

Orange Southwest School District (OSSD)
Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2026
Brookfield Elementary School 6:00 pm

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

I. Opening (6:00 pm)

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair at 6:42 p.m.

- Board Attendance: *Ensuring a quorum*

Board: Ray Zapata, Ann Kaplan, Rachel Gaidys, Bev Lauchner, Ryan Anderson.

Administration: Michael Clark, ORCA Media, Kyle Southworth. Guests: Lynn Tabor, Sonja Barter, Nevaeh Barter.

- Meeting Purpose:

Board planning, organization and policy review

- Review and Accept Agenda: *Meeting purpose? Is the right amount of time allotted?*

Ann Kaplan moves to re-order the agenda, moving the student transfer request to the first order of business

II. Ownership Linkage (6:05)

- General Public Comment: *The Board welcomes comment but is not able to take any action. Comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker.*

No comments, no public attending.

- Reconfiguration Letter

Discussion surrounding the community letter issued by the board regarding reconfiguration, Anne Kaplan confirmed with Ryan Anderson that the letter had been posted on all community Front Porch Forums.

- Ownership Linkage Committee - status and plan for the year

Discussion about public engagement and what board members sit on the committee.

III. Board Process (6:15)

- Student transfer request (Action)

Board discusses with the family, and each other, the purpose behind the request and the needs and time. Michael Clark notes that EL 2.3 directs that students must come before the board for approval, the superintendent is unable to approve. The board states that White River must formally state if they will or will not pay tuition for this student, they want an agreement before accepting. Conversation about if the Chelsea School Board has been involved, suggestion that the family approach that school board and then return to OSSD board if tuition isn't approved. Ray Zapata wants OSSD to be the district that assists students with empathy and speed. Discussion of how to narrow any decision to reduce future abuse.

VOTE: Ryan Anderson moved to to deny the student's request with the understanding that Michael Clark will communicate that Randolph Union Middle & High School will welcome the student if Chelsea pays the tuition. Motion was seconded by Anne Kaplan. Motion failed. Anne Kaplan abstains.

VOTE: Bev Lauchner moves to table the request until Michael Clark has communicated with Jamie Kinnarney and the family has spoken with First Branch and come back to the OSSD board with results of that request. Motion was seconded by Ryan Anderson and passed unanimously.

IV. Board Education (6:10)

- Additional training to support Ends development & monitoring (Discussion)

Anne Kaplan would like to see more training on how to evaluate Ends and work with district leader. Michael Clark says if the Ends reports need to be done more often, he can do that. Discussion is tabled.

- Vermont School Board Association Annual Conference (Information)
 - October 29 3-8 pm Superintendent & Officer Training & Banquet
 - October 30 Full Day Annual Conference

Board members are asked to let Kyle Southworth know if they would like to attend so they can be registered.

V. Monitoring the Organization (7:40)

- Review EL 2.0, 2.8, 2.9 as supported by Board Policy 3.4 – first read

- Financials (Information in support of EL 2.3 Financial Conditions)

Discussion of surplus and higher revenue than expected due to interest earned, grants, etc. Michael Clark suggests exploring campus improvements if the district isn't going to reconfigure. Ray Zapata agreed, preferring to see money doing something rather than money sitting around.

VI. Policy Decisions for District Governance (8:00)

- All Policies for First Read
 - C12 Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX
 - C4 English Learners
 - D1 Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements
 - D4 Title 1 Comparability & Title 1, Part A
 - D24 Special Education (formerly D7)
- All policies for a second read (Action)
 - B1 Substitute Teachers
 - B4 Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees
 - B7 Tobacco Prohibition
 - C10 Policy on Prevention of Harassment, Hazing & Bullying of Students
 - C11 Freedom of Expression
 - F4 Access Control & Visitor Management

VOTE: Ray Zapata moved to accept policies B1, B4, B7, C10, C11 and F4 as presented. Motion was seconded by Ryan Anderson and passed unanimously.

VII. Monitoring the Board (8:05)

- *Board Self-Evaluation: Monitoring compliance with Board Governance Process and Board Management Delegation Policies.*
- GP 4.3 Agenda Planning

Board discusses self-avaluation.

VIII. Consent Agenda (8:10)

Board motion: I move to approve the Consent Agenda

- 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 July 8, 2026
- Approve updated signers on bank accounts
- Transportation Reserve Funds request
- New Hires

VOTE: Ryan Anderson moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Ray Zapata, Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Closing/Incidental Information (8:15)

- Superintendent's Report

Michael Clark discusses his report (enclosed in Board packet), touches on hiring, CESA and a recent tour of the new Burlington High School facility that he and Wes Gibbs went on. He asks if board members would be interested in touring the facility? The board

discusses, expressing interest in a tour and inviting other school boards to tour as well. Michael Clark will reach out to superintendents.

- Item Recap

Michael Clark will communicate with superintendents about a tour of the BHS facility

Michael Clark will communicate with Jamie Kinnarney regarding tuition for student

Michael Clark will advise the Board and contact legal for advice if First Branch isn't willing to approve tuition.

Board will schedule a special meeting to review student's transfer appeal if necessary.

Appealing family will be invited to any special meeting.

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

X. Executive Session (If needed)

Future Meetings

- Agenda Planning Meeting Monday August 31st @ 5:30
- RTCC Meeting: September 9, 2026 5 pm at RUHS Media Center
- Regular Board Meeting: September 9, 2026 6 pm at RUHS Media Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle M. Southworth

Kyle Southworth

Administrative Assistant, 8/18/2008