

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
January 5, 2004**

The Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Carrano at 7:04 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Krista Pickering
Howard Horvath
Raymond Collins
Paul Messina
M. Toni Paine
George Monahan
Robert Guthrie

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Heffernan

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Tortora
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Jackie Grady, 83 Hilton Street West Haven, CT - Happy New Year to Everyone, and Congratulations to all the New Board Members I wish you well. Congratulations Mr. Guthrie on the birth of your son. I'm am being honored by Business and Professional Women's Club, and I would love if some of you could attend it will be held on March 14, 2004 at the Villa Bianca. I have always supported the West Haven Schools and I would feel very proud if I could see some of you there. (Invitations were passed out)

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wished to address the Board.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road West Haven CT. For those of you who have been sitting on the Board, there are a few things that I have complained about. Number one the Expulsion policy that is fair for all students that all students are treated the same. I did extensive research on this and provided it to Mr. Guthrie, who turned it over to a committee. I to this date have not heard back, on the equity of the expulsion procedures. There is no set procedure. For instance you can expel for off duty offense, but if you are not notified. Then there is no hearing. Where is the equity? Now hearing officers, my idea of impartial. You don't make contact with one side without contacting the other. If a letter goes out to one side it should also go out to the other side. That brings me to my latest freedom of information. Which lead to a denial of most of the things I was requesting. I was told by Superintendent Tortora that the attorneys requested I be more specific with dates and time. I did do this,

although it took me several hours. To have Floyd write me a letter basically that he feels that I'm harassing. Freedom of Information disagrees and said I am exercising my right under the law. The two reasons were; I was requesting student records. I was not looking for anyone's name. I expect the names to be redacted. I'm looking for equal justice

in education for all students. The second reason I was given, mentioned

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confidentially. The E-mails went back and forth from this impartial hearing officers and the board's attorney, they were not cc to anyone not even the parent of the student. I further requested information on the hearing officer Rogen. There was a lot of request from this hearing officer to the Board attorney, but no one seems to know who this is. This cost the Board money. It is unfair to take one students education away and let another go to school under the same circumstances. In fact there were incidents where students received awards.

While I'm on the legal issues. The billing is a problem. Everything is lumped together. You don't know who talk to whom or for how long. The Board should not be charged the same amount for talking to a paralegal or secretary as they are for talking to an attorney. It seems anyone can just call the attorneys office there should be a policy in place. That everyone needs to go threw the Superintendents. Maybe he is authorizing all these calls. I don't know. But where is the accountability. I must agree with Mr. Monahan, with all the attorney we are paying. Some kind of penalties should be in place when work is not completed on time. Another problem, certain children can walk in and get special services, no problem. Others are turned away, if the parent takes this to due-process. This cost the Board money; if we lose we pay both attorneys'. Maybe the Board should look at some of theses before they go to due-process. Names redacted, everyone should be treated fairly. Now I have under freedom of information checked the cell phone bills for the Board, you have approximately 47 cell phones and no one could tell me who they belonged to. What kind of accountability is there? If you don't even know who the phone belongs too. The bills are not as outrageous as the legal bills. But it is still money. Money that could be going to a student book. I would like to know that someone is looking at the bills. I was glad to hear after my complaint on community service and that only 57 students were participating. That a letter went out from the High School, but I still feel someone, like a guidance counselor should be keeping track, so students don't fall threw the cracks. The board passed this policy and is endorsing it. If not then revoke the policy. But again some needs to be accountable and again I hope it is being taken care of in an objective way. These are 15 year old kids, they need guidance. I hope this is being taken care of. And all students are treated equal. Last I requested an incident report, which I have not received. In the past the Board receives copies of my request, did any one receive this information. I did miss a board meeting. So, if it was handed out. But I still have not received it. I'm praying for children's sack that this Board does what they said they wanted to do and treats all children fairly and equal.

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wished to address the Board.

Sandy McCauley I am President of the Federation for Nurses Union, I would just like to announce that Donna Kosiorowski has been named "School Nurse Administrator of the Year "for Connecticut

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wished to address the Board.

Chairman Carrano asked for a second if anyone else wished to address the Board.

Chairman Carrano asked for the third and final time if anyone else wished to address the Board.

Public Session Closed at 7:16pm

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C. REPORTS

C.1. Status of Schools:

Mr. Tortora Would like to Congratulate Mr. Guthrie on the birth of his son, Jackie Grady and Donna Kosiorowski. Next I would like to share with the Board the tentative schedule for the Budget Meetings. Friday you will receive a large Budget book. For the sake of the new board members I will cover in detail the Budget process the night of the meeting. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14.

C.1. a. Administration:

C.1.b. Board:

Toni Paine said she has questions and a suggestion, so she would like to move D2 04-01 through 04-03 to after Executive Session.

Motion made by Toni Paine to move to Executive session to before D2 -04-01 through 04-03, SECONDED by George Monahan. The Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Guthrie, no report but would like to make a request. The Superintendent and Teachers of the year committee recently honored Mrs. O'Neil from Mackrille, would it be possible to also include a photo of the previous teacher of the year.

C.c. Committee

Mr. Messina, Mr. Chairman, as you know we had our first Facilities/Maintenance Committee Meeting. I hope it was informational to not only the new board members but also all board members; we have quite a few projects going on. For the most part everything is moving along. I feel we are doing well. Hopefully we will have a more detailed report at the next meeting.

Mr. Monahan, Mr. Chairman based on the packet of information we received from you. It is clear that the from the policy committee stand point that there are probably one or two issues that will need to be addressed as quickly as possible. I have always believed that the input to aid in the decision process is extremely important and as the Chairman of the Policy Committee I would like to opening invite parents and teachers to contact me. I would like the Superintendent to schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Horvath requested to schedule a meeting in February for the Technology Committee.

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Approval of Minutes:

- D.1.a. Minutes from Regular Board Meeting on December 15, 2003 at 7:00
- D.1.b. Minutes from Executive Session on December 15, 2003

A MOTION was made by Raymond Collins, SECONDED by Toni Paine, to approve D.1.a through D.1.b, Mr. Guthrie abstained, and he was not present at last meeting. MOTION was carried.

D.3 Appointments: (Non-Certified)

- 04-04 Anthony Delvecchio, 117 Grove Place, West Haven, CT 06516.
10-Month Security Guard/Hall Monitor, Effective: January 6, 2004, Salary \$ 17,932.46 (Step 1)

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Toni Paine to approve D.3 04-04 as presented and so VOTED unanimously.

D.4 Resignations: (Non-Certified)

- 04-05 Edward Langley, 1079 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460, Painter for Maintenance Department System wide, Effective: January 11, 2004, Reason: Retirement
- 04-06 Salvatore Migliaro, 326 First Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516, Assistant Custodian at West Haven High School (3-11), Effective: May 5, 2004, Reason: Retirement

A MOTION was made by Robert Guthrie, SECONDED by Paul Messina to approve D.4. 04-05 through 04-06 as presented and so VOTED unanimously.

E. New Business:

04-07 Application for Mohegan Tribe Challenge Grant Program 2004

Recommendation: Move to Approve

A MOTION was made by Robert Guthrie, SECONDED by Raymond Collins to approve E. 04-07 as presented and so VOTED unanimously.

04-07 Pupil Services request for New Full time Paraprofessional position at Seth Haley School, Paraprofessional will be Support for students with Special Education needs.

Recommendation: Move to Approve

A MOTION was made by Raymond Collins, SECONDED by Toni Paine to approve E. 04-08 as presented and so VOTED unanimously.

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04-09 Administrative Hiring:

Chairman Carrano went over a suggestive policy on improving the hiring of administrators. (See enclosure)

Mr. Monahan said as Chairman of Policy Committee he would add this to the Agenda

Recommendation: Move to Policy Committee

04-10 Volunteer Coaching:

Chairman Carrano said there is a great amount of volunteer. Which is great? But we as a Board need to get some boundaries around this, we are exposed to a certain extent of liability if a volunteer or a student a volunteer is working should get hurt. Chairman Carrano feels this should go to the policy Committee to develop some kind of procedure.

Mr. Guthrie questioned an existing procedure. Chairman Carrano agreed it should be sent to the policy committee, but stated that it was not dated and was sent out by George Palermo Chairman Carrano agreed there is a lot to be sorted out.

Recommendation: Move to Athletic Committee

04-11 Student Representation on Board:

Enclosure E 04-11

Recommendation: Move to Policy Committee

04-11 Secondary School Awareness:

Enclosure E 04-12

Recommendation: Move to Curriculum Committee

F. Information:

Krista Pickering - Would like Curriculum Meeting schedule

Howard Horvath - no

Raymond Collins - no

Paul Messina - no

George Monahan - no

Toni Paine - no

Robert Guthrie -no

MOTION to move to Executive session was made by Toni Paine and SECONDED by Raymond Collins and so VOTED unanimously.

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G. Executive session:

D.2 Appointments: (Certified)

04-01 David Shore, 70 Lawn Crest Ext, West Haven CT. Assistant Hockey Coach West Haven High School, Effective: January 6, 2004, Salary \$ 3,350.00

04-02 Jessica Milano, 621 Main Street, West Haven, CT. Special Education Teacher at Carrigan Middle School. Effective: January 20, 2004, Salary \$ 34,364.72 (Step 2.5 BS)

04-03 Michael L. Danishevsky, 14 Townline Road, North Haven, CT 06473. Special Education Resource Teacher at Molloy, Effective: January 20, 2004, Salary \$ 35,319.66 (Step 2 BS+30)

Board came out of Executive Session at 8:40 pm

Chairman Carrano asked for a Motion to approve on D.2 04-01 through 04-3

MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Toni Paine, Mr. Guthrie Voted no, The Motion was CARRIED 7to1

Chairman Carrano asked for a motion to adjourn

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Toni Paine, and SECONDED by

Raymond Collins at 8:45pm. And SO VOTED unanimously

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EXECUTIVE SESSION
January 5, 2004**

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina and SECONDED by Toni Paine to exit Executive Session

No Discussion 8:30 p.m.