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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, October 13, 2026.

Board Members

Karen Brodeur
James Henderson
Karina Julius
Eileen Baker
Joseph Maselli
Jordan Schellens
Jane Wisialowski
Teri Bruce

Others

Chris Drezek, Superintendent of Schools
Krista Bauchman, OSMS Principal (arr. 7:23PM, dep. 8:00PM)

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented to the Board of Education:

- Two emails regarding the OSHS soccer coach.
- Five emails regarding community representation in the Director of Student Services interview process.
- Three emails regarding Mark Perna's engagement.
- An invitation from the Yale Club of New Haven to celebrate Yale's 325th anniversary.
- A request to add a discussion on dyslexia to a future board agenda.

Reports from the Student Board of Education Representatives

The Student Board Representatives shared their report.

III. MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2026 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Maselli/Bruce

“Move to approve the regular meeting minutes from September 22, 2026, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (7-1-0)

Board member Baker voted against the motion.

IV. EDUCATION ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Policy 1st Reading

The following policies were presented to the Board for a first reading

- Series 6000 - Library Collection Development and Maintenance, Library Displays and Programs and Library Material Review and Reconsideration
- Series 9000 - Filling Vacancies on the Board

The board asked questions related to the following:

- Requested that first review draft policy documents be distributed farther in advance of scheduled meetings to allow Board members sufficient time for thorough review.
- Series 6000 (Library Policy):
 - Requested clarification regarding specific language contained in Appendix A.
 - Requested information regarding current library staffing allocations and resources across each school building within the district.
- Series 9000 (Filling Vacancies on the Board):
 - Discussed the implications of incorporating explicit cross-references to the Town Charter within the policy text.

Superintendent Update

The Superintendent provided an update on the following topics:

- Presented the financial report for Fiscal Year 2026.

- Noted an upcoming announcement regarding a partnership with a major organization.
- Reported that Old Saybrook High School (OSHS) was ranked 39th in Connecticut and 2nd in the Shoreline Conference in the latest Niche rankings of top 100 CT high schools.
- Reported that Kathleen E. Goodwin Elementary School ranked 123rd out of 547 elementary schools in Connecticut, placing it in the top 22% statewide in the most recent U.S. News and World Report of the best elementary schools in the State of Connecticut,
- First-round interviews for the Director of Student Services position were completed on October 12.
- Received positive feedback from students, staff, and parents regarding Mark Perna's engagements on October 8–9, during which he met with community members, students in grades 8–12, pathways coordinators, and district staff.
- The district MTSS committee held its inaugural meeting on October 7, bringing together teacher representatives from all three school buildings to outline a consistent MTSS process districtwide.
- Launched the new curriculum writing process this month, with department teams focusing initial revisions on English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies.
- Initiated alignment meetings across all grade levels for new department leaders, marking the first of several planned professional development opportunities to ensure cohesive programming districtwide.

The Board asked questions related to the following:

- Criterion for the U.S. News and World Report's elementary school ranking
- A comment was made that the Literacy Night at Goodwin on 9/24 was very well done.

V. Reports by Administration

Executive Function Report

Principal Bauchman presented "Alignment of Lifelong Learning Behaviors" to the Board. The purpose of this work is to improve alignment and transitions between our schools so that students and families experience a smooth and connected journey.

The Board asked questions related to the following:

- Are we able to reach out to families who do not speak English?
- What milestones will show if you are successful?

- How do you communicate with/give feedback to parents?
- How do you enforce the process throughout the year?

VI. Audience of Citizens

Michael Bender, 3 Southview Terrace, expressed appreciation for the advance publication of agenda materials. He requested that the Audience of Citizens section be moved to an earlier position on the agenda and asked that supporting materials for all meeting items, including the Superintendent's Update, be made available prior to meetings.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Baker/Maselli

“Move to approve the tentative agreement between the Old Saybrook Board Of Education and the Old Saybrook Administrators union, 7/1/27 - 6/30/30, as presented”

MOTION: CARRIED (7-0-1)

Board member Schellens abstained.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:03PM

VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 8:26PM.

IX. REMINDERS

- OSHS - Shorelines Music Festival Day 2 and Concert - October 14 - 1:00PM - 8:00PM
- OSHS - Field Day - October 16
- OSHS - Homecoming Dance - October 16 - 7:00PM - 10:30PM
- OSHS - Picture Day - October 21
- OSHS - Fall Concert - October 22 - 7:30PM - 8:30PM
- District - Board of Education Meeting - October 27 - 5:00PM

X. ADJOURNMENT

Wisialowski/Maselli

“Move to adjourn at 8:34PM”

MOTION: CARRIED (8-0-0)

James Henderson, Secretary
Old Saybrook Board of Education

Minutes recorded and typed by:
Mary Beth McGrath, Executive Assistant

*DRAFT - Subject to approval at the next BOE meeting