

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

The Old Saybrook Board of Education met remotely in a Special Session on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at the Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Board Members

Tara Barros
Cindy Sultini
Alan Hyla
George Chang
Karen Brodeur
Eileen Baker

Others

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Barros called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

II. MEETING MINUTES

Brodeur/Baker

“Move to approve the special meeting minutes from July 21, 2020, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

III. EDUCATION ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Residency Request - Goodwin

Board of Education Policy “Series 9000 Board Member Roles” states that the Board shall consider any specific recommendations made by the Superintendent of Schools. There is a family who requested that the Board allow their son and daughter to enroll at Kathleen E. Goodwin School while the family awaits their closing date on September 15, 2020. The Superintendent recommended that the Board allow these students to enroll in the school system during this period. This recommendation is contingent on the students maintaining themselves in good standing. Failure to do so could result in the rescinding of permission to attend school in Old Saybrook. The family of the students must also provide their own transportation to and from school.

Principal Sutman supported the petition to have these students enroll at the Kathleen E. Goodwin School during the closing period while the family resides out of town.

Hyla/Sultini

“Move to approve the residency request, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

Residency Request - Goodwin

Board of Education Policy “Series 9000 Board Member Roles” states that the Board shall consider any specific recommendations made by the Superintendent of Schools. There is a family who requested that the Board allow their son to enroll at Kathleen E. Goodwin School while the family awaits their closing date on September 24, 2020. The Superintendent recommended that the Board allow this student to enroll in the school system during this period. This recommendation is contingent on the student maintaining himself in good standing. Failure to do so could result in the rescinding of permission to attend school in Old Saybrook. The family of the student must also provide their own transportation to and from school.

Principal Sutman supported the petition to have this student enroll at the Kathleen E. Goodwin School during the closing period while the family resides out of town.

Brodeur/Sultini

“Move to approve the residency request, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

Residency Request - Goodwin and Old Saybrook Middle School

Board of Education Policy “Series 9000 Board Member Roles” states that the Board shall consider any specific recommendations made by the Superintendent of Schools. There is a family who requested that the Board allow their son to enroll at Kathleen E. Goodwin School and their daughter to enroll at Old Saybrook Middle School while the family awaits their closing date on September 11, 2020. The Superintendent recommended that the Board allow these students to enroll in the school system during this period. This recommendation is contingent on the students maintaining themselves in good standing. Failure to do so could result in the rescinding of permission to attend school in Old Saybrook. The family of the students must also provide their own transportation to and from school.

Principal Sutman and Principal Bauchman supported the petition to have the students enroll in their respective schools during the closing period while the family resides out of town.

Sultini/Baker

“Move to approve the residency request, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

Strategic Plan Update

Superintendent Perruccio updated the Board of Education regarding work being done on the District's Strategic Planning process, including how feedback will be gathered from various stakeholder groups. Stakeholder group meetings will begin at the end of September. Stakeholder groups will include parents, students, community members, local organizations, staff, and the administrative leadership team. The strategic plan team lead, Ms. Stevenson, will report back to the Board with her findings from the stakeholder group meetings.

The Board determined that they would like to add a Special Meeting to the Board Meeting schedule to meet with Ms. Stevenson regarding her progress.

Update on Athletics

Superintendent Perruccio updated the Board of Education regarding the current advice from the state's Department of Health and the CIAC on athletics during the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Superintendent detailed the background of the decisions that have been made between the Department of Public Health and the CIAC and how those decisions have impacted Old Saybrook Public Schools and our student athletes. On August 24th it was announced that we could resume small cohort, non-contact work until August 29, at which time we can begin sport specific training in small cohorts. At this time, football is still in question with proposed rule changes to the sport being considered. Cheerleading may also be impacted with possible revisions to the sport.

The Superintendent reviewed the District's process for managing any kind of infection of one of our student athletes and how that would impact the team and the season.

The Superintendent also discussed the District's plan for conducting band and chorus based on state guidance and best practices.

Update on Reopening Schools

Superintendent Perruccio updated the Board of Education on the District's plans to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 academic year. Old Saybrook Public Schools is currently planning to open on a hybrid schedule for students on September 1, 2020, and then open full time on October 5, 2020. The hybrid was viewed as an opportunity to open the District gradually and test our systems before fully opening the District. The District has worked with Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services to create childcare opportunities for families during the hybrid opening period.

To better prepare for the year, the District has front loaded professional development so that staff have an opportunity to learn new processes and procedures.

Many new staff members have been hired based on retirements, resignations, and the need for additional paraeducators to handle new COVID-19 related responsibilities.

While distance learning, students will participate in Google Classroom synchronously for approximately 50% of their day and will do independent work for 50% of their day.

The Superintendent answered questions from the Board regarding the District's reopening plan.

IV. REMINDERS

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

Baker/Sultini

“Move to adjourn at 8:50PM”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

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