

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, February 11, 2020, at the Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Board Members

Tara Barros
Jim Henderson
Karina Julius
Cindy Sultini
George Chang
Karen Brodeur
Jan Furman
Eileen Baker
Alan Hyla (Arrived at 7:04PM)

Others

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Barros called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Baker/Brodeur

“Move to approve the consent agenda, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

The following correspondence was presented to the Board:

- Parent letter regarding the 2020-2021 academic calendar
- CAFE Equity Toolkit Publication

Superintendent Perruccio informed the Board that there have been some negative comments about the 2020-2021 academic calendar, and that she will be meeting with members of the calendar committee to discuss potential changes.

III. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Board Roles, Responsibilities, and Operations

There was no update on this topic.

Communications and Public Relations – General Update

Superintendent Perruccio reported on the District’s process for reporting District news. Specifically, the Superintendent discussed a press release that was co-written by the Athletic Director and the Director of Public Relations regarding the Old

Saybrook High School Girls' Indoor Track team winning their fifth consecutive Shoreline Championship. Additionally, the Superintendent discussed a press release regarding the District being recognized as a top ten school in the state of Connecticut based on the Next Generation Accountability Index scores. The Board continued on a conversation regarding other mediums the District uses to publicize news, specifically, posting news on the website, sending press releases to local newspapers, and emailing information directly to parents.

Communications and Public Relations – School Safety/Climate Update

Superintendent Perruccio reported on the District's climate scores and building level goals to improve climate based on information received in this year's survey.

The Board discussed safety at the schools, training that takes place to ensure that safety and the protocols in place for students and staff.

Administrative – BOE/Superintendent's Goal Review and Strategic Plan Progress Reporting

Superintendent Perruccio presented an updated Strategic Plan action steps document, her annotated job description, and a self-assessment that outlines progress that has been made over the course of the year. All of these documents speak to progress that has been made on the District's strategic plan and progress made on the Superintendent's goals for the year.

Specifically, the Superintendent discussed the challenge of substitute teacher and full-time teacher shortages and the impact that has on curriculum. The Board also discussed how to balance mandated training with professional development for all staff. Superintendent Perruccio talked about the difficulty the District is having with criminal background checks and fingerprinting rejections from the state of Connecticut. This issue is taking place statewide. The Board also discussed the difficult transition between eighth and ninth grade and how the District could better prepare students to make that change.

The Board concluded with a discussion regarding the current strategic plan and preparing for the 2021-2026 strategic plan.

Administrative – Early Childhood Update

Superintendent Perruccio informed the Board that there are twenty-one students currently enrolled in the program. Twenty-nine additional students have signed up for next year. The District is looking for eight to eleven more students to sign up for the program to reach target numbers. The Superintendent will meet with local pre-school providers to discuss how the District can integrate before and after care into the new program.

Administrative – Field Lights

Superintendent Perruccio informed the Board that the local newspaper had reported that a zoning regulation change would allow for lights to go up on local athletic fields. Chairman Barros discussed the comments that were made during the Zoning Commission meeting and concerns that were raised regarding field lights.

Superintendent Perruccio suggested that it may be beneficial to suggest to the First Selectman that the Turf Field Committee be reconvened, which was a joint committee between the Board of Education and the town.

Administrative – Field Trips

Superintendent Perruccio discussed the District's current Series 5000 Field Trip policy. Specifically, the Superintendent highlighted the following:

- The purpose of field trips
- The relationship between fundraising and field trips

The regulations were discussed next, specifically highlighting the following:

- Medical insurance for field trips
- The prohibition of excluding students from field trips for financial reasons
- The process and general requirements for organizing a field trip
- Administrative responsibilities for approving a trip
- Cost
- Transportation
- Permission slips

The Superintendent used the proposed World Language field trip to Spain and France as an example of how the field trip policy and regulations are implemented for a trip.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating an annual, districtwide field trip calendar so field trips can be considered by the Board against other trips being taken over the course of the year.

Administrative - Fundraisers

Superintendent Perruccio reviewed the current Series 5000 Fundraising Policy. She explained that the current policy is well developed, but administration of the policy needed to be reviewed and possibly revised.

The regulations for this policy were discussed, specifically highlighting the following:

- Criteria for fundraising activities
- Approval for fundraising activities

- Administration of fundraising activities
- The issues with staff members acting autonomously and not following the established process
- Accountability for raised funds
- The financial threshold for making fundraising requests in writing
- The financial threshold for having fundraising requests presented to the Superintendent and/or the Board of Education
- Student dues as they relate to the fundraising policy and regulations
- Fundraising oversight of connected but separate organizations such as Parent Teacher Organizations.
- Equity for field trips across the District

The Board determined that this policy should be further reviewed by the Policy Committee for changes and recommendations to the Board of Education.

Board Member Furman departed at 9:15PM.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Julius/Sultini

“The Board voted to enter executive session at 9:34PM for the purpose of evaluating the Superintendent of Schools”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

The Board invited Superintendent Perruccio into Executive Session.

V. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 10:04PM.

VI. REMINDERS

- OSGS – Sound Steppers Café – February 12 – 6:30PM
- OSHS – PAC Meeting – February 12 – 6:00PM
- OSHS – OSMS/OSHS Band Day Concert – February 12 – 7:00PM
- OSMS – Basketball Mania – February 14 – 1:00PM
- DISTRICT – Winter Break – February 17-18
- OSMS – PAC Meeting – February 24 – 2:45PM
- OSMS – PTO Meeting – February 24 - 7:00PM
- OSGS – OSECC Parent Workshop – February 25 – 5:30PM
- DISTRICT – Board of Education with Board of Finance – February 25 – 6:30PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Brodeur/Baker

“Move to adjourn at 10:05PM”

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