

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, May 26, 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

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Student Representative Report

The student representatives delivered a report on the following topics:

- Life Updates
 - The student representatives discussed what they have been doing to keep themselves busy.
- Old Saybrook Beginning to Re-Open
 - Both students speculated that the relaxed social distancing rules could lead to increased COVID-19 cases.
- Reflecting on Staying Involved within the School Community
 - Students are using Google Classroom to stay connected with classmates and their community. Students are also using technology to continue their extra-curricular activities.
- Changes to Senior Projects
 - Projects are being adapted as much as possible to work with the current restraints caused by COVID-19.
- Reflecting on AP Exams
 - Some students reported that they had difficulty submitting their AP Exams due to technological constraints or issues.
- Reflecting on the New Ideas for Graduation
 - Students are waiting for a final picture of how graduation and end-of-year activities will look.
 - Students just want to be able to have some closure to the year.
- Overall Thoughts on Senior Year and How It Has been Affected
 - Senior Ram Booster video did a good job of recognizing senior athletes

- Seniors are concerned that their first semester of college will be affected in the fall by the pandemic.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Furman/Baker

“Move to approve the consent agenda, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)

IV. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Strategic Plan Interviews

Old Saybrook Public Schools solicited quotations from agencies that provide strategic planning services for school districts. The services sought include:

- Gathering of stakeholder opinion by conducting surveys and stakeholder meetings
- Assistance with the logistics of planning key events about the planning process in the community
- Facilitation of creation or amendment of mission/vision through community representative group meetings
- Provide the mechanism for the creation of a highly focused plan, which will be implemented by the education community over a five-year period.

At their meeting on May 26, 2020, Superintendent Perruccio provided the Board of Education with the results of the Strategic Plan RFQ and began discussions regarding the scheduling of interviews with interested firms who meet the qualifications.

Superintendent Perruccio informed the Board that five companies responded to the request for proposals. The District has not worked with any of the vendors prior to their submission, and the price range varied from just over \$20,000 to almost \$70,000. After reviewing the submissions, there are two or three vendors who the Superintendent would like to bring forward for interviews with the Board of Education. The Board determined that initial interviews should take place as part of a separate special meeting on June 11th.

Student Representative Survey

Student Representatives Jampel Dorjee and Ian Mason returned their completed surveys to the Board of Education. This survey is given to student representatives annually and gives the representatives the opportunity to qualitatively comment on their experience, their perceived value and impact, and offer any suggestions for the improvement of the Student Representative program.

The student representatives discussed the procedure for choosing next year's representatives, how to handle the transition between this year's representatives and next year's representatives, and how that process may need to be modified because of COVID-19. The Board also gave input regarding the selection process and how to publicize their presence to the student body.

Superintendent Perruccio thanked the Board Representatives for their service to the Board of Education and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

Professional Development Wrap Up

On Tuesday evening, Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, provided an overview of professional learning for the year. From July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2020, one hundred eighteen educators from every academic department and school were provided professional learning opportunities, beyond the contractual professional development days. Off-site workshops and conferences cost approximately \$26,000 this year.

In addition to the subject area professional learning, teachers attended **27 workshops related to special education** and grant funding provided **50 teachers with training to support bilingual learners**.

Our 2020-2021 Professional Learning Goals are significantly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Our professional learning landscape has changed now and for the foreseeable future. Our goals will now work to:

- Increase social-emotional supports & trauma-informed practices
- Increase technology supports & digital safety awareness
- Increase capacity for personalized & individualized learning
- Continue to grow capacity to support English Learners

2019-20 Budget Update

We have started to update encumbrances and expenditures to date; however, current reports are an estimate because there are several items outstanding and amounts unknown at this time. The District anticipates a surplus for this year. In the past, expenditures have been on or near target with projections. For obvious reasons, this is not the case this year. Please note:

- We are required under executive orders to pay our student tuition contracts and to negotiate our transportation contracts which we have done or are in the process of doing
- We continue to face some unknown and unanticipated expenses now and in the future because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting closure and recovery plans we are addressing
- We continue to forecast for expenditures through June 30, 2020 updating daily.

- We anticipate a surplus of \$1.2-1.5 million dollars at year end. This surplus includes the funds for Excess Cost and Agency Placement grants.

V. REPORTS BY BOARD COMMITTEES/LIAISONS

Budget and Fiscal Committee – There was no report.

CABE – CABE has been active meeting with various groups and opening up opportunities for non-member school boards.

Facilities – Director Pendleton informed the Board that she attended a recent Field Lightning meeting where the group began discussions regarding planning for a zoning application.

LEARN – LEARN hired a new High School Principal.

Strategic Planning Committee – There was no report.

Demographics – There was no report.

Personnel – There was no report.

Policy – There was no report.

Chairman’s Report – There was no report.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Brodeur/Baker

“Move to enter into Executive Session at 8:21PM for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s Evaluation and Transportation Contracts”

MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)

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

Director Pendleton exited Executive Session at 8:35PM.

VII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 9:02PM.

Furman/Hyla

“Move to approve the amendments to transportation contracts with Curtain Transportation and M&J Bus, Inc. as presented.”

MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)

Baker/Sultini

“Move to approve the Superintendent’s Evaluation Summary”

MOTION: CARRIED (9-0-0)

VIII. REMINDERS

- Board of Education presenting to Board of Finance – June 2, 2020 – 7:00PM
- District – Board of Education Meeting – June 9, 2020 – 7:00PM
- District – Board of Education Special Meeting – June 11, 2020 (Tentative)
- All Events and Meetings May be Cancelled or Conducted Remotely

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Furman/Baker

“Move to adjourn at 9:04PM”

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