

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

The Old Saybrook Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at the Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Board Members

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

Others

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools
Anne Littlefield, Shipman and Goodwin Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Perruccio called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Superintendent Perruccio reviewed the voting procedures with the Board of Education. Superintendent Perruccio said she would facilitate the election for Chairman and then the newly elected Chairman would facilitate the subsequent elections for Vice Chairman and Secretary.

Superintendent Perruccio opened the floor for nominations before each vote.

Board Member Chang nominated Tara Barros for Chairman. Several Board Members seconded the nomination. The nomination was accepted.

The vote was called.

The election results for the position of Chairman of the Board of Education is as follows:

Tara Barros – 9 votes

Board Member Baker voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Barros voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Brodeur voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Chang voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Furman voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Henderson voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Hyla voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Julius voted for Tara Barros
Board Member Sultini voted for Tara Barros

Tara Barros was elected as Board of Education Chairman.

Chairman Barros assumed control of the meeting.

Chairman Barros nominated Alan Hyla for Vice Chairman. The nomination was accepted.

The vote was called.

The election results for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Education is as follows:

Alan Hyla – 9 votes

Board Member Baker voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Barros voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Brodeur voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Chang voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Furman voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Henderson voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Hyla voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Julius voted for Alan Hyla
Board Member Sultini voted for Alan Hyla

Alan Hyla was elected as Board of Education Vice Chairman

Board Member Henderson nominated Karen Brodeur for Secretary. Chairman Barros seconded the nomination. The nomination was accepted.

The vote was called.

The election results for the position of Secretary of the Board of Education is as follows:

Karen Brodeur – 9 votes

Board Member Baker voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Barros voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Brodeur voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Chang voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Furman voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Henderson voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Hyla voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Julius voted for Karen Brodeur
Board Member Sultini voted for Karen Brodeur

Karen Brodeur was elected as Board of Education Secretary

III. MINUTES

Baker/Brodeur

“Move to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 22, 2019, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-1)

Board Member Hyla abstained.

IV. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Board Roles, Responsibilities, and Operations – Review of Board of Education Handbook

Board Members discussed how the Handbook provides a guide for the conduct of Board members and explains common situations that arise in service as a Board Member. Some discussion occurred regarding the distinction between speaking as a Board Member versus speaking as a parent or community member and clearly making the distinction between the two. All Board Members were invited to offer feedback for continuous improvement.

Board Roles, Responsibilities, and Operations – Board of Education Member Committee/Liaison Appointments

The Board discussed Board Member Committee/Liaison appointments. Chairman Barros invited individual Board members to express interest in different committee appointments (Budget and Fiscal, Policy, Personnel and Facilities). The Board discussed the purpose and relevance of the Ad Hoc Turf Field Committee. Additionally, Chairman Barros discussed adding Board Members to other committees, such as Demographics and Collective Bargaining.

The Board then discussed school liaison positions. Historically these positions were created to encourage individual Board members to attend events at the schools. The Board also discussed the possibility of participating with the local prevention council. The Superintendent stated that she would follow up with the organization to see if they would be open to having a liaison from the Board join their group.

Communications and Public Relations – General Update

The Superintendent reported on the communications efforts of the District, including the rollout of the new website and the new mobile application. This year’s public relations group has worked on the development of a horizontal logo for display on the district website. The horizontal logo will be brought before the Board of Education at

a future meeting. Superintendent Perruccio also presented information on the use of the district mobile application. One possibility to drive traffic to the application would be to permit students to buy their lunches through the application. Board members expressed appreciation for the data on the app and questioned whether the Board/District has a goal for use of the app/number of views/usage. The district communications strategy is intentionally redundant regarding the various means used to reach families/students so as not to rely on one channel of communication. Some discussion occurred about what is realistic to expect in terms of a participation goal.

Superintendent Perruccio presented the new budget format, which starts with the district theory of action and celebrations, followed by District goals. The format will cover the drivers of budget increases, programs in place, data on student achievement and educational mandates. In response to questions posed in the past by municipal officials, the budget information will include comparative information related to expenditures in other neighboring communities, the number of teaching positions, and the history of health insurance costs. Board members discussed different types of data about district needs that could be presented through the budget presentation.

Communications and Public Relations – School Safety Update

Attorney Littlefield gave the Board an update on discussions related to the proposed memorandum of understanding with the Old Saybrook Police Department. Attorney Littlefield stated that she has spoken with the Police Chief and exchanged emails about the process, but the Board has not yet received a responsive draft from the Police Chief. Board members discussed the recent offer that the Police Chief has made to meet with the Board. The Board also discussed the process of negotiating the MOU and how to accelerate progress towards reaching a new agreement. In particular, the Board expressed strong concerns that the Board has not yet received a responsive draft to the original draft the Board proposed in July. Board members discussed whether or how the Police Commission should be invited to be involved in the process for negotiation of the MOU. Board members noted that it would be helpful to have a responsive draft from the Police Chief prior to any meetings with him. The Board would like to obtain a draft of the proposed changes as soon as possible, preferably before the next Board meeting.

Administrative – BOE/Superintendent’s Goals Review, Strategic Plan Progress Reporting, and Pre-Planning for the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan

The Superintendent provided the Board with an update on progress towards completion of the current strategic plan. Planning for the next strategic plan process is already underway. Procedurally, the District will use the rest of this year to pose questions to different stakeholder groups to gather data that will focus the district. Stakeholders will be given multiple opportunities to provide feedback on goals. All high levels goals for the current strategic plan are expected to be completed by the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Some discussion occurred on whether to retain an outside consultant to run the strategic plan process. This would have the benefit of ensuring that the process is clean and free from preconceived notions. An RFP process would be used to select the vendor. The Board discussed the timeline for planning and development of an RFP for the strategic planning outside consultant. Some discussion occurred about the possible cost of the outside consultant. The last time this process occurred, the cost was approximately \$13,000.

The Board recessed at 7:45PM.

The Board returned to open session at 7:55PM.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hyla/Brodeur

“The Board voted to enter executive session and invited Attorney Anne Littlefield and Superintendent Jan Perruccio into the executive session for the purpose of providing information to the Board concerning the agenda items to be discussed in executive session.”

MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)

VI. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 10:19PM.

VII. REMINDERS

- OSHS – Parent Action Council – November 13 – 6:00PM
- OSHS – PTO Meeting – November 13 – 7:00PM
- Goodwin – Parent Conferences – November 14
- OSMS – PTO Meeting – November 18 – 7:00PM
- District – Education Foundation Meeting – November 18 – 5:30PM
- District – Public Relations Committee – November 19 – 5:00PM
- District – Demographics Committee Meeting – November 19 – 6:00PM
- OSHS – Junior Class Trip – November 21-23
- OSMS – PAC Meeting – November 25 – 8:00AM
- OSHS – NHS Induction – November 25 – 7:00PM
- District – Budget and Fiscal Meeting – November 26 – 6:00PM
- District - Board Meeting – November 26 – 7:00PM

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Baker/Furman

“Move to adjourn at 10:20PM”

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