

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Board's Meeting Room

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on September 3, 2019 in the Board's meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 6:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lauren Aceto

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Rossi

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Brendan Carew
Mackenzie Gardner
Anthony Vendrella.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairwoman Russo would like to welcome you all to the first meeting of the new school year. We have exciting things happen in West Haven Public School with the new high school and computers so I am glad you are here to hear all the good things. With that said I would like to move on to public portion.

Chairwoman Russo asked three times if anyone would like to address the board.

No one came forward.

Public Portions over

Before we move on to Administrators report, I would like to welcome the three student board members, if you would like to stand and introduce yourself. Mackenzie Gardner, a

junior this year really excited to be your new student board representative. Anthony Vendrella, a junior this year, thank you all for meeting here. Brendan Carew I am the returning senior board of ed member and it should be a good year.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro passed out a report regarding the Bailey roof that was just received today. What I can report today is that the project is back on track. They are working with our building department to make sure that all codes and procedures are followed. One of the things that came up was that the company did not pull a permit. That's why we pulled the spec that shows that the company is required to pull a permit. Chairwoman Russo asked for a copy of the contract. I thought it was important to include the specs, frankly any contractor who does work be it residential or commercial should know that a permit has to be pulled anyway. The other thing that Bob asked me for was the time-line of the events. While there are a lot of things that held the job up and I am not going to make excuses for anyone. I think there were two things that are important, number one as Ken mentioned at the last meeting there was an inquiry from a minority run company that claimed they were entitled to the job even though they weren't the lowest bid so they contested the bid. The other thing that came up and I neglected to mention this to Bob in the timeline I provided to him is that this contract had to be approved by MARB and that did not happen until the second week of June. The contract wasn't finalized, it original said, completion date July 15th then it had to be changed by the time the agreement was entered into the roofer was committed to other projects that's why you try to get summer work bid in February or March. What I passed out to you today is an update from the engineer who spec'd the job out, it you cut to the last couple of sentences they are working with the City, they have pulled the permit. One of the things that is holding up the job is a special fastener that has to be used because the building is less than one mile from the ocean so the wind is more severe during storms so they are waiting to make sure what they are using is appropriate if not they have to find something else. It is important to note from the engineer who will be on job daily supervising on behalf of the City that the roof is water tight and secure and the debris which I thought was important is removed Dumpster still there which is an ongoing issue but they have been removed away from the school building. You'll notice that they are not covered anymore because there was no asbestos, the test came back clean. To put your mind at ease my understanding is that while we can't be too careful and they should have tested what they were replacing and Mike and Chris here to answer any questions was an addition of a roof that was added in 1983 which was beyond when any type of asbestos was used. Again, I think everyone is on the same page right now the building has been terrific, I can't say enough about Frank Gladwin who got immediately involved and the other members down there. The anticipate date the last week in September, now that the roof is secure some of the work that has to be done, flashing and other things can't be done during the school day. I wish we can go back and do it again but the job is well on its way to be completed and that everybody and everything at all times was handled appropriately and it's safe; Mike and Chris if you want to add anything? Mike spent a lot of time down there with the contractors, Mike McGrath said, the problem first

arose back in March we went through it, first we wanted to put a patch on it but at a cost of \$21,000.00 we are better off replacing the roof over the café. We did the asbestos testing there. My fault I handled the asbestos and gave it to our hygienist, but we knew it was not asbestos at all. We were confident of that. Another thing, Neil explained he didn't have a signed contract until July 16th. Chris and I were on him all the time because we knew we had a short window to complete this. We kept calling and calling as Neil mentioned he had work booked because we couldn't get back to him, we wanted the job to start on June 12th, but because of the contract we couldn't get to him. I just want to echo what Neil said, Frank Gladwin and Ken have done a heck of a job putting this thing back on track, the consultant Rich Susca has worked with us and done a great job also and hopefully we will be completing this by the end of the month. Pat Libero we got the approval from MARB in mid-June and we didn't have a signed contract in a month, is that because the other company disputing it? Mike McGrath, yes, the other company disputing it is our contractor that does all our repairs. Pat Libero, so then they got the contract mid-July and didn't start till the week before school started? Mike McGrath, yes, he had to book other work, he wasn't waiting for the City of West Haven to get their ducks in order so he can proceed. He did drag his feet a little bit he left it till the last week. We anticipated it being a 4/5 day job, but because we were working ½ days with school is in we don't want to disrupt the educational environment with the banging. It's going to take a little longer. Pat Libero; but it should be done by the end of September. Mike McGrath, yes. Patrick Leigh; did they start work without a permit is that what you said? Neil; yes, in fact Patrick I don't know if you remember we ran into Frank Gladwin that day, Ken had said, I think something to the effect, are you aware of it. Frank was not and immediately checked, there was no permit and went to meet the roofer at Bailey. Patrick; does that incur a fine or any penalty incurred because of that? Rosa, no there is a Stop Order, Chris Everone until the permit is met for what the building official wanted. Mike McGrath, we assume a lot of things these days and that is something we are ever going to assume again that everybody has the proper permit. He had plenty of time to get them and it's a question you shouldn't have to ask. Patrick, he should have known. Neil, he is a licensed contractor. Contractors deal with permits. Chris Everone, he does a lot of schools it's not his first time dealing with a municipality either. Mike McGrath its right near the solicitation for the bid, article 14, you must obtain a City of West Haven permit. Patrick, so there is no additional cost incurred because of this delay? Neil, in fact I think it's going to cost him some money, overtime, dumpster; or anything, the bill will be passed along to him. Mike McGrath, I think they were surprised, they anticipated using only two dumpsters, they ended up using five. Patrick, yes, I saw a ton of dumpsters over there. Jim Morrissey thanked Mike and Chris for being here tonight. At our last board meeting we were told by Mr. Carney that the work would be starting on Tuesday and in fact that didn't happen, it didn't happen on Wednesday. They brought materials over there. They didn't do any work. They weren't on top of that roof until Thursday. Mike McGrath, they did some drain work. Jim, if they did, they did very very little. They were just bringing in the equipment. My board member over here Pat Libero asked for an update on Thursday, process of what was going to happen. If I'm wrong, I apologize but we received no update what so ever. Here it is school was going to start and a few days after that and we were left in the dark. Mike McGrath we were still under the impression that he still had his 3 days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday to complete the job. Jim I

asked that question also but I couldn't get a firm answer from Mr. Carney whether he was going to work the weekend or not. Mike, yes he did. Jim, I understand that but at that meeting that night I couldn't get a yes or no, it's on tape obviously. As far as the permit is considered, I mean ok he should have got a permit but you know what we as a City Board of Education should have made sure he had the permit prior to going on that roof also. Let's not blame the roofer for it seems like he is being blamed for this whole thing. That is not the case and it shouldn't be the case. This happened why back in February, this has been dragged on a lot of excuses the MARB some can be legit some cannot be legit but as far as the contractor disputing that, once again this board, I didn't know what so ever, if the other board members knew that, possible. For me it should not have taken this long to get that roof where it is right now which is not even done right now, we are talking another 30 days to have this think completed. I did take a ride by there today, there were dumpsters in the back which there are and you are correct about the guy whoever ordered the dumpsters, they are overloaded, there is trash all over the place, trash on top of the roof, it wasn't done in my opinion really in a professional manner, I'm not criticizing the company itself but I am simply saying this was a whole mess from the beginning. Mike, this is one of the problems of having him do this on a Saturday and Sunday where you couldn't get the dumpsters there. Jim, which is fine but I'm saying a job like that people should have known better how much stuff you are going to need to take off the roof and stuff like that. Mike, the Forman did tell me they underestimate. Jim, they worked hard, I went by there, 11 guys on top of that roof. They really worked their tails off getting this thing done, but as I said, this should not be where we are right now with this roof. I took a walk over there last week with Chairwoman Russo and we did go inside when they were working on the roof there. I noticed there were twenty ceiling tiles that were missing from there with the Principal, Mr. Rob Bohan and I said, what's going on with that and he said, there was a heavy rain a couple days prior and the rain seeped right through all the way the way down into the café. So now my question is, I'm not an expert but that went into the wood there, ok so now we are putting a roof over this how do we know and I am not an expert that we don't have any mold in the wood right now? I mean, I want to make sure our staff is protected and our students are protected. I have a grave concern about that right now. I talked to Mr. Cavallaro, Superintendent about that and I don't know if there should be further testing for mold in that wood. Mike the latest links that we had were up against the walls because of the drain, not in the middle. Jim yes there where ceiling tiles in the middle. Mike, yes, those were older. Jim, I saw what I saw, I am concerned about the safety of our staff and students. I am concerned putting a brand new roof on here, I don't know if we are protecting the mold inside. Mike, it a Jimson base, so it is not cellulose so it should not foster any mold. Jim, can you guarantee me that. Mike, I wish I good Jim, all we know it takes water and cellulose to create mold. Chris, we had our professional out there before he took a look when we had a leak before everything looked good, we don't see any surface mold, pretty confident that there is no mold and also going by what our professional told us to. Jim, I saw dumpsters in back, they did say there was no asbestos, those dumpsters are overloaded, I think they should be covered; you have kids in the back there. Mike, I called him twice today, to have them removed, the call wasn't returned. Last week we called the Fire Marshall to try and have them removed. Jim, why can't we as the City put something over it, I think it is unhealthy, if kids get into them. There is no reason why those things should be left wide

open. they are overflowing, I took pictures before I came to this meeting tonight to show you, I can you show you afterwards, I am upset this wasn't done in a timely manner, it was done unprofessionally from the beginning. Thank you. Rosa, with all do respect Jim you are absolutely right, let us learn that going with the lowest bidder is not always the greatest option, this is my personal opinion, but I think that this company under bid so much that they have their hands full right now and there is no way for them to get out of it. But when you look at the disparity between the bid that did come in for this project we are talking \$40,000 that's an enormous disparity and honestly these guys didn't know what they were getting themselves into, he was the lowest. Karen, because they were working that Saturday, we had SAT's, Chris there was no issues, couldn't hear them. That was a concern of ours. Rosemary, I concur that the board did their diligence in always asking when the roof is going to be fixed, it was disappointing, I felt bad that Bailey started with dumpsters in the front and blocking the café windows, that it looked the way it looked. I think a lot of it was definitely out of our control. It does state in his contract that he was supposed to get the bids, it usually practice, I mean permit. Chris, we did ask do you have everything in the contract. Rosemary, don't they usually have to hang up their permit. Mike, yes, they do. Rosemary, and he didn't, thank you. Neil we will provide the information as we get it. None of us are happy, we are trying to make the best and correct what we need to correct. We will get the job done; remember the engineer will be there daily if you need to inspect the ceiling tiles, anything we can do to monitor while the work is being done. Patrick, so Neil with the tiles that were damaged because of the work on the roof, does that cost incur on them? Mike, no, that's ours. Patrick, why, I thought you said, there was heavy rain and they were working on it. Mike, no they were not working on it at the time the tiles were damaged. The building is water tight. Jim, I would like to have something in writing from the architect or somebody involved there that there is no mold in that building and the staff and students are safe from mold, testing whatever you have to do, but I want to see something in writing before our next board meeting. Mike, Jim did you get the one from the April testing. Jim, yes, but the tarp has been there for 5 months. It protected nothing. Neil, special meeting by MARB last Thursday, approving the Board of Education contract with our AFSCME employees, I want to point out that most of the members were very pleased with the boards negotiations and the AFSCME Union stepping up and understanding the City's financial situation. There is language in the contract if we do want to move to the state plan in the future. I thought we had a good opening. Obviously the big focus was on WHHS. I thought kids did great job maneuvering around the building. We worked through most of the issues. We added more passing time, two minutes, addressing custodial coverage. Our security team, I have been there for a couple of days have done a terrific job with traffic. Jon is still working on the move, making sure the teachers have what they need. We are addressing for example to we have enough chairs in the band room, we are able to order more. We projected 100 kids in band when the project started. We have 150; we will be able to move them to the stage for now. Dana, we have it worked out, in 2015 we had 80 students so we projected 100 students. Who knew we would have 150 four years later. It's really grown. Brendan Carew, it is 157 for the record. Neil, that's a really good problem to have. Staff and kids have responded great.

Dana, the first few days, kids confused as to where the hallway leads. I think that has resolved itself. Pat, I also think that the fact that the first floor is not the first floor anymore which is confusing. Dana, the kids got it before the adults. Karen, I did hear talk about a concern for staff bathroom, make sure they are not using the students bathrooms. Dana, in the new building there are no distinction, mapped out bathrooms so it is resolved. Bathrooms in new bathrooms are much larger. Karen, are students and staff going to use same bathroom. Rose, when the old building becomes the building will the bathrooms be separate? Chris talked to the architect make sure there are faculty bathrooms. Susan, I heard the nurses had an issue that they are in a new office and do not have the equipment that they need. Dana, TBNG is in the building getting everyone setup. They do have everything; it is just the matter of getting it hooked up. Jim, obviously you have to get the kinks out, it's going to take time, I understand that. I did hear and I don't know if it's true or not that some teachers get hurt moving equipment around. Dana, we had one art teacher who complained of a sore back after moving boxes which I don't know if an injury or if you are not used to do that level of physical work after summer break and then we did have one teacher trip. Jim, I hope they are ok. Also, I heard problems with the café and lunch waves, more kids in one wave than other. The Band is an extra 157 kids. Dana, the 400 kids per wave are broken up by department. Some days 30 to 40 more wave than other. The issue that we have is the line for wraps; Meg has been great, more setting. Meg will put more personnel on the wrap line. Last year we averaged 700 meals per day; since we opened it is now 1,000 meals a day. If trend continues we well add more staff. The food is the same, just 300 more students a day are eating. Rosemary, what is the feedback from the kids. Dana, the kids are blown away with the high top tables and charging stations. Feedback on schedule is mixed with AP classes, for some kids change is hard. But it's nice to have lunch every day. Mackenzie, speaking on top of that, I have never had a lunch schedule due to my full schedule really like having lunch and I am able to do some homework. Neil, F17 - EL Congratulations from State on the growth and closing achievement gap. Neil passed out a letter regarding Magnet School Tuition; the commissioner denied the request for New Haven to charge tuition. On Friday, New Haven Public Schools put us on notice to charge us tuition. As a result of that I have asked our attorney to look into this. I'm not sure, I believe the law says prior to notifying us they have to receive permission from the commissioner that is how I read the law however I have our attorney looking into. I also notify our Corporation Counsel so they are aware of the issue as well. Certainly something down the road if we get the right legal opinion, we may have to pursue or the better case scenario would be to contact the State Department to clarify the law. The important thing to remember that Bob and I discussed, it is only a reprieve for a year they are going to try an implement this, we have to work with our state delegation, I know Lou Esposito and Mike DiMassa is planning to get a meeting of the delegation. I think we got a little comfortable when we had the year to move. But again we receive that letter on Friday and we want the law clarified before we decide a course of action. Patrick, now that we received this at what point does the commissioner get this and deny or pass. Neil we are waiting to clarify the process. I can forward you the statue, I want to make sure I am right through our attorney; the way I read it is prior to notifying the district you have to have received permission from the commissioner. You have to make your case financially there is a reason to charge. Patrick, so this is outside the realm of what they

are supposed to be doing. Neil, I am not a lawyer and I am hoping that is the answer but it seems to me that is going to be the position that we take and then we will take it to the SDE. Patrick, she notified us prior or before. Neil, New Haven notified us via a meeting of all of the sending school districts, which I attended putting us on notice. We received a letter from someone assigned by the commissioner denying their request; at that point we thought we were in good shape. However last Friday, August 30th, New Haven put us on notice. Patrick, the denial was because they make a profit. Neil, that was one of the things they pointed out. At best this is going to be for a year and come up with a strategy and use our delegates to get people on board. That's how the initial law was passed, regarding giving us a year's notice prior to charging tuition. Patrick, this would cripple us as a community. Neil, the cost would be \$645,000 dollars the first year, by the third year around 2 million dollars. Rosa, New Haven is also seeking additional funding for immigrants, so you have to give us more money (problem with recorder at this point). Anne Druzolowski –the 10th is our first full day of Professional Development, teachers, coaches and curriculum writers will be delivering to our entire staff. SRBI, SAT Team. Matt Cavallaro – Completed the year end, certified on time and on budget. The audit will ramp up with the next few weeks. Patrick, all claims in from last year, under budget. Matt, yes, we are under budget for healthcare. Patrick, what is the amount? Matt, the amount is \$355,000 with a little more of stop loss coming in. Rosemary, are there any other questions from the board. No.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

Brendan, it was pretty much covered. The students are enjoying the new space at the high school however the passing time moving from four to six minutes has helped a little. Mackenzie, the hallways were extremely congested and there were traffic jams out of the café and F wing. It has resolved with the six minutes. Anthony, our last minor issues, the lunch lines which was discussed throughout the meeting. It can get overloaded depending upon the day; it will go back to normal over time.

C.1.c. Board

Pat, I am happy everything is working out well, I have been at the high school a couple of times, it's incredible, you feel like you are in Oz, you know you are not in Kansas anymore. I like when you look down and see the green lockers and blue and white. I'm really happy it has come to fruition after many years. Lunch lines are a good thing. Dana has it under control with Chris and Mike. Looking forward to marching season, when is the first game? Brendan, the first game is away and then we are home. Pat, I am looking forward to go along with the school year. Susan, I am glad things worked out at the beginning of the year and I will be glad when Bailey roof is done. I can just imagine sitting in café with covered windows. Having done lunch duty there, I don't think anyone could hear a heard of elephants running across the roof. I'm glad things are working out well at the high school. It will be an adjustment because it is new I went to that school years age and taught for 5 years I'm sure I would get lost. I wish everyone good luck. Mayor Rossi, I would just like to wish everyone good luck, the high school is magnificent and I think our children and family deserve it and I can't wait to see the complete finished product in the years to come. Jim, welcome back to Brendan, students reps Mackenzie and Anthony, looking forward to working with these fine students this

year. You should be proud of yourself. I don't have too much to say, I have to be honest, I wasn't too happy speaking for myself that we were not invited to the ribbon cutting last week. This board has worked very hard over the years and we have been invited prior times by the Building Oversight Committee to look at the process of the high school itself. It has come a long way and looks spectacular. But as I said, I am very disappointed this board was not invited, this board does a lot, I have been on the board for six years, we might disagree at times, and that is good and healthy. We go out of our way to attend as many events as possible, during day or evening. Chairwoman Russo has implemented Adopted a School, which I thought was a great idea and I know the board members take a lot of time out of their busy schedules and throughout the year, for that I say thank you. I was very slided but not only was the board not invited but our State reps were not invited who got us the money for that school. Even the City Council members where not invited to my knowledge were not invited. I am very dishearten, I'm not sure who was supposed to invite us, I am not placing blame as to this point but I felt to see it on TV that there was a ribbon cutting ceremony and we knew nothing about it, was I think personally a slap in the face to the nine members of this board. Thank you. Rosa, I would like to thank all the administrators and staff who got the year up and running with no major events. Dana you probably sleep walk at this point, Jon getting with all you did with the organizing the move. Our elementary schools are awesome we did have the hiccup at Bailey but we will get through that as well. I would like to welcome our student board members, and wish everyone a great successful year. Patrick, I tried to attend the ribbon cutting, I saw it on WTNH, I freaked out did we miss a communication here, what happened here. I looked through my email I didn't see anything. I texted Neil, he said if you can get here, fine. I got there as quick as I could. I tried to get there as fast as I could I wasn't able to get there for the ceremony so extremely, extremely disappointed with whatever lack of communication happened. I don't know systemically where it was from. Honestly I always try no matter what group, I always try to work with everyone and like Jim said, it felt like a slit. To see two candidates that aren't even elected officials, not even running for Board of Education there was beyond me, very bizarre. I'm just trying to understand what the whole situation was about and I feel there are no excuses for it. But post that, I got to explore the school with the students; we walked around with Kent Pierce WTNH, we walked around the new media center. There wasn't one gloomy face; everyone was super excited just walking into that new entrance way, it was really awesome the project team really did a great job. I know that Mayor Rossi was interviewed and Ken was interviewed and the students were interview. It was really an awesome experience and I wish we were all able to attend it. Post that I took a ride with Ken and Neil to check out Bailey's roof, thank you for having me over there. We talked about that already. Karen, welcome to the students reps and I was glad to hear that the teachers and students are welcoming our new technology and that it was well received. That is something we really needed. I was able to attend the new teacher orientation which was so nice to see over 40 new teachers. We have everyone now, right? Neil, we are looking for a couple of long term subs. Karen, it was nice to see them all. Not to reiterate, I was also disappointed that we were not invited to the ribbon cutting after all the hard work we have done. Bob, Dana, Jon and staff we heard about parking and hallway, it's going to be a work in process for the next few year as different parts of the buildings re-open. Obviously we work around them, a little patience and ingenuity, the end result will be positive. It will

be a little hardship along the way. And to the Superintendent or Asst. Superintendent just a follow-up the conversation with Mr. Capone about CPR and the act. At one time, the City use to promote them as hard safe community. I know we did a good job making sure all staff is CPR and AD certified. I don't know where we stand with that, it is a future possible Professional Development but the thing that has become the nationwide thing is unfortunately the Stop the Bleed campaign because of what is going on across the country. With the Stop the Bleed Campaign from the kids they are now being placed should something happen, not only a school but any public building. I don't know if that is something that can be looked at down the road. And I forget, what is the age of the AD's? I know they were part of a grant. Chris, it falls in our department now, everything is up to date. We are in good shape, we had some replaced. We are in good shape throughout the district. WHHS will get news ones from the FFE package. The nurses monitor batteries, pads and we have a list of when they need to be changed. Bob, those units have a life expectancy and they are not cheap to replace, if there is a potential grant. Neil, I thought we received a grant. Rosa, yes, CCD funds, all of them from within the school district. Bob, part of the larger picture maybe that is a future PD, Stop the Bleed Campaign. Rosa, I forgot to add something. I had the pleasure of attending a Solar meeting at WHHS. It was very informative and upon completion of the solar panels we will save 50% on our usage at no cost to the tax payer or Board of Education. Rosemary, Rosa, thank you for attending and Neil was impressed with all her solar knowledge. Rosemary, I would like to thank all the teachers and para's for preparing the classrooms for the opening of schools. I know the high school is the showcase right now and I appreciate everything the teachers have done and the staff for getting it all together. I want to thank the elementary, intermediate, and middle school teachers for getting it all done. I think our teachers do a lot more than what is in their contract and I think they need to be recognized for that. I know this board; I speak for this board when I say that we really appreciate all that is done for the kids in getting things ready. I would also like to point out Meg Kingston was featured in the Voice last week. I actually sat down with Meg this summer to talk about sustainability and some other woman, which I will have more information on that at a later date. I thought Meg was a really good choice, she really makes sure our kids get really good food with breakfast and lunch. She is great. Also, I want to go back to Adopt a School, it's a new year so you need to tell me what school you would like to adopt. It might be nice to change it up a little but it's up to you. I just think it is fun to see all the school because they have so much to offer. I like to talk a little about the ribbon cutting ceremony myself, it's apparent that we all felt some strong emotions concerning it, whether you spoke about it tonight or to me the day that it happened. It is something that the members of this board did not deserve because I do believe we have a board that goes above and beyond. I think from the beginning we always have, we are a board that works well together and support our teachers and students. It was a momentous event in our district and I think it should have been more celebrated that what it was. I talked to Neil about that and maybe having something later on having something else because I feel that even kids and families were not involved. It was a hard thing that morning to wake up to the news and not know anything about it being Chairwoman of the board. I had board members texting me and I'm texting them back. I didn't know, or I would have told you. Usually the communication is great. Somehow the ball got dropped. I would like to make it better, I feel like that ceremony

lacked dignity, it lacked the word you hear so often during an election year, transparency because no one knew how it even got to be, which I find really hard to believe. It did lack respect for all that supported the project along the way, and I am not only talking about the sitting board but boards along the way worked really hard to push that through. When I see stuff at the high school, I always think of Mark Palmieri saying, if not now us, then who, if not now than when. There are just all sorts of people that have worked on this, the previous building committee, just a ton of people. It takes a whole village to raise a child; it takes a whole village to make a new high school. I think that we all should have been included. It made me feel sad that we weren't. I wanted to just state that. I would like to somehow institute policy guidelines for future ceremonies such as this, so things like this don't happen. And I want the ceremonies to be meaningful for both students and families because that is who it is really for. So if we can maybe work on that, I would really appreciate it. With that said I want to wish both students and staff a wonderful school year and remind you that the board is always interested in your concerns and feedback and we love hearing your good news and we love hearing what you are doing. If there is something that is bothering you, we would like to hear that to. Again, thank you and welcome to the new student reps members, we are so happy to have you. I am looking forward to this year, there is many amazing things happening. I think it is going to be a great year. Neil, I just want to mention Tammy sent out the presentation schedule for the schools. We will start with the elementary and end with the high school. Rosemary, I think that is such a good thing, can we do this again. I think it is a really good thing to show off what you are teaching and doing. Thank you.

C.1.d. Committees

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Cafeteria of West Haven High School, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Meeting minutes D.1.a.

Rosa made the motion to approve the minutes

Patrick seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Regular Meeting Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

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19-93 Lisa Curatola, ELA Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: July 31, 2019

Reason: Resignation

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 19-93

Karen made the motion

Patrick seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa, has she been replaced. Yes, the teacher at Bailey went to the high school and we replaced the Bailey teacher.

All board members present were in favor

Item 19-93 is approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

19-94 Nicholas Ritchie, 1130 Coleman Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

Science Teacher Grade 7 – Bailey Middle School

Salary: \$41,232.00 Step 1 BS

Effective: August 26, 2019

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve new hire items 19-94

Rosa made the motion

Robert seconded the motion

Discussion: All board members present were in favor

Item 19-94 is approved.

D.4. New Business

19-95 Family Resource Program Grant

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve new business item 19-95

Patrick made the motion

Rosa seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa, I would like to thank Stefania for doing the grant and Jean Vitale for all her work with Family Resource Center.

All board members present were in favor

Item 19-95 is approved

Chairwoman Russo said the rest is informational.

F. Informational

F.1. Kim Gifford, 75 Woodruff Street, Hamden, CT 06518

Literacy Aide – Savin Rock Community School

Salary: \$16.09/17.5 Hours a week

Effective: August 27, 2019

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F.2. Voluntary Transfer letter to Sherry Mitchell, Science Teacher - West Haven High School effective the 2019 – 2020 school year

- F.3. Charles Masella**, 1058 Shepard Ave., Hamden CT 06410
Position: Plumber/Steamfitter
Salary: \$52,553.02
Effective: August 12, 2019
- F.4. Sarah Wells**, 1014 Campbell Ave, Unit 8, West Haven, CT 06516
Position: Medical Building Paraprofessional – Washington School
Salary: Step 1 - \$18, 461.76, plus \$800 stipend
Effective: August 26, 2019
- F.5.** Resignation letter from **Stephanie DiMeola, Paraprofessional** effective August 26, 2019
- F.6.** Resignation letter from **Kimberly Lyne, EL Tutor** effective August 21, 2019
- F.7.** Retirement letter from **Aida Diaz, Bilingual Paraprofessional** effective August 21, 2019
- F.8.** Resignation letter from **Deb Pedersen, Medical Support Tech** effective August 22, 2019
- F.9.** Resignation letter from **Alba Pagan, Paraprofessional** effective August 22, 2019
- F.10.** Resignation letter from **Dina Robinson, Clerk** effective September 4, 2019
- F.11.** Resignation letter from **Janis Kavanagh, Cashier** effective August 10, 2019
- F.12. Paul Sikorski**, 65 Orange Terrace, West Haven, CT 06516
Position: Part-time Math Aide, Carrigan School
Salary: \$16.09 per hour
Effective: August 27, 2019
- F.13. Scott Langley**, 3 Chapel Hill Rd, North Haven, CT 06478
Position: Maintenance Helper
Salary: Step 1 - \$33,963.28
Effective: August 26, 2019
- F.14. Eric Jones**, 413 Winthrop Ave, New Haven, CT 06519
Position: 5 Hour Assistant Night Custodian
Salary: Step 1 - \$20,161.18
Effective: August 26, 2019
- F.15. Juan Medina**, 26 Elm St, Shelton, CT 06484

Position: ELA Tutor, Carrigan School
Salary: \$21,500 w/single medical coverage
Effective: August 26, 2019

F.16. Kristin Palm, 817 Saw Mill Rd, West Haven, CT 06516
Position: 4 Hour Production Worker, WHHS
Salary: Step 1 - \$9,290.24
Effective: August 26, 2019

F.17. EL Growth Performance

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to adjourn
Rosa made the motion
Patrick seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Mursko