

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 15, 2016

Regular Board Meeting

Board's Meeting Room

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on August 15, 2016 in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by James Morrissey, Chairman of the Board of Education at 5:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

James W. Morrissey, Chairman
Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair
Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Leigh
Patricia Libero
Karen Pacelli
Rosa Richardson
Rosemary Russo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Palmieri

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
Matt Cavallaro, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Before beginning the public portion of the meeting Chairman Morrissey wanted to extend his condolences and those of the board members to Pat Libero on the passing of her mother. She will be remembered in our prayers. Pat thanked Jim and the board members and said she appreciates this.

Rosa Richardson put a motion on the floor to add two items to our agenda this evening. Item 16-56 Alexander Znosko a Social Studies Teacher and Item 16-57 the recommended 9 – 12 Department Head assignments. Chairman Morrissey recognized the motion by Rosa to add Items 16-56 and 16-57 to tonight's agenda and asked for a second. Patrick Leigh seconded the motion. All board members present were in favor. Items 16-56 and 16-57 are added to tonight's agenda.

Rosa asked that we make an amendment to the agenda and recognize Debbie Tierney as resigning not retiring. Under Informational Debbie Tierney should be listed as a retirement not a resignation. Pat Libero seconded the motion all board members present were in favor. The typo correction will be made.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairman Morrissey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone would like to address the board.

Dana Paredes, 54 Barbara Lane, West Haven, CT addressed the board. Dana thanked Rosa and Patrick for serving on the attendance committee hearing. Rosa and Patrick thanked Dana.

Dana invited the board members to the Westies on Wheels Event on Thursday. They go into some of the neighborhoods in West Haven and deliver backpacks and school supplies along with hygiene items, food and make sure that all the kids start out with everything they need. Dana passed out some flyers announcing this. It will be a long day with a lot of good things happening so please stop by. There are over 600 backpacks to give away this year. Rosa Richardson asked if they are in need of anything. We have had a lot of very generous donors this year. Costco has been fantastic and UNH is donating so we are pretty well stocked. There were no other speakers. Public session closed at 5:05 PM.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro said we start school two weeks from today and I will give you some upcoming events and dates. Westies on Wheels is a nice event and gets kids whose families are in need of supplies off on the right foot on Thursday. We have an event at Savin Rock and the Vertical Church has been a terrific sponsor of this school over the past years. This Saturday from 11 to 2 Savin Rock School will be unveiling their new school playground. They will be handing out backpacks, free haircuts and things to get the kids ready for school. We are looking forward to these events. Our new teacher orientation is Tuesday, August 23rd. This event will take place in the board room because there aren't as many teachers as in the past couple of years. If you come early there will only be about 10 teachers so it is a nice opportunity to introduce yourself to them while they are having breakfast and coffee and offer support. If the board chairman would like to say a few words to address this you are more than welcome to Jim. We formally will start at 9:00 AM but coffee and starts at 8:00 AM. Neil thanked Anne, Jolene and members of the teachers union for organizing this very informative event. It is a long day for our teachers where we give them the overview on everything you need to know about the West Haven School District. The Teacher's Union is very good about going over the contract with them and they will receive an overview on the language arts curriculum, math curriculum some special ed. Dr. Druzolowski said wherever teachers are being employed in a subject area there will be an overview and with ten people it will be scattered all over the place. The professional staff reports on August 25th which is our full day professional development. Neil thanked Teresa Heaney and Joe Iuteri who helped

work out a solution so if teachers want to go back and do their rooms and get ready for the kids after orientation it isn't costing us any money. We appreciate the union's cooperation with this. They can end the workshop and have some time to do some work if they choose to do so. The first full day of school is August 29th and we are ready. Neil thanked the board for adding the two new items to tonight's agenda. This helps with processing for payroll purposes and getting everything formalized with hire dates and benefits. We are still aggressively looking to find someone to fill the Technology Education slot at Bailey and will meet with Dr. Cordon and Eric Rice who is the Tech Ed chairperson at the high school. We need to have some backup plans in case we don't find anybody certified. We will keep you informed but this will be a difficult position to fill. Other than that we are in good shape to start the school year all classrooms are covered and not all districts can say that two weeks before school.

The work at Carrigan was discussed. The outer appearance is terrific and the painting has been completed along with the parking lot lines and new signs have been put up. The HVAC work will be complete which will make a huge difference in the air flow and the way people will feel in the building. The auditorium seats have been removed and should be in if not by the first day of school shortly thereafter. The abatement issue had delayed this project. The lockers will be done on a second shift once the school year begins and will be done in sections. Neil suggested a board meeting be done there on October 3rd so we can have a tour prior to the meeting.

Mike McGrath, Chris Everone and our custodial staff have done a wonderful job of overseeing the summer shut down and the buildings are clean and ready to go.

Board member Patrick Leigh asked for an update on the pool. Neil said they are working on a plan (with the money set aside) to set up a separate attachment outside to keep the humidity away from it. They are working with the U.I. on this for a solution. Neil is hopeful there will be an answer shortly.

Board member Rosa Richardson asked where we stand with the AFB proposals etc. Neil said AFB's contract with us has run out and we did seek out an RFP but said we are willing to look at alternatives. We have not hired a person or company to oversee the facilities. Mike McGrath and Chris Everone have overseen the cleanliness of the building and the projects that have been going on. Rosa said we have a magnitude of projects going on and am grateful they are handling it but...Neil said there is no question we will need a long term solution at some point but during the summer it was handled and we were able to save some money. We can save some money and there are other options out there. Pat Libero said the schools she has visited look good so somehow or other they got everything done and it looks good. Neil said they really do a good job during the summer and we are always ready to open and the buildings are clean. Our guys really take pride in this and like hearing the floors and rooms look great. Everything will be in place and we didn't miss a beat. Bob Guthrie asked if we will be on a month to month with AFB when school starts. No, their contract ended on June 30th and we chose not to accept their bid. Mike and Chris have handled everything and are as familiar with the school district as anybody and have done a really good job and the guys have worked

well with them. Rosa asked if not hiring anybody is an option at this point. Neil said the short answer is it can be. We budgeted a considerable amount of money to have someone in charge of facilities but we could save the bulk of that money; it is an option. Rosa mentioned Washington School and some needed work and Neil said you are on point but the bigger issue is that the board has been very supportive of his requests but unfortunately the money isn't there and better long term planning is needed but it is hard to plan long term when you don't have the money to put out ahead of time.

Susan Walker asked if the two nurse positions that were open due to retirements have been filled. Neil said one we did not fill; we were going to have one less floater and that was part of the budget that we passed. The second nursing position we are replacing and that position will be in place by the first day of school. This will be on an upcoming agenda.

Bob Guthrie said as far as you are concerned for going back to school are there any projects that are at risk or dangerous to open up the doors. Neil stated no, not at all.

Neil thanked Anne for all of her work with the Alliance Grant which is on the agenda tonight for approval. That is a big deal for us. Most of that is salary and support staff and it is not just writing the grant it is spending days with people from the State Department of Education to justify the requests and show them the programs we are putting in place along with meetings throughout the year and correspondence. There is quite a bit of accountability and I need to thank Anne for all of the work on this.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

There were no student representatives present.

C.1.c. Board

Susan Walker mentioned that Friends of the West Haven Public Library are having their book sale this weekend and they wanted to pass on the information that on Monday, August 22nd at 9:00 AM at the main branch if there are leftover books teachers may get children's young adult books for their classroom library for free. Dana offered to get this message out.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on July 18, 2016 at 5:00 PM.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.

Rosa Richards made the motion to approve the minutes

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor.

Minutes are approved.

D.2. Resignations (Certified)

16-49 Rosalyn Diaz-Ortiz, ELL/Bilingual Teacher – Savin Rock Community School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations
Item #16-49
Rosa Richards made the motion to approve
Susan Walker seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Item #16-49 is approved

16-50 Jeffrey Takach, Social Studies Teacher – West Haven High School
Effective: August 3, 2016
Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations
Item #16-50
Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve
Pat Libero seconded the motion
Discussion: Pat Libero said he was her social studies teacher at Carrigan and was a great guy and she is sorry to see him go. She thinks part of the reason is that he will be getting married and will be moving so he was looking for someplace closer to where he will be living and wouldn't have to commute for so long. He is a great guy and will be missed a lot. I wish him well. He is getting married in the fall and starting a new job. Other board members agreed and stated he is a loss.
All board members present were in favor
Item #16-50 is approved

16-51 Michael Battista, Technology Education Teacher – Bailey Middle School
Effective: July 23, 2016
Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations
Item #16-51
Rosa Richards made the motion to approve
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Item #16-51 is approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

16-52 Mary Kate Cullen, 21 Baxter Lane, Milford, CT 06460
Integrated Pre School – Savin Rock Community School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$40,824 (Step 1 BS)

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.3 New Hire: (Certified)

Item #16-52

Rosa Richards made the motion to approve

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Item #16-52 is approved

***New Hire Certified Item 16-56 was added during the meeting and is located at the end of the minutes**

D.4. New Business

16-53 2016 – 17 Consolidated Alliance and Priority School District Grant

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. New Business

Items #16-53

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: Bob thanked Dr. Druzolowski for her efforts on this. This is almost 3.2 M in salaries and benefits. The city and BOE is very fortunate to receive this. If those funds were to dry up it is scary to think where we would find that money. Matt Cavallaro said the way the state incorporated this grant to keep the funds once this is over is they started to build it in to the overall ECS money that they give us. It is now a portion of the ECS money that is carved out that we have to show what we are spending it on and a plan needs to be approved. Matt thinks that going forward once the grant ends after year five the money will still be there. Superintendent Cavallaro said we will still be accountable to the state for that portion.

All board members present were in favor

Item #16-53 is approved

D.4. New Business

16-54 Approval of the following listing of teachers from Bailey Middle School as Team Leaders for 2016/2017: Team 1 - Greg Heudorfer, Team 2 - Deanna Pucillo, Team 3 - Richard Hemming, Team 4 - Cindi Anastasio, Team 5 - Kevin Hardy, Team 6 - Sherry Mitchell, Team 7 - Sarah Vinci, Team 8 - James Mastriano, SpEd - Jacqueline Miconi, Art/PE/Sp - Kelly Flynn and Tech Ed/Music - Sheila Krajcir

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. New Business
Items #16-54
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Item #16-54 is approved

16-55 Approval of the Listing of Elementary Unit Leaders by school for 2016
– 2017

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. New Business
Items #16-55
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Item #16-53 is approved

***D.4. New Business Item 16-57 was added during the meeting and is located at the end of the minutes**

***Additions to tonight's agenda made during the board meeting**

***New Hire Certified Item 16-56**

16-56 Alexander Znosko, 272 Noble Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Social Studies Teacher – West Haven High School
Effective: August 2016 (Start of Academic Year 2016-2017)
Salary: \$44,884 (Step 1 BS+30)

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.3 New Hire: (Certified)
Item #16-56
Rosa Richards made the motion to approve
Pat Libero seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Item #16-56 is approved

***D.4. New Business Item 16-57**

16-57 Approval of the Listing of 9 – 12 Department Head assignments for the
2016 – 2017 academic year.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4 New Business
Item #16-57

Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Item #16-57 is approved

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn.
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion
All board members present were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary