

OLD SAYBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
60 Sheffield Street  
Old Saybrook CT 06475  
(860) 395-3157

The Old Saybrook Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at the Old Saybrook Middle School, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

**Board Members**

Kelley Kennedy  
Joanne Sullivan  
Philip Broadhurst  
Eileen Baker  
James Henderson  
George Chang  
Alan Hyla

**Others**

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools  
Kathy Bai, Director of Pupil and Professional Services  
Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Julie Pendleton, Director of Operations, Facilities, and Finance  
Sheila Riffle, Principal of Old Saybrook High School  
Mandy Ryan, Principal of Old Saybrook Middle School  
Matt Walton, Associate Principal of Old Saybrook Middle School

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

II. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Audience of Citizens

No citizens addressed the Board of Education

Student Representative Reports

The Board of Education Student Representatives reported the following:

- Boys and Girls Basketball double header on Tuesday, January 3, 2017
- Boys Basketball – Thursday, January 5, 2017, against Westbrook
- Swimming and Diving – Friday, January 6, 2017, against New London

Correspondence

- CABE's Day on the Hill: March 8, 2017, 8:30AM
- Old Saybrook High School Rambler

III. CONSENT AGENDA

**Sullivan/Baker**

**“Move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (7-0-0)**

#### IV. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

##### Old Saybrook Middle School Spotlight – Integration

Old Saybrook Middle School Principal Mandy Ryan and Associate Principal Matt Walton, with assistance from Middle School Teachers Kate Hanratty, Patty Marshall, Jen Pesce, and Tim Wood, as well as Middle School students John Witczak and Catherine Minegar, presented a detailed look at English/Language Arts Integration at Old Saybrook Middle School and how ELA integration provides authentic learning opportunities for students by developing a value for strong literacy skills in all areas. Principal Ryan, Associate Principal Walton, and the Old Saybrook Middle School teachers discussed how ELA Integration connects with the district’s strategic plan and connects to building level goals such as:

- Personalization of learning: Students will set academic goals in grades 4-8 for every unit in every content area.
- Content Integration: Content area integration and focus on student work which is most meaningful and essential will result in increased student learning outcomes.
- Establish consistent standards-based practices, assessments and grading for student learning.

After reviewing the challenges and successes of the Integration, the two Old Saybrook Middle School Students, John and Catherine, presented a specific example of how ELA Integration is being implemented in the classroom. John and Katherine presented the Egypt and Mesopotamia 6<sup>th</sup> grade projects and how they are achieved. The students explained each group project to the Board, the various steps of each project and the milestones that needed to be completed for success. The students also explained that one project was teamwork based, while the other project was a solo effort with room for individuality. The students also described the resources that were used during the research phase of their project and how those resources helped them complete their project. The students concluded by discussing how the skills they gained during this project could be used in different subject areas.

To conclude the ELA Presentation, Principal Ryan described the next steps for this program, which are:

- Initiate formal integration in Science & Math
- Continued refinement of the vision in ELA/SS
- Intentional integration (Grades 4/5)

##### Section 504 Presentation

Old Saybrook Director of Pupil and Professional Services Kathy Bai presented a detailed look at Section 504 and how it affects students, employees, and parents within the district. Director Bai specifically discussed Section 504 and how it relates to the Individuals with Disabilities Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Director Bai also discussed who is eligible for Section 504, rights under Section 504

and accommodations that are made. The goal of this legislation is to provide accommodations and services to students and employees with qualifying disabilities in order to provide access to general education and extra curricular activities. There are currently 114 individuals in the district who qualify under Section 504.

Director Bai communicated various challenges regarding Section 504 including:

- Determining when an impairment presents as a substantial limitation
- Providing and tracking impact of accommodations for multiple students in a classroom
- Determining when to reduce or eliminate accommodations in order to increase independence

Director Bai discussed the next steps for Section 504 within the district, which include:

- Create a new manual on procedures for 504 eligibility and monitoring
- Continued focus on improving tracking of efficacy of accommodations
- Continued emphasis on child find

#### 2016-2017 Budget Update

Director Pendleton and Superintendent Perruccio discussed a reduction from the state for the 2016-2017 year in the amount of almost \$103,000 in ECS funding. Currently, the district is not looking to implement a freeze of accounts or cut staff, but spending will be cautious and conservative, as more cuts from the state are possible. Money that was earmarked for capital maintenance projects will be used to supplement this reduction, if needed. The operating budget is currently operating at a surplus. The second quarter just closed and preliminarily looks favorable.

The district remains in a very stable financial position for this current fiscal year. Savings from hiring and from changes in plan design and employee contributions has contributed significantly to the bottom line surplus. The district is still waiting to hear about the excess cost reimbursement for this current year and anticipate that there might be some reductions; however, we anticipate that the current surplus will cover any changes that might take place.

The budget development process is well underway for 2017-2018. Adjustments and final proofing have been completed. The Budget and Fiscal committee began the process of reviewing the Superintendent's requests on January 3, 2017, at their committee meeting prior to the Board of Education Meeting.

The district continues to work on addressing facility needs. The electronic sign at the Middle School has been installed and will be wired during the winter break should weather permit. The town public works department has laid the conduit, poured the pad and installed the sign for the Board of Education.

Recently, the High School experienced some trouble with the compressor in the wood shop, which is currently being repaired. The compressor may need to be replaced or potentially move one that is not being used at the Middle School to the High School.

Residency Approval – Permission to remain at Old Saybrook High School

Principal Riffle and Superintendent Perruccio support the petition of the student to continue her studies at Old Saybrook High School for the remainder of the 2016-2017 academic year.

**Baker/Hyla**

**“Move to approve the request to continue studies at Old Saybrook High School for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (7-0-0)**

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Sullivan/Baker**

**“Move to enter into Executive Session at 9:34 PM for the purposes of discussing pending litigation”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (7-0-0)**

The Board invited Superintendent Perruccio and Director Pendleton into Executive Session.

VI. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 9:55 PM.

**Baker/Sullivan**

“Move to allow the Board Chair to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Board to settle the mediated issues associated with the Turf Field, Track and Tennis Courts Project as crafted by the Board attorney”

MOTION: CARRIED (7-0-0)

VII. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Audience of Citizens

No citizens addressed the Board of Education.

VIII. REMINDERS

- Middle School PTO Math-a-thon – January 4, 2017
- Goodwin PTA Meeting – January 5, 2017
- College Planning Night – January 9, 2017
- High School PTO Meeting – January 11, 2017
- Winter Concert @ OSHS – January 12, 2017
- Martin Luther King Day – School Closed – January 16, 2017
- Board of Education Regular Meeting – January 17, 2017 – 7:30PM

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Baker/Sullivan**

**“Move to adjourn at 10:01 PM”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (7-0-0)**

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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