

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
August 24, 2011
Special Board Meeting

The special meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on August 24, 2011. The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Howard Horvath, Chairman
T. Sean Maher, Vice Chairman
Dorinda Borer
Patrick O. Egolum
M. Toni Paine
Mark Palmieri
Robert Saley
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Chairman Howard Horvath called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with a pledge to the flag. He stated this will be a very brief special meeting. We will go right into the business and I am looking for a motion from my colleagues for D.1., D.2. and D.3. for the resignations and leave of absence.

D.1. Resignations: (Certified)

11-137 Philip Zetye, Science Teacher – WHHS
Effective: August 1, 2011
Reason: Personal

11-138 Robert Pimer, Head Coach Girls Swim Team – WHHS
Effective: July 28, 2011
Reason: Personal

11-139 Brian Avallone, Assistant Volleyball Coach – WHHS
Effective: August 1, 2011
Reason: Personal

D.1. Resignations: (Certified) Continued

11-140 Olivia Ulmer, Spanish Teacher – WHHS

Effective: August 5, 2011

Reason: Personal

11-141 Dennis O’Connell, Assistant Football Coach – WHHS

Effective: August 9, 2011

Reason: Personal

D.2. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.3. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

11-142 Kristen L. Adanti-Pedersen, Reading Teacher – Carrigan

Effective: 2011 – 2012 School Year

Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.1. through D.3. inclusive

M. Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob asked, “Why is everybody leaving; tell me it is not the money.”

Neil said the Science teacher and Spanish teacher left for higher paying positions and I believe we discussed this at the last meeting. The other positions were coaching positions. Howie said there are only two teachers leaving right. Neil said correct the other three are coaching positions.

Rob asked how #11-142 works exactly. Neil said that is a teacher who is actually out on leave of absence and we are extending it. What we will do is we will hire...Rob interjected he meant that if she decides not to come back how does that work; have we paid her for a year. Neil said no they are unpaid. Rob said OK thank you.

Howie asked what does this brings our total of teachers to that resigned; a ballpark figure. Neil said between 42 and 45 retired and/or resigned. Howie said yes those that left thank you. There was no further discussion and a vote was taken.

Dorinda Borer voted in favor

Cebi Waterfield voted in favor

Robert Saley voted in favor

Patrick O. Egolum voted in favor

M. Toni Paine voted in favor

T. Sean Maher voted in favor

Mark Palmieri voted in favor

Howie Horvath voted in favor

The motion passes. Items D.1. – D.3. inclusive are approved.

Chairman Howard Horvath asked for a motion on D.4. #11-143 - #11-147 all inclusive unless anyone has a problem with that.

D.4. New Hire: (Certified)

11-143 David B. Oestreicher, 821 Beechwood Rd., Orange, CT 06477
Chemistry Teacher - WHHS
Effective: August 29, 2011
Salary: \$49,898.49 (Step 7 BS + 60)

11-144 Stacy Stableford, 11 Lincoln Street, Trumbull, CT 06611
Spanish Teacher –WHHS
Effective: August 29, 2011
Salary: \$79,122.91 (Step 12 BS + 60)

11-145 Lauren E. Galatie, 75 Stable Ridge Road, Monroe, CT 06468
Half time kindergarten teacher – Forest School
Effective: August 29, 2011
Salary: \$20,404.27 (Half of Step 4 BS +30)

11-146 Claudia A. Davis, 1050 Amherst PL, Cheshire, CT 06410
Assistant Principal – Carrigan
Effective: September 1, 2011
Salary: (Step 1 with Sixth Year – WHAA Contract)

11-147 Richard D. Weber, 65 Tulip Tree Court, Milford, CT 06461
Assistant Principal – Carrigan
Effective: September 1, 2011
Salary: (Step 1 with Sixth Year – WHAA Contract)

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.4. #11-143 to #11-147 all inclusive
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Howie asked if there was any commentary or discussion.

Discussion: Dorinda said for the record she knows this was talked about informally during the interview process but Neil do you want to explain the second position and how we are funding it. Neil said he hopes they received this in their packet we sent the first one out in error. The majority of the salary of the second position is coming from the Math Facilitator position which Mrs. Davis currently holds. We are going to move most of that salary over to her administrative salary. We anticipate a rather large savings from a new program that we are implementing for Homebound Instruction. It is a computerized program that we can tailor in with individualized programs rather than pay teachers \$25.00 an hour basically overtime which costs us a tremendous amount of money each year. We will now be using this new program to provide instruction to students. Dana Martinez who has received the training for the program will be at our September 6th meeting to explain how the program will work.

Rob Saley said those two positions are coming from the high school. Are we going to fill those positions? Neil said no we are not going to fill the math facilitator position which Mrs. Davis holds right now. She will be at Carrigan and we have since added a person at Carrigan to do math so the remaining facilitator will just be responsible for the six elementary schools now. Rob asked were there two math facilitators originally or only one. Neil said there were two. Rob said so we aren't going to fill one she is going to do the rest of them and then Mr. Weber's position would be.....Neil stated the good news is I would anticipate even more of a savings because the ripple effect will be that we will hire a first year teacher somewhere. Someone will assume his Department Head position and that will be a senior position but we will replace that person with a lower salary position. OK Rob said his last question is a perfect segue into that salary/dollar issue that we talk about and I know there are always reasons why we hire people so my question is for #11-144 we are hiring this person at the top step. When I looked at the letter that came with it the educational....Neil said this is a top step teacher who has worked in Stratford with Mrs. Gardner. My only hesitation was that I told Pam if she believes she will make a long term commitment to West Haven then get her because she is in high demand. She has the years of experience to justify the salary. Rob said OK and #11-143 Chemistry is a shortage area? Neil said absolutely. Rob said there is nobody out there to teach Chemistry. Mark Palmieri said this guy gave up running for Mayor in Orange to come here. Neil said actually this is a pretty reasonable salary; step 7 for Chemistry is pretty good. Rob thanked everyone.

Howie asked if there were any other comments or questions.
There was no further discussion and a vote was taken.

Dorinda Borer voted in favor
Cebi Waterfield voted in favor
Robert Saley voted in favor
Patrick O. Egolum voted in favor
Mark Palmieri voted in favor
T. Sean Maher voted in favor
Howard Horvath voted in favor
No one was opposed
M. Toni Paine abstained

The motion passes.

Howard Horvath asked for a motion to adjourn
Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn
Dorinda Borer seconded the motion
All board members present voted to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary