

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

The Old Saybrook Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at the Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Board Members

Kelley Kennedy
Jan Furman
Tara Barros
Eileen Baker
George Chang
Karen Brodeur

Others

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools
Julie Pendleton, Dir. Operations, Facilities & Finance
Amity Goss, Dir. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Kathy Bai, Dir. Pupil and Professional Services
Sheila Riffle, Old Saybrook High School Principal
Krista Bauchman, Old Saybrook Middle School Principal
Heston Sutman, Kathleen E. Goodwin School Principal

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

II. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Education Appreciation Month Presentation

Superintendent Perruccio read the Board of Education Appreciation Month Proclamation and presented the Board Members with their gifts, which were made by Old Saybrook High School students in Mr. Carlone's class.

Audience of Citizens

Chairman Kennedy reminded the audience members of the rules for addressing the Board of Education.

A member of the audience spoke to the Board about his disapproval of the "walkout" that occurred at Old Saybrook High School on March 14, 2018, during the school day and on school grounds. He stated that the district should not allow a political statement of any kind to be made during the school day or on school property. He requested that the Board move to ban any such walkouts or political statements in the future.

A member of the audience spoke about the issue that has been previously brought to the Board regarding conduct of a teacher toward a student. The audience member expressed her disappointment that "nothing has been done to address" the situation. The audience member indicated that she is "ready to take the next step with any other parents" so that the conversation of the alleged incident can be discussed in a more public forum.

A member of the audience stated her son also witnessed the aforementioned situation and expressed her opinion that her son's concerns and well-being have not been addressed "at any level." The audience member asked that something be done to help the students involved in this situation begin to receive acknowledgment and resources to "help them heal."

A member of the audience asked the Board the following two questions:

1. What information is being used to keep this teacher in school?
2. When will the the Board speak with the students?

A member of the audience who identified herself as the mother of the student in the alleged incident, stated that she is still looking to the District to resolve the situation between her son and a member of the faculty. She stated that she believes her son is suffering because of the alleged incident. The audience member made further comments about the teacher and expressed a desire for her son to return to class.

A member of the audience offered her support to the parents who spoke regarding the aforementioned incident and then stated her displeasure with a photo from the recent Junior Class Washington D.C. trip that has posted on social media in the community. According to the audience member, the photo displayed a group of Old Saybrook High School students making an obscene gesture in front of the Capitol Building, with a caption aimed towards an elected official. The member of the audience asked that the students in the photo receive disciplinary consequences for their actions.

Board of Education Student Representatives

The Student Representatives submitted the following report to the Board of Education:

Sports

- Outdoor Track
 - First meet, home on 4/3
- Crew
 - Excellent team growth, 30 kids on the team
- Baseball
 - New Coach
 - First game on 4/2
- Softball
 - First game, home 3/31
- Boys Lacrosse
 - First game on 4/8
- Girls Lacrosse
 - New Coach
 - First game, 3/28 @ELHS

Music/Arts

- Chamber Music Night
- Chamber trip to Augusta, ME, Boston, MA and Worcester, MA on 4/6-4/7
- CDA participants gained honors
- Beauty and the Beast was last weekend and was very successful

Other

- Environmental Field Biology trip to Plum Island
- School “walkout” was respectful and successful
- Senior Exit Interviews have begun

Correspondence

The following correspondence was sent to the Board of Education:

- OSHS Newspaper – The Rambler
- Environment and Human Health, Inc. – Vendor Brochure
- Community Conversation Invitation Draft

III. MEETING MINUTES

Baker/Barros

“Move to approve the March 19, 2018, special meeting minutes as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

IV. EDUCATION ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Course Proposal – Advanced Science Methods

Karen Carlone, assisted by David Plotkin, presented a proposal to add Advanced Research Methods to the science course offerings at Old Saybrook High School. This course will teach scientific research methods and support application of those skills to projects in our community.

There are multiple entry points to the course content. Students who have received course credit for research experience may apply that credit to this course and join for a second semester community project. Students dabbling in research for the first time may take Advanced Research Methods as a full year course, learning about research in the fall and conducting projects in the spring. Additionally, students may petition for honors credit by demonstrating a deeper level of understanding through more complex research applications.

This course would have a full year pilot during the 2018-2019 school year. In addition to the standard pilot period, the science department would like to run an intensified version of Advanced Research Methods this summer, as a full-credit enrichment offering.

Please follow the link for the full presentation: [Advanced Science Methods](#)

Barros/Furman

“Move to approve the proposed course, Advanced Science Methods, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

Course Proposal – Exploramos

Ms. Claffey, Mr. Muñoz, and Ms. Zumbaum shared their proposed course, ¡Exploramos!, with the Board of Education on Tuesday evening. This course was developed collaboratively to address a need for a fifth year Spanish option for students not traditionally interested in Spanish 5 Honors or AP Spanish. Ms. Claffey and Mr. Muñoz gathered input from students, who asked for a course that would allow them to use their Spanish skills in conversation and in the community. Further, Ms. Claffey reflected on a student-generated and student-driven project with last year's Spanish 5 class, highlighted in the Old Saybrook High School Spotlight presentation last spring, in which students examined immigration and our community's connection to Spanish-speaking immigrants. Ms. Claffey spoke about the ways in which that co-constructed learning environment changed her instructional practices because of the impact it had on students. She and Mr. Muñoz would like to bring similar experiences to more students.

¡Exploramos! will require students to explore the connections between their lives, the community, and the Spanish-speaking world. Throughout the course, students will investigate various ways in which Spanish language is a part of our community. Students will identify a project that will allow them to use their Spanish skills to enhance communication – both their own and among members of the community. The primary goal of the course is to allow students to apply their language skills in a meaningful context for an authentic purpose.

The pilot for this class would occur during the 2018-2019 school year.

Please follow the link for the full presentation: [Exploramos](#)

Baker/Brodeur

“Move to approve the proposed course, Exploramos, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

Student Representative Survey

Pursuant to Board of Education Policy Series 9000 Student Representatives/Participation on the Board of Education, Student Representatives serve on the Board of Education for one academic year. At the end of that Academic Year they are given a survey about their experience in an effort to improve the Student Representative position. The Board will present the survey to Student Representatives Chris Thomson and Alyssa Parker at the March 27, 2018, Board of Education meeting. The surveys should be returned no later than the May 22, 2018, Board of Education meeting.

2018-2019 Academic Calendar Revision

Since the Board of Education approved the 2018-2019 academic calendar on December 12, 2017, and revised the 2018-2019 academic calendar on January 9, 2018, there has been one change the listed holidays for the academic year. Originally, the Martin Luther King Day was listed to occur on January 14, 2019. The correct date for Martin Luther King Day is January 21, 2019, and the calendar has been changed to correctly reflect that holiday.

The remainder of the academic calendar remains unchanged from the previously approved version.

Brodeur/Barros

“Move to approve the 2018-2019 academic calendar, as amended”

MOTION: CARRIED (6-0-0)

V. REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION

Kathleen E. Goodwin – The Climate Committee will be presenting on the Responsive Classroom and invitations could be extended to the Board for anyone interested in attending.

Old Saybrook Middle School – Dr. Bauchman discussed a change in Parent/Teacher Conference schedules, adding an additional day of conferences in the fall next year.

Old Saybrook High School – There was no additional report.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment – Superintendent Perruccio and Director Goss discussed the successes of the Instructional Leadership Team and the successful development of that team over the course of the year.

Operations, Facilities and Finance – There was no additional report

Pupil and Professional Services – Director Bai elaborated on the process for selecting families for the Typical Peers program.

Superintendent of Schools – Superintendent Perruccio elaborated on a program with Central Connecticut State University that will help our faculty members earn advanced degrees in leadership by bringing some of the course work to Old Saybrook.

VI. REPORTS BY BOARD COMMITTEES/LIAISONS

Budget and Fiscal Committee – The budget was presented to the Town.

CABE – Board Member Baker attended the Legislative Update meeting where she represented the District and networked with other Districts and representatives.

Facilities – There was no report

LEARN – There was no report

Strategic Planning Committee – There was no report

Demographics – There is a meeting on Wednesday, March 28. The group is thoroughly researching local and regional trends.

Personnel – There was no report

Policy – The next meeting is on April 10, 2018, prior to the Board of Education meeting.

Chairman's Report – There was no report

VII. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Audience of Citizens

A member of the audience asked the Board how the Board responds to parent comments or questions.

Chairman Kennedy responded that information is taken by the Board so that a response can be crafted and given on an individual basis.

VIII. REMINDERS

- Demographics Committee – March 28 – 5:30PM
- OSHS – Spring Chamber Music Night – March 28 – 7:30PM
- District – Good Friday: School Closed – March 30
- Custodian Negotiations – April 2 – 2:00PM

- Paraeducator Negotiations – April 2 – 3:30PM
- OSHS - RAM Boosters Meeting – April 2 – 7:00PM
- Goodwin - PTA Meeting – April 3 – 7:00PM
- Goodwin – PTA Summer Camp Forum – April 4 – 7:00PM
- Public Relations Meeting – April 5 – 5:15PM
- Community Safety Meeting – April 5 – 7:00PM
- OSMS – Parent Council – April 9 – 6:45PM
- OSMS – PTO – April 9 – 7:30PM
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – April 10 – 7:00 PM

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Baker/Furman

“Move to adjourn at 9:16PM”

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