

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

The Old Saybrook Board of Education met remotely in Special Session on Thursday, April 2, 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

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

Brodeur/Furman

“Move to approve the consent agenda, as presented”

MOTION CARRIED: (8-0-1)

Board Member Baker abstained

III. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

19-20 Academic Calendar Adjustment

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Old Saybrook Public Schools has found it necessary to revise the 2019-2020 academic calendar. At the Special Meeting on April 2, 2020, Superintendent Perruccio discussed the changes made to the academic calendar to accommodate distance learning. The Superintendent’s recommendation was made to address three important goals:

- Creating an academic year that takes advantage of the 180-day waiver provided by the Governor in executive order # 7 dated March 12, 2020, and gets as close to the 180-day calendar as appropriate and possible
- End school on the pre-determined date to avoid summer heat, be prepared to honor end of year activities if we are able to hold them, avoid loss of seniors to early admission programs, and allow any necessary summer programming flexibility that may be needed

- Provide a shortened break in April (5-day break including the weekend) for families and staff to rest and take a break from distance learning without creating a large gap in learning time only 3 weeks after distance learning began

With those goals in mind, the Superintendent proposed a revised calendar that results in 179 student days and an ending date of June 16, 2020. April vacation will take place from Friday, April 10, through Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Additionally, May 26, originally designated as a snowflake date, will now be a school day.

Baker/Julius

“Move to approve the revised 2019-2020 academic calendar, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)

COVID-19 Update: OSPS Distance Learning

Superintendent Perruccio provided the Board with the following timeline regarding distance learning:

- 1st Week of March – Began preparing for distance learning
- March 13 – District closed and supplemental learning began
- March 20 – Provided supplemental learning for students. Teachers participated in professional development regarding distance learning
- March 23 – District began distance learning

Since distance learning has begun much has changed regarding student data privacy laws, video communication, and standard assessments. Superintendent Perruccio thanked the state for working with local communities on relaxing various laws to make distance learning possible.

Superintendent Perruccio informed the Board that distance learning is continuing to evolve as we collect data from teachers, parents, and students about what practices are working well and what could continue to be tweaked. Superintendent Perruccio praised the teachers and administrators for their hard work and flexibility during this time.

The Board asked several questions related to the District Early Childhood Program, the budget, food services, and employment.

Policy Update – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, or Deletion of Policies

Superintendent Perruccio informed the Board that she needs to be able to change policies to fit the current timeline of events. With that in mind, some policies need to have temporary changes made to accommodate the current state of education in the District. The first policy the Superintendent brought forward for revision was Series

9000 Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, or Deletion of Policies. The Superintendent requested that the language in this policy be amended to allow changes in policy to be voted on by the Board after only one reading and to allow those policies to go into effect immediately, rather than at the beginning of the following academic year. The Board deliberated the proposed change and will vote on the proposal at their regular meeting on April 7, 2020.

IV. REMINDERS

- District – Board of Education Meeting – April 7 – 7:00PM
- All Events and Meetings May be Cancelled or Conducted Remotely

V. ADJOURNMENT

Hyla/Sultini

“Move to adjourn at 8:05PM”

MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)

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