# Updated MINUTES

# Orange Southwest School District (OSSD)
## Board Meeting on Wednesday October 14, 2026
## Randolph Elementary School
## 6pm

**I.I. <u>Opening</u> (6:00 pm)** Meeting called to order by Board Chair at 6:05 pm

- Board Attendance: *Ensuring a quorum*

Board attending in person: Aimil Parmelee, Martha Hafner, Ryan Anderson, Anne Kaplan, Bev Lauchner, Rachel Gaidys; attending remotely: Rachel Fish. Administration: Michael Clark, ORCA, Kyle Southworth.

- Meeting Purpose: Budget Timeline Review and Board Education

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

Conversation regarding agenda additions, board policies and policy governance. Martha Hafner indicates interest in board education around curriculum.

**II. <u>Ownership Linkage</u> (6:05)**

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

Martha Hafner spoke as a community member about constitutional education as is taught to students.

- Budget Timeline Draft

Michael Clark asks for help from the community by completing the household income verification form for each of their students. This information affects state reporting and student count. Reminder that parent conferences are scheduled for all district schools on the afternoon of October 16 as well as the afternoon of October 23.
Michael Clark reviews the budget timeline as presented in the superintendent's report.

- Act 170 Updates/Warning Communication (Information)

Anne Kaplan updates the board on the Group 9 Act 170 Voluntary Merger Study Committee meeting held October 13 at RUMHS. This first meeting wasn't as productive as members may have wanted with no chair elected and no decision on how the number of votes per district will be assigned. The next meeting will be in November; the date is yet to be determined. Anne Kaplan states key elements are school choice, meeting structure and facilitation. People are willing to participate but aren't impressed with the process.
Michael Clark explains the difference between a limited public forum and an open public forum. The Orange Southwest School District website is a limited public forum, a status the district may lose if it publishes warnings and minutes of the Voluntary Merger Committee as has been requested. Community updates on progress and planned meetings will be available through letters by district representative, Anne Kaplan.

## III. Board Process (6:15)

- November Board Meeting on Veterans Day (potential Action)

VOTE: Anne Kaplan moves to change the November meeting date from No. 11 (Veterans Day) to the following Wednesday, Nov. 18. Seconded by Martha Hafner, the motion passes unanimously.

- VSBIT Annual Meeting (Action)
- VEHI Annual Meeting (Action)

VOTE: Ryan Anderson moves to assign votes for both the VEHI and VSBIT Annul Meetings to Michael Clark. Seconded by Bev Lauchner, the motion passes unanimously.

## IV. Board Education (6:30)

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

## V. Monitoring the Organization (6:45)

- First Read of Executive Limitation 2.1, 2.2 as supported by Board Policy 3.4

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

Michael Clark reports that while the district is early in the budget year, the figures look good.

## VI. Policy Decisions for District Governance (6:55)

- All Policies for a first read (Information)
    - B27 Public Complaints about Personnel
    - C9 Wellness & Comprehensive Health
    - C13 Students Who Are Homeless
    - F3 Fire & Emergency Preparedness Drills
- Bus Driver Employment Policy (First Read)

Michael Clark points out the change to include van drivers in the agreement.

- All Policies for second read (Action)
    - B8 Electronic Communications, Employees & Students

Bev Lauchner questions the reasoning behind Section II, A8 of the policy. Michael Clark says the distinction is an employee's ability to post to public social network sites at any time, while direct communication with students is limited.

- C1 Education Records
- C3 Transportation
- C7 Student Attendance
- F29 Flag Policy

VOTE: Anne Kaplan moves to accept Policies B8, C1, C3, C7 and F29 as presented.
Seconded by Ryan Anderson and the motion passes unanimously.

## VII. Monitoring the Board (7:05)

- *Board Self-Evaluation: Monitoring compliance with Board Governance Process and Board Management Delegation Policies.*
- GP 4.0 Global Governance Commitment - Self Evaluation

Board discusses.

## VIII. Consent Agenda (7:15)

**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 September 9, 2026, and October 1, 2026
- New Hires/Resignations

VOTE: Ryan Anderson moves to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Seconded by Bev Lauchner, motion passes unanimously.

## IX. Closing/Incidental Information (7:25)

- Superintendent's Report

Michael Clark announces the success of the Bass Fishing team in winning the championship. He reviews the October report.

- Item Recap

Michael Clark will update the budget timeline

## X. Executive Session (If needed) (7:45)

- Vote to move into executive session to discuss teacher negotiations.
  *Suggested motion: "I move to find that premature general public knowledge regarding teacher negotiations clearly places the board at a substantial disadvantage of disclosing its negotiation strategy."*

VOTE: Anne Kaplan moves to find that premature general public knowledge regarding teacher negotiations clearly places the board at a substantial disadvantage of disclosing its negotiation strategy. Seconded by Ryan Anderson, the motion passes unanimously.

*Suggested second motion: "I move to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing teacher negotiations under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)"*

VOTE: Anne Kaplan moves to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing teacher negotiations under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1). Seconded by Ryan Anderson, motion passes unanimously.

Board enters executive session at 7:10 pm with the superintendent present. Board members Bev Lauchner and Rachel Fish are recused. Board exits executive session with no action taken at 7:33 pm.

**Future Meetings**

- Agenda Planning Meeting Monday November 2nd @ 5:30
- Regular Board Meeting: November 11, 2026, 6 pm at Randolph Union High School

Respectfully submitted:

Kyle Southworth

Kyle Southworth
Administrative Assistant, 10/16/2026

## Executive Session Minutes Form

Name of Board : Orange Southwest School District

Date of Meeting: 10.12.26

Continuation of minutes provided by: Aimil Parmelee

## Executive Session

7:10 p.m. A motion was made by Anne Kaplan and seconded by

_____ to enter Executive Session to discuss

_____

with/without the Superintendent present.

Vote Passed/Failed _____-_____

7:33 p.m. The board exited Executive Session.

**As a result of the Executive Session:**

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by _____ and seconded by

_____ to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Aimil Parmelee