.

At RTCC, learning goes beyond textbooks. Students explore their interests, discover their strengths, and develop the character that defines great leaders. Through cooperative learning experiences, they build professionalism, independence, and resilience; qualities that serve them in every path they choose.

Our instructors come straight from the industries they teach. They bring their expertise, passion, and mentorship into the classroom, guiding students toward excellence in their chosen fields. RTCC is a community where teachers, staff, and students work together like family—everyone is known, supported, and valued.

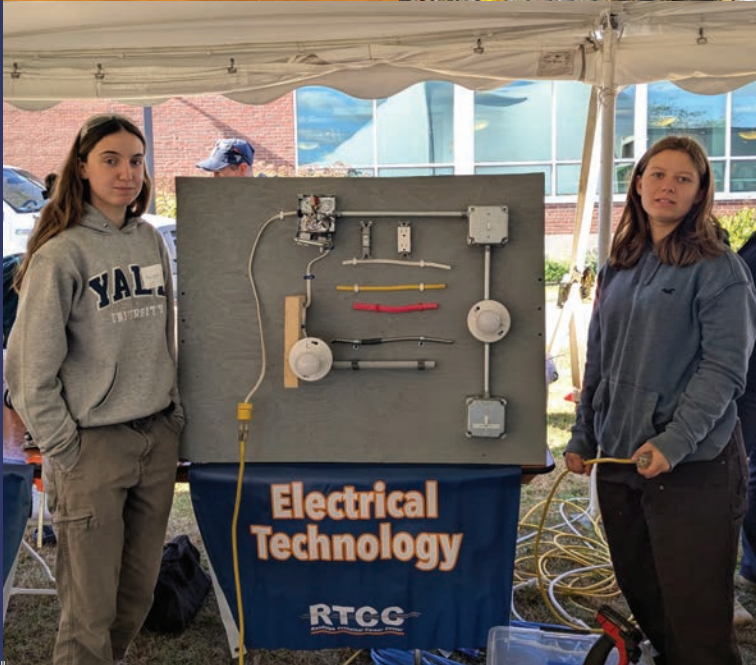
We are deeply proud of our students, alumni, and partners who make RTCC a place of growth and innovation. Thank you to our families, sending schools, and community members for your continued trust and collaboration. Together, we're building the future workforce of Vermont.

Come see what RTCC can offer you, or your student—where passion meets purpose, and learning leads to opportunity.

With gratitude and sincerity,

NIKA OAKES

RTCC Director



Current CTE Programs offered at RTCC

- Construction Trades
- Criminal Justice
- Culinary Arts
- Diesel Technology
- Digital Media Arts
- Diversified Agriculture
- Electrical Technology
- Fabrication, Welding & Design
- Pre-Technical Foundations

RTCC students aren't just
learning trades...
They're shaping the future!







ORANGE SOUTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET INFORMATION

2026-2027

WARNING

**Orange Southwest Unified Union School District
(Orange Southwest School District)
For Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2026**

TO THE LEGAL VOTERS OF RANDOLPH, BRAINTREE, and BROOKFIELD:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the voters of Randolph, Braintree & Brookfield will be held in the Auditorium at the Randolph Union High School in the Town of Randolph on Monday, March 2, 2026, commencing at 6:00 p.m. Following updated guidance from state agencies and in order to comply with those directives, this meeting will also be available remotely. Members of the public wishing to join the meeting remotely, please use the following link:

Meeting ID
meet.google.com/nup-dkew-oqa
Phone Numbers
(US)+1 252-397-0145
PIN: 650 984 479#

NOTICE TO VOTERS: ARTICLES I, II, III, IV, V, and VI will be voted on the Floor on Monday, March 2, 2026.

Polls for voting on Articles VII, VIII, IX & X will be open on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at the following locations and at the following times in each town:

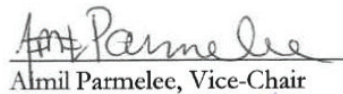
Braintree: Braintree Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Brookfield: Brookfield Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Randolph: Randolph Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

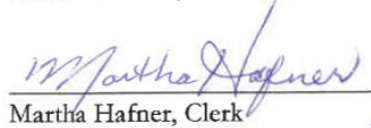
- ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026.
- ARTICLE II: To elect a Clerk for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026.
- ARTICLE III: To elect a School District Treasurer for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2026.
- ARTICLE IV: To fill any vacancies existing or occurring on March 3, 2026.
- ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon recommendations contained in the reports of the officers of the school district.
- ARTICLE VI: To see whether the school district will authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.
- ARTICLE VII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:
1. - One School Director from the residents of Randolph VT for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE VIII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:
1. - One School Director from the residents of Brookfield VT for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE IX: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the school board to expend **\$29,159,606** which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. The Orange Southwest School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of **\$15,339.41** which is **1.22%** lower than per pupil education spending for the current year.

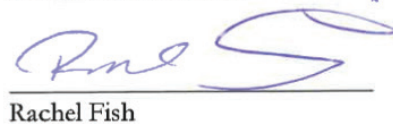
- ARTICLE X: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of \$1,887,000 in surplus funds from the 2024-2025 school year to the Building Reserve Fund?

DATED at Randolph in the County of Orange and State of Vermont, this 15th day of January 2025.


Anne Kaplan, Chair

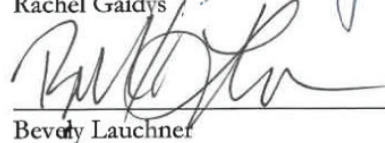

Almil Parmelee, Vice-Chair


Martha Hafner, Clerk

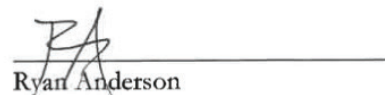

Rachel Fish

OSSD School Board Directors

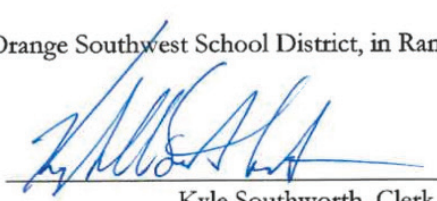

Rachel Gaidys


Beverly Lauchner


Sam Hooper


Ryan Anderson

Received and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Orange Southwest School District, in Randolph on January 15th, 2026 before being posted.

ATTEST: 
Kyle Southworth, Clerk

NOTICE TO VOTERS

Attached is some basic information about the Orange Southwest School District meeting warned. If you have any questions, please contact your Town Clerk.

Braintree Town Clerk - 728-9787
Brookfield Town Clerk - 276-3352
Randolph Town Clerk - 728-5682

OSSD 2026-27 BUDGET: BUDGET SUMMARY

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Difference
REVENUE					
Local Revenue	1,217,650	1,354,748	1,189,650	1,147,900	-41,750
			-2.30%	-15.27%	
Special Programs	2,703,635	2,612,405	2,990,612	3,644,436	653,824
			10.61%	39.51%	
State Revenues	20,591,511	20,691,892	22,261,348	22,431,277	169,929
			8.11%	8.41%	
Federal Funds	1,182,660	0	1,182,660	1,182,660	0
Beginning Balance	1,033,333	1,033,333	703,333	753,333	50,000
TOTAL REVENUE	26,728,789	25,692,378	28,327,603	29,159,606	832,003
			5.98%	2.94%	
EXPENDITURES					
Instruction	8,977,304	8,249,649	9,717,310	9,908,888	191,578
			8.24%	20.11%	
Special Education	4,750,610	4,228,182	5,338,977	5,872,244	533,267
			12.39%	38.88%	
Administration	1,500,859	1,592,667	1,788,349	1,706,017	-82,332
			19.16%	7.12%	
Central Office	1,178,019	1,094,277	1,179,694	1,235,965	56,271
			0.14%	12.95%	
Support Services	2,377,842	2,173,217	2,265,939	2,395,877	129,938
			-4.71%	10.25%	
Maintenance	2,999,230	2,821,446	3,174,406	3,319,267	144,861
			5.84%	17.64%	
Technology	784,205	734,265	873,473	779,316	-94,157
			11.38%	6.14%	
Transportation	809,049	732,534	799,838	826,828	26,990
			-1.14%	12.87%	
Other Expenses	140,668	215,945	175,403	163,487	-11,916
			24.69%	-24.29%	
Technical Education	1,265,030	1,290,619	1,194,920	1,114,813	-80,107
			-5.54%	-13.62%	
Pre-School	763,313	671,711	636,634	654,244	17,610
			-16.60%	2.77%	
SCHOOL TOTAL	25,546,129	23,804,510	27,144,943	27,976,946	894,500
			6.26%	3.07%	
Federal Funds	1,182,660	0	1,182,660	1,182,660	0
Surplus/Deficit	0	1,887,868	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	26,728,789	25,692,378	28,327,603	29,159,606	832,003
			5.98%	2.94%	

OSSD 2026-27 BUDGET: REVENUES

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Difference
LOCAL REVENUES					
Tuition	385,000	384,094	370,000	280,000	-90,000
Overhead Tuition	40,000	0	5,000	0	-5,000
Transportation	40,000	104,262	40,000	60,000	20,000
Interest	78,000	168,922	75,000	75,000	0
Early Ed Receipts	0	500	0	0	0
Lease Land - Brookfield	5	0	0	0	0
RTCC - Shared Services	626,995	626,995	652,000	680,000	28,000
Admin Svcs - EPSDT	0	0	0	0	0
Admin Svcs - VIP	0	0	0	0	0
Admin Svcs - RAVEN	47,650	47,650	47,650	52,900	5,250
Rental Income	0	0	0	0	0
Prior Year Refunds	0	22,326	0	0	0
Total Other Revenues	1,217,650	1,354,748	1,189,650	1,147,900	-41,750
SPECIAL EDUCATION					
Core Block Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Special Ed Reimbursement	1,798,682	1,798,682	1,850,859	1,910,949	60,090
State Placed Students	0	41,092	0	0	0
Extraordinary Reimbursement	794,600	656,773	1,029,400	1,625,000	595,600
Essential Early Ed	95,353	95,353	95,353	93,487	-1,866
IDEA-B - Pre-School	0	0	0	0	0
IDEA-B	0	0	0	0	0
Excess Costs Reimbursement	15,000	20,505	15,000	15,000	0
Total Special Ed	2,703,635	2,612,405	2,990,612	3,644,436	653,824
STATE REVENUES					
State Technical Centers	604,280	627,121	560,420	510,145	-50,275
State Education Fund	19,551,025	19,528,184	21,214,722	21,434,926	220,204
ELL Categorical Grant	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
State Unenrolled Residents at Tech	0	18,639	0	0	0
State Transportation	255,000	281,652	255,000	255,000	0
Small Schools Grant	177,706	177,706	177,706	177,706	0
Driver Education	3,500	8,590	3,500	3,500	0
Total State Revenues	20,591,511	20,691,892	22,261,348	22,431,277	169,929
BEGINNING BALANCE	1,033,333	1,033,333	703,333	753,333	50,000
SCHOOL TOTAL	25,546,129	25,692,378	27,144,943	27,976,946	832,003
FEDERAL FUNDS					
IDEA - B	329,400	0	329,400	329,400	0
IDEA - B - PreSchool	6,800	0	6,800	6,800	0
Title I and II - School Wide	680,960	0	680,960	680,960	0
Medicaid	155,000	0	155,000	155,000	0
EPSDT	10,500	0	10,500	10,500	0
Total Federal Funds	1,182,660	0	1,182,660	1,182,660	0
TOTAL VOTER APPROVAL	26,728,789	25,692,378	28,327,603	29,159,606	832,003

OSSD 2026-27 BUDGET: EXPENDITURES

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Difference	Percent Inc/Dec
INSTRUCTION						
Salaries	5,202,040	5,082,570	5,611,830	5,792,901	181,071	3.23%
Benefits	2,074,962	1,749,036	2,212,209	2,347,755	135,546	6.13%
Drivers Education	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%
Remedial/Interventionist Service	273,237	295,262	455,272	324,179	-131,093	-28.79%
Testing/Tutorial/OT-PT Svcs	36,930	34,718	47,560	48,160	600	1.26%
Contracted Services	45,600	39,535	48,250	48,250	0	0.00%
Staff Training	273,500	148,808	278,730	269,735	-8,995	-3.23%
Co/Extra Curricular	526,192	470,048	541,536	555,985	14,449	2.67%
Tuition	54,000	102,719	58,000	58,000	0	0.00%
Travel/Field Trips	39,020	8,083	26,400	26,400	0	0.00%
Supplies/Textbooks/Equip	447,823	318,870	433,523	433,523	0	0.00%
Total Instruction	8,977,304	8,249,649	9,717,310	9,908,888	191,578	1.97%
SPECIAL EDUCATION						
Salaries	1,936,595	1,637,092	2,087,862	1,890,625	-197,237	-9.45%
Benefits	819,132	634,533	1,006,270	861,161	-145,109	-14.42%
Contracted/Prof Services	0	30,804	0	0	0	0.00%
Transportation	152,500	261,849	252,275	325,000	72,725	28.83%
Travel/Conferences	11,700	21,639	12,800	12,800	0	0.00%
Supplies/Textbooks/Equipment	27,275	17,927	28,520	29,125	605	2.12%
Tuition	1,069,700	840,570	1,189,000	2,001,700	812,700	68.35%
Behavioral Services	230,249	204,746	226,211	234,720	8,509	3.76%
Testing/Tutorial/OT-PT Svcs	164,000	262,879	144,000	144,000	0	0.00%
Speech Services	339,459	316,142	392,039	373,113	-18,926	-4.83%
Total Special Education	4,750,610	4,228,182	5,338,977	5,872,244	533,267	9.99%
ADMINISTRATION						
Salaries	935,231	1,061,637	1,122,282	1,052,952	-69,330	-6.18%
Benefits	458,163	416,746	547,402	533,550	-13,852	-2.53%
Repairs/Maint	9,000	255	9,000	9,000	0	0.00%
Postage/Telephone	36,250	35,565	39,750	39,750	0	0.00%
Travel	17,100	26,455	14,100	14,100	0	0.00%
Supplies/Equipment	45,115	52,009	55,815	56,665	850	1.52%
Total Administration	1,500,859	1,592,667	1,788,349	1,706,017	-82,332	-4.60%
CENTRAL OFFICE						
Salaries	737,688	743,493	713,922	727,905	13,983	1.96%
Benefits	333,986	257,657	340,022	382,010	41,988	12.35%
Contracted Services	10,000	8,057	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Legal Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Staff Development	5,000	11,651	7,500	8,500	1,000	13.33%
Repairs/Maintenance	30,000	24,180	30,000	30,000	0	0.00%
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Travel	7,900	7,112	13,900	13,000	-900	-6.47%
Supplies/Equipment	53,445	42,126	64,350	64,550	200	0.31%
Total Central Office	1,178,019	1,094,277	1,179,694	1,235,965	56,271	4.77%

OSSD 2026-27 BUDGET: EXPENDITURES

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Difference	Percent Inc/Dec
SUPPORT SERVICES						
Guidance	592,054	742,463	664,975	702,978	38,003	5.71%
Behavioral/Social Work	412,237	343,590	383,110	414,822	31,712	8.28%
School Nurse	516,582	476,043	383,647	403,211	19,564	5.10%
Media Services	390,339	381,278	358,437	391,386	32,949	9.19%
Curriculum Develop	31,255	12,977	31,310	31,310	0	0.00%
C.A.R.	113,500	47,992	113,500	113,500	0	0.00%
Teacher Mentoring	58,010	33,487	58,010	58,220	210	0.36%
Board of Education	118,865	92,517	123,450	126,450	3,000	2.43%
Legal Fees	60,000	42,870	64,500	69,000	4,500	6.98%
Fiscal Services	85,000	0	85,000	85,000	0	0.00%
Total Support Services	2,377,842	2,173,217	2,265,939	2,395,877	129,938	5.73%
MAINTENANCE						
Salaries	904,750	852,328	856,950	908,500	51,550	6.02%
Benefits	531,465	383,982	523,880	556,793	32,913	6.28%
Contracted Services	118,720	520,351	235,531	235,531	0	0.00%
General Liability Ins	88,000	94,929	98,500	115,000	16,500	16.75%
Repairs/Maintenance	287,260	102,586	287,260	295,878	8,618	3.00%
Utilities	541,000	435,651	564,200	569,800	5,600	0.99%
Supplies/Travel/Equipment	298,350	202,917	353,400	358,280	4,880	1.38%
Care of Grounds	205,600	215,128	224,200	249,000	24,800	11.06%
Reserve - Repairs/Maint	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Vehicle Services	24,085	13,574	30,485	30,485	0	0.00%
Total Maintenance	2,999,230	2,821,446	3,174,406	3,319,267	144,861	4.56%
TECHNOLOGY						
Salaries	354,630	325,002	384,024	375,610	-8,414	-2.19%
Benefits	148,975	123,421	202,499	146,756	-55,743	-27.53%
Contracted Services	24,500	19,539	24,500	24,500	0	0.00%
Technology Fund Transfer	108,500	108,500	108,500	58,500	-50,000	-46.08%
Repairs/Maintenance	2,500	453	2,500	2,500	0	0.00%
Supplies	145,100	157,350	151,450	171,450	20,000	13.21%
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total Technology	784,205	734,265	873,473	779,316	-94,157	-10.78%
TRANSPORTATION						
Salaries	266,055	302,319	324,750	321,295	-3,455	-1.06%
Benefits	62,664	55,921	76,783	76,867	84	0.11%
Contracted Svcs/Rent	73,000	68,014	73,000	73,500	500	0.68%
Travel/Conferences	100	0	100	100	0	0.00%
Repairs/Supplies/Equip	59,300	76,647	69,250	88,550	19,300	27.87%
Diesel Fuel	90,800	55,601	92,000	96,000	4,000	4.35%
Unallowed Spec Ed	0	2,734	0	0	0	0.00%
After School Transportation	75,000	2,462	0	0	0	0.00%
Field Trips	33,000	25,056	32,830	33,030	200	0.61%

OSSD 2026-27 BUDGET: EXPENDITURES

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Difference	Percent Inc/Dec
TRANSPORTATION CONT.						
Tuition Student Transportation	49,130	43,779	31,125	37,486	6,361	9.19%
Bus Fund Reserve	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
Total Transportation	809,049	732,534	799,838	826,828	26,990	3.37%
OTHER EXPENDITURES						
Food Service Transfer	35,000	138,443	70,000	70,000	0	0.00%
Operational Fund Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Special Ed Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Legal Fund Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Debt Service	10,315	9,754	10,050	0	-10,050	-100.00%
EEE Services	95,353	67,748	95,353	93,487	-1,866	-1.96%
Total Other Expenditures	140,668	215,945	175,403	163,487	-11,916	-6.79%
TECHNICAL EDUCATION						
State - Act 68	604,280	627,121	560,420	510,145	-50,275	-8.97%
Local Tuition	660,750	663,498	634,500	604,668	-29,832	-4.70%
Total Tech Education	1,265,030	1,290,619	1,194,920	1,114,813	-80,107	-6.70%
PRE-SCHOOL						
Salaries	435,731	418,276	337,262	348,950	11,688	3.47%
Benefits	189,478	178,535	198,722	203,144	4,422	2.23%
Administration	56,029	26,904	0	0	0	0.00%
Tuition/Partnerships	50,000	26,633	82,000	83,500	1,500	1.83%
Supplies/Travel/Equip	32,075	21,363	18,650	18,650	0	0.00%
Total Pre-School	763,313	671,711	636,634	654,244	17,610	2.77%
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	0	1,887,868	0	0	0	0.00%
SCHOOL TOTAL	25,546,129	25,692,378	27,144,943	27,976,946	832,003	3.07%
FEDERAL FUNDS						
IDEA - B	329,400	0	329,400	329,400	0	
IDEA - B - PreSchool	6,800	0	6,800	6,800	0	
Title I and II - School Wide	680,960	0	680,960	680,960	0	
Medicaid	155,000	0	155,000	155,000	0	
EPSDT	10,500	0	10,500	10,500	0	
Total Federal Funds	1,182,660	0	1,182,660	1,182,660	0	
TOTAL VOTER APPROVAL	26,728,789	25,692,378	28,327,603	29,159,606	832,003	2.94%

OSSD 2026-27 BUDGET: ESTIMATED TAX RATE

State Property Yield Rate	\$1.00
State Non-Residential Tax Rate	\$1.785
Budget - Proposed Draft 3	\$27,976,946.00
Revenue - Categorical Grants	-\$6,031,875.00
Total Education Spending (Act 68)	\$21,945,071.00
Equalized LTW Pupils - 2025-26 (Projection 1/05/26)	1,412.22
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil (Act 68)	\$15,539.41
Excess Spending Threshold	\$16,470.00
Amount Over Threshold	\$0.00
Education Spending Plus Excess Spending	\$15,539.41
Property Yield	\$12,582.11
Statewide Adjustment	70.33%
Statewide Adjusted Property Yield	\$8,849.00
O.S.S.D. Equalized Homestead Rate	\$1.7561

STATE ESTIMATES

	OSSD Estimated Equalized Tax Rate	2025 Town Common Level of Appraisal	State CLA Adjust	Statewide Adjusted CLA
Braintree	\$1.7561	62.87%	70.33%	89.39%
Brookfield	\$1.7561	76.60%	70.33%	108.92%
Randolph	\$1.7561	94.93%	70.33%	134.98%

	Projected 2026-27 Tax Rates	2025-26 Tax Rates	Projected 2026-27 Difference
Braintree	\$1.9644	\$1.9254	\$0.0390
Brookfield	\$1.6123	\$1.5723	\$0.0400
Randolph	\$1.3010	\$1.2842	\$0.0168

OSSD 2026-27 BUDGET

INDEBTEDNESS

Purpose	Original Issue	Principal Amount	Reissue	Interest Rate	Interest Paid by 6/30/25	Principal Paid by 6/30/25	6/30/2025 Outstanding
Randolph Elementary	7/23/1998	\$3,810,000	N/A	4.80%	\$1,925,240	\$3,810,000	\$0
Braintree Elementary	7/25/2005	\$280,000	N/A	4.70%	\$112,993	\$270,000	\$10,000

RESERVE FUND BALANCES - AS OF 6/30/2025

	Facilities	Technology	Transportation	Operational	Legal	Special Education
OSSD	\$1,422,863	\$392,210	\$965,014	\$1,378,304	\$140,000	\$515,697
TOTAL	\$1,422,863	\$392,210	\$965,014	\$1,378,304	\$140,000	\$515,697



SPECIAL BOARD BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:00pm
RUHS Auditorium

To attend remotely:
meet.google.com/nup-dkew-oqa

Phone Number
US+1 252-397-0145
Pin: 650 984 479#

**IMPORTANT DISCUSSION BEFORE
AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE ON
TOWN MEETING DAY:
TUESDAY MARCH 3, 2026**



POLLS OPEN: TOWN MEETING DAY

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

At the following places and times:

Braintree Town Hall • 9:00am - 7:00pm
Brookfield Elementary School • 9:00am - 7:00pm
Randolph Town Hall • 7:00am - 7:00pm

OSSD

ORANGE SOUTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Central Office, 24 Central Street
Randolph, Vermont 05060
Phone: 802-728-5052
Web: orangesouthwest.org

