

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**December 3, 2012**  
**Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Council Chambers**

The Policy Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on December 3, 2012. The meeting was called to order by M. Toni Paine, Chairman of the Policy Committee at 6:45 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Toni Paine, Chairman  
Betsy Davis  
Robert Guthrie  
Patricia Libero

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRESENT:**

Catherine DePino  
Stacy Hurley  
Abdul-Razak Zachariah

Chairman Paine said this is just a short meeting to see if there are any questions that were not answered for the policies that were presented. They are on tonight's agenda and if there are any questions please present them now.

Neil Cavallaro said they did meet with the student reps and they had some questions. He feels most of the questions were answered but if they have any questions or concerns to feel free to ask them. They talked about the time from now until next September to implement the plan. Toni Paine said all these policies were supposed to be changed by July 1st per the State of Connecticut. We contacted the state and the State said you are working on it; implement the changes and we can have it go into effect in September. If anyone sees anything that needs to be done please come forward and present it so we can work on it.

Toni was sure it was explained to the student reps that for any extenuating circumstances there would be an appeal. This has to be good for all the students because it is so important. Some students may be border line and have lower grades and things are so important to them so how do we say one student's situation is more important than another student's situation. To be fair to everybody it is across the board and we (Mrs. Gardner, Dana Martinez, Superintendent Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent Druzolowski and the board members) put many hours into this. A further discussion took place.

Neil said Mrs. Gardner has a faculty meeting on Wednesday and will introduce this to the staff that will start working on things that the adults need to do better. They will look at ways to not put kids in a position to miss so many classes and do things a little bit differently than we have been doing. Toni Paine said perhaps they can give two or three options which would not hurt student's attendance or we could come up with better ideas.

Pat Libero was at The Trees of Hope and she knows students from West Haven sing there and she wanted to know how it would impact those things so she sent Chairman Palmieri an email which he promptly responded to. Pat said it is very important for the kids to go out into the community and to build these kinds of relationships. She was concerned because it sounded like students would have to make choices and not be able to do these things. It is hard to make the decisions and choices so they are right for the kids. She feels very comfortable that we will be able to tweak it and make it good for all the kids.

Student Representative Catherine DePino thinks there needs to be an accurate distinction between what is considered excused and what is considered unexcused. She feels the appeal would definitely help. Toni Paine asked if she had a copy of the policies because it is explained in there. Catherine DePino said it mentions extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by a school district administrator. Toni said this is not anything that would be brought to the appeal panel. Something that has already been designated as this is not going to be excused but you would like to petition it and say it really should be is something that would be brought before the appeal panel. You would usually go to the instructor or Mrs. Gardner when administrator is mentioned. There were no other questions.

Chairman Paine asked for a motion to adjourn  
Pat Libero made the motion to adjourn  
Betsy Davis seconded the motion  
All board members present were in agreement  
The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola  
Board Secretary