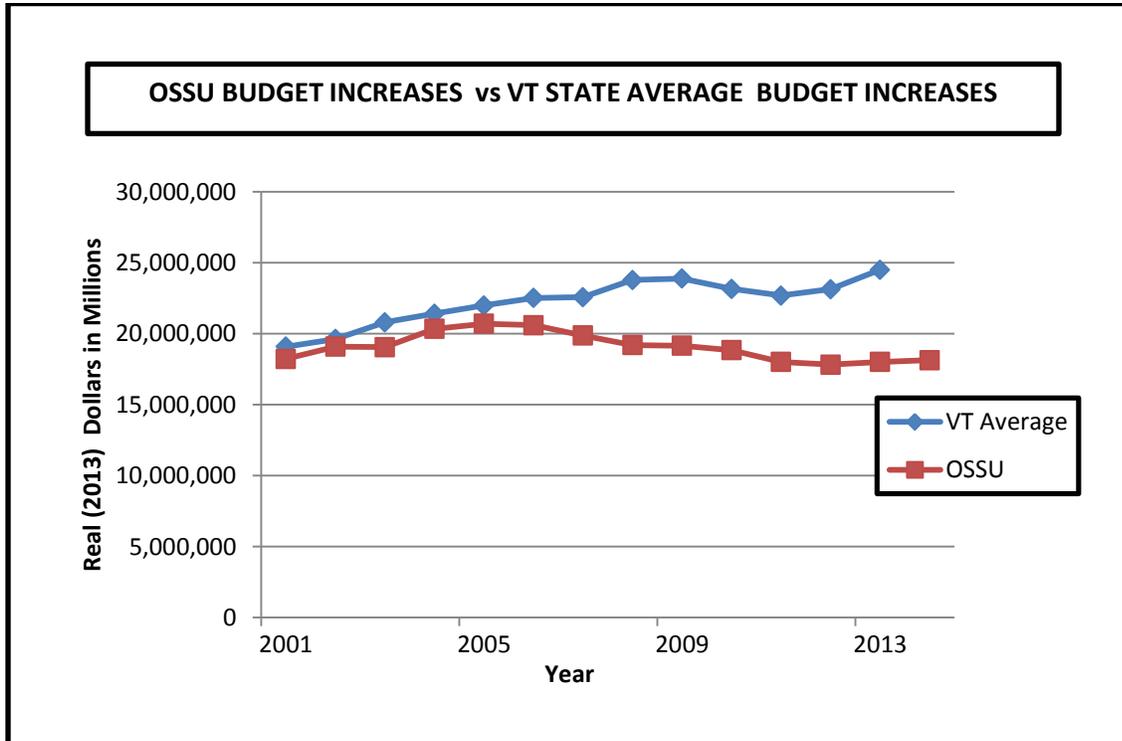


ORANGE SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION – 2014/2015 BUDGET SUMMARY

The school boards and administration of the Orange Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) are proud to present the 2014/2015 budgets. For many years, we have maintained strong fiscal control over expenditures. The chart below compares budget increases of the OSSU to the rest of Vermont’s school districts from 2001 to 2014. In real (2013) dollars, the OSSU has not increased its expenditures over the past decade. If the OSSU had of increased its expenditures at the same rate as the rest of Vermont’s school districts, we would have expended over \$38,000,000 more than we have.



Fiscal constraint of this magnitude does not occur by happenstance. Without the collaborative work of our school boards, administration, teachers, and support staff we could not have achieved these financial outcomes. Specifically, through collaborations in Transportation, Food Services, Technology, and Facilities Management, we have realized significant efficiencies which have allowed us to maintain and expand our educational offerings at no additional expense to our tax payers.

In 2013, the average Vermont school budget increased by 5.8% and in 2014 another 4% increase is anticipated. By Comparison, the proposed OSSU school budgets represent a .58% increase from the previous year and since 2006/2007, OSSU school budgets have increased, on average, by 0.22%. A review of audited expenditures in the table below demonstrates that actual school spending of OSSU schools has not increased in the past seven years.

	Actual		Actual		Actual		Actual		Actual		Actual		
SCHOOL	2006-2007	2007-2008	%	2008-2009	%	2009-2010	%	2010-2011	%	2011-2012	%	2012-2013	%
Braintree	1,513,083	1,507,981	(0)	1,479,572	(2)	1,482,450	0	1,379,798	(7)	1,395,315	1	1,332,421	(5)
Brookfield	1,371,525	1,294,472	(6)	1,350,989	4	1,300,096	(4)	1,310,005	1	1,326,248	1	1,337,282	1
Randolph	4,322,513	4,300,981	(0)	4,221,357	(2)	4,256,563	1	4,357,832	2	4,273,716	(2)	4,346,847	2
RUHS	7,905,989	7,925,164	0	8,019,764	1	7,893,129	(2)	7,867,287	(0)	7,970,352	1	7,969,012	(2)
RTCC	2,704,183	2,648,789	(2)	2,662,082	1	2,704,260	2	2,710,974	0	2,505,350	(8)	2,571,414	3
TOTAL	17,817,293	17,677,387	(1)	17,733,764	0	17,636,498	(1)	17,625,896	(0)	17,381,931	(1)	17,556,976	1

HOW OSSU BUDGETS ALIGN TO OUR GOALS

Staffing our schools with highly qualified people that are competitively compensated is essential for students to reach their potential and to academically succeed. Simply put, our people are the most important resource we have and without them we could not begin to rigorously pursue our goals in the areas of **Critical Thinking, Foundational Knowledge, Adaptability, and Technological Literacy**. In terms of our overall expenditures, approximately 80% of our fixed costs are attributed to salaries and benefits.

- All teachers in the OSSU hold professional teaching licenses through Vermont’s Agency of Education and are recognized as Highly Qualified. The OSSU hosts two regional collaboratives (VIP and RAVEN) that serve 21 sending towns. In the VIP program, we have one teacher that is licensed by the Vermont Agency of Education, but is not considered HQT.
- All staffing and related expenditures are competitive with state averages
- Since 2004, the OSSU has realized a 23% reduction in students and has responded by reducing its workforce by 22%. It is essential for any organization to remain “right-sized” to maintain effective and efficient use of resources
- Despite staff reductions, we’ve continued to expand staff professional development. For example, in recent years, we shifted resources to create Mathematics and Literacy coaches. In future years, we plan to expand this model to include Science. Curriculum coordination across schools and grades is a primary goal of the school district. I am pleased to state strong progress has been made toward this goal; however, the shift to the newly, Federally created Common Core Standards (CCS) has required us to take a step backwards so we can realign the work of the past five years to the new standards. The 2014/2015 budgets provide nearly \$163,000 for professional development.

Technology is playing a growing role in education and represents an essential medium for preparing students for the 21st Century. Technology expenditures center on professional development, software and hardware, maintenance, and network administration. All schools are wireless and we are quickly approaching our goal of creating an environment of 100% access to digital learning devices in all schools.

- \$438,000 is budgeted for technology, including \$240,000 for staffing. The remainder is allocated to equipment, connectivity, digital and virtual learning, and data management.
- During the summer and fall of 2013, the OSSU upgraded all schools to fiber networks, thereby significantly increasing its bandwidth and speed of connectivity. The upgrade was largely

completed in preparation for the new Common Core Standards and Smarter Balance Assessments (new Federal requirements).

Special Education services enable our school district to meet its legal obligations under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). ESEA ensures that students with disabilities receive an Equal Educational Opportunity. To that end:

- \$2.3 million is budgeted for special education services
- Approximately 18% of students receive special education services; however, 32% of students receive support services above and beyond the regular classroom
- \$224,000 is allocated for Occupational Therapy, Speech, Tutorials, and Testing services
- Federal Flow Through grants add nearly \$200,000 to cover expenditures in special needs services

Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) Grants are monies provided through the Federal government and are used to assist district academic and professional development needs. The major support categories for CFP grants include:

- \$105,000 to fund improvements and coordination in Mathematics
- \$14,000 to fund new teacher mentoring (legally required)
- \$87,307 to fund technology integration
- \$58,000 to fund improvements and coordination in Literacy

Materials and Supplies are an essential component of our budgets and ensure staff have the necessary resources to meet students' educational needs.

- \$360,292 is budgeted for materials and supplies

Facility Management is a significant budgetary allocation for all school districts. Modern, clean, and safe facilities are primary indicators of a successful school. Investing in school facilities ensures that our town's most valuable resources are maintained and directly link to improved student learning outcomes, pride and morale, and reduced vandalism.

- \$1,260,606 is budgeted for facilities maintenance for Brookfield, Braintree, Randolph, RUHS, RTCC, and the Central Office.
- Key, planned expenditures include renovations to the Central Office, continued improvements to our school security systems, begin replacing the roof at RTCC, and classroom upgrades in preparation for the new Foreign Language Immersion program at RTCC and problem solving laboratory at RUHS.

Summary. Completing the 2014/2015 budgetary process was not easy: there were significant cost impacts facing school districts, including a 4.5% increase in health care premiums, 7% increases in utilities, 7% increases in fuel costs, general inflationary impacts (CPI = 2.2%), and Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) commitments ranging from 1% to 3%. Despite these budgetary challenges, the

2014/2015 proposed budgets for Braintree, Brookfield, Randolph, and Randolph Union High School represent a 0.58% increase over the previous year.

- Brookfield School = -6.4% decrease
- Braintree School = -1.12% decrease
- Randolph School = +1.38% increase
- RUHS = +1.71% increase

As you are aware, for two years the OSSU has been working with Middlebury College and Middlebury Interactive to create a comprehensive full-day, full-year Foreign Language Immersion (Spanish) program at the Randolph Technical Career Center (RTCC). This innovative program will begin in the fall of 2014 and use Middlebury College's state-of-the-art curriculum, teacher professional development, student assessments, and will serve the 7 sending high schools for the region. Those students who successfully complete the program, they will be guaranteed enrollment in Middlebury College's summer language institute. The program will be the first of its kind in Vermont and will provide students in the central Vermont region access to a world class foreign language education program.

To further move our teaching-learning environment into the 21st Century, RUHS is planning on implementing a problem solving laboratory in the fall of 2014. The laboratory will require teams of students from Grades 9 through 12 to work collaboratively to solve real-life local, regional, national, and international problems. The student teams will be required to develop a methodology to solve identified problems, propose a financial plan to cover expenses, and develop a community engagement plan in order to demonstrate their work to our tax payers.

Lastly, the OSSU is planning to expand its early education services beginning in the fall of 2014. Currently, the OSSU provides early education services to our neediest children. Our intent is to improve the Kindergarten readiness of our local children. There is substantial research demonstrating that investments in early education result in better student outcomes and graduation rates.