

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 16, 2016

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 May 16, 2016. 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
Patricia Libero
Karen Pacelli
Mark Palmieri
Rosa Richardson
Rosemary Russo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Susannah Beyl
Evelyn Fabian

B. Public Portion of Meeting

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

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven, CT congratulated the staff of Forest and Mackrille; the teachers, paraprofessionals, administration, clerical, and custodial for the fine job they did in achieving honors from the State Board of Education for their SBAC scores. The board gave thanks. Applause

Public Session closed at 7:02 PM

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil said hopefully Susie Beyl will be here tonight so we can wish her well. There are a lot of activities taking place for seniors. Susie has been an excellent student representative and has asked a lot of great questions. We were very proud that she was elected to serve as a member of the State Board of Education and she was able to provide some insight to us over the course of two years. Neil knows that Mrs. Gardner, the administration at WHHS and all the teachers are going to miss her. Susie arrived at this point of the meeting and applause followed. Neil said we are really going to miss you and are thankful for what you have done for us and we know you are going to have a great future. Susie thanked Neil and stated she enjoyed being a student representative for the past two years. A cake was given to Susie and everyone applauded.

Neil said there are several retirements on tonight's agenda; one is a teacher and most of them are as a result of the agreement we passed with AFSCME last week. The more people we can get to retire through the agreement the more savings we will have for our budget next year. Mrs. Paolino is on the agenda tonight and she has been an outstanding teacher in our district. Neil received word today that there is another teacher that will be retiring so in the next week or two we will be able to finalize a list which will help us finalize a budget to present to you.

Matt Cavallaro gave an update on the budget. As of today we have 15.5M left for the last month in a half. The entire May payroll is on the budget so we only have one month of payroll left. We are right where we need to be and are trending in the right direction to have a balanced budget. We are always looking at Special Ed tuition and the health benefits. The health benefits this year are trending a little higher than in past years but we feel we have enough money to cover that. We are in a strong position as of today. Superintendent Cavallaro stated that the latest sheet for outside placements is trending down a little from the last one so that is a little bit of good news as well. We have lost a few kids. Rosa said she noticed you are over in tuition now. Matt said we expect it to be pretty close to last year's budget that 8.9 number and probably by the end of the year we will do some type of transfer. Patrick Leigh asked Matt what he thinks the final number for the benefits will be the way it is trending. This is difficult it depends on who has to go to the doctor from now to June 30th and if there is a serious illness it will blow the budget number right out of the water. Right now we are about 3M under and I would say possibly 2M more. Patrick said so we might actually have a savings. Yes but as I said the savings will be transferred right to the Special Ed tuition and we knew this going into the budget. Great, thank you.

Neil congratulated the staff at both Mackrille and Forest. It is certainly nice to be recognized and he feels it is the way our district as a whole is trending. All of our staff is working extremely hard and Anne has pointed to a lot of indicators that we are trending in the right direction. We feel we are getting closer to goal and moving more students in the right direction. Congratulation to the staff at both Mackrille and Forest and thank you to our administrators for all the hard work you have done throughout the course of the school year it has certainly made a difference.

Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Judith Drenzek and Tom Hunt reported on the State Board of Education SBAC scores for Mackrille and Forest. Dr. Druzolowski is thrilled that so many people have come tonight to celebrate for each other. This is not just about Forest and Mackrille; they are our highlights tonight and they will show you where everyone is trending. Every staff member has followed this course and plan over the past seven plus years; it made sense from an instructional perspective and the good news will come to fruition. All kids can succeed and some of the data that shows how all children succeed was presented. The key in all of this is our teachers and our leadership. Judy Drenzek and Tom Hunt gave presentations on the types of things they did in their individual schools which made a big difference. Applause followed the presentation. The board gave thanks.

Neil was thankful for the number of board members who were able to attend the luncheons at Forest and Mackrille. They were able to see the kids working with the computer labs, had a chance to see the MEL, were able to look at all the writings and items displayed which were very nice. We couldn't do this without our teachers.

Chairman Morrissey asked the board if they would like to make any comments before starting with the Student Rep Report.

Rosa Richardson attended the luncheons and thanked the principals for the time they gave them as they strolled through the schools. We visited classes and we had a blast. Rosa thanked everyone and said she appreciates their time and effort.

Susan Walker attended the luncheons and was very impressed with what was going on and is glad she now knows what MEL means. It was very enjoyable to watch the PreK students; she didn't know they could count that high but they did! She enjoyed seeing the great writing at Mackrille and the teachers are wonderful as always.

Jim Morrissey started at Forest and saw Rosa and Superintendent Cavallaro there and was very impressed with both schools. He congratulated both principals for the wonderful job they do. He also congratulated the administrators, teachers, paras and definitely the students. He said he knows it is not an easy task you worked so hard and you certainly got it done. Jim was very impressed with what he saw last week. Please keep up the great work you are doing. As a board we are really proud of the staff that we have at the West Haven Board of Education. Thank you very much for the wonderful job you do.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

Before beginning the report Susie Beyl wanted to thank all the board of education members and Superintendent Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent Anne Druzolowski for all of their kindness tonight and during the past two years serving on this wonderful board and the past four years as a high school student and the past twelve years as a West Haven student. She thanked them for being good friends, mentors, administrators,

teachers and colleagues that have helped her become the educational advocate student that she has always tried to be. She also thanked them for the pastries.

Susie Beyl and Evelyn Fabian read the student report which is located at the end of the minutes. Chairman Morrissey thanked the student representatives.

C.1.c. Board

Mark Palmieri stated what a great job Dr. Druzolowski and her team did. Mark replied to one thing that he heard all three of them say that kind of bothers him. Don't feel rushed when you are presenting education here because that is what it is all about. He doesn't want to hear people apologize for taking too much time because a lot of time is spent on things that don't need the time spent on them. Please take your time. Did I understand everything; no but I'm sure you do. This has been very good and he has watched Dr. Druzolowski and her administration move along with this over the past 10 years and he thanked everyone for their dedication. He really appreciates the fact that everyone is that dedicated to our children.

Rosa Richardson concurs and finds it pleasurable to hear the positives that are going on within our school district and she appreciates all that you do. Rosa was able to attend both schools and plenty has been going on and it has been very hectic for us too. We have to split ourselves among every school in the district so be patient with us because we can't be everywhere. Thank you.

Karen Pacelli congratulated all schools because they are all doing a good job. She really likes hearing that collaboration is most important because for anyone to be successful you need to have the support of all. She attended the Bailey Honor Society last week and it was nice to see all the children receive their awards. It was also important that the children got to hear from the Mayor because it shows them that what they have done and all their accomplishments are very important. She also attended the PreK Art Show last week which was really nice to see; it wasn't just the PreK public schools it was the PreK from all of West Haven which was important so that all programs are included. Thank you.

Patrick Leigh also attended the National Honor Society at Bailey. It was wonderful to see the number of children inducted and the diversity of the children. There was also a great performance by the band. He attended Signing Day at WHHS and really enjoyed the visuals. The power-point presentation showed all the colleges that students were attending. He also thanked them for his Tee shirt. After the presentation he toured the shops and asked questions. He sees a lot of opportunity for the kids to showcase some of their stuff in the community.

Pat Libero congratulated all the schools and gave thanks for the presentation tonight. Pat told Susie she will be missed.

Rosemary congratulated everybody; it is nice to see such positive things going on in West Haven. The scores aren't as important to her as seeing that the kids are learning and are

happy in school. This is evident every time she visits the schools and attends the things at night. It is nice to watch the kids grow and also to watch staff grow. She stated she also works in an urban district and knows the struggles and challenges you have and you guys do phenomenal work with everything so thank you very, very much.

Susan Walker congratulated all the schools on their test scores. She attended the Bailey Honor Society which for her was deja vu because she was the advisor for that for 29 years. She also was at College Signing Day at WHHS which was interesting and also toured the shop classes which she hadn't been in since she was a student at WHHS. She loved the kindergarten through high school art show it was fantastic. She personally fell in love with the paper Mache unicorn. She also attended the Walk In at SRCS. Even though it rained the gym was filled with parents, students and staff and they did an excellent job. Students read essays that they wrote and their speaking skills were fantastic. She congratulated Savin Rock School, Taryn Driend, Kristen Scanlon and the WHFT for doing such a fantastic job in organizing the event.

Bob shared a pamphlet with Superintendent Cavallaro and stated on November 18th and 19th CAFE is looking to showcase talented students throughout the districts so maybe we can submit our own. Bob had a photo from CAFE's Day On The Hill where a couple of board members and our student board member Susie Beyl also represented us and participated in the process. Bob congratulated Mark Palmieri for his 10 years of service to public education as a board member and presented him with a 10 Year Pin from CAFE. The audience gave Mark a round of applause.

Chairman Morrissey congratulated the schools and said they did a wonderful job and to keep on doing what you are doing and keep on striving to get higher and higher scores. The scores show that your hard work is paying off. Chairman Morrissey was also at the College Signing Day at the high school and thanked Dr. Rose Paolino and the guidance staff for the wonderful job that they did. Last year they had about 40 students and this year they had about 100 students so it has grown and it was a real nice time. The kids wore the jerseys from the school they would be attending and there was a nice presentation. The kids were all very happy and Jim looks forward to attending again next year.

The Women's Press Box was dedicated in honor of Tinker Blake. Both Jim and Mark Palmieri were in attendance for this. Tinker and the whole Blake family have done a lot for the city of West Haven and this was a great honor for him. Tinker is a good friend and our thoughts and prayers go out to him each and every day.

Chairman Morrissey thanked Superintendent Cavallaro for the strongly worded letter he sent out about the smoking policy; he thinks it hit home. Superintendent Cavallaro was glad Jim brought it up and said that we will do our best to enforce it. Jim stated it is not to punish anybody but basically it is just good for our community. If we can get people to smoke less that is a good thing. Tonight we talked about how our medical costs are going up and we are not saying smoking is the cause of everything but if we can educate our staff and the public so we can get out in front of this we may change some smokers to

non-smokers and that would be a good thing. I hope we can enforce the policy in a good way. It is the end of the school year now but if we can continue on with this policy next year it will be good. Neil said he will send a reminder out at the beginning of next year.

Superintendent Cavallaro thanked the board members for attending all the events because it is not easy to go every place and he knows they spread themselves thin. Sometimes being on the board feels like a thankless position but at the end of the year when you attend these events and see the results you really understand. This puts everything in perspective and you know why we all do what we do and we thank you for your support as well. Jim Morrissey thanked Neil.

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 May 2, 2016 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

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion:

All board members were in favor.

Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

16-22 Roseann Cusano Paolino, Elementary Teacher – Seth G. Haley

Effective: End of the School Year

Reason: Retirement

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignation #16-22

Robert Guthrie made the motion to approve

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa and the board thanked Roseann for her 36 years of service to the children of West Haven. The audience applauded.

All board members were in favor

Item 16-22 is approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

D.4. New Business

16-23 Request for approximately 40 students to attend the Annual Band Tour Field Trip to Hawaii on July 1st – 9th with four adult chaperones

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. #16-23

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve item 16-23 and wishes she was a chaperone. Laughter from the audience.

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

Item 16-23 is approved

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mark Palmieri made the motion

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary

BOE Student Report – 5/16/16

A West Haven High School beginning art class created a display inspired by artist Keith Haring and The Who's "My Generation" song. Students illustrated words they felt described their generation. The "Talkin' 'Bout My Generation" project pieces were displayed in the WHHS lobby.

The Athletics program has gained recognition throughout the years for a well-nourished program, from student-athletes excelling in the classroom, to dominating on the playing field. CPTV will be profiling the Athletics Program on Tuesday, May 17th at 5 p.m. on cptvsports.org.

Applications are currently being accepted for the UNH Charging Ahead program in which students can take a class at University of New Haven for free while still enrolled at WHHS.

The School Governance Council is looking for new members – teachers, students, parents and community members. Applications are available in the main office, on our website and on facebook.

Sophomore Ian Cooke visited Washington, D.C., at the end of April with the New Haven chapter of the Ace Mentor Program to make a presentation with his teammates at the national ACE (architecture, construction and civil engineering) competition. He and his group will now give an overview of their work to the New Haven Economic Development administrator.

Charlie Jefferson and Michelle Ankrah were recently honored at the annual Unified Sports Michaels Cup Banquet for their participation in WHHS' Unified Sports program.

Next week is full of awards programs and we hope you can attend some of them:

On Monday, Senior Scholarship Night at Cielo at 6pm

On Tuesday, Academic Awards Ceremony at 8:20am in the auditorium

On Friday, the WHHS Honors/AP Awards Ceremony at Cielo at 9am

The Senior Tribute Band Concert will be held on Thursday, May 26th at 7:30pm. We hope you can attend.

May 6th was College Signing Day at WHHS. It was commemorated with a ceremony and reception honoring the students who had signed with their post-secondary school by May 1st. Class of 2013 graduate and valedictorian Brenda Calderon was the guest speaker. Brenda currently attends Yale College.

The PTSA is hosting a Family Bingo Night tomorrow evening at 6pm at Cielo. Admission is \$5. They are also hosting a Tip A Teacher night at Duffy's on Friday (5/20). The PTSA is hosting a Rita's Night and a Paint Social Night on May 25th. All proceeds benefit Senior Scholarships and Project Graduation.

Academic Integrity Students recently performed skits at the elementary schools. They are hosting karaoke night on May 27th in the cafeteria from 6-9pm.

Today, the WHHS Chapter of SADD (students against destructive decisions) in conjunction with the Police Department and Fire Department held a mock car crash in the courtyard. It was a powerful experience for all who were watching.

The Senior Prom will be held on June 4th at Villa Bianca in Seymour.

The Integrated Science classes will be hosting their Annual Solar Cooker Contest on June 1st at Ken Strong Stadium.