

AGENDA

Orange Southwest School District (OSSD)

Board Meeting, Wednesday September 9, 2026

RUMHS Media Center 6pm

(immediately following the RTCC RAB meeting)

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

I. Opening (6:00 pm)

- Board Attendance: *Ensuring a quorum* Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

Board: Ray Zapata, Ryan Anderson, Martha Hafner, Rachel Fish, Bev Lauchner, Anne Kaplan, Aimil Parmelee, Rachel Gaidys. Administration: Michael Clark, ORCA Media, Kyle Southworth. Virtual: Joe Bent.

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

Martha Hafner moves to have a conversation about Constitution Day. There is no second. After brief discussion of the scope of a policy governance board, the chair advances to the next agenda item.

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 public attending, no comments.

- Summer 2027 Facilities Projects with surplus

Michael Clark suggests to the board that they will need to make decisions about how best to use the \$3 million surplus funds. The board is referred to the Superintendent's Report for an overall view of what Michael Clark and the Facilities team are suggesting – projects include flooring, painting and environmental upgrades to the three elementary schools and the middle & high school building. Michael Clark outlines what the timetable could look like for any merger, noting that any improvements to our facilities (discussing heat pumps on the first floor at the high school) would improve student and staff comfort and experience for at least the next seven years.

Rachel Fish asks if funds might be better spent on staffing, especially during budget season. Michael Clark notes funds can be rolled into the '27-28 budget as revenue if that's what the board chooses to do. Ray Zapata notes that if the RUMHS theatre were to receive an upgrade, student enrichment in other schools should also be expanded. Bev Lauchner wonders if the board should continue discussion of an intentional middle

school, an idea that came out of the reconfiguration conversation months ago but wasn't pursued. Michael Clark points out that the high school and Brookfield schools both have many opportunities for improvement, including a fire suppression system in Brookfield. Ryan Anderson confirms that structural and safety issues in the schools aren't being tabled but would be completed using different funding.

At this point the board takes a five-minute break with no business discussion while a technology issue is being resolved.

- Voluntary Merger Study Update and Charge

Michael Clark introduces the draft charge document; the board discusses that the Vermont School Board Association is updating board members independently. Each board must designate a representative to attend meetings, but there is currently no mechanism that would provide a voice for any additional representatives from any single board.

VOTE: Rachel Fish moves to appoint Anne Kaplan as the representative to the merger study committee, Bev Lauchner seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

Ryan Anderson clarifies that any representative from the board would not have authority to make autonomous decisions. Rachel Fish notes they are interested in attending merger committee meetings as they are able, but not as a voting member. The board reviews the draft of the merger committee charge more critically.

VOTE: Aimil Parmelee moves to adopt the charge with Anne Kaplan as the voting member, Rachel Fish as non-voting. Ray Zapata seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

III. Board Process (6:30)

- Paine Mountain Request (Information)

Michael Clark reviews the letter received from the Paine Mountain School District and the proposed response. Discussion revolves around the potential effect PMSD's choice could have on the technical center. While PMSD is not undesignating RTCC, they are looking toward school choice.

- Discuss Teacher Negotiations/Intent to Negotiate Letter from OSEA

The board reminds that Ryan Anderson, Rachel Gaidys and Aimil Parmelee are on the teacher negotiation committee.

- Update on Support Staff Negotiations

Michael Clark states that, after mediation, the OSEA and district have reached an agreement. While legal teams are still developing language for the support staff CBA, that process should be completed in time for review and ratification at the next board meeting.

IV. Board Education (6:55)

- Vermont School Board Association Training Opportunity Policy Governance Training

VOTE: Ann Kaplan moves to purchase policy governance training for the board for \$500, Martha Hafner seconds. The motion passes 7-1 with Rachel Gaidys opposing.

- VSBA Regional Meeting on 10/15/2026
- Reminder Vermont School Board Association Annual Conference (Information)
 - October 29 3-8 pm Superintendent & Officer Training & Banquet
 - October 30 Full Day Annual Conference

Currently Anne Kaplan and Michael Clark are registered for the annual conference, Aimil Parmelee asks to also be registered, Michael Clark reminds that any board member wishing to attend should contact Kyle Southworth.

V. Monitoring the Organization (7:10)

- Second Read of Executive Limitation 2.0, 2.8, 2.9 as supported by Board Policy 3.4 (Action)

VOTE: Anne Kaplan moves to accept EL 2.0, 2.8 and 2.9 as written. Rachel Fish seconds, motion passes unanimously.

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

VI. Policy Decisions for District Governance (7:20)

- All Policies for a first read (Information)
 - B8 Electronic Communications, Employees & Students
 - C1 Education Records
 - C3 Transportation
 - C7 Student Attendance
 - F29 Flag Policy
- All Policies for second read (Action)
 - 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)

Aimil Parmelee notes she has been asked by a community member why the board is rewriting so many policies. The response is that these are standing policies that may have new language suggested by the VSBA and need to be reviewed and accepted by the board.

VOTE: Ryan Anderson moves to accept policies C12, C4, D1, D4 and D24 (formerly D7) as presented. Ray Zapata seconds, motion passes unanimously.

VII. Monitoring the Board (7:25)

- *Board Self-Evaluation: Monitoring compliance with Board Governance Process and Board Management Delegation Policies.*
- GP 4.2 Board Job Description - Self Evaluation

Board discusses how the year was robust as far as community communication and engagement.

VOTE: Ryan Andrson moves that the board has acted consistently, Martha Hafner seconds. The motion passes with 7 votes, Rachel Gaidys abstains.

VIII. Consent Agenda (7:40)

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 August 12, 2026
- New Hires

VOTE: Anne Kaplan moves to accept the consent agenda as presented, Ray Zapata seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

IX. Closing/Incidental Information (8:00)

- Superintendent's Report

Michael Clark advised the board there has been no further communication from the family who requested tuition waiver at the last meeting, and requested they review his interpretation of the board's policies.

- Authority to Accept Student

Discussion surrounding the availability of Jeanne Collins to work with the board to develop strong understanding of the board's responsibility and authority regarding non-tuition students.

- Item Recap

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

X. Executive Session (If needed)

Future Meetings

- Agenda Planning Meeting Monday October 9th @ 5:30
- Regular Board Meeting: October 14, 2026 6 pm at Randolph Elementary School

Respectfully submitted:

Kyle M Southworth

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Administrative Assistant, 9/11/2026