

Special Meeting of the Board
Orange Southwest School Board
November 18, 2022
5:00 PM
Randolph Elementary School

Attendees: All board members present
Anne Kaplan (chair), Hannah Arias, Sarah Haupt, Megan Sault, Katja Evans, Chelsea Sprague,
Rachel Gaidys, Layne Millington, & Heather Lawler

Additional attendees: Sam Hooper, Elaine Young, Tori Vinton, John Helfant, Jessica Allen &
ORCA Media Video Taping

5:03 Call to Order

Public Comment

John Helfant - There are some federal court cases that have come out that indicate that the access to locker rooms is going to change. Cited cases where religious freedom was given consideration over the request for gender identity being respected. Also spoke about Title IX and women's sports in schools.

5:08

Board Chair invites Sam Hooper to speak regarding his application for the open Brookfield board seat. He spoke to his background as a Brookfield resident and his belief in community service and inclusive education. Believes in public education and forward progress. Small business owner in Randolph with 12 employees. Most of his employees have students in our public school system. He has two nephews in RES. He will dedicate himself to learning. He also has some experience with boards and board work. He has a firm understanding of the work. His goal when working on boards is to listen and add value when appropriate. Works in a collaborative manner. He would appreciate the opportunity to serve as a representative of Brookfield.

5:16

Board Chair invites Elaine Young regarding their application for the open Brookfield board seat. She shared that she has thought about joining the school board for several years. She is not working from home and has more time to give back. She has a daughter in RUHS and sees a lot of the things happening that are reflective of our nation. She sees this as a great opportunity to learn more and understand the work of the board before applying formally for a vote. She is an educator and teaches college courses. Has a unique lens of experience concerning academic integrity. She understands that boards do not set curriculum, but she has experience with looking at data and outcomes. Experience as a parent in schools in multiple schools across Vermont and also experience working with faculty. These experiences give her a good background to learn and contribute to the board. I have already read some of the materials you sent. Identifies as a lifelong learner and is ready to take on this learning.

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Candidate asked, "What made each of you decide to join the board?"
Several board members shared their experiences.

Katja Evans motions to move to executive session to select the board appointment
Chelsea Sprague seconds the motion
Unanimous vote to go to executive session

5:30 - Executive session begins
5:45 - The board exited Executive Session

5:45
Public Comment
John Helfant - Asked a question about land being purchased. Board chair deferred the inquiry and directed the commenter to call the Superintendent with the question.

Megan Sault - Move to appoint Sam Hooper to the board
Sarah Haupt Seconded appointment
Unanimous vote to appoint Sam Hooper

Board Chair communicates the next steps to be sworn in and receive their school email and computer for official business.

5:48
Consent agenda

Board Chair requests an update on the RUHS heating situation. Superintendent reports that we have identified a vendor who can repair the heating system the first week of December for a return to instruction on December 5th. Provided an estimate for the cost of the repair. Discussion of the reality and expenses of relocating instruction to remote locations. Costs connected to temporary heating, heating fuel, and emergency range. Approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Katja Evans moves to approve the use of up to \$300,000 of reserve funds for heating repair
And \$34,060 for locker room improvements
Megan Sault Seconds
Unanimous vote to approve the use of reserve funds

5:59 PM
Katja Evans moves to enter executive session and invite the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to discuss personnel
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Hannah Arias seconds
Unanimous vote to enter executive session

6:29 PM The board exited Executive Session

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Megan Sault and seconded by Katja Evans to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Unanimous agreement to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lawler