

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 18, 2016

Special Board Meeting

Board's Meeting Room

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on July 18, 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 5:01 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:**

B. Public Portion of Meeting

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

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro thanked Chairman Morrissey and the board members for having the meeting scheduled at 5:00 PM. This time is more convenient for everyone including the general public during the summer months. Superintendent Cavallaro discussed items that are normally talked about during the summer. Hiring is going very well. All the open jobs from the previous meeting have been filled. Since the last

meeting a couple of positions have just become available and we plan on filling those. All of the jobs that are open now will be filled. Things are going very well. We have a Tech Ed teacher for Bailey and this is a quality teacher who was hired at first step along with all of our new hire teachers so there is some savings here as well. Originally we had a floater position on our agenda because we do expect a number of teachers to be absent throughout the course of the year due to illness or pregnancy so we are considering bringing in a floater or possibly two and keeping them and making them part of our staff. We believe we will hire at least one floating position. The work has begun at Carrigan and the paving seems to be going very well. The HVAC work will be started shortly and they are working on the auditorium seats. We are in the process of getting a company involved with the abatement issues so we can install the new chairs. The last project that will get done will be the lockers which may not be completed before school opens but shortly after that. The roof and solar project has the paperwork filled out and we anticipate this being set to go for next summer. Things are going well and on schedule for the Carrigan project. The custodians at the schools are happy because they are going to be getting the schools in good shape much earlier this year because they have more time to do this in. The board gave thanks. Chairman Morrissey asked if there were any questions.

Questions from Board Members

Karen Pacelli asked what the floater position salary will be and if they receive benefits. It will be a regular teacher's salary with benefits. After so many days we would pay the person a first year teacher per diem anyway. It gets them in and gives them call back rights and allows us to hold them for professional development days and become part of our staff. There will be a specific plan for that person and we won't do this unless it is cost effective.

Chairman Morrissey said it was mentioned the lockers may not be done in time for the opening of school. Will this have an effect on the student's school day? No this will be done during the second shift and Principal Frank Paolino has already worked out a plan if this has to happen. Chairman Morrissey said then the students won't have a locker available to them during this time. Probably for a couple of days they may not because they will be doing the lockers in sections. For a couple of days they can put their things in the classroom.

Bob Guthrie said in previous years the custodial staff worked longer hours getting schools ready for opening day are we trying to reduce this seeing we have had such a long break. Superintendent Cavallaro stated absolutely. The only case that may be a minor exception would be Savin Rock where we have Special Ed Summer School so they do get a little bit behind but we don't anticipate much at all. Rosa Richardson said in addition to this clerical workers may need time based on late enrollments correct? Do they fall behind with registrations? No we have done central registration over the last few years.

Chairman Morrissey wanted to make sure it would only be a couple of days not a couple of weeks for the lockers because things get lost. Frank Paolino said no, in speaking with

Mr. LaFleur it would be done one section at a time within a hallway and they would take them out, clean it up and put the lockers in because once they are already there they just bolt them back in. Chairman Morrissey thanked Frank Paolino. Superintendent Cavallaro also stated the pool boiler is an issue and we are still working on the most cost effective solution but there is no definite plan yet but we are planning on addressing this. Chairman Morrissey thanked Superintendent Cavallaro.

Dr. Druzolowski said it has been a very busy summer. Groups of teachers have been rewriting and editing curriculum they think they need to adjust. Training is being done in the science area so that they feel more comfortable when they are producing the curriculum and alliance with that for basic grades; we are not going beyond grade 4 during this year we are slowly implementing it. This will be the first year of NEASC self evaluation which means the staff will be evaluated based on the criteria that is established with the National Association of Schools and Colleges. There will be a new math program at the high school which will look at the middle group of kids and give them that extra push to feel more comfortable looking at AP in the following year as they go into Algebra II. It will target the 9th graders and once everything is underway we will invite the teacher to a board meeting. Attendance records showed absenteeism across the district was 23% three years ago, last year it was 17% and we have now moved it to 10%. A lot of it had to do with the way we were recording the data but for most of it we have an attendance committee made up of the principals and other people. We have spoken to teachers about teacher attendance which is just as important because kids say if my teacher is not going to school then I don't have to go to school. If we are all there it sets a very strong message that it is important that we are all in school together. Chairman Morrissey thanked Dr. Druzolowski.

Questions from Board Members

Rosemary Russo asked the name of the Math Program. Dr. Druzolowski said it is not a Math Program she is sorry she used the wrong word. OK. It is teaching Algebra I, using the same curriculum but using a variety of technologies and manipulatives like you would do with the younger children to really make it come to life. They will be producing UTUBE videos on how they solved the math problem that was related to a career they are doing. We are really trying to think out of the box to make it real. Rosemary said this sounds good and she thanked Dr. Druzolowski.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

There were no student representatives present.

C.1.c. Board

Bob Guthrie said the CAFE Conference Registration went out and if everyone hasn't received it Marylou will send everyone a copy. Early registration has to be received before August 29th. The dates are November 18th and 19th and it is held in Groton. Superintendent Cavallaro has sent some things out to Francine Coppola and Susan Misur and I will look for some ideas that we can submit for recognition.

Bob said he has heard that Park Rec and some of our camps are short on picnic tables and perhaps this is something our woodwork shop may be able to build a couple of in the fall if there is actually a need and donate them. Chairman Morrissey thanked Bob for sharing this.

Rosa Richardson met with Neil and Meg Kingston about the free lunch program during the summer. We extended the four week program to six weeks throughout the Parks and Recreation Playground Program which is the free program in the city which most of our neediest attend. Rosa felt it important to at least cover that 6 week camp program and Meg Kingston was very accommodating. Chairman Morrissey thanked Rosa for sharing this.

Pat Libero said ECO Camp is 25 years this year and we are having cake etc. tomorrow and have invited some of the past students. Gerry Frumento and Mike Paone are the founders of this and Nancy Paone has been there as the manager forever. If you are free and want to come down please come to the Grove at 11:00 AM to celebrate this big accomplishment with us. The kids love it at this camp. Chairman Morrissey thanked Pat for sharing this.

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 June 20, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

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

Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve the minutes

Rosa Richards seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor.

Minutes are approved.

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

16-39 Mary Bunton RN, School Nurse – Bailey Middle School

Effective: July 12, 2016

Reason: Personal

16-40 Valerie Brescia, Special Ed Teacher – Mackrille

Effective: July 27, 2016

Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations

Items #16-39 and #16-40

Rosa Richards made the motion to approve

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor
Items #16-39 and #16-40 are approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

16-41 Kelly Marchitto, 61 Orford Road, West Haven, CT 06516
Grade 6 Teacher – Carrigan Intermediate School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$44,884 Step 1 BS + 30

16-42 Alyssa L. Clark, 16 Grove Place, West Haven, CT 06516
Grade 6 Teacher – Carrigan Intermediate School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$40,824 Step 1 BS

16-43 Jordan A. Melotto, 174 West Spring Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Grade 3 Teacher – Savin Rock School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$44,884 Step 1 BS + 30

16-44 Alexis V. Gilhuly, 15 Stonewall Lane, Guilford, CT 06437
Grade 3 Teacher – Savin Rock School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$40,824 Step 1 BS

16-45 Nikki L. Baldino, 18 Marion Drive, North Haven, CT 06473
Kindergarten Teacher – Washington School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$44,884 Step 1 BS + 30

16-46 Maria D. Diaz, 30 Paradise Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514
Language Arts Teacher – Bailey Middle School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$40,824 Step 1 BS

16-47 Michael Battista, 229 Branford Road, Unit 324, North Branford, CT
06471
Technology Education Teacher – Bailey Middle School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$40,824 Step 1 BS

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.3 New Hire: (Certified)
Items #16-41 through #16-47 inclusive
Rosa Richards made the motion to approve
Pat Libero seconded the motion
Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor
Items #16-41 through #16-47 inclusive are approved

D.4. New Business

16-48 Settlement Agreement between the West Haven Board of Education and
the West Haven Administrators' Association

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. New Business
Items #16-48

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: Superintendent Cavallaro said this falls in line nicely with the percentage of raises from the other unions. This goes into effect next school year because certified people renegotiate a year in advance. This is a fair contract and is in line with all the other bargaining units.

All board members present were in favor

Item #16-48 is approved

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn.

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

All board members present were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary