

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
WEST HAVEN  
2019 NOV 25 AM 11:42

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES  
WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on November 18, 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 PM. 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 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:** Mayor Nancy Rossi

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:**

Brendan Carew  
Anthony Vendrella

**B. Public Portion of Meeting**

Chairwoman Russo asked three times if anyone would like to speak. There were no speakers.

**REPORTS**

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

Superintendent Cavallaro thanked Sue, Patrick and Karen for their four years of service to this Board of Education. Neil thanked them for their support and friendship. Knowing you have the support and confidence of the board makes it easier for me and our entire staff to do our jobs and we really appreciate this. Neil mentioned just a few of the more recent accomplishments of this board. You balanced four budgets in difficult times and made some difficult contractual decisions which put us on good foot going forward. Our test scores have improved and we are becoming more competitive with the districts in our DRG. You have been part of the largest infusion of technology in the history of the district and most importantly you have made decisions that have impacted the largest development project in the history of the city; the renovation of West Haven High School. Your desire to keep this project moving forward meant a lot.

Sue you and I go back to my high school days and I believe no one knows the history behind this district more than you. You have been fighting for teachers as long as I have known you. You understand our contract agreements, you know the people, the schools and you know the city like no one else Neil knows. Many times Neil has relied on her knowledge and experience when trying to figure out how and why things are the way they are and how they go to the way they are. This may be your least board meeting for now anyway because you never know Neil has no doubt you will continue to look for ways to be involved and improve education in the city.

Neil is glad he was able to know Karen over the last four years. Prior to her coming on the board he did not know her. Karen brought the perspective of the classroom teacher to all are discussions on testing, instruction and anything current in the field. Neil said you have a great understanding and perspective of what teachers go through on a daily basis and hopes she will use that knowledge and experience you have gained by sitting on the board to pursue a leadership path in this profession because he believes you would be great. Neil said if he can assist in any way he would be happy to so thank you.

Patrick it turned out that you and I have many mutual friends and much in common but we had never met before you became a board member. From the moment you started you dove right in, tried to learn all you could learn, asked a ton of questions about all the aspects of a pretty large operation. Neil always knew with Patrick he had to be prepared and he thanked him for that. Patrick was like that smart kid in his class that he was always worried about. (Laughter). Patrick was often bought in when financial decisions were made and on our technology integration plan he played a big role behind the scenes. Neil is looking forward to watching him suffer as he did as a soon to be hockey parent. (Laughter) Neil hopes Patrick will keep him abreast of how that goes and knows he will stay active in the community because he has a lot to offer down the road. So thank you Sue, Karen and Patrick. Please know that the things you have accomplished have made a positive and lasting impact for years to come so thank you.

Neil said the roof at Bailey has been completed and the warrantee will start once it is inspected by the manufacturer so we are in good shape there. That is m report for tonight. Chairwoman Russo thanked Neil.

Dr. Druzolowski said your contributions to this group were made with your whole heart and she has said before that without you being in there with your heart and not necessarily with your political ties has made for a great working board these past four years. Anne said she has not ever been in such a good and well worked group that deserves every bit of their CABA Reward. Thank you for making me enjoy this day more than I normally did; let me put it that way.

Matt Cavallaro said he would echo what both Neil and Anne stated and said it was fun to work with all of you and especially Patrick since he was the head of the finance committee and we spoke a lot and it made the job fun. Patrick thanked Matt.

Superintendent Cavallaro said we have some gifts from the Board to give those members who are leaving. Boards serve without compensation and it is truly a thankless job so when board members leave we like to give them a small token of our appreciation. Neil presented Sue, Karen and Patrick with very nice pullovers from Whitey Benson's Story and said to make sure the size is correct before putting your name on or the years you served on the board. Thank you for your service to the West Haven Board of Education. The three board members thanked Neil. Applause. Pictures were taken.

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

The report will be found at the end of the minutes. Pat Libero said Mackenzie is at the Soccer Banquet tonight and was very concerned if she should stop here first and read her report and then go and I told her to go to the dinner. Board members agreed and said absolutely. Pat said she is receiving an award. Congratulations were sent to Mackenzie!

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

Patrick Egolum wished the three outgoing board members well and wished them good luck.

Pat Libero wished Sue, Karen and Patrick the best luck and is sure their paths will cross somewhere along the way especially with Sue as they always run into each other somewhere. Pat can always run into Patrick whenever she goes to St. Lawrence and she and Karen will have to figure out where they can meet up. It has been a pleasure serving with all of you and believe you all have added a lot to the board in all different perspectives that have helped us have a more cohesive board so thank you for your service.

Sue Walker said this is very bittersweet for her. The West Haven School System has been a part of her life since she was four years old. Sue attended all West Haven Schools and graduated from WHHS the class of 1971. Then she went to college and did observe for a year at WHHS and then in 1976 she started working in the library at the high school and spent five years there before going to Bailey for 30 years. She then subbed for four years after retiring and then worked on the Board of Education so basically since she has been four years old this has been a part of her life. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on this board; especially this board. We really do get along very well and we have managed to make a lot of progress because we do get along so well and she will miss that and she will also miss all of the board members. Pat and I will be running into each other in the supermarket and she has enjoyed spending time with all the board. She wishes the new board coming up all the best. There is no more important job than educating the youth of our city and I hope that standards continue to remain high and that we do the best to get that. We have great teachers in this system, we have great paras, nurses, administrators, coordinators, the Blake Building staff, and you turned out pretty well Neil. Laughter. You were a really good kid back then. Sue thanked all the custodians and Marylou for keeping us on track and reminding us of many of the things to remember. This town has always been important to Sue and she has lived here her whole life. Her family has been involved in the education system, her aunt was the first librarian at Bailey and at what was then the new high school. Her uncle was a teacher at Thomson School and a Guidance Counselor at Giannotti and the high school. Her sister has been teaching a long time and is now #2 in the system and her mother volunteered for 25 years in the nurse's office in the high school without pay but she helped them out and tested eyes and did some secretarial things for them. Her cousin Peggy Gaffney also taught in the system and now is a mystery book author. This is very special to Sue and she said it has been a pleasure and a privilege thank you. Jim Morrissey wished Pat Leigh, Karen Pacelli and Sue Walker nothing but the best it has been Jim's honor and privilege to serve with you the last four years. You brought so much to this board over the last four years. Your compassion and dedication to our staff and to our students has meant so much. You are life-long westies and I wish you nothing but the best. Pat Leigh you have always been involved in finances and have done a great job as the finance chairman. Karen as a teacher you have the understanding of what it is like for our students and our staff and you had so much to offer this district over the last four years. Sue you gave a great speech tonight and I thought about many, many years ago as I would go by Noble Street as a kid and Sue lived on the corner of Washington and Noble so we go way back as friends. My children knew Sue very well as a teacher and they always thought the world of her. I echo what you just said as tonight is very bittersweet because we will miss all three of you very much and Jim wishes them all the very best. He just asks one thing that they stay involved because West Haven needs you in whatever capacity you choose. He sees Patrick Egolum here this evening and he was a former board member and we have had other board members leave the board and come back so

maybe in the future I hope that may come true with you. It has been his honor and privilege to serve the three of you and I wish you nothing but the best in the future.

Jim went to Savin Rock School's Holiday Festival and they did a great job; Taryn Driend and her staff worked hard to get this up and running. All of our schools have a great staff and we have a dedicated group of administrators and staff who do so much for the children of this district and it is a pleasure to be part of it. Jim congratulated Matt Cavallaro on his wedding this past Saturday and wished Matt and his bride nothing but the best and good luck in the future. Matt thanked Jim.

Rosa said she doesn't think there is anything left to say (laughter) other than that she loved the three board members and will miss them and she really does appreciate all of the effort and energy that they brought to the board; the knowledge, the questions and keeping Neil on his toes. It truly was a pleasure and an honor to serve with you and Rosa will miss all of them.

Patrick Leigh thanked God for the last four years. Patrick said he was still in his 20's when he was elected to the board (laughter). His first son was just four and he will be in kindergarten next year. He thanked the taxpayers of West Haven for voting him into office and trusting him as a board member to represent the community. He is really privileged and humbled to be a part of the finances on this board. When he first became the finance chair it made a lot of people nervous especially teachers because he went through every item, every line, every dollar and cent but he wasn't looking to ever lay anyone off so during the last four years not one teacher was ever laid off due to budgetary reasons. He is glad we have been able to balance four budgets especially the first two years he was on the board we had some huge financial hurdles to go through and without the help of the board and administration he would be totally lost in the numbers. He voted with his heart instead of on party lines and it is important that especially during the last two years nobody saw any board member individually as a democrat or republican and CABE'S award shows that we were a cohesive group that worked together for the common good of the community regardless of any infighting or any of the nonsense going on behind the scenes and he is happy to have been a part of that. Patrick thanked the student representatives and thinks their service here is an undertone to the great things that are going to come in your future. Two or three of our last student reps and attending Yale so he knows all of you will have a successful future and please stay involved in politics to make a difference for your communities; wherever you go. Patrick thanked Marylou for answering all his emails and always being attentive and making sure everyone is aware of all the ongoing things that have been happening over the past four years and thank you for being my friend. Marylou said, "Thank you; it has been a pleasure to be with this board and I have enjoyed my time with all of you." Patrick knows Lauren is no longer with us but it was nice having someone in his peer group (laughter) and she was an educator and did a great job during her time served. Patrick has only been on two meetings with Patrick Egolum but you are a gentlemen and thank you for your kind words. Miss Libero obviously we will be seeing a lot of each other. Your credentials are outstanding your being a top level administrator in the school as a principal and continuing to support education in West Haven he is very honored to serve with you. Sue, there is no one more dedicated to the community than you are. Not only did you serve 30+ years in the school system but you are part of the firework committee, the historical society, the St. Patrick's Day Parade so you really do invest your live into community events and just being part of the community at large. Mayor Rossi, thank you for the last two years under your administration. I am glad to help balance budgets for you and he looks forward to working with you in the future. Bob there is not a person here who has more knowledge on the board and Patrick is not sure of the total number of years here but knows he has been here for quite some time and thank you for all the advice you have given me and the ins and outs on how things work here. Karen you are a great professional and an educator in a different school system but the insight that you brought here helps cement some of things we do today and I thank you. Rosa it has been a pleasure. We have worked together on the CDA before coming here and you are another who is super involved with the community either with your job at city hall or on the board you always think of the little person first so you have great insights and a great way to be a great community leader; Rosa thanked him.

Jimmy it has been a privilege over the last six years now being on the town committee, being treasurer, when you were the chair, getting me involved and endorsing me to this board and serving under your leadership here for two years thank you very much I really appreciate it and I know we will stay close. Matt congratulations on your marriage and mostly thank you for the last four years and really going over all the numbers with me I probably drove you nuts the first couple of months with questions but he is really thankful and has a total understanding on how the operational budget works. Dr. Druzolowski thank you for being a part of the system in your capacity you have. There is not a person here who doesn't want to see this system succeed as much as you do. When you spoke at our meetings we could see our metrics go up and up and up which shows the hard work and dedication you have. Just the fact that you drive here every day through Hartford traffic just shows how much you love this community and what a great impact you have here. Neil I really look at you as a mentor in my life and thank you for the time spent with me going over life and the education system, our many friends in common and our kids and all that; I really appreciate it and look forward to keeping in touch and making sure I stay involved in the education system of West Haven. Neil thanked Patrick. Patrick thanked the teachers and especially the coordinators as he has had most interaction with them. Patrick thanked his wife and kids he knows it hasn't been easy coming here every two week and all the ins and outs behind the scenes for the last four years having such a young family but I am honored to have a wife that allows him to invest himself in the community and although his kids are young he is sure he is showing them the proper things to do to make changes in your life and your community. He also thanked his father and his mother both were educators. His father was in the system for over 40 years and then came back as a long term sub up until the age of 80 and he will be 87 this year so he has seven years of retirement so far (laughter). By being part of the community and knowing so many people Patrick said he is very humbled and honored to be a part of this board especially seeing all the teachers that he knew growing up and some of them who still aren't retired and knowing that he made some sort of impact in their lives. Patrick wishes the best of luck to the incoming board members to the board. He knows that Patrick has served before as has Cebi and Anne and he knows Andrea will do a great job.

Karen Pacelli said wow I have to go after that (laughter) I am a person of few words but I did feel privileged and honored to be a part of this board especially when we first started. In our first meeting we had to vote on that first budget and the teachers looked at us when we didn't approve it and I thought we were done from there, but we have worked so hard together as a whole board and I am very privileged to be a part of it knowing that we took your lead and were able to do the things that were needed for our schools, we looked at the technology, our scores, the new high school; so this will be a remembrance that I will always have and am very privileged. I wish everyone luck and hope that the new board will work as well as we have together and will continue all the hard work that we have done these past four years. Thank you.

Patrick forgot to mention Rosemary and thanked her for her leadership over the last two years. Under your leadership you really brought this group together cohesively and you showed that as a team working together we get things done easily; there is no infighting and no issues going forward. Patrick thanked Rosemary for being his friend. Rosemary thanked Patrick.

Bob Guthrie said Patrick you did a very nice job but to Patrick, Karen and Sue you obviously have an open invitation on the first and third Monday's to come on back and visit. I will be glad to see you here participating from either side; you will be missed. Thank you for all that you brought from your perspective and your backgrounds it meant a lot; thank you for your service. Going forward there is an upcoming CABA Workshop for new board member orientation. He knows both Ms. Waterfield and Ms. Heffernan have served before but if they have an interest in attending along with Ms. Talamelli it is December 10<sup>th</sup> in Rocky Hill. This is a busy time of year and I have had the opportunity to attend the Pagels Veterans Day Ceremony and also the City Ceremony at Bradley Point. There were staff members from a couple of our buildings at the City Ceremony Mr. Carew and our student reps along with some of our students acknowledging our veterans for all that they did. It was nice to see the ceremonies done and

we appreciate everything that veterans have done for our community and continue to do for scholarships and so much else. Bob attended the CABA Delegate Assembly and on the following morning went back for the Friday morning session when the board was recognized. He also attended the Holiday Festival at Savin Rock School. There was great support from the staff and community along with an incredible number of vendors. Bob asked that the Superintendent, the Board Chair and the Board look at all positions where people retired to evaluate the district needs. With budgets tighter and tighter the assumption cannot be to fill the position. Last meeting we had a retirement we approved and I think we should evaluate immediate costs prior to transferring anyone into that position. The current board has expressed a great desire to look at a communications director position and I don't know if that would have been a position that could have had something added to it or combined to it. Maybe it wasn't the right fit but at this time as we are approaching a budget in a fiscal year it might have been wise to re-evaluate that position instead of just transferring someone.

Mayor Rossi thanked Patrick, Karen and Sue for their service to our children and looking out for them for the last four year. I wish you all the best of luck going forward and there are a lot of boards and commissions that are looking for great volunteers so please if you are interested in anything let her know. Get Mayor Rossi your resume and ethics for and she will be happy to look at something because again we do need good people and energetic people that are going to do the right thing for the city of West Haven. Congratulations Matt I had no idea; no honeymoon? Not yet it is coming. Neil said as he has been telling everybody his wife is a teacher and he wouldn't be able to grant the personal days (laughter). Mayor Rossi said she is looking forward again to the future and wishing everybody good luck in whatever they do and as I said if you would like any of the boards or commissions we still have a lot of vacancies she would be happy to sit down with you and discuss it. Thank you.

Rosemary Russo will start with business first and said she wants to be on the record that there is heat at Carrigan things are working and as far as she knows the rest of the schools have heat. Rosemary attended Bailey Game Night which she really enjoyed and has gone most every year. What is really nice is they have so many staff members there and so many family members attend and it is a very well organized event. It always baffles her because it is never the same; they always put in something new and she thinks that is really clever. It is a great thing and she hopes you can take advantage of it next year. She went to the Savin Rock Festival and the amount of teachers on a Saturday was just phenomenal. They had a very big turnout and she hopes they raised a lot of money and from what she saw she thinks they did. It is nice to see the community and the community of teachers working together to get things for our kids. Teachers had piles of wish list books for their classrooms so people who came to buy books could donate them back to the school. This was a really nice thing. Rosemary congratulated this board on the CABA Award. We all have a lot to be proud of. This was a great board that worked very well together and it was my privilege to serve as your chair. Everything just seemed to jell and everything was for the kids, the teachers, the parents and she hopes that administrators feel that we supported you. It was an awesome experience. She was going to write something for tonight but every time she began she became really choked up; she is going to miss you guys as you all contributed so much but you all contributed something unique. It was a privilege working side by side with you and she wishes you success in everything you do and hopes you take up Mayor Rossi's offer because Mayor Rossi these three really work hard and are people you want working for the city. She will see you so it is not like goodbye but she really will miss working with you because it has been a wonderful, wonderful experience and thank you Patrick, Karen and Sue. Sue Walker thanked Rosemary for being a wonderful leader. Rosemary said to Patrick I hope in the future we have young people again because it is nice for the diversity of age also to get a different perspective.

#### **C.1.d. Committee**

#### **D.1. Approval of Minutes**

**D.1.a. The West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting** was held in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street,

West Haven, CT on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 6:20 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the November 4, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes D.1.a.

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Regular Meeting Minutes are approved

**D.1.b. The West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting –Bailey Presentation** was held in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the November 4, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes D.1.b.

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Special Meeting Minutes are approved

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

**19-106 Regina Cahill Poole, Special Ed Teacher – Carrigan Intermediate School**

**Effective:** December 1, 2019

**Reason:** Retirement

**19-107 Celeste Zumbo, Art Teacher – Carrigan Intermediate School**

**Effective:** January 1, 2020

**Reason:** Retirement

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve 19-106 and 19-107

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion: Neil said we have started the process and anticipate filling both of these jobs.

Rosemary said it is sad to lose two from one school.

All board members present were in favor

Items 19-106 and 107 are approved

Chairwoman Russo said the rest is just informational and asked for a motion to adjourn

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola  
Board Secretary

## **BOE Student Report 11/18**

1. The meeting with food service was held on 11/18. As a result, the wrap kiosk is running again, alleviating about 120 lunches from the main wrap line.
2. The WHHS Band's encore performance is next Monday, November 25th at Strong Stadium at 6:00 pm.
3. College decision day at the high school is tomorrow.
4. The National Honor Society put on an annual MDA field day a few weeks ago. We have pictures being passed around now.
5. The class of 2021 is hosting this year's homecoming.



RECEIVED  
TOWN AND CITY OF WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
OF WEST HAVEN ORGANIZATION MEETING

2019 DEC -3 AM 3:46

DECEMBER 2, 2019

The Organization Meeting for the Board of Education was held in the Board's Meeting Room in City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nancy R. Rossi at 6:01 PM. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS  
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Patrick Egolum  
Robert Guthrie  
Anne Heffernan  
Patricia Libero  
Rosa Richardson  
James W. Morrissey  
Rosemary Russo  
Andrea Talamelli  
Cebi Waterfield

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools  
Matt Cavallaro, Director of Finance

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Nancy Rossi

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:**

Brendan Carew  
Mackenzie Gardner

**Organization**

Mayor Rossi called the Board of Education Organization Meeting to order at 6:01 PM and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rossi said she asked Attorney Lee Tiernan to make a few brief comments. We are going to do our best to get FOI Training in here. Tom Hennick will come any night and we want to make sure all board members old and new have this training.

Attorney Tiernan said first of all the community is grateful that you are willing to run for office and do public service and for people that do public service the state, believe it or not, affords you some protection as long as you are reasonable. If you get yourselves in trouble or find yourselves on the end of a lawsuit for the work that you do for the city for work that is subject of what you are supposed to be doing here on the Board of Education you do have protections. Informational papers from the Chief Attorney of the Attorney General's Office dated December 14, 2009 were passed out to board members that explained those protections. You have to be careful, you can't be reckless or engaged in activities that don't relate to what you are supposed to be doing here at the Board of Ed and expect we are going to protect you. This is only an example of how you can get yourself in trouble. A lot of times people like

to come to public meetings and talk about some employee. Attorney Tiernan talked about a statute that he said talks about employee sick time and retaliation by the employee so we can get sued because you talked about an employee's sick time. If you want to talk about an employee all you have to do is request that the employee come and has the ability to be represented by a union member or an attorney and the employee has the right to a confidential meeting. There are plenty of statutes like this that he did not go into but if you just said, "Hey, why does Billy Jones have excessive sick time" you could trigger this lawsuit and then the city is subject to a lawsuit. If you have any questions Attorney Tiernan said he is a resource to use and Neil Cavallaro has access to attorneys from Bercham and Moses. If you have questions at a Board of Ed meeting just let one of us know.

Cebi Waterfield understands as far as us speaking about employee/personnel matters but what about someone that gets up from the public that speaks about it. Obviously we wouldn't be responding but are we required to cut them off or are they allowed to say what they have to say? OK Attorney Tiernan said you guys (the board) get to decide to a reasonable degree how you run your meeting. OK. He recommends you let the Chairman run the meeting and it is perfectly appropriate to rule somebody out of order if they are going on and on about some particular employee. Explain to them if it is a proper subject we can bring that employee in. An example was given about a police officer who killed somebody and the public is screaming and doesn't care about due process they want the person gone. That is a perfect example because if that police officer did murder that person you and that city want the police officer gone too and you don't want to screw it up; you want it to be done right. The key is you are not saying the subject cannot be talked about it is just the way you talk about it. Happy to put the employee on notice and if the employee wants to be here we are going to talk about the subject and it will be confidential and the public is not going to get to hear it. The chairman has the perfect right to gavel someone out of order when going on about a particular employee when the employee has not been notified that they are going to be the subject of a public meeting.

Mayor Rossi asked if there were any other questions. Jim Morrissey responded that he has been on the board for six years now Lee and just for his own knowledge and you have been around for the last two years has there been any problems with this board or the previous board with saying anything or questions that might have arisen? Mayor Rossi I know you brought Lee here tonight and I know we have our own board attorney so he is confused as to why, no disrespect to you because you are a good man, but why wasn't our board attorney invited tonight also to present an FOI to us and let us know what we can and can't do. Attorney Tiernan said the mayor did the organizational meeting and she invited me ... Mayor Rossi interjected I can answer that. ... I didn't turn her down and all I gave you was an informational piece which I would give to any board or commission. He is not aware of any lawsuits in the last two years concerning people bringing this stuff up but he would like to keep that record going and he doesn't have any accusations on any board members on the board of education.

Mayor Rossi said she asked Attorney Tiernan to be here because we do have new board members and people who are back on for another go around and she thinks it is better to give people information not only about this but say somebody doesn't know and they allow somebody to speak and then the city gets sued. We don't have the money for day to day activities let alone a lawsuit. Mayor Rossi would rather be proactive with everyone, have everyone learn including your student representatives they are learning as well and the same thing is going to happen at City Council. Mayor Rossi is also going to do an informational meeting once everybody is convened and after the holidays that Tom Hennick comes and addresses both bodies together or however we decide to do it so he doesn't have to come twice. It is important that everyone know the rules and regulations you can't have too much information. There are certain requirements we have at City Hall and certain training that we have to go through so that is why I invited Attorney Tiernan here and he was good four minutes I think that is good for an attorney. Jim

Morrissey said we should also allow our counsel Attorney Floyd Dugas of Bercham and Moses also and if this board has any questions I think they should contact the Board of Education attorney who handles the matters on behalf of the Board of Education. Attorney Tiernan said just so you know by charter Corporation Council represents the Board of Ed as well we have deferred that to Attorney Dugas and I would defer to the superintendent if he thinks that is appropriate and would never deny the services of Mr. Dugas or any member of Bercham and Moses. Mayor Rossi asked if there were any other questions for Attorney Tiernan.

Superintendent Cavallaro said we do have a couple of pending lawsuits and I have spoken to some of the returning board members and it is his intent in the very near future to bring in attorney Dugas to update them as to the status of those lawsuits and/or complaints. One in particular that we have been dealing with for a period of time and wants to make sure the board is updated. Superintendent Cavallaro asked should this be done through an executive session or through a non-meeting negotiation type format. Neil will defer to either attorney on this but we will get that done shortly. Attorney Tiernan said all pending litigation until it is completed is exempt from FOI so you would want that in private session mostly because if there are settlement discussions it is kind of hard to bargain if you are saying what your offer is in public. Neil thanked Attorney Tiernan for his help. There were no further questions.

Mayor Rossi congratulated all the new members and welcomed back the continuing members she looks forward to working with each and every one of you. She tries to attend as many Board of Ed meetings as her schedule allows because this is a very important item; educating our children and having the best education for our children so it is very, very import. Mayor Rossi said she will announce this to City Council also that there is an audit issue that has been brought to her attention late last week and she does not have all the details yet but was due to unrecorded liability on the Board of Education's side. She has been in touch with the auditor and will be again on Wednesday and make information available to the Board of Education and City Council.

Mayor Rossi said the next item is the most important part what everybody has been waiting for Organization of the Board of Education; Chapter 9, City Charter. She wanted to note for the record for Marylou all members are present she didn't do a roll call and wants the minutes to reflect that everyone was here. First election is the election of the Chair do I have a nomination.

Rosa Richardson nominated Cebi Waterfield and Anne Heffernan seconded the nomination.

Mayor Rossi asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion and Mayor Rossi asked if there were any other nominations.

Bob Guthrie nominated Rosemary Russo and Jim Morrissey seconded the nomination and asked to say a few words. Absolutely you can say a few words. Jim Morrissey said it is his honor and privilege to second the nomination of Rose Russo as chairman for the next two years. Rose has been the prior chairman for the last two years and has done an outstanding job. She had the previous board adopt a school for each board member and each board member took one school and went to the many things that school had and Jim thought that was a great idea. Each board member came back and let the board know what each school was doing. Rose also had school presentations from all the schools. She brought all nine schools in at different times during the last two years to let us know about the great things that each and every school has done throughout the years and that was a great idea and enlightened a lot of this current board and members from the past and previous board. She went out of her way and this past board received the Outstanding Recognition Award from CABA for the fine work over the last two years and this says a lot about her. She has never cancelled a meeting over the last two years as Board Chair. During a prior meeting Assistant Superintendent Druzolowski mentioned that it has been the best board over the last two years that she has ever had the honor and privilege to work with. As far as transparency she has kept the board abreast of what was going on the last two years. She was always responsive to the

needs and concerns of the previous board. We have disagreed on many issues and the votes speak for themselves. She is her own person and I respect her for that. So I have to ask a question, "Why try to fix something that is certainly not broke." She has done an outstanding job and deserves to be re-elected this evening. Thank you very much. Mayor Rossi asked if there was any other discussion or nominations; hearing none a roll call vote was taken.

Patrick Egolum voted for Cebi

Pat Libero voted for Cebi

Andrea Talamelli voted for Cebi

Rosemary Russo voted for herself

Anne Heffernan voted for Cebi

Bob Guthrie voted for Rosemary

Cebi Waterfield voted for herself

Rosa Richardson voted for Cebi

Jim Morrissey voted for Rosemary

There were six votes for Cebi and three for Rosemary.

Congratulations Chairwoman Waterfield Applause

Chairwoman Waterfield said next on the agenda is the election of a Vice-Chair

Do I have a nomination for a Vice-Chair

Patrick Egolum nominated Rosa Richardson and Andrea Talamelli seconded the nomination

Chairwoman Waterfield asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Are there any other nominations for Vice-Chair.

Rosemary Russo nominated Robert Guthrie

Jim Morrissey seconded the nomination of Bob Guthrie and asked to say a few words. Sure. Thank you.

Bob has been a member on and of this board for over 20 years and gets along with everybody whether a democrat or republican makes no difference to Bob. He truly cares about our staff and our children.

Four years ago when I was Chair he was the Vice-Chair and quite honestly I couldn't have asked for a better Vice-Chair. I always leaned on Bob for advice and he was very helpful. Bob and I have also disagreed on different issues but he always voted the way he felt was the best for our staff and our students. He attends so many school events throughout the district and I really think there is two of him. He is always coming back to the board saying he went to Bailey and Haley and is really concerned about our staff and our students. So once again I am going to have to ask the question why. Why try to fix something that certainly is not broke and I really believe Bob deserves to be elected Vice-Chairman this evening. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Rosemary Russo asked if she could add to that. Sure.

Rosemary said that Bob just completed his 20<sup>th</sup> year on the Board of Ed and is a wealth of knowledge and he was my vice-chair as he was Jimmy's vice-chair and he was always there to answer my questions if I asked and always very supportive. I think he would continue to make an excellent Vice-Chair. Thank you. Chairwoman Waterfield asked if there were any other comments; there were none and then asked for a roll call vote.

Jim Morrissey voted for Bob Guthrie

Rosa Richardson voted for herself

Cebi Waterfield voted for Rosa

Bob Guthrie voted for himself

Anne Heffernan voted for Rosa

Rosemary Russo voted for Bob Guthrie

Andrea Talamelli voted for Rosa

Pat Libero voted for Rosa

Patrick Egolum voted for Rosa

There were six votes for Rosa Richardson and three for Bob Guthrie.  
Congratulations Rosa. Applause

Chairwoman Waterfield said next on the agenda is the election of a Secretary/Treasurer do I have a nomination.

Patrick Egolum nominated Pat Libero and Andrea Talamelli seconded the nomination  
Chairwoman Waterfield asked if there was any discussion. There was none and Chairwoman Russo asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Chairwoman Waterfield said there is a unanimous vote for Pat Libero as Secretary/Treasurer.  
Congratulations Pat. Applause

Chairwoman Waterfield said before asking for a motion to adjourn she wanted to take a minute as she knows Patrick, Susan and Karen are not here but wanted to make sure to record a thank you to them for their service for the past couple of years. It is a lot of time and dedication and we truly appreciate the efforts that they made on behalf of the students and faculty in the public school system here in West Haven. Chairwoman Russo also wanted to thank Rosie and Bob for their service to the Board for the last two years as Chair and Vice Chair and is sure that they will be a wealth of knowledge and hopefully can share some of that with her going forward as this will be my first time as Chairman although she has been on the board previously for 6 ½ years because she filled in for someone who resigned but she is certainly open to learning more about what needs to be done and everyone's opinion. Lastly I am really looking forward to the next two years of working together with all of you to utilize everyone's talents in a collaborative effort for all the students, staff and taxpayers of the City of West Haven.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn.

Anne Heffernan made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola  
Board Secretary