

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, May 22, 2018, at the Board of Education Office, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

**Board Members**

Kelley Kennedy  
Jan Furman  
Tara Barros  
Eileen Baker (Arrived at 7:17PM)  
Karen Brodeur  
George Chang  
Jim Henderson  
Alan Hyla

**Others**

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools  
Julie Pendleton, Dir. Operations, Facilities & Finance  
Amity Goss, Dir. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Heston Sutman, Kathleen E. Goodwin School Principal

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

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

**II. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS**

Audience of Citizens

Chairman Kennedy reminded the audience members of the rules for addressing the Board of Education and asked Vice Chairman Hyla to keep time during the comment.

A member of the audience stated that she continues to be concerned about the safety and well being of the students at Old Saybrook Middle School. She also noted that she did not agree with the pending minutes of May 8, 2018.

A member of the audience noted her disagreement with statements made in pending meeting minutes of the May 8, 2018, regular meeting. The individual indicated her belief that the Superintendent is more concerned about protecting the reputation of the school than the message being delivered to the students. The audience member stated that she is committed to helping students. The individual listed performance expectations that she indicted were for Superintendents in the state of Connecticut. The audience member questioned actions that the district has taken with respect to her son.

A member of the audience stated that he wants his son's voice to be heard by the Board. He went on to read excerpts of his son's statement in a document that the community member indicated was a DCF report pertaining to a situation between his son and a staff member.

Board of Education Student Representatives

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

### **Sports**

- Co-ed Crew
  - Novice girls 4+ placed first at states
  - Varsity girls 4+ placed fourth at states
  - Boys and girls novice 8+ placed fifth at states
- Boys/Girls Track
  - Shoreline conference championship is 5/23 at Old Saybrook High School
  - Girls team won the Running Rams invitational
- Baseball
  - Shoreline game on 5/22 vs. Valley Regional
  - Regular season finished 15-5
  - New leadership is success
- Tennis
  - Shoreline championship is on 5/23
  - Finished regular season 14-6
- Girls Lacrosse
  - Finished regular season 11-5
  - Shoreline game on 5/22 vs. Lyme-Old Lyme
- Golf
  - Went to a tournament on Fisher's Island

### **Music/Art/Drama**

- Drama club is concerned about cohesiveness (“losing grasp of the team effort”)
  - Students feel like they don't have a big enough say in decisions affecting the drama department
- Select choirs concert on 5/23 at The Kate
- Final large band/choir concert was successful
- Choirs are performing for Old Saybrook Middle School and Goodwin during finals week

### **Other**

- School start time is an ongoing debate with many potential pros and cons
  - Pro – High School students would be able to sleep later
  - Con – Could have a large impact on athletics
- Transgender bathrooms will be implemented next school year

The Board discussed some of this year's senior projects.

Superintendent Perruccio informed the Board that a Senior Capstone Advisor stipend has been created to help maximize the projects, internships and initiatives undertaken by the senior class each year.

### Correspondence

The following correspondence was sent to the Board of Education:

- Invitation to Fine Arts Day at Kathleen E. Goodwin on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>
- CABE Collective Bargaining Workshop Flyer – Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

### **III. MEEETING MINUTES**

This item was tabled until the June 5, 2018, Regular Meeting in order to review the audio recording for accuracy.

### **IV. EDUCATION ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

#### Student Representative Survey Review

Student Representatives Alyssa Parker and Chris Thomson 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.

Ms. Parker gave the Board specific feedback regarding her experiences and answered questions from Board Members. Some of the topics discussed included anonymous reporting to the student representatives, improved access to the student representatives, the creation of a student representative email, and how a student representative can respectfully raise opposing viewpoints.

#### 2018-2019 Staffing Update

The District budget passed on May 15, 2018, and the Superintendent and the Old Saybrook Education Association President, Ellen Taylor, have met with all staff who are being impacted by the reduction in force required by enrollment changes in 2018-2019. The District was able to take advantage of retirements and resignations so that all certified staff are employed. Because of this, the District will rescind the non-renewals of the following staff members:

- Garret Artman
- Sarah Bernhardson
- Jeff Buck
- Laura Caruthers
- Chelsea Crehan
- Mike Cunningham
- Kara Donnelly
- James Gowdy
- James Hespeler
- Chris Johnston
- Laury LaMarche
- Amy Maynard

- Lindsay More
- Shayne Muñoz
- Hannah Newton
- Linda Romanchok
- Kara Santopietro
- Megin Sechen
- Jaclyn Shearin
- Heather Tooker
- Koren Torre
- Melissa Vazquez-McCoy
- Nick Yacavou
- Michelle Zimmerman
- Eugene Zukowski

In addition, an email was sent to certified staff asking them to identify any new opportunities for which they would like to be considered, if they arise. Finally, building, program leaders may consider reassigning staff within the building, as they did last year. The Superintendent will update the Board on those staffing discussions, including rescinding most of the non-renewal letters given to the district's non-tenured teachers in April.

Authorize the Superintendent to Add Faculty/Sections

In anticipation of enrollment and staffing changes that normally occur during the summer months, I respectfully request the Board consider authorizing the Superintendent to add sections and or personnel if the need should arise during the time you are not scheduled to meet. We have allocated resources in our budget proposal for the 2018-2019 school year to meet anticipated changes in enrollment. The middle and high school's course scheduling are currently being finalized. At this point in time, staffing and sections are being reviewed and adjusted by the District Leadership Team at all three schools for the coming school year. However, we will continue to closely monitor all enrollment numbers, including kindergarten enrollment.

**Brodeur/Baker**

**“Move to authorize the Superintendent to add faculty and/or sections, as needed”**

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

Residency Issue

Board of Education Policy “Series 9000 Board Member Roles” states that the Board shall consider any specific recommendations made by the Superintendent of Schools. Additionally, our practice has been to allow the Board of Education to decide student residency issues. It has been our procedure in the past to allow students who have moved from the district during the latter part of the school year to remain enrolled in order for them to complete their academic year with their classmates. There is a family at Old Saybrook Middle School who is requesting that the Board allow their daughters, to remain enrolled at Old Saybrook Middle School through the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year despite their recent residency departure from the town. The Superintendent recommended that the Board allow these students to remain in the school system for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic year. 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 Bauchman supports the petition to have the students remain at the Old Saybrook Middle School until the conclusion of the 2017-2018 academic year while the family resides out of town. Should these students wish to continue their studies in the Old Saybrook School District for the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year, proof of permanent residency must be provided.

### **Baker/Hyla**

**“Move to approve the residency request, as presented”**

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

### **Public Relations Update**

At the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year, the Public Relations Committee began discussing marketing goals for the year. After debating several options, the committee decided that a video should be made which highlights the special features of Old Saybrook Public Schools and tie it into what is special about the Old Saybrook community. The committee wanted to create a video that was marketed primarily to current students, parents and community members, believing that strengthening community investment in our schools and students will strengthen town pride and help to make our current parents and students advocates for the district. With that goal in mind, the committee began to research various marketing vendors for the purpose of creating such a video.

Board Member Barros, Superintendent Perruccio and Mr. Gerbers spoke to the process of selecting a vendor to work with Old Saybrook Public Schools on the video project and the progress made to date.

### **Bid Waiver Requests**

The District is in the process of working on year end projects and purchases for year end. The District purchases many items through state contract however, there are some items that we have been able to seek better pricing on than state bid pricing would allow. A brief description of end of year items was provided to the Board.

Per Board of Education policy, the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, in his/her sole determination, may grant a Waiver for any of the above-listed reasons. Upon granting such a Waiver, the Superintendent of schools or his/her designee must, in writing, state the reason(s) for granting such Waiver.

## **V. REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATION**

Kathleen E. Goodwin – Principal Sutman reported that the Buddy Bench is part of the school’s culture now. Principal Sutman talked about some of the efforts being made

to prepare third grade students for the change to the middle school the following year. The Board and Principal Sutman also discussed annual Climate Surveys and how students, parents and teachers give feedback about the schools.

Old Saybrook Middle School – There was no additional report.

Old Saybrook High School – There was no additional report.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment – Director Goss reported that four different summer courses were offered for this summer and there were no enrollments for those courses.

Operations, Facilities and Finance – There was no additional report.

Pupil and Professional Services – Director Pendleton explained that there are random times where Medicaid contacts one of our providers and they must report what services are taking place for one minute on that day.

Superintendent of Schools – There was no additional report.

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

Budget and Fiscal Committee – Board Member Chang announced that the budget passed on May 15.

CABE – Board Member Baker represented CABE at the Connecticut Interscholastic Conference and it was a positive experience.

Facilities – Board Member Brodeur stated that the Facilities committee previewed and discussed the building updates from Director Pendleton, prior to the Board of Education meeting.

LEARN – The synopsis from May was posted to the notebook.

Strategic Planning Committee – There was no report.

Demographics – Board Member Barros stated that the Demographics Committee would report to the Board at the June 5, 2018, regular meeting.

Personnel – Board Member Brodeur stated that the second part of the Superintendent Evaluation would take place this evening during Executive Session.

Policy – Board Member Baker stated that the next meeting of the Policy Committee would be on May 31, 2018.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Kennedy stated that the District has begun researching alternative school day start times.

**VII. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS**

Audience of Citizens

No citizens addressed the Board of Education

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Baker/Hyla

**“Move to enter into executive session at 8:50PM for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s Evaluation”**

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

**The Board invited Superintendent Perruccio into Executive Session.**

**IX. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**The Board returned to open session at 10:48PM.**

**X. REMINDERS**

- OSHS – Spring Concert – May 23 – 7:30PM
- Goodwin – Grade 3 Spring Concert – May 24 – 2:15PM & 6:00PM
- OSHS – Underclassmen Awards – May 24 – 7:00PM
- District – Memorial Day – School Closed – May 28
- OSMS – Grade 5 DARE Graduation – May 29 – 7:00PM
- Policy Committee Meeting – May 31 – 6:15PM
- OSHS – Senior Awards Night – May 31 – 7:00PM
- OSHS – RAM Boosters Meeting – June 4 – 7:00PM
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – June 5 – 7:00PM
- OSHS – Theater, Art and Jazz Night – June 5 – 7:30PM

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Baker/Furman

**“Move to adjourn at 10:49PM”**

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

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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