

Old Saybrook Board of Education
50 Sheffield Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
(860) 395-3157

The Old Saybrook Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at the Old Saybrook Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Board Members

Tara Barros
Jim Henderson
Eileen Baker
Karina Julius
George Chang
Cindy Sultini
Jan Furman
Karen Brodeur

Others

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools
Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Sheila Riffle, Old Saybrook High School Principal
Krista Bauchman, Old Saybrook Middle School Principal
Heston Sutman, Goodwin School Principal

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Barros called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

II. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Audience of Citizens

Chairman Barros reminded the audience members of the rules for addressing the Board of Education. Chairman Barros asked Secretary Brodeur to keep time for each audience member while the audience member addressed the Board.

A member of the audience of citizens discussed an incident at the high school and the negative effect the incident has had on his son. The audience member expressed that his son has a right to feel safe at school and that the fallout from the incident could prove to be a distraction.

A member of the audience of citizens discussed the aforementioned incident at the high school and the emotional impact that the incident has had on her son. She expressed displeasure regarding communication of this incident from the District to the parents of the students involved.

A member of the audience of citizens discussed the aforementioned incident at the high school and her concern for the safety of her daughter. The audience member asked that the District create a plan for addressing student safety regarding this issue and the emotional wellbeing of the students who were involved so that they can continue to reach their academic potential without distraction.

A member of the audience of citizens discussed the aforementioned incident at the high school and the negative impact the event has had on her daughter. The audience member also expressed that information was being passed throughout the community regarding the incident, which is spreading the emotional distress to students outside the high school, including her son at Goodwin Elementary.

A member of the audience of citizens discussed the aforementioned incident at the high school and expressed concern that she felt the District's actions regarding the incident are not congruent with a message to students to report suspicious activity that is seen or heard.

A member of the audience of citizens expressed concerns regarding an alleged incident involving her child and a teacher in the District during the 2017-2018 academic year. The audience member also noted disagreement with the administration's handling of the matter. She stated that she was concerned about student safety in general.

A member of the audience of citizens discussed the primary incident at the high school and stated that she did not agree with the way the Administration handled the incident. She further stated that the victims of the incident should not return to school in fear.

A member of the audience of citizens discussed the aforementioned incident at the high school and gave his opinion regarding how the situation could have been handled, drawing parallels from previous experiences.

Reports from the Student/Board of Education Representatives

Music:

- Shoreline Music Festival had their first rehearsal on Wednesday 10/3, and the performance will be Thursday 10/11

Theatre:

- Final casting decisions were made for the musical and the cast list has been released.
- Play rehearsals are continuing smoothly

Sports:

- Girls Soccer: 1-6-1
 - While the team has put up some unfortunate stats, all the games have been very close. The coaches have been reported to be keeping the team's spirits high and optimistic.
 - Thursday: Home game against Valley Regional
- Boys Soccer: 5-2-1
 - Reported to be half way through the season.
 - Tomorrow: Varsity away at Portland
- Girls Field Hockey: 3-4-1
 - October 2nd: The girls won against North Branford, a rare sight for the past few years. Senior Mandy Beck had 3 goals and our defense managed to effectively hold off the opponents.
 - Tomorrow: Home game against Valley Regional
- Football: 1-2
 - This past Saturday the boys played their rivals Valley Regional/Old Lyme with the support of the pep band.

- Cross Country:
 - This past weekend, both the girls and boys teams travelled to Wickham park to run the invitational. This course will be the same one the athletes run for their State Championships.
- Thursday: Mega Meet, Hale Ray (Shoreline Championships course)

Other:

- The new Spanish class *Exploramos* is working well. With a mixture of focus between Spanish and community outreach, it is proving to be a good option for seniors, similar to *English in Action*.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was addressed to the Board of Education:

- Kids Lunch Bunch Thank You – Kathy Cobb
- Ram-tivities Dinner Menu – Liam Welsh
- Rambler – OSHS School Newspaper
- CABA Journal with memo from Superintendent Perruccio

III. MINUTES

Baker/Brodeur

“Move to approve the September 25, 2018, regular minutes, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

Baker/Brodeur

“Move to approve the September 27, 2018, special minutes, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

IV. EDUCATION ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Field Trip Request – CMEA All-State

Board of Education policy requires that overnight field trips be approved by the Board of Education. The following overnight trip is taking place this spring. This field trip has been taken in past years and has the support of the building principal and superintendent.

The CMEA All-State Music Festival will take place on April 11 through April 13, 2019. Students who qualify to participate in this event will travel to Hartford, CT on Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 a.m. There will be a two-day rehearsal period, which will culminate in a concert on Saturday, April 13 at the Bushnell Theater.

Baker/Henderson

“Move to approve the CMEA All-State Music Festival field trip, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

Field Trip Request – New England Music Festival

Board of Education policy requires that overnight field trips be approved by the Board of Education. The following overnight trip is taking place this spring. This field trip has been taken in past years and has the support of the building principal and superintendent.

The New England Music Festival will take place from March 21 through March 23, 2019. Students who qualify to participate in this event will travel to Woodstock Academy in Woodstock, CT on Thursday, March 21 at 8:00 a.m. There will be a two-day rehearsal period, which will culminate in a chorus concert at 2:00PM and a band concert at 4:00PM on Saturday, March 23 at Woodstock Academy.

Brodeur/Julius

“Move to approve the New England Music Festival field trip, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, presented the results of the 2018 administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This assessment has now been administered to Connecticut students in grades three through eight for three consecutive years. This presentation will describe student achievement in English language arts and mathematics, examine trends in achievement and student population and articulate the district’s action plan as it relates to this data. Highlights from the presentation include:

- There is more poverty in Old Saybrook than is generally perceived and it can be difficult to advocate for resources that many of our families and students need.
- It can be very challenging to know who we need to help because of confidentiality and restrictions on information.
- We have a growing population of ELL students with the majority of those students speaking Spanish.
- The scores generally regressed from last year to this year though is similar to previous years
- There is an action plan being put into place to help students have higher scores on the test. We won’t be teaching to the test but helping kids understand what the test looks like

The data from the 2017-2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment confirm that the work of the Strategic Plan is the right work. The District must have personalized curriculum and instruction to support the changing and diverse student population.

District Committee List

It is District practice to email committee minutes to all staff members and Board of Education members during the academic year in an effort to keep all Old Saybrook Public Schools employees informed about the work being done throughout the District. As part of this initiative, the District Leadership Team maintains and shares a list of District committees and their respective members with the Board. The Superintendent of Schools provided the Board with the 2018-2019 District Committee list.

Committee/Liaison Assignments

At their meeting on September 25, 2018, the Board of Education was given the current Board of Education Committee/Liaison List, asked to review vacancies and consider volunteering to fill those vacancies as their schedule permits. The Board reviewed and discussed the Committee/Liaison List a second time to fill the vacant seats and/or make any other revisions to the list that the Board approves.

The following changes were made the Board of Education's Committee/Liaison Assignments:

- Alan Hyla will become the Chairman of the Facilities Committee
- Karina Julius will join the Budget and Fiscal Committee
- Cindy Sultini joined the Facilities Committee
- Tara Barros will be removed from the Budget and Fiscal Committee
- Jim Henderson joined the Budget and Fiscal Committee
- Tara Barros joined the Superintendent/Administrator Negotiation Team
- Jan Furman joined the Paraeducator Negotiation Team
- Jan Furman joined Non-Bargaining Unit Negotiation Team
- Jim Henderson joined Teachers Negotiation Team
- Eileen Baker will become a school liaison to Goodwin
- Jan Furman will be the liaison to LEARN as her schedule permits

Brodeur/Furman

“Move to add Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs to the agenda”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs

The District recently received Operational Memorandum No. 14-18 from the State of Connecticut Department of Education.

“The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires state agencies (SA) to provide each school food authority (SFA) with a single Permanent Agreement (Agreement) when the SA administers any combination of the USDA Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). Under the advisement of the USDA, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has revised the CNP Permanent Agreement, to include all programs currently available to SFA’s.”

“The new Agreement is more robust in its language to outline the responsibilities of both the CSDE and the SFA as they pertain to each CNP. As the previous version of this form is now obsolete, all SFAs that wish to continue their sponsorship of the CNPs **must** enter into a new permanent agreement with the CSDE.”

“The last page of the Agreement designates the representatives who are authorized to enter into such Agreement with the CSDE and certify claims for reimbursement for meals. Action from the local board of education or appropriate governing body must occur to execute this new Agreement, and designate the authorized signers so that SFAs may submit claims and avoid delays.”

The new agreement must be voted upon by the board to authorize Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools to be the authorized representative to enter into this agreement and to certify claims for reimbursement for meals and to have Julie Pendleton, Director of Operations, Facilities and Finance as the alternate.

Furman/Julius

“Move to authorize Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools to be the authorized representative to enter into this agreement and to certify claims for reimbursement for meals and to have Julie Pendleton, Director of Operations, Facilities and Finance as the alternate”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

V. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Audience of Citizens

The members of the audience of citizens asked the Superintendent to clarify procedures for asking questions of the Board of Education, asking questions of the Administration and where to find posted District information.

The Superintendent responded that District information pertinent to Board Meetings is posted on the District website, as well as with the Town Clerk. Typically, the Board charges the administration to respond to the questions from the public as promptly as possible. The Superintendent further explained that she is legally obligated to remain silent regarding student discipline issues.

VI. REMINDERS

- OSHS – Parent Action Council – October 10 – 6:00PM
- OSHS – PTO Meeting – October 10 – 7:00PM
- OSHS – Shoreline Music Festival – October 11
- District – Demographics Committee – October 15 – 6:00PM
- District – Budget and Fiscal Committee – October 15 – 7:00PM
- OSMS – PTO Meeting – October 15 – 7:30PM
- OSHS – Fall Chamber Music & Small Group – October 18 – 7:30PM
- District – 2nd Annual Lose Your Locks with Luke – October 20 – 2:30-6:00PM
- KGS – PTA Fall Festival – October 21 – 11:00AM-2:00PM
- District – Board of Education Meeting – October 23 – 7:00PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Baker/Henderson

“Move to adjourn at 9:27PM”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

Karen Brodeur, Secretary
Old Saybrook Board of Education

Minutes recorded and typed by:
Trent Gerbers, Executive Assistant
*DRAFT - Subject to approval at the next BOE meeting