

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

The Old Saybrook Board of Education met remotely in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at the Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

**Board Members**

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

**Others**

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools  
Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Julie Pendleton, Director of Operations, Facilities, and Finance  
Sheila Riffle, Old Saybrook High School Principal

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Barros called the meeting to order at 7:11PM.

**II. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS**

Student Representative Report

The student representatives delivered a report on the following topics:

- Transition into Distance Learning
  - The first week was difficult, but as routines have been established, things have gotten easier.
- Virtual Prom
  - Ms. Riffle gave the student body the opportunity to voice their opinion regarding hosting a virtual prom
  - Students, especially Seniors, are sad about missing milestone high school moments
- Virtual Graduation
  - Many different options are being explored, and students have been given the opportunity to offer their opinions and suggestions.
- Coaches staying in touch
  - Coaches have stayed in touch regarding the season via blogs and other communication means
- AP Exams
  - Students are worried about being prepared for upcoming Advanced Placement exams
- Staying Motivated
  - Students are balancing maintaining a routine and sense of normalcy versus the freedom of being able to do work on their own schedule

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Furman/Baker**

**“Move to approve the consent agenda, as presented”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-1)**

**Board Member Hyla abstained.**

**IV. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Course Proposal for ECE Environmental Science

Old Saybrook Middle School Teacher David Plotkin has recently been accepted as a UConn instructor for Early College Experience (ECE) Environmental Science. Mr. Plotkin proposed his course to the Board of Education for approval.

ECE Environmental Science is well-aligned with Old Saybrook Schools’ Mission and Profile of a Graduate. The course requires students to apply Next Generation Science Standards to authentic problems that are particularly applicable to Old Saybrook’s geographic location and surrounding resources.

For the full presentation, please follow the link: [ECE Environmental Science](#)

**Baker/Hyla**

**“Move to approve the ECE Environmental Science course proposal, as presented”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

6-8 Math Program Proposal

In 2016, teachers in grades 6-8 piloted two research-based math programs. Those two programs, College Preparatory Math (CPM) and Eureka Math, were the only two independently-reviewed programs to meet the EdReports standard for rigor, alignment to the standards, and usability at that time. At the end of that pilot, the team examined student learning outcomes, teacher feedback, and parent and student survey data, along with a gap analysis of both programs with the P-5 math program, Bridges Math. Eureka Math was chosen and implemented.

Over the last three years, the math teachers in grades 6-8 have worked to implement Eureka Math with fidelity. They have seen improvement in students’ math learning and our Smarter Balanced Scores have reflected that improvement. They have also found that implementing for individual student needs requires going beyond the program materials. Further, they recognize the need for further integration of 21st century skills into the math classroom and find those skills out of the scope of the

Eureka materials as well. While seeking supplementary materials for both differentiation and 21C skill development, they found a recently-developed, open source math program, Open Up/Illustrative Math (IM). (This is one set of materials under two names.) Open Up/IM was not available during the 2016 math program pilot, so it was not able to be considered at that time.

As teachers supplemented with these materials, they found them to be inclusive of 21C skills and to have embedded differentiation. When these new resources were reviewed by EdReports in 2018-2019, they rated as strongly as the Eureka materials for rigor and alignment and earned a higher score than Eureka Math for usability. Teachers asked to conduct a small-scale pilot of Open Up/IM and designed a study that looked at a single unit, across two classes. Students took a Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment to measure their learning, independent of either set of program materials.

Interestingly, the math learning across the two programs was very similar, with Open Up/IM students performing just slightly better in 7th grade, but almost identically in 6th grade. Ms. Anderson, our Math Coach, observed during some of the lessons, using Old Saybrook's Theory of Action for Advancing Learning feedback tool, which takes both content and 21C skills learning into account. What she saw in her observations was very aligned with what teachers noted.

Students work differently in Open Up/IM and 21C skills are built into the math lessons. Students communicate, collaborate, think critically, problem solve, and work through disagreements as part of each lesson, which makes their math learning deeper and more flexible. They are less focused on rote calculation and more focused on finding answers to problems that involve math.

At that point, further work was done to check for alignment with our successful P-5 math program, Bridges Math. Bridges and Open Up/IM are well-aligned - more structurally aligned than Bridges and Eureka, and just as mathematically aligned. Students in 6th and 7th grade classes who had Bridges in 4th and 5th grade had an equally easy time adapting to Open Up/IM as they have had with Eureka.

Based on this data, Director Goss proposed adoption of Open Up/IM as the next step in the District's growth toward ensuring that all students achieve the Profile of an OSPS Graduate.

For the full presentation, please follow the link: [6-8 Math Program Proposal](#)

**Brodeur/Baker**

**“Move to adopt Open Up/IM, as presented”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

## Course Updates at Old Saybrook High School

Director Goss and Principal Riffle presented three course updates to the Board of Education.

The first was a pilot combination of two existing courses. Students will have the option to choose to take a combined Global Citizenship and Earth Science course, logically named Global Science and Citizenship. Successful completion of the course will result in two full credits, one in science and one in social studies. The combination of the two curricula resulted in four integrated units of study that require application of skills across content areas.

The second update was small, but significant. Culinary 1 and Culinary 2 at the High School will become Cooking Skills and Baking Skills. The curriculum will not change, but it will be divided differently. Further, students will be able to choose either course for .5 credits or take both for a full elective credit. The goal of this change was to better personalize by creating options for students. It will also result in a small financial savings for the program.

The final course update in the presentation was the pilot of the state-mandated African-American and Latino Studies course. The District will run this course as two .5 credit social studies-based elective courses, resulting in the required 1.0 credit offering outlined by statute. This course will be written this summer by Old Saybrook High School teachers, John Glover, Jeremy Taylor, and Shayne Muñoz, but will draw heavily on open source course materials from colleges and universities.

Taken together, these courses represent the more personalized, application-focused, globally-aware curricula outlined in Goal 1 of our strategic plan.

For the full presentation, please follow the link: [Old Saybrook High School Course Updates](#)

### **Baker/Sultini**

**“Move to approve the African American/Latino Studies, as presented”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-1)**

**Board Member Henderson abstained.**

### Healthy Food Certification

The District is currently in its tenth year of participation in the Healthy Food Certification program. The District has successfully transformed its School Nutrition Program to meet all the requirements under this act and look forward to continuing this program in 2020-2021. The state requires the Old Saybrook Board of Education

to formally vote to continue participation in the Act Concerning Healthy Foods and to seek the additional reimbursement per meal for the 2020-2021 school year.

As part of our participation in the Act Concerning Healthy Foods, the Board of Education must also determine if they will allow exceptions to the program within specific circumstances. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has provided guidance.

Director Pendleton recommended to the board to allow exceptions that meet the CSDE requirements on a general basis. This will allow our student organizations to continue to sell refreshments for football and basketball games as well as other events that occur after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; that take place at the event, and do not come from vending machines or a school store.

The adoption of this act and the exception policy will result in revenue from the state in 2020-2021 of approximately \$6,343 based on estimated 2019-2020 lunch sales. The final payment for 2019-2020 will result in more than \$86,602 over the complete/audited ten years of our participation in the program. In June 2021, the eleven-year projected program revenue is estimated at \$92,945. We continue to be able to sustain our food service program with our current business plan.

### **Baker/Furman**

**“Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.**

**Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring *after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend*; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are *not sold from a vending machine or school store*. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.”**

## **MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

### Non-Compliant Beverage Exemption

The state requires the Old Saybrook Board of Education to comply with Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), which governs the sale of beverages to students in public schools at all times. C.G.S. Section 10-221q applies to **all beverages sold as part of school meals and separately from school meals** anywhere on school premises, such as cafeteria sales, school stores, vending machines, fundraisers and any other locations where beverages are sold. The sales of non-compliant beverages are allowed only if the board complies with three criteria and takes a vote to allow such sales. This is separate and distinct from the Healthy Foods Certification and is not associated with any funding from the State Department of Education.

The board of education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

- 1) the sale is in connection with an **event** occurring after the end of the regular **school day** or on the weekend;
- 2) the sale is at the **location** of the event; and
- 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

An “**event**” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “**school day**” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “**Location**” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

This will allow our student organizations and other groups to continue to fund raise while selling non-compliant beverages on school grounds as long as the exemption criteria has been met. At this time, there is no restriction on food sales under these circumstances.

### **Furman/Brodeur**

**“Move that the board of education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:**

- 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and
- 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

**An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.**

**“Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

Strategic Plan RFQ

The Superintendent presented information about the request for proposals for the purpose of hiring a consultant to process to lead the District through the creation of the 2021-26 Strategic Plan. The timeline for this work is:

- April 30: RFQ published
- May 18: Deadline for Submission
- May 19 and 20: Review of submissions for qualifications
- May 26 to June 1: Interviews by Board of Education and Administration
- Week of June 1: Award

This would allow the successful applicant to begin work before the end of the academic year.

**Hyla/Furman**

**“Move to approve the Strategic Plan RFQ, as presented”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

Policy Amendments

Superintendent Perruccio presented the following redlined policy to the Board, which reflect necessary changes made to accommodate distance learning throughout the District due to current circumstance created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board also discussed the various security aspects of different online meeting platforms.

- Series 9000 Meeting Conduct

**Baker/Sultini**

**“Move to amend the Series 9000 Meeting Conduct Policy, as presented”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

Evaluation Process for the Superintendent in 2019-2020

The Board of Education held an open discussion regarding the evaluation process for the Superintendent of Schools for the 2019-2020 academic year. The Board discussed

the best possible format to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation remotely during the course of their regular meeting on May 12, 2020.

#### Covid19 – OSPS Closedown Update

Superintendent Perruccio discussed and answered questions regarding several topics related to how the District continues to adjust to the shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Perruccio explained the updates go out to families every Tuesday and Central Office sends out updates to families and staff on Friday. The Superintendent shared how the District has grown regarding distance learning since mid-March, specifically:

- Teachers changing their style of instruction
- Optimizing the amount of work being posted
- Finding the best way to organize Google Classrooms

Superintendent Perruccio also discussed the following topics with the Board of Education:

- Culture and climate during distance learning
- 504 and PPT Meetings
- Summer school learning opportunities for all students
- Graduation options
- District recovery plan
- Districtwide grading philosophy

#### **V. REPORTS BY BOARD COMMITTEES/LIAISONS**

Budget and Fiscal Committee – There was no report.

CABE – Every Friday from 2:00-3:00PM, CABE has the opportunity for Board Members to hear thoughts and ideas regarding regional teams and updates from the state.

Facilities – There was no report.

LEARN – Funding has removed from one of their pre-kindergarten programs. There should be no impact to Old Saybrook Public Schools.

Strategic Planning Committee – There was no additional report.

Demographics – There was no report.

Personnel – There was no additional report.

Policy – There was no report.

Chairman's Report – There was no report.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Furman/Baker**

**“Move to enter into Executive Session at 9:42PM for the purpose of discussing non-certified/non-union contracts and 12-month employee vacation rollover”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

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

**VII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**The Board returned to open session at 10:45 PM.**

**Brodeur/Furman**

**“Move to approve the contract for the non-union position, as discussed”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

**VIII. REMINDERS**

- District – Board of Education Meeting – May 12 – 7:00PM
- All Events and Meetings May be Cancelled or Conducted Remotely

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Baker/Furman**

**“Move to adjourn at 10:46PM”**

**MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)**

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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