

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Organizational Meeting
December 7, 2015

The Organizational Meeting for the Board of Education was held in the Board Meeting Room on the second floor of Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Edward M. O'Brien at 7:00 PM. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Guthrie
Patrick R. Leigh
Patricia Libero
James W. Morrissey
Karen B. Pacelli
Mark P. Palmieri
Rosa Richardson
Susan K. Walker

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rosemary Russo

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Edward M. O'Brien

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent
Anne Druzolowski, Asst. Superintendent
Matt Cavallaro, Director of Finance

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Susannah Beyl
Evelyn Fabian
Andrew Gordon

Organization

Mayor O'Brien welcomed everyone and stated at this time I will take nominations for Chairman. Robert Guthrie nominated Jim Morrissey and Karen Pacelli seconded the nomination. Mayor O'Brien asked if there were any other nominations three times. There were no other nominations. Mayor O'Brien stated we have a nomination for James Morrissey and a second and asked all those in favor. All board members were in favor, no board member was opposed, and no one abstained. Motion carries. James Morrissey is the Chairman of the Board of Education. Applause ensued.

Chairman James Morrissey said that was easy. (Laughter) Before Chairman Morrissey began he stated 74 years ago today was the attack on Pearl Harbor and he asked for a moment of silence so we never forget that terrible day in American history.

Chairman Morrissey thanked his fellow board members for electing him as their Chairman this evening. Chairman Morrissey stated that he looks forward to working with each of the board members over the next two years. He believes by working together we can accomplish many great things. He has had the pleasure of working with several board members over the last two years and is looking forward to working with the three new board members who are here this evening. We may not agree on every issue but knows that everyone works in the best interest of our students to insure that they have the best education that they rightfully deserve. He asked that each board member visit our schools and meet with the principals, teachers and students over the next several months to listen to their concerns and any ideas they might have to improve the quality of our educational system. He also asked the board to get involved with the PTA's and let the parents know that we appreciate the great work that they do and show them that we are willing to work with them and provide any assistance if they need our help.

Chairman Morrissey is also looking forward to working with the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent and challenged them to raise the educational bar in our school system. We need to improve our test scores. He asked them to continue to work with our wonderful principals and dedicated teachers and listen to their suggestions and ideas as they are the professionals who are involved in teaching our children every day. They have a vast amount of knowledge and by working with them our district can make great strides that we all can be proud of. Having been on the board the last two years he has spoken with many teachers and can honestly say they are a group of dedicated, professional individuals who really care about our students. As board chairman I want to say thank you for all that you do for our students. As a board we have a lot of work to do in the next two years and I am confident that by working collectively and opening the lines of communication with our administrators, teachers and parents we can improve our school system and test scores. Let's all join together because our children deserve nothing but the best. Thank you very much. Chairman Morrissey thanked Mayor O'Brien and applause ensued.

Chairman Morrissey asked for nominations for Vice Chairman

Patrick Leigh nominated Robert Guthrie

Karen Pacelli seconded the nomination.

Chairman Morrissey asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chairman three times. There were no other nominations for Vice Chairman and nominations were closed.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a roll call vote. All board members voted in favor of Robert Guthrie, no board member was opposed and no one abstained. Motion carries. Robert Guthrie is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Education. Applause ensued. Bob declined the invitation to say a few words.

Chairman Morrissey asked for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer

Karen Pacelli nominated Sue Walker

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Chairman Morrissey said Karen Pacelli nominated Susan Walker for Secretary/Treasurer seconded by Patrick Leigh and asked three times if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations for Secretary/Treasurer and nominations were closed. Chairman Morrissey asked for a roll call vote. All board members voted in favor of Susan Walker, no board member was opposed and no one abstained. Motion carries. Susan Walker is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Education. Applause ensued.

Chairman Morrissey stated there is nothing further on the agenda tonight and called for a motion to adjourn.

Bob Guthrie made the motion to adjourn

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola

Board Secretary