

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
May 3, 2004

The Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Administration 25 Ogden Street West Haven. Chairman John Carrano called the Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Tortora
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Sharfi Farhana
Jerome Calhoun
Robert Proto

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Chairman Carrano, by laws on public session, Dialogue must be confined to information gathering purposes and at no time will individual persons or personnel are the subject of discussion.

Chairman asked if anyone wish to address the board:

Patricia Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven, CT 06516, Technology Support team. I just wanted to inform the Board that on April 7 Tammy Perzanoski and I took a group of student s from the Talented and Gifted Program to the Legislative Office in Hartford to present their Exhibits at the K-12 Educational Technology Exposition. Steve Dargan and Toni Harp stop down to see the children. Then we walked down to the Capitol and Mr.Dargan, Mr. Collins and Mr. Esposito took the kids in and introduced them. What I have here is booklet from the Exposition. The students exhibits covered, game boards, power point, one student did a project on China complete with advertising. The students really made you look good. Thank you

Chairman Carrano thanked Mrs. Fusco

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wish to address the board
For a second time, would anyone like to address the Board

May 3, 2004
Minutes

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, West Haven. CT 06516. It's good to be back. First of all tonight I read the Agenda book. The transfer of funds for Project Graduation. \$3,000.00, I think his a very worth while cause; my problem is not in the \$3,000.00, I'm sure if you could offered more, you would give it. My problem is the way the money was disbursed in the past. I would think that the \$3,000.00 would go into a graduation fund and then be disbursed. When you make a donation or contribution to some thing. It goes in to a fund, a graduation fund. Then be disbursed from there. My understanding from the past is, a bill is sent to the business office and then paid. My problem is this is not the way non- profits are supposed to operate. If you donate to the Red Cross they don't give you their UI bill to pay. I would like to see the money go into a fund for Project Graduation and the disbursed accordingly. I know that some of the records, not all of the records are keep by the PTA. Bills are submitted by them and paid. So I would like to see that we go by some kind of guide lines. The next thing I see is you are going to have a meeting of the Policy Committee, I hope that we are going to see some policy recommendation. I did attend one policy meeting. At this point in time, the policy books are not signed by the parents. Parents should be aware of the policy book and the parents should have to sign for the book. The parents have to provide proof of residency, at the same time they could be asked to sigh the policy book. This way in the future when someone gets into trouble. The first person the Administration goes to is the parent. The parents should be made aware of his book. The student signature doesn't mean they have brought it home to their parents or even read the policies. They can't enter in to a legal contract. I don't think it is fair they have the sole responsibility to bear. So I hope in September when the kids return you require the parents to sign these books. On a positive note. The auditors did not find any wrong with the Boards journal entries. I was recently in Hartford with the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent and we reached an agreement, I am very happy with it. I was also very happy today with the way Garth gave me a table to work from, instead of working on the corner of someone's desk. I hope working together continues, instead of the no I was use to. I have been reading a lot more on expulsions, now one that caught my eye. I said you can't even hard boil and egg in six minutes, but I stand corrected You can cook three. So I guess it's a dozen can' be cooked in six minutes. But how do you conduct a fair and impartial hearing in six minutes. First you are paying a flat fee, so I would hope there would be some kind of fair process. When he Boards Attorney is sending out the expulsions hearing letters, they are sending copies to the hearing officers. But they are not cc that on the letters themselves. The attorney does not plan on changing that any time soon. But I would like to see it. When the parent receives the letter everyone who received a copy is cc on the bottom of the letter. Now I see where a student set the bathroom on fire caused \$1,500.00 worth of damage, came back to school and caused a fight with another student. Now I thought for sure this child would get 180 days, no a marking period and a half. Now this other was talking on a cell phone and was found to be insubordinate. This student received 180 days. Now you would think that arson would rate 180 days. I do not understand that a fire is less disruptive then a cell phone.

May 3, 2004
Minutes

How do you pick and choose who gets 180 days and who does not? I have to believe that there is some kind of hidden rule. These are in the Agenda books every time. You should read them. On another note congratulations to Anne Heffernan and all her fund raising for the Chess Team. And Congratulations to the Chess team on their success.

Chairman Carrano Thanked Mrs. Rossi

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wish to address the board
For a second time, would anyone like to address the board?

Paul Scanlon, 11 Laurel Street. West Haven. CT 06516. I just wanted to bring to you some of the picture from our field trip to Virginia. We had an exchange concert with Salem. I could not bring Choral to you, so I brought you of sample. Mr. Scanlon played two songs, one from the West Haven High School Students and one of Salem High School. It was a learning experience for the students and also my self to watch another director and school perform. Mr. Scanlon invited the board to attend the concert on June 6, 2004 at 3:30.

Chairman Carrano Thanked Mr. Scanlon

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wish to address the board
For a second time, would anyone like to address the board?

Tracey Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive. West Haven, CT 06516
Approximately six years ago I came to this Board, and fought strongly with other parents about all day kindergarten. We had 1 at Molloy School at the time 18 Students to a classroom with one paraprofessional. You were able to put one in each school at the time. If you have or have ever had any children in the school, half day kindergarten, you know that what the professional staff does in the time restraint is remarkable. All day kindergarten is a wonderful program and I hate to see it cut. It was first funded by Grant Funding

After a few years the Board of Ed gave the funding for the all day Kindergarten. They were able to use a paraprofessional as a floater or do away with the paraprofessional all together. Ideally it was suppose to be 18 students, one paraprofessional and one teacher. So now the classes are up to 24 with possibly a floater paraprofessional if you need to look to cut in your budget. I strongly suggest that you look at the CAPT remediation, which is really senseless money that we are spending, which I have brought up several times before and was promised that soon something would be done with it. Also you could look into eliminating transition. Transition is not required by the State. There are a lot of parents who feel strongly about the program, I feel strongly about the program, it is a great program. I hope you will look at other cost saving options. If you have never had a child in half kindergarten verse all day you can not understand the difference. Thank you.

May 3, 2004
Minutes

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wish to address the board
For a second time, would anyone like to address the board?
For the third and final time, does anyone wish to address the board?

Public Session closed at 7:26 p.m.

C. Reports:
C.1. Status of Schools.

Superintendent congratulated Mr. Scanlon, also Anne Heffernan and the Chess Team. Superintendent Tortora thanked everyone who attended the City Counsel Sessions. Superintendent Tortora welcomed the new student Representatives. We have two projects at the High School that were in jeopardy because not meeting extensions. The High School windows have been approved and are on the way. The front replacement is out for Bid and will close May 25. The project will go forward. Superintendent Tortora said he will send off a written letter request that the concession stand at Bailey be taken down. The Governor has dedicated May 7th as Daycare Provider Appreciation Day. Andrea Bonazzoli is here to present certificates.

**Andrea Bonazzoli said we have about 11 providers, she
Thanked them and presented certificates**

- 1. Busy Bee's Early Learning Daycare – Meme Juliano**
- 2. Little Hearts Daycare – Susan Saunders**
- 3. Peace of Mind Family childcare – Viola Waldo**
- 4. Robin's Nest Family Childcare – Robin Sacco**

Superintendent Tortora passed out list of 11 providers.

C.1.a. Administration.

**Assistant Superintendent Cavallaro welcomed the student representatives
and offered his help any time they needed it.**

**Assistant Superintendent Cavallaro also congratulated the Chess Team on it
accomplishments.**

**Assistant Superintendent said he has never seen a field trip where are have
not done us proud. DECA, Choral or School Field trips. It makes all of us
proud as a community. Due to the rain today the dedication for the field is
3:00 p.m Tuesday, May 4, 2004.**

**May 3, 2004
Minutes**

(Continued)

Assistant Superintendent Cavallaro said he had talk to Mrs.Pickering and Superintendent Tortora and a Curriculum Committee Meeting will be held on May 17, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

C.1.b. Board.

**Mr. Proto: Dear Mr. Tortora,
The West Haven High School Class of 2005 would like to cordially invite you, the Board of Education members, and Assistant Superintendent Cavallaro to the Junior Prom. The prom begins at 7:00 PM on Saturday, May 15, at Fantasia in North Haven. Please let those who are interested in attending know that the RSVP date is May 7th and they need to contact Mrs. Robles or Mrs. Fronc. There will be a sit down dinner with a choice of Prime Rib, Chicken Francese, or Eggplant Parmesan.**

**Sincerely,
The Class of 2005**

**George Monahan: A lot of times during public forum people speak, comments or acknowledgements are made about the children or the youth of the community and the fact that they are that communities future leaders. It is clearly a valuable statement,
and of course children being young to young adults. As we have three new student representatives added to the Board this evening. They are a clear example of that being very, very true. They are already young leaders that this community can be extremely proud of we are proud of you and honored to have you as part of our board and look forward to working with you. It is clearly the desire to get involved and participate and hopefully make change for the good is what makes the process better. So congratulations on your election and we are honored to have you with us.**

**Anne Heffernan: I'm not sure if everyone realizes that Sharfi Is not only a new member of the board? But also a member of the Chess Team and Mock Trial Team.
Also the Chess Team banquet will be held at Knight of Columbus on Thursday, May 27, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. call Anne Heffernan for tickets \$ 35.00 each.**

Mr. Carrano: In our packet today under informational Mr. Guthrie who has done a lot of work to try and get a Magnet School off the ground for EMT and Homeland South Security and it looks like it maybe moving that way. So thank you Bob. Please take some time and read that letter if you have not done so already.

May 3, 2004

Minutes

C.1.c. Committee:

No Committee Reports

Approval of Minutes:

D.1.a Regular Board Meeting of April 5, 2004

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.1 a. MOTION made by Toni Paine and SECONDED by Anne Heffernan, Motion passed unanimously

D.2 Resignations (Certified)

04-66 Brian Swartz, 461 Whalley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511, Science Teacher at West Haven High School, Effective June 2004, Reason: Personal

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.2 04-66 MOTION made by George Monahan and SECONDED by Anne Heffernan, Motion passed unanimously

D.3 Resignations (Non-Certified)

06-67 Carmel Shea, 1080 New Haven Ave, Milford, CT 06460, Executive Secretary to the Board, Effective July 1, 2004, Reason: Retirement

06-68 Ebony Joyner, 200 Goffe St, Apt F52, New Haven, CT 06511, Hourly Title One Aide at Molloy School, Effective April 16, 2004, Reason: Other Career Opportunities

06-68 Lena Carbone, 125 Grove Place, West Haven, CT 06516, Assistant Custodian at Seth Haley, Effective: February 17, 2005, Reason: Retirement

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.3 06-67 through 06-69 MOTION made by Toni Paine and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Motion passed unanimously

Discussion: Anne Heffernan: In reading Carmel Shea's letter, she has been with the board of ed so long and it is amazing how many Superintendents she has seen come and go and she will surely be missed.

D.4 Appointments: (Non-Certified)

06-69 Evelyn Colon, 27 Nacca Road, West Haven, CT 06516, Bilingual Medical Paraprofessional at Molloy School, Effective May 4, 2004, Salary: \$14,727.18 + Medical Stipend \$750.00 (Step 1)

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.4 06-70 MOTION made by Paul Messina and SECONDED by Toni Paine, Motion passed unanimously

May 3, 2004
Minutes

D.5. Medical Leave of Absence: (Non-Certified)

06-71 Joseph Guarino, 181 Bellevue Ave. West Haven, CT. 10 Month Mail
Person- 5 hours Effective: April 22, 2004, Reason: Medical

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.5 06-71 MOTION made by Krista Pickering and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Motion passed unanimously
Discussion: Paul Messina said is a shame to see Joe's health has forced him to this. He will be missed.

D.6. Medical Leave of Absence: (Certified)

06-72 Raymond Wrinn, 909 Maple Dale Road, Orange, CT 06477, VIP Teacher at
Carrigan Middle School, Effective February 23, 2004; Reason Medical

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.6 06-72 MOTION made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by George Monahan, Motion passed unanimously

E. 4 New Business

06-72 Request to Approve ED 244 Adult Education Grant Application

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve E.4 06-72 MOTION made by Robert Guthrie and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Motion passed unanimously
Discussion: Mr. Horvath asked if there was any one here to answer questions:
Chairman Carrano asked Francine Coppola – Adult Education Director, to summarize for Mr. Horvath
Francine Coppola – We are requesting approval for our Grant application for 2004-2005.

Paul Messina commented on the growth and success of the program, the wide range of ages of the students it has been able to help, and the difference it has made in their lives. Francine does a fantastic job and it certainly helps our district out.

Francine Coppola: We offer English as a Second Language Courses, Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced. Basic Reading and General Interest classes (Hobbies). The High School Diploma Program, High School Equivalency Classes and Citizenship Classes.

Paul Messina: Maybe I should have said this during Board reports, but the Rotary Club of West Haven had its Auction Saturday night. It was a very successful night, so Rotary will be supporting the students in West Haven. But Rotary also gives the Adult Education student of the year a scholarship. This year a girl in her early twenties who entered

May 3, 2004

Minutes

(Continued)

this program two and half years ago, with zero credits. She is the student of the year graduating with a 3.3 grade point average. It is nice to see that this program continues to help students and the connection with Rotary is still strong.

06-74 Request to Approve Grant Application for Economically Disadvantaged Youths

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve E.4 06-74

MOTION made by Anne Heffernan and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Motion passed unanimously

Chairman Carrano said he wanted to also congratulate everyone involved with this Grant, which is also part of Adult Ed, for its success with disadvantaged youths.

06-75 Request Approval to Transfer Funds: Donation from Board of Education to Project Graduation 2004

Mr. Messina, questioned transfer from DECA, should be donation from the Board of Education

Superintendent Tortora agreed this was a mistake.

Chairman Carrano asked everyone to note change, vote to approve donation from Board of Education

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve E.4 06-75 MOTION made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by Krista Pickering, Motion passed unanimously

F. Informational:

F.f. Grant Award Notification for General Improvements to school Buildings \$464,093

F.g. New Elevator/Accessible Toilets Thompson School Plans

Anne Heffernan – Just wanted to thank Bayer for donation to Chess Club, the Mayor for his donation. Also we donated \$1000.00 from sauce-off to Ward Heitman House

Krista Pickering - NO

Howard Horvath - NO

Raymond Collins - NO

Paul Messina –Would like to congratulate Paul and Neil on Grant money for General Improvements, and note that we are out there looking for any money to be found.

Sharfi Farhana - NO

M. Toni Paine – NO

May 3, 2004
Minutes

George Monahan - Regarding F.g plans of New Elevator/Accessible Toilets in Agenda, that we might want to look at this in more detail. There have been innovated changes in elevator technology in the last six month to a year that would drastically reduce the cost of installing or elevator modification in existing buildings. Based on what is in the proposal as it is written. Is very costly as to what it could be today. If anyone should need additional information talk to.

Superintendent Tortora: Unfortunately Mr. Monahan that project is completed. The main reason it is in here is because of the addition \$464, 093, that project went out to Bid two years ago. It's in the home stretch

What happen with this is in the process of doing that project we took half of the balcony and handicapped accessible bathroom. So we were able to bring the balconies up to code compliance make two handicapped bathrooms. There was great concern from the PTA from Thompson School over the past two years. That is was great to get the elevator and bathrooms, they would like to see other improvements as well, When we received the four hundred thousand we were able to allocate a certain amount of money. If you look at the drawings. We took the other half of the balcony that was deemed unusable. We brought that into code compliance and divided into three spaces. Thompson School is another one of those schools that is very short on space. So you have small groups under the supervision of maybe social worker, resource teacher having a very limited space to work in. We were able to make an open area and three small areas that would hold up to 6 to 8 students. That is being paid for under the Grant. Believe it or not it is a wonderful thing for Thompson School

We were able to take that project and take it one step further.

Robert Guthrie - NO

Robert Proto - NO

Jerome Calhoun - NO

John Carrano – on the next Board Agenda, we need to add Executive Session, in order to discuss Negotionals. If everyone could come prepared to discuss the Nurses contract that is coming up. Then we could give Mr. Guthrie, Chairman of the Finance Committee a head start on what we are going to do with negotiation

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to ADJOURN, MOTION made by Paul Messina and SECONDED by Toni Paine, Motion passed unanimously

Meeting Adjourn at 7:55 p.m