

D. I. b.

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 4, 2019
Special Board Meeting Minutes
Bailey Middle School Presenting

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on November 4, 2019 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 Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 5:45 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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:

Brendan Carew
Mackenzie Gardner
Anthony Vendrella

Bailey Middle School Presentation

Chairwoman Russo welcomed everyone here tonight and said she is so glad that so many Bailey people are here. It is always fun when Bailey comes because you bring the students and we like that the best. Rosemary turned it over to Mr. Bohan.

Mr. Bohan said thank you and you are right we always love playing to a packed house and we have a packed house here tonight. It is good to see everybody and we don't take these types of things lightly. He speaks on behalf of all of the schools in the district it is a very good thing when you let the schools come monthly to show off parts of their schools and we brought a little bit of Bailey tonight. When we get our date the easy part is

coming up with something; some component that we can bring from Bailey to you. We have lots of good things going on at Bailey. The hardest thing is to hone in on one particular piece to bring before you. We have been up and running with our 8th grade Peer Tutor Program for several years so we decided to bring about 16 or 17 of our 29 8th grade Peer Tutors here tonight to talk about their roles in our school and the importance that they play. We are happy to have many adults here from Bailey. He turned it over to Mr. Griffin to talk about the program and then turn it over to the best part; our kids.

Mr. Griffin said he will let the kids do most of the talking but this is the 5th year we have had a peer program. We started with 6 or 8 tutors the first year and they were just writing tutors and it has kind of expanded because of how awesome the kids we have had have been. The demand has been super high because more teachers are asking for Peer Tutors in the room when they need them there. This group is going to be just as awesome. At this point we have 29 and are still getting requests as we don't have enough. The Peer Tutors will give you an idea about how they were chosen and kind of what their day to day role is. At this point we have Peer Tutors in all the subjects and they are doing an awesome job.

Bailey Peer Tutors 2019-2020

Alexa Portalatin
Alison Frazer
Allison Pastore
Brooke Clini
Cassidy Montz
Chantel Tripp
Claudia Mandjata
Dana Baraka
Danyella Lanche-Flores
Diana Jurado-Aleman
Eliza Factor
Evan Goldberg
Islam Alzhogi
Jason Alling
Jennylee Rosado
Khadir Portee
Laila Stitou
Lia Hey
Madison Scillia
Maile Russell
Mariah Libor
Mariem Fahmi
Mickey Dowd

Bailey Peer Tutors 2019-2020

Nana Osei-Agyei
Olivia Trenchard
Riley Studley
Shannon Hoey
Sophia Basaen
Taylor Alfano

All of the Peer Tutors spoke about the various subjects they tutored in such as math, ELA, Science, Social Studies and day to day help with studying and helping with concepts.

They also explained how they were chosen based on their grades, scores, attitude and maturity level. Before being selected they had to write an essay on why they wanted to be chosen to be Peer Tutors. Sometimes they work with students 1 on 1 and sometimes in little groups.

Students can come to the Peer Tutor for help or the Peer Tutor will go to them. When they first started it was slow because students didn't always come to them for help but one Peer Tutor said now there are 10 to 15 students who come to her every day for help. Another Peer Tutor said it is fun to help students overcome difficulties. Many of the Peer Tutors shared their stories. They have bilingual Peer Tutors who help to translate things for other students and help them to keep up with what the teacher is doing in class. The Board gave thanks and asked the Peer Tutors to introduce themselves. Applause ensued.

Questions were asked by board member and students responded. Karen Pacelli who is a classroom teacher asked when they have the time to do this. Each Peer Tutor has given up one of their two specials in their cycle to do this. Karen said this is so helpful that this is taking place. The board gave thanks. A video was shown with the Peer Tutors working with students. Chairwoman Russo said you should be really proud of yourselves. Applause. All board members were very impressed with the Peer Tutors and thanked Mr. Bohan and the staff. Jim Morrissey also said it is wonderful to be able to see the wonderful things that our schools are doing and he is very thankful to Rosemary Russo for starting this. He is so proud as a board member. Bob Guthrie thanked the students for what they are doing to help their peers and friends and for setting the tone in the school for the 7th graders. Thanks for doing what you do Monday through Friday and thanks for coming tonight to represent Bailey. Chairwoman Russo said the Superintendent arranged for refreshments for you so we will have a brief recess between the two meetings. There are drinks and food so enjoy!

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to adjourn
Karen Pacelli made the motion
Patrick Leigh seconded the motion
All board members were in agreement
The Special Meeting ended at 6:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary