

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**April 4, 2011**  
**Regular Board Meeting – Harriet North Room**

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Harriet North Room at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on April 4, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Howard Horvath, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:05 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS  
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman  
Sean Maher, Vice Chairman  
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer  
Dorinda Borer  
Patrick Egolum  
M. Toni Paine  
Mark Palmieri  
Robert Saley  
Cebi Waterfield

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent  
Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRESENT:** Marum Majid  
Brandon Patterson

Howard Horvath welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for April 4, 2011 and stated we will open with the public portion. He asked if anyone would like to address the board.

### **B. Public Session**

Tracy Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive said she stands before the board tonight as a Hockey Mom. She is totally against the privatization of the rink for several reasons. Just by you saying you are going to privatize the rink you have impacted the sports. I have heard several parents state why sign up in West Haven I don't know if it will be here in September. OK you said it is going to be here in September so how much is it going to cost. Can you tell me that? They know how much they are going to pay in Shelton and Northford so it is impacting our profits right now as you speak because kids are now leaving and going to places where they know the price already. There is too much up in the air now.

Tournaments - We are not utilizing our rink I went to Marlboro and Providence for tournaments. People come to our town and drop \$500 - \$600 spending it not just at the rink but at restaurants and various other areas.

There is a cost to put out the (RFP). I don't understand why we are not doing the research on our own as several members here stated. We are half the price of other rinks so why aren't we going to fail? Why aren't we going to lose money? It is half the price. Other rinks are \$400 and we are \$215 - \$285.

The insurance liability is another thing. If someone falls in the parking lot who will be on the hook for it; the City? You are bringing all these different people in. On the other RFP for the high school you should include what it will take to get the high school up and running. I don't think people have One Hundred and Thirty Million Dollars. People are tapped out completely. It is not about bricks and mortars it is about education. It is about what is getting learned in the classroom. We need to address that. People don't have deep pockets anymore. They really don't. I have to say you need to do that facilities study because look we put a roof on at Molloy School so that the next project we take on from the state we have to pay that back. How about the windows over at Thompson? How about the Three Million Dollars to rip off the front of the high school that we just put on? We can't keep operating the way we are the people don't have the money and it is affecting our kids. I think this will have a huge impact on the youth sports because they will not be affordable. You will send it out to privatize why because you can't manage it? You can't raise the prices? We already put the food out to bid; it's a concession. We already rent out the skate shop. We do the advertising. Who is saying that the BOE is selling hot dogs and hamburgers that are already going out to bid? Where are the prices on the advertisement that we have coming in. I'm at the rink a lot and it is being utilized.

The Polar Bears and a lot of tournaments were there this year. We spent money on the ceilings, the two compressors and did we do all this work for the people to make money off of it when they privatize it. Did we do it all for them or did we do it for our kids. Are we investing in our kids because there are lessons that these kids are going to learn through the youth sports; the good friends. If you are going to do it to the hockey rink are you going to do it to the football stadium? Are you going to do it to the pool? Are we going to do it to the Sea Walks? Are we going to privatize all our parks if we aren't going to make any money? It is really unfair that you are setting the rink up to fail by not raising the rink prices yourself it is a shame and you are losing kids by driving the quality of hockey players out of the city because who knows what is going to happen in September. I want the sure thing. It is a big thing for a kid to be on a travel team. It is not a joke. We know that there are going to be tryouts because my son is also trying out. You can't guarantee me in September that the rink is not going to be privatized and that my son is going to be somewhere paying what he has been paying before maybe a couple of hundred here or there; you can't guarantee me that. As a parent I want to provide for my child I have to ask those tough questions; how much is it going to cost me in September? Does anybody on this board have that answer for me? Just by putting this out to bid or your discussion of putting it out to bid has caused a huge problem with the hockey. I would hope you would keep it in committee. Let's get members of DECA and get the kids involved in it and use that as a project and see. At least try it for a year. Come to me and say alright we have raised the rink prices and raised the prices for the food vendors and tried to bring in more tournaments; don't just privatize it because it is just not fair. You are picking and choosing what you want to pick on so if you want to privatize then put everything out to bid; pool, football stadium, rink, and food service and then we will have nothing.

The board gave thanks.

Erik Brown, 31 Meloy Road was the next speaker. His four page presentation will be found at the end of the minutes. Schedule A

The board gave thanks.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road was the next speaker. She made everyone aware of a change in schedule from the April 14<sup>th</sup> date. Mr. Cavallaro had a conflict so we agreed to change it to April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

It was brought to her attention that now the BOE is billing the pool. She didn't know if this was part of the overall budget or happened recently she didn't recall. This concerns her. The reason being the new budget is being deliberated now and if it is something you intended on doing she suggested you warn the City Council what line item it is offsetting or where the money is going. If it is a bad rumor, she hasn't seen the bill, but it did come from a pretty reliable source that they are starting to bill \$500. She doesn't know what that is for. This budget was set and if this is not true I apologize but if it is true if this is something you propose to do I suggest we make it very public not just stick it in a line item someplace and that we go forward from July 1<sup>st</sup> on and you bring it

forward on April 20<sup>th</sup> and you explain where the revenue is going to go. Is it going to offset one of your line items or what the situation is with that?

Another concern is the Washington School boiler. She wanted this done on a non emergency basis. What concerns her is that it was supposed to be paid for by a bonded grant. This ban has not been funded yet she has been told publicly that this project has been paid for except for \$50,000.00. She would like to know who authorized this and if again it was an emergency that we put in this boiler. The purchasing ordinance has guidelines on what has to be done in an emergency, how it needs to be reported afterwards, the Mayor needs to sign off on it, and it needs to be brought back to the City Council after it is installed. To date she hasn't gotten anything. This worries her about checks and balances and communication. If someone is signing off on an expenditure and it hasn't been funded, she spoke to the finance director last week to find out what the rate was for the ban, it may be by this point in time but it was not funded last fall and she would really like to know what happened.

In regard to the budget she will send questions from council members so the board will have a head's up as in the past. One of her main concerns is that according to the budget you have eliminated 75 positions and moved the West Haven administration office to Orange and closed Molloy School, Thompson School, and Stiles School and yet costs keep going up. She understands salaries would go up but that is why she wants the breakdown to see what positions were eliminated. The same questions will apply to heating cost, electricity and whatever they may be. She knows Special Ed is a big expenditure but the whole increase is not just through the Special Ed line items. She will be getting questions together for this and will also want to know a lot more about the operation of the rink, stadium, and cafeteria. She is being told that the stadium jobs are pro-rated or charged somewhere else in the budget. This is why she wants to know how many positions are there and whether they are full or part time. She will draft it in an email and cc everyone so you can see what she is asking for.

Tracy Morrissey brought up a good point with the insurance and what happens if somebody falls. Right now if a worker falls they are covered under worker's comp; we pay for the insurance. Each time someone falls if they decide to sue we have to pay the first \$100,000.00 is her understanding and ten, five or a couple of those are costs that need to be figured out.

The board gave thanks.

Joe Ayala, 335 Captain Thomas Blvd. said he has two kids that went through the West Haven Youth Hockey Program. He doesn't think that privatizing the rink is a good idea. There are a lot of smart people here that have come up with some pretty innovative ideas on cost cutting. He knows the board has a tall order with budgeting and \$250,000 is a lot of money. He understands it is a bottom line oriented thing but doesn't want to give it all to somebody else. He thinks there is still meat on the bone as far as bringing that number down. He went on to explain what it has meant to his children to be Westies and to play with that sweater or jersey. We made a commitment to them and it has kept them out of

trouble and kept them focused and what they learned from their coaches and people that surround them in these organizations I feel is tremendous in their growth as human beings. I hope that you would consider that when you look at the numbers.

The board gave thanks.

Chris Scranton, 75 Martin Street said that anytime you look at finances first off nothing is free. Nobody can tell me that anything anybody does for you is at no cost. When you are dealing with the West Haven Board of Education and our fine public schools in the pursuit of continuing excellence therein, keep in mind the medium income for the taxpayers of West Haven. They are blue collar hard working people that are self sufficient and keep that in mind when you look at budget items. We can support ourselves but live within our means in our own families. We get it; let's educate our kids in a responsible budgetary, fiscal way that we can afford and not strap ourselves or the future generations of West Haven. Let's keep it here in West Haven and do what is affordable to the citizens of West Haven; not what is free from people outside of our community. Don't let them drive what we need to do in our community for our own excellence.

Public Session closed at 7:30 PM

## **C. REPORTS**

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

Neil Cavallaro thanked Mrs. Rossi as he did discover a conflict on the 14<sup>th</sup> and she did allow them to change the date of our meeting with the City Council to April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. This Thursday at 6:00 PM we know that the public hearing on the Mayor's budget takes place. Anyone that can go and speak on our behalf would be helpful.

We thanked Yale formally last week for their gift and we have talked a lot about the partnership and Raffaella has put together a very good presentation on the number of kids who have taken advantage of our partnership and the programs we have with Yale. She is really our liaison and go between and has done a wonderful job of fostering that partnership and making it grow.

Raffaella said she is here tonight to give a quick update on the partnership between Yale and West Haven with all the Science Programs that have been running this year and will be running through the summer. This will be an update on what we have done since September. Raffaella's complete presentation is on the West Haven Web Site. A few of the items follow:

<b>Peabody Museum</b>	- Total number of participants -	1,350
<b>West Campus</b>		478
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,826</b>

## **K-12 Programs**

All science teachers receive a free Peabody Museum membership  
Free guided tours at the Peabody Museum for all students K-12 are provided yearly

## **2010 – 11 Grades 9 – 12**

Community service hours for students to work at West Campus on removing non native  
Species of plants

## **After school Evolution Program**

A total of eight students participated in the college field trip to Washington D.C.

Jaylah Evans, Jessica Kuchta, Kaussar Rahman, Momal Sumra, Selena DeLeon, Tanaya  
Howard, Fiton Imerukaj and Sebastian Moraga

## **Continuation**

A junior will have the opportunity to work in a physics laboratory over the summer  
Summer internship opportunity for students who participated in the Evolution Program  
Program for seniors at West Campus

Help with the elementary programs

In closing Raffaella stated they just receive notice of a new grant they just received. This  
is a NASA Institute. They are allowing two teachers this year to go. They receive a  
stipend and receive all the materials to go back to the classroom and teach.

Sean Maher asked if the NASA Institute was that the same program years ago with Linda  
Edmonds. Raffaella said it could have been the same but this is the first year that they  
have received this and Ralph Carrano and John Barolla are going to take those slots  
because they have been working on the summer institutes and bringing information back  
to the classrooms.

Rob Saley said he knows Yale has been a part of us for awhile can you tell us when this  
started. It seems like they are expediting a lot more programs for us. Neil said it was  
either four or five years ago this summer. He said Raffaella is not going to say this but we  
get criticized for creating administrative positions but when we created the full time  
science coordinator and made that part of Raffaella's responsibilities that is when it took  
off. She wouldn't say that but I'm going to say it.

Raffaella said when you want to build a program you have to look at your curriculum and  
units and what we need to address some kids because if we are just going on field trips  
and not learning anything from it this won't help. So we took each unit and worked with

Tom and David worked three full days over the summer to match it to programs they could either revise or develop.

Neil said Al Barbarotta had to leave to go to another meeting and we didn't have a chance to get to the Energy Proposal so we will hold off on this.

The board gave thanks.

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

Marum and Brandon gave their presentation which will be attached to the end of the minutes as Schedule B.

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

Sean Maher received word that the AV Department won the U2 Competition. They won a monetary prize to be used towards the program at the high school to support safe driving. Applause followed.

Toni Paine said she and Cebi went to Seth Haley for the Art Festival last weekend and it was lovely; it was really nice.

Cebi Waterfield wanted to congratulate Mr. Stancil for being awarded the Connecticut State PTA Educator of the Year Award. Mr. Stancil was the first administrator to ever receive this award. Applause followed.

### **C.1. d. Committees**

Rob Saley stated tonight under the Facilities Committee we had a discussion to put a proposal out for RFP's for the Rink and the 5 Year Capital Plan. It was decided this will stay in the Facilities Committee.

Eric Murillo said he wants to make sure that when it does come back to the committee those other individuals who want to be part of the committee will be able to discuss things with us and ask questions of us. Rob Saley said he thinks the Superintendent can add to this.

Neil said he and Rob discussed this and reached out to Youth Hockey and we thought at least two members from the Facilities Committee should be a part of it, a member from Youth Hockey, Joe Falzone who oversees facilities, Dave Cappetta who is our business person, Jon Capone who oversees the rink and myself would make up the seven member committee. We thought a seven member committee would be adequate. Neil said if you are a member of the facilities committee and interested you can talk with Rob and then he will give me a couple of names.

Rob is sorry we didn't get a chance to get to the Energy Presentation and hopefully the next meeting we can get you guys back. He knows this is going into the summer but he would like to get something going for the fall. He said he thought Mrs. Morrissey's suggestion about having DECA get involved was not a bad idea. Maybe DECA could put together a management plan for the rink. Rob asked Neil if he could talk to Mr. McKee can come up with something; we have to look at all the alternatives.

Sean Maher said there will be a Curriculum Committee Meeting on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM to discuss the Fresh Start Farm.

**D.1. Approval of Minutes**

**D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting** held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on March 21, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.

Rob Saley seconded the motion

All board members were in agreement

Minutes are approved

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

**11-29 Kathryn Casner**, Elementary Teacher – Forest School

Effective: June 30, 2011

Reason: Retirement

**11-30 Cynthia Latella**, English/Reading Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: End of the 2010 - 2011 school year

Reason: Retirement

**11-31 Debra A. Papeika**, Science Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: End of the 2010 – 2011 school year

Reason: Retirement

**11-32 Ellen Hoverkamp**, Art Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: End of the 2010 – 2011 school year

Reason: Retirement

Howard Horvath requested a motion to approve D.2. 11-29 – 11-32

Mark Palmieri made the motion

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: Neil Cavallaro said these are all long term employees who served us well.

All board members were in agreement

D.2. 11-29 – 11-32 resignations are approved

**D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)**

**D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)**

**D.5. New Hire: (Certified)**

**11-33 Tom Klein**, 547 Melville Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06825

Boy's Assistant Lacrosse Coach - WHHS

Effective: Immediately

Salary: \$2,500.00

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.5. New Hire 11-33

Rob Saley made the motion

Mark Palmieri seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

D.5. New Hire 11-33 is approved

**11-34 Rosemary LeBlanc**, 511 Main Street, Apt. G4, West Haven CT 06516

Speech and Language Pathologist

Effective: August 29, 2011

Salary: \$79,122.91 + Stipend (Step 12 BS+60)

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.5. New Hire 11-34

Sean Maher made the motion

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: Toni Paine stated she noticed that #11-34 was being hired at Step 12. Neil stated this is an experienced Speech Pathologist. It has actually been an open job and we have been contracting with this same person for many years. We went to the Teacher's Union because the person is currently working at the high school now and rather than wait and post her in a job that could possibly be unfamiliar to her she is actually going to stay at the High School.

All board members were in favor

D.5. New Hire 11-34 is approved

**D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)**

**D.7. New Business**

**F. Informational**

Nothing to add under informational

Howard Horvath requested a motion to adjourn.

Dorinda Borer made the motion

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM