

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 Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at the Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Board Members

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

Others

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools
Julie Pendleton, Director of Operations, Facilities, and Finance
Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Kathy Bai, Director of Pupil and Professional Services

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Barros called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Baker/Henderson

“Move to approve the consent agenda, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

III. EDUCATION ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Test Wells at Old Saybrook High School and Feasibility Study for Town’s Proposed Water Treatment Concept

First Selectman Fortuna and Jim Vanoli, project manager for the WPCA, discussed a plan for digging test wells at Old Saybrook High School over the summer as part of a feasibility study for Old Saybrook’s proposed Water Treatment Plan.

For the high school to be considered, the WPCA would need to dig test wells on the high school property and get ground water levels over the course of the next year to determine the feasibility of the project. The wells will be installed, monitored and tested with little disturbance to the high school property. Readings will be taken for one year to a year and a half and if the tests are successful, a load test will be conducted on site. The project will have little to no impact on the daily operations of Old Saybrook Public Schools.

Strategic Plan Kickoff

Superintendent Perruccio introduced Isobel Stevenson from the Connecticut Center for School Change, who will be leading the District in the work of creating the 2021-2026 Old Saybrook Public Schools Strategic Plan.

Ms. Stevenson reviewed the timeline she developed with Superintendent Perruccio. She stressed the importance of spending the majority of time getting input and gathering information from a variety of stakeholders.

Superintendent Perruccio stressed the importance of working efficiently and writing a plan that will help guide our 2021-2022 budget process in December.

Ms. Stevenson discussed some of the key pieces of the District's current strategic plan and how to move those pieces forward in the new 2021-2026 strategic plan, including the District's Theory of Action and the Old Saybrook Profile of a Graduate.

Old Saybrook Plan to Reopen Schools in 2020-2021

Superintendent Perruccio and members of the District Leadership Team presented the final draft of the Old Saybrook Public Schools' plan to reopen schools for the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year. This plan is driven by a combination of the requirements and guidance set forth by the state of Connecticut, as well as decisions made at the local level regarding best practices. A final version of the plan has been sent to the Connecticut River Area Health District and Old Saybrook Emergency Management for review and approval and will be sent to the department of education on July 24, 2020, for approval.

Superintendent Perruccio reviewed the steps that have been taken to prepare for the 2020-2021 academic year since the Spring of 2020. In addition to the work that is being done to prepare for the opening of the school year, a robust distance learning plan is also being developed, which will go into effect if the District moves into a hybrid schedule or completely closes down. The Superintendent reminded the Board that all of the plans being developed are part of an iterative process and that advice and best practices are changing constantly. The final plan will be posted on the District website on Friday, July 24, 2020.

Amending the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Superintendent Perruccio presented and discussed two alternative 2020-2021 academic calendars. The calendar changes come from a need to increase professional development for staff at the beginning of the year regarding new health and safety protocols brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both calendars include 180 days for students, 6 full professional development days for staff, and 9 half professional development days for staff. The difference between the two alternatives is that Alternative 2 (Closed) moves half professional development days for staff from Friday to Wednesday of the same week.

20-21 Calendar Alternative 1 (Open or Hybrid) Changes Include:

- August 31, 2020 becomes a full professional development day
- September 1, 2020, is the new first day of school and will be a half day for students
- September 1 through September 3 will be half days for students and professional development half days
- November 2, 2020, will be a full student day

20-21 Calendar Alternative 2 (Closed) Changes Include:

- August 31, 2020 becomes a full professional development day
- September 1, 2020, is the new first day of school and will be a half day for students
- September 1 through September 3 will be half days for students and professional development half days
- September 30, 2020, will be a half professional development day for staff
- October 2, 2020, will be a full student day
- November 2, 2020, will be a full student day
- December 2, 2020, will be a half professional development day for staff
- December 4, 2020, will be a full student day
- January 6, 2021, will be a half professional development day for staff
- January 8, 2021, will be a full student day
- February 3, 2021, will be a half professional development day for staff
- February 5, 2021, will be a full student day
- May 5, 2021, will be a half professional development day for staff
- May 7, 2021, will be a full student day

Hyla/Baker

“Move to approve the revised 2020-2021 academic calendar, as presented.”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

IV. REMINDERS

- Board of Education presents to Board of Finance - August 4, 2020 - 7:00PM
- District - Board of Education Regular Meeting - September 8, 2020 - 7:00PM
- All Events and Meetings May be Cancelled or Conducted Remotely

V. ADJOURNMENT

Baker/Brodeur

“Move to adjourn at 8:54PM”

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