

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, February 28, 2017, at the Old Saybrook Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Board Members

Joanne Sullivan
Karen Brodeur
Philip Broadhurst
Eileen Baker
James Henderson
George Chang
Alan Hyla
Holly King

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
Heston Sutman, Principal of Kathleen E. Goodwin School

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 are competing in post-season play
- Juniors are making their Washington DC trip this Thursday and Friday
- Senior class is having a mattress sale fundraiser on March 11
- 35 kids came to Hunger Dinner at Old Saybrook High School
- The Hypnotist that was cancelled at the high school because of the snow day has been reschedule to perform on March 14
- The Spring Musical, The Adams Family, will be performed between March 23-25
- Spring sports night is on March 13
- Connecticut Drama Association Festival is March 10
- Cover of Board of Education Budget features student artwork

Correspondence

- Letter from Old Saybrook/Westbrook Youth Football Organization requesting a waiver to the field use invoice from Old Saybrook Public Schools
- 2017-2018 CABA Staff Speaker List

- Owens Realty Letter

III. MEETING MINUTES

Brodeur/Baker

“Move to approve the February 7, 2017, Special Meeting Minutes as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (7-0-1)

Board Member King Abstained

IV. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

2016-2017 Budget Update

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

The budget for 2016-2017 remains in good financial standing. The District received its Education Cost Sharing (ECS) payment for the remainder of this year. In this grant, prior year adjustments for the Special Education Excess Cost Grants are added or deducted. There were several changes in these calculations resulting in a \$31,363 reduction to the already reduced Excess Cost Grant, resulting in a final grant amount of \$91,544 instead of \$122,907. The District also received the anticipated grant for Agency Placement/Excess Cost for this current year as well. This total is \$492,096, assuming nothing changes on the next financial filing on these expenditures. There is a possibility of cost increasing or decreasing prior to June 30, 2017, for any of the students currently placed.

FACILITY UPDATES:

The District continues to work on maintaining and repairing facility needs as required, though some projects have been postponed because of the state cuts to the budget. Recently, there were safety repairs that had to be made to all the basketball hoops at both the High School and the Middle School. These hoops were original to the buildings and were no longer safe to raise and lower by the cable system that was in place. These have been replaced with motorized lifts that have safety latches and can be moved with a remote instead of a manual system.

It has been reported that the high school has experienced some trouble with the compressor in the wood shop. It will be replaced with a new model and installed once it arrives.

There was a flood at the high school in December. Although there was no visible damage, the Steinway Grand piano was damaged by the humidity created by this flood. It resulted in a cracked soundboard. The District received two quotes and sent them to the insurance company, which has agreed to pay all but the deductible of

\$1000. The total repair is just under \$10,000. It will take four to six weeks for this work to be done.

There have been some minor heating issues that are typical for the winter months, which have been addressed. These are repairs such as motors, coils, and control adjustments.

Math Pilot Presentation

Megin Sechen, District Math Coach and Coordinator, and Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, shared the district's choice of a K-8 math program as the math pilot draws to a conclusion. The pilot followed the Program Planning Flowchart and was conducted over more than a year.

Each of the three programs piloted was highly rated for alignment to the standards, rigor and usability. Each had established pros and cons, which were seen replicated in the pilot. The pilot process included a materials and data review, parent input, student input, teacher training, reflection, and ongoing collaboration, and a review of student outcomes.

The three programs piloted were: Bridges in Mathematics, Core Connections, and Eureka Math.

Some of the qualitative pros include:

- *Teacher Comment **Bridges***: “The incredible student discourse Bridges elicits through the hands-on investigations and great progression of concepts from concrete to abstract.”
- *Teacher Comment **CPM***: “There are some good contextual problems.”
- *Teacher Comment **Eureka***: “The program has a lot of rigor-it provides 'just right' challenge for my students; while I was concerned at the beginning of the year about the level of rigor for my SRBI and SPED students-they have all met the rigor of the program with a positive attitude and success-nobody complains it is easy; rather we have great conversations about the value of strategies, practice, and hard work.”

Some of the qualitative cons include:

- *Teacher Comment **Bridges***: “The biggest con about the program is all of the pieces. I love them all as separate entities and they have significant value; however, managing all of it is overwhelming. Having Number Corner...and then the home connection journal, number corner journal, student journal, work stations and the manuals... and manipulatives is tricky to manage.”
- *Teacher Comment **CPM***: “Total group work coupled with the lack of mastery. The spiraling idea is great, but the kids never seem to stay with one topic long enough to really get it.”

- *Teacher Comment Eureka:* “The biggest con is that so many of my colleagues favor Bridges for these young children. They believe with all their hearts that Bridges is MORE developmentally appropriate for their students. To teach well is to teach with GUSTO: you have to believe in it to do it well. I'm so afraid that Eureka might not be taught as passionately, if the teachers don't view it as the best program for their students.”

Challenges to the pilot include:

- Limited objective student outcome data
- Varying class makeup and small cohort sizes – internal validity
- Length of pilot was both too long and too short
- Varying needs of students & teachers, K-8
- No clear, overwhelming program choice; all of the programs piloted offer solid math sequence for instruction with varied strengths and weaknesses

Successes from the pilot include:

- Initial outcome data (September to January) shows that students will be better off in a research-based math program than without.
- Local findings were very similar to EdReports data, suggesting that we chose the right programs to pilot.
- All three of the piloted programs produced good outcomes for students.
- We have a clear path for the future, which will enable ongoing professional learning and coaching to move forward.
- **We used the Program Planning Flowchart which allowed us to make the decision that is best for students.**

The presentation concluded with a recommendation from the District Leadership Team that the Board of Education approve and adopt Bridges in Mathematics as the District's K-5 math program and Eureka Math as the District's 6-8 math program.

Brodeur/Baker

“Move to adopt Bridges in Mathematics as the Old Saybrook Public Schools’ K-5 math program and Eureka Math as the Old Saybrook Public Schools’ 6-8 math program, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

Turf Field, Track and Tennis Courts Invoice

Guerrera Construction has submitted a final payment requisition #011 for the Turf, Track and Tennis Court Project at Old Saybrook High School in the amount of \$17,121.35. This payment is the balance due and represents the retainage for this project. All required documents and warranty information have been received and approved by the engineer. The Engineer, BSC, has approved and certified the

application for payment. The Turf Field, Track and Tennis Courts Subcommittee has reviewed this payment application and has recommended approval by the Board of Education.

Broadhurst/Brodeur

“Move that the Board of Education approves the payment application from Guerrero Construction Company, Inc. #11 in the amount of \$17,121.35, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

V. REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

Goodwin – There is new professional development for teachers regarding reading progress and reading instruction. A team of teachers and Principal Sutman will attend.

Old Saybrook Middle School – The Middle School was randomly selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress Test, which is conducted nationally. The information is gathered to compare Connecticut scores against the nation.

The Old Saybrook Middle School Musical, *High School Musical*, will be performed on March 30th and 31st.

Screenagers is a documentary on the impact of technology on children and teenagers. The movie will be shown on March 15 at 6:30. There will be a facilitated discussion following the film.

Old Saybrook High School – Old Saybrook High School is looking into visiting a High School in Maine to examine the logistics of a 1 week half credit courses that dive strongly into one content area.

Mini-Senior Project presentations may be displayed at report card night in the spring. Although projects will not be completed, they will be presentable by this point.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment – There was no additional report.

Operations, Facilities, and Finance – There was no additional report.

Pupil and Professional Services – There was no additional report.

Superintendent – There was no additional report.

VI. REPORTS BY BOARD COMMITTEES/LIAISONS

Budget and Fiscal – Vice Chairman Sullivan thanked the Board and Administrators for the work that went into creating and approve the 2017-18 Budget. Board Budget books were distributed.

CABE – Board Member Baker stated that CABE: A Day on the Hill will be on March 8, 2017. She will be in attendance with Superintendent Perruccio and Director Pendleton.

Facilities – Board Member Broadhurst informed the Board that the Facilities Committee met prior to the Board meeting and began gathering information about solar energy for the district.

LEARN – Board Member Broadhurst stated that the February 9th meeting was cancelled due to weather and the next meeting is March 9th.

Strategic Plan – There was no additional report.

Personnel – Board Member Brodeur stated that the Spring Board Evaluation meeting will be on March 28th, with a 5:00PM arrival time and a 5:30PM start time.

Policy – Board Member Baker stated that the next Policy Committee meeting will be on March 7 at 6:30PM.

PTO/PTO/Ram Boosters – There was no additional report.

Chairman Report – There was no additional report.

VII. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Audience of Citizens

No citizens addressed the Board of Education.

VIII. REMINDERS

- 2017-2018 Kindergarten Registration Begins – March 1
- Grade 4 Spring Choral Concert – March 1 – 7:00PM
- Goodwin PTA Meeting – March 2 – 7:00PM
- Southern Region School Festival – March 3&4
- RAM Boosters Meeting – March 6 – 7:00PM
- Policy Committee Meeting – 6:30PM
- High School Parent Action Council – March 8 – 6:00PM
- High School PTO Meeting – March 8 – 7:00PM
- Special Board of Education Meeting – March 9 – 6:00PM
- High School Sports Night – March 13 – 6:30PM
- Middle School Parent Council Meeting – March 13 – 6:45PM

- Middle School PTO Meeting – March 13 – 7:30PM
- Board of Education Regular Meeting – March 14 – 7:30PM
- Screenagers – Film being shown at OSMS – 6:30PM

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Baker/King

“Move to adjourn at 9:01 PM”

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