

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**December 21, 2015**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Board's Meeting Room**

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut on November 16, 2015. The meeting was called to order by James Morrissey, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 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  
Karen Pacelli  
Rosa Richardson  
Rosemary Russo

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patricia Libero  
Mark Palmieri

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRESENT:** Evelyn Fabian  
Andrew Gordon

**B. Public Portion of Meeting**

Chairman Morrissey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked three times if anyone would like to address the board. There were no speakers.

**REPORTS**

**C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools**

Neil thanked the Fine Arts Department for all the Holiday Shows. They do a really good job and our numbers are up. Carrigan has 200 kids that want to participate in our drama

program and we are working something out so everyone can participate. Our teachers do a really good job. Neil had Susan Misur pass out the State of the District report to the board members. It is very helpful to everyone and includes the individual schools, the programs we offer, the budget and there is a little bit about everything for the West Haven Board of Education. Copies will be forwarded to the City Council and the Mayor's office. Neil said if there were any questions to contact him so he could answer them. Neil said we do a lot and offer a lot to our kids.

The New England School Development Council does a free enrollment projection study for us every year for no cost to us. We need to work closely with the administration to develop some long term strategies for our district. We are about 5,800 students right now and over the next ten years the trend is to drop down to about 5,000 students. We need to be prepared to handle this. The fact that we have All Day Kindergarten did not spike our enrollment even at the kindergarten level. If you have any questions Neil said he was available.

Rosa said she is in favor of this study as it would give the board the tools needed to move forward instead of playing guessing games. Bob Guthrie asked if they had the chance to compare these numbers to those that UCONN put up on their site. Neil did not he checked the CAFE and CAPSS study. Neil said this study is within 6 or 9 students of where they thought we would be this year so the numbers are pretty close so they must use similar formulas. Neil said we are not unique most districts are trending downward. Bob said the UCONN study showed New Haven, Waterbury and New London with increases and everyone else decreasing. Neil said one of the things we want to know is what is the population we are serving demographic wise, who is coming in with pre-school background and numbers like that. Neil will get that study to the board as it will be helpful to the new board members as well as the returning board members.

Neil said the Carrigan projected with the last board and the City Council is now involved and the board must take some action in the next couple of weeks. Neil recapped the project and let the board know what action they would need to take. The size of our district allowed us to get about 1.7M in grant money because we are an Alliance District. We contacted Roger LeFleur, who will act as our project manager, and sat with Kevin McNabola and Vin Amendola from the City and said there are some nice energy incentives like solar panels and things like that and we came up with a comprehensive package for Carrigan. It is about a 7.2M project that will include a new roof, new doors, new windows and some other energy incentives that would set Carrigan up well for the next 20 to 30 years. The last board passed the approval for us to apply for the 1.7M grant and we are making application through the city for two resolutions that need to be passed one is for the roof project and the other is for the energy incentive project. These two resolutions will allow us to one apply to the State to get reimbursed on the roof and the energy incentives and number two will authorize the mayor to form building committees for each of those projects. This was well received by the City Council last week and hopefully will be passed at their December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The BOE will be asked to pass the educational specifications (which you have in your packet) at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is a really good project and if you have questions please contact me. A

further discussion continued and Neil said he would be available to meet if there were any questions. Patrick Leigh said based on these projections with the declining population did you previously scope out the cost of building a brand new school. No they haven't. Those are the kinds of things a study would tell you. It would be a blue print for the board and the city to work off of. Questions were asked about the heating and the boilers at Carrigan School and they were told everything is working fine and there were boilers that were much older and would go much before Carrigan's boilers. A further discussion continued.

### **C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report**

The report is located at the end of the minutes. Evelyn also wanted to congratulate Andrew for winning a statewide poster competition. For the Know Your Universal Declaration of Human Rights Contest which has students across the state depict one of the 30 articles into an artistic representation Andrew chose Article 2 which stated that all of the rights enumerated are guaranteed to all citizens regardless of race, gender, sex, political or social class etc. Applause followed for Andrew.

### **C.1.c. Board**

Board members talked about schools, concerts, meetings and other events they had visited. Rosemary suggested board members adopt a school. Bob suggested they start to work on the Evaluation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent so goals can be set.

## **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 November 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Minutes are approved

**D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Organizational Meeting**

held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on December 7, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Discussion: The time of the Organizational meeting was corrected to 7:00 PM rather than 6:00 PM on the agenda.

All board members present were in favor

Minutes are approved

**D.2. Resignations: (Certified)**

**15-133 Ronald Stancil**, Principal – Seth Haley

Effective: March 1, 2016 (date changed to February 29, 2016 during the board meeting)

Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve item 15-133  
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the item  
Rosemary Russo seconded the motion  
Discussion: The effective date was changed to February 29, 2016.  
All board members present were in favor  
Items 15-33 is approved

**D.2. Resignations: (Certified)**

**15-134 Qi Li Kuang**, Math Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: January 5, 2016

Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve item 15-134  
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the item  
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion  
Discussion: Neil said this was unexpected. Jolene tried to organize an exit meeting but she didn't want to meet and it made her sad that she made the decision. She said she would complete the survey but we haven't heard back from her yet. Chairman Morrissey asked that the board members receive copies of the survey. Absolutely. Rosemary Russo asked if they expected a long gap between this resignation and a new hire. Neil said it will be difficult to fill and there is a plan in place to cover the classes right now. They plan on interviewing two candidates after the holidays. We are using Maria the math coach until we can move forward. A further discussion took place.  
All board members present were in favor  
Items 15-34 is approved

**D.3. New Hire: (Certified)**

**15-135 Christopher J. Javier**, 1170 Sherman Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517

Science Teacher - Bailey Middle School

Salary: \$40,020 Step 1 BS

Effective: January 4, 2016

**15-136 Michael Bartone**, 69 Perry Merrill Drive, West Haven, CT 06516  
Head Girls Tennis Coach – WHHS  
Salary: \$3,000.00  
Effective: December 21, 2015

**15-137 Hayley Padro**, 13 Cullen Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516  
Boys Assistant Swim Coach – WHHS  
Salary: \$2,100.00  
Effective: December 21, 2015

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve items 15-135 through 15-137  
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the items  
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion  
There was no discussion  
All board members were in favor  
Items 15-135, 15-136 and 15-137 are approved

**D.4. New Business**

**15-138 Approval of GCC ARC 133 Contract**

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve item 15-138  
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the items  
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion  
Discussion: Neil said Eric Rice the Department Chair is here to answer any questions.  
Neil said this is not additional money. The last time it was approved this is the contract that came with the stipend that we had to pay that was held back because we didn't have a final contract; this is not additional money. Many questions were asked and answered by Eric Rice and Pam Gardner. Dates were discussed and Pam Gardner said we have to recognize their current dates as well as ours. Rosemary asked if there was a maximum of 20 kids and was told 20 total kids in the entire dual enrollment program. For the manufacturing it is 11 or 12 for this particular ARC 133 class and this is an independent class. Rosemary said it is \$10,975.00 for one semester correct and if we continue this next year it would be for two semesters so it would be \$21,000 for 10 to 11 kids correct it would be a similar condition. Rosemary said and they get three credits yes dual credits high school and college credits.

Rosa Richardson thinks at this cost we need to reach out and find more student you should be filling the class. She thinks \$1,000 a kid is an awful lot of money in the situation that we as a board of education are in right now. She is in favor of the shops and the hands on but thinks that for 10 students we need to take a second look at it. Can we get more kids in the program. Eric said letters were sent to every student who elected to take a technology education class in that area, calls were made to the homes of students, Naviance notifications have been made and we have scheduled meetings at night and in the morning so that parents can come and get information. We agree with you we would like more students involved in the program and Pam Gardner thinks as students do this

the interest will certainly grow. We will be able to help these kids and work out any kinks with the class size being low. These kids will have a spectacular experience. A further discussion took place about making up work that they miss from school on the day they go to Gateway. Students will have the ability to makeup missed classwork. Patrick Leigh asked what the negative feedback from students and parents were about this program. Did they express why they weren't interested in this program because this is an awesome Program you are getting college credits and high school credits; where is the disconnect. Neil said we didn't get the turnout we would like in order to answer those questions. Anybody who showed up was in favor or wanted to know more because they were interested in taking the classes. The best way to promote this class is to get it off the ground and through word of mouth and hope it really takes off. Neil agrees with Patrick and said he thinks it is a tremendous opportunity for our students to get them the college credit. To give them three college credits before they graduate from high school is a nice incentive. A further discussion took place.

Rosa Richardson said she is having a difficult time swallowing this because in the two years she has been on the board all we have heard was save our shops, save our shops and then we offer a program like this which is phenomenal and there are 10 kids. She is having difficulty comprehending this because all we have been hearing about as a board is save our shops. All of that noise is for 10 kids. Jim Morrissey said that is only one element of the shop classes though. Neil said Eric Rice did a tremendous job this year. He was put in as the department chair just prior to the start of the school year. We were facing the possibility of not having access to the shop area. While we were getting it ready for construction Eric was reaching out and making these partnerships. Then it was decided to re-open the G wing. Now we have the best of both worlds in a growing program. This is similar to our kids going to UNH to get college credits in science or our kids going to do a Peabody study at Yale University over the summer. We took the negative and turned it into a positive. We went out and worked hard to build these programs and we will continue to do so.

Karen Pacelli asked if this is something we can adjust each semester or is it a long term contract. This is semester by semester. Rosa said this has already been approved though correct. Neil said this has not been approved yet. Bob asked we will have the minimum ten students. Yes. Bob said it said 24 max and at this point we won't be turning anyone away and hopefully it will grow. Have we identified where the \$11,000 is coming from. Matt said yes it will come from the teacher's salary line item. Jim said the downside it is \$10,000 and the upside is that these kids are going to be getting college credit which is a great thing. The first thing that was demolished in the high school was the G wing so it put everything in turmoil and a lot of kids got turned away and now we have our feet back on the ground and the G wing is getting up and running again and it looks pretty good and is heading in the right direction. Now I think you will see a lot more interest in the shop program. \$10,000 might be a lot of money but if you give a kid a college credit and they want to pursue a college career then I think it is a bargain. Sue Walker asked why the money for this contract would come out of the teacher's salary line item. Matt said because it is a stipend and there will be a budget transfer to put that money into that account it is not like we are taking that money away from any of our teachers; it is just

where we decided to park that expense. If the board wants to see it somewhere else a new account can be created. It won't affect any of our teacher's salaries or anything like that. Rosemary asked what happens if some of the kids in this program don't make up the work and their grades suffer. Is someone watching out for this. Eric said yes they are utilizing the career center adjacent to the cafeteria and we run reports weekly for students and have professionals working closely with them to make sure they receive added support as they move forward. We are here to help them if they struggle. Rosa asked when other high school students take an AP Class does the BOE absorb the cost for them to go to that. Jim said we pay for the test. There is no cost associated with that. Pam Gardner said we also participate in classes at Gateway Community College where there is no cost to our students either. Patrick Leigh asked if the course was closed or still open for enrollment. Eric Rice said we will have to submit registration soon but if there is a student that is interested and is appropriate for the course we will accept that student at some point prior to January 20<sup>th</sup>. A further discussion continued. Neil said he will keep the board apprised of the enrollment size and the reaction of the kids to the program.

All board members present were in favor  
Item 15-138 is approved

**15-139 Donation to the Auto Tech Program from O'Connor Automotive**

**15-140 Donation to the Auto Tech Program from Degennaro Auto & Truck Repair**

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve items 15-139 and 15-140  
These are two used vehicles that our shop classes were looking for. Neil said we have been advised by counsel that gifts like this should be accepted by the board. It is not only good for the person doing the donation but it also becomes property of the city of West Haven. Technically even large sized PTA donations should be approved so we will try and monitor this and make sure the board is aware of these types of donations in the future. Chairman Morrissey said we originally tried to get vehicles from the Town Barn but there was some sort of a problem and these two businesses offered us these two cars to use for the program. Rosa thinks this is great but upon completion do we have the opportunity to sell the cars and utilize the money back into that type of program. Neil said they are demonstration cars. Eric said the auto shop teacher will use them as shop cars. Rosa thanked them for that clarification.

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the items  
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion  
All board members were in favor  
Items 15-139 and 15-140 are approved

Before adjourning Chairman Morrissey wished his fellow board members a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year and our student reps, Marylou, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Matt, and everyone here. Neil, Anne & Matt passed on the same good wishes.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn.  
Rosa Richardson made the motion  
Patrick Leigh seconded the motion  
The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola  
Board Secretary

The Student Representative's Report follows on the next page.

Board of Education – December 21, 2015  
Student Representative Report

December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> saw 330 students attend the DECA Winter Wonderland Dance at Cielo, and at least 200 attend the First Midnight Madness event to kick off the Boys Hockey Season at Bennett Rink.

The School Counseling Department hosted Financial Aid Night on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Peer Advocates in conjunction with the West Haven Fire Department held their Annual Toys for Joy drive with 450 children receiving presents.

The Choral Department was busy with their Winter Concert on Wednesday and performances at the Ronald McDonald Trees of Hope and the Poli House.

The Band has been busy supporting the Football team at all of their games, at the Mayor's Inauguration on Sunday and at their Winter Concert last week.

Congratulations to the Senior Girls who won the Annual Powder Puff Game.

Congratulations to SCC 2015 Soccer All Area Teams  
Boys - Salah Oumorou, Blaise Haba, and Jose Espinoza  
Girls - Gabi Prisco and Lauren Lewis

Sala Oumorou has earned All State and All New England Honors

Congratulations to the Football Players who earned All SCC Honors  
Adrian Jaynes - Linebacker  
Byron Dickens - Offensive Lineman  
Anthony Godfrey - Running Back

Anthony Godfrey and Byron Dickens were also named to the All- State Team.

Volleyball Team Honors  
Amanda DeLeonardo – SCC All League, New Haven Register All Area  
Sarah Dunham – SCC All League

Swimming & Diving – Maxine Carrion – All State for Diving

Our construction classes have been working with Habitat for Humanity this semester.

Students in the PACE program engaged in fall cleanup at the Ward Heitmann House.

Junior Tyler Newkirk created two wreaths for WHHS to donate: a Westie Blue Devil wreath to donate to the Seacrest WHEAT auction and a festive holiday wreath for the Trees of West Haven to benefit the Ward Heitmann House Museum.

Our certified nursing assistant classes held "A Cultural Thanksgiving" to simply enjoy each other's company while learning about and celebrating students' cultures. Nursing teacher Val Cosenza said students brought special dishes representing their heritage and that the gathering tied into classroom lessons on the patient's bill of rights, treating others with understanding and dignity, and transcultural nursing

Board of Education – December 21, 2015  
Student Representative Report – page 2

Culinary students traveled to Lyman Orchards to apple pick. Students roamed the orchard in search of the perfect harvested fruit to eventually make a delicious apple pie. During lab students made the pie dough and rolled it out discovering rolling dough isn't as easy as it seems. Then apples were peeled and cored and mixed with some gold old fashion sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg, topped with a sweet crumble and baked to perfection!

The Culinary classes also hosted a gingerbread decorating contest and the winning houses are on display in the DECA showcase.

The Senior Class is selling Class of 2016 Westie Wear in case anyone on the BOE would like to buy some!

Alumni Day is Thursday, January 7, 2016 at WHHS as we open our doors to alumni to share their college experiences with our seniors

The Mock Trial Team is progressing to the quarterfinals in January.

Members of the WHHS Blue Devil Drum Line, Section Leader/Band Vice President Kendall Griffith, Brandon Moore, Christopher Skeens, Tim Strong, and Caylund Williams, performed for Yale University's Annual Freshmen Holiday Dinner on Friday, December 11th. The Blue Devil Drum Line has been performing at this event for the past three years. They led the 'Parade of Comestibles', providing a cadence to which Yale's culinary staff processes, carrying trays of food, ice sculptures, and desserts for the evening's feast. The processing concludes with the entrance of Santa and Mrs. Claus throwing candy to the crowd of more than 2000 'Yalies' and guests

West Haven High School Theatre Workshop will be holding an audition meeting for their spring musical, CABARET tomorrow, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, afterschool.

HOSA members and nursing students made a friendly visit to a convalescent home in New haven on December 17. This first exposure to a nursing facility has helped prepare them for the clinical environment beginning in January. Besides singing and visiting, the students brought donations of much needed items to the geriatric residents.

The WHHS Girl Up Club hosted a "Girls, Leadership and Activism" conference on Dec 9, 2015. Over 100 students from 5 area schools attended this event where 4 professional women spoke about their careers, experiences and goals as a woman in their respective fields. Speakers included Cyndi Costanzo, Executive Director UCONN Recreation, Melissa Jennings, College Advocate for Milford Rape Crisis Center, Ann Lawlor, State Attorney for Bridgeport and Fairfield and Meaghan Davis, CEO and Founder of BRAVE Girls Leadership.

Congratulations to Taylor Turner, Rose Silver and Jay Silver for being accepted into the Southern Region Choir and qualifying for The All State Choir.

Camerata and Bel Canto will be singing at the Black Coalition's Martin Luther King Tribute Ceremony on Sunday January 10 at 4:00pm.