

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
December 3, 2012
Regular Board Meeting
Council Chambers

The Regular 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 Mark Palmieri Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Palmieri, Chairman
M. Toni Paine, Vice Chair
Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer
Dorinda Borer
Betsy Davis
Patrick Egolum
Robert Guthrie

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eric Murillo
Cebi Waterfield

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Catherine DePino
Stacy Hurley
Abdul-Razak Zachariah

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Mark Palmieri welcomed everyone to the December 3, 2012 board meeting. Mark asked if anyone would like to address the board.

Darlene Flynn, 50 Central Avenue said her daughter came home from school and mentioned code 79 for the schools. She is curious to know what policy changes are going to be made in regard to that. She was upset to hear that the kids would be penalized if it was a school sanctioned function and they were out of school and this would be an unexcused absence. She asked how this would get addressed.

Neil Cavallaro said he has a copy of the policy for her and that he or Mrs. Gardner would be happy to discuss this with her. They will be discussing this later on tonight during the board meeting. This is modeled after the state law that was passed back in June. Mrs. Flynn thanked Mr. Cavallaro.

There were no other speakers.

Public portion closed at 7:10 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro said since we had a short week due to the week of Thanksgiving his report will be brief. Parent Conferences went pretty well with the adjusted schedule and teachers were very accommodating and showed up early and stayed late to meet with everyone.

Neil said after the first of the year we want to bring the principals before the board to talk about some of the initiatives going on at the various schools and talk about how we are spending the Alliance Grant Money and some of the things we have implemented. We will give you the details as we develop this. This is a good way to let you know exactly what is happening in the buildings.

C.1.b. Student Representatives Report

Catherine DePino, Stacy Hurley and Abdul-Razak Zachariah gave their report which follows at the end of the minutes. (Attachment A)

C.1.c. Board

Dorinda Borer has attended some of the various PTA Meetings and took a lot of their questions and comments and sent them to Neil Cavallaro. Dorinda stated that Superintendent Cavallaro responded to these questions very quickly. Dorinda said one of the things the PTA's asked for was to have a standing item on the agenda. Dorinda said she thought we tried this two years ago and the PTA's didn't come. She told them that they can come to the podium during any meeting and speak about what is going on at their PTA or they can email her, Neil or Mark if there is something specific they want on the agenda.

Neil said when we bring some of the schools and principals to the meeting the PTA's can coordinate some of the things that are going on in the building with the principal and they can come to that meeting or they can come at anytime.

Dorinda attended the high school public meeting along with Bob Guthrie. The only official that came was Mike Glass who talked mainly about the financing of the project and gave a timeline

and what is to be expected next. Councilman Rossi and Councilman Morrissey were there to answer some questions on the history. There was nobody there from the Building Committee and there were a lot of questions asked about who is making decisions, when are the decisions made etc. There were a lot of answers on financing but not a lot on the specifics of the project. They will be holding another public session and she didn't know if we were planning on holding something or holding something jointly with the city as we get further down the line.

Mark said this was to be on his committee report. He went to the Building Oversight Committee Meeting and Antonozzi was chosen as the architect. They still have to do contracts. Once they put everything together he would like to see a citywide meeting at the high school and have all the players there. There will be four different contract people and he would like all of them to do a presentation. Mrs. Gardner is on the committee with Mark and once this project starts there will be a daily and weekly update but we are not at this point yet. Dorinda asked if the High School Project Committee has also been meeting. Yes. Pam Gardner said there is a BOC Meeting and then the High School Building Committee meets after that and we have been meeting pretty regularly for over a year at least once a month. Dorinda asked if there were any community members on that committee. Neil said everybody on there is a volunteer from the community. His understanding is that the Mayor is going to finalize a high school building committee which he is required to do with any project that has been approved by the State Dept. of Education and is eligible for reimbursement. Dorinda's understanding is that it needs to be formed prior to some of the decisions being made. A further discussion continued.

Mark explained these are all good questions but they need to be answered by the people running those budgets. He prefers that questions be answered by CREC because that is what we are paying CREC and the architect for and that is why he feels the questions should be answered by the people who are running this project. The next meeting will take place on December 11th. A further discussion took place about possibly having more appointments made by the Mayor.

Dorinda asked if the budget could be added to the next meeting. Mark said Mr. Cappetta is out this evening and during the January meeting he will be doing a budget report.

Pat Libero attended the Haley School Governance and the Dear Santa extended Chorus is this Thursday at 2:00PM and 7:00 PM it was scheduled for the 14th but is now on the 6th. Pat also commented on the letter that Neil gave to all board members. This letter congratulated the district for earning a place on the 2012 AP Honor Roll. We have also received a certificate and Neil stated we also received some large posters which we are putting up at Yale West. We are talking about getting some room here to start advertising these things at City Hall. Pat said this is great thing to be honored in such a way. We are part of the AP Honor Roll. Applause

Toni Paine said she was at the Savin Rock Community Center for the presentation of the Grant that Yale gave and she was very impressed with the school. The media center at the school is awesome and the way it was set up that day was outstanding. If anyone has a chance go down and take a peek at it.

Bob Guthrie stated that in regard to the high school project Mr. Last did say that any contracts are probably four months out for those two positions to make the project go forward. From the

board's perspective if we do that joint meeting we should try to get them to hold it during the school year. We don't want to push it off until July or August when people won't be paying as much attention. Mr. Last did say in the best case scenario it is a few months out before those two contracts are signed.

Mark Palmieri said that Cebi Waterfield is obviously not here because she is with the Sea Hawks who are participating in the National Super Bowl in Orlando Florida. Wish them good luck! This is the first time in many years that West Haven has had two teams compete at such a high level.

Mark stated that unfortunately he will not be here for the board meeting on the 17th but Mrs. Paine has agreed to chair the meeting. Mark wished everybody and their family a Happy and Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Safe New Year.

Mark also said that Donna Kosiorowski forwarded a copy of the letter Bailey nurses received from a parent who became ill on parent visiting day. Chris Bartley and Susan Marchitto provided such good care that the parent wrote a thank you to the nursing staff at Bailey stating what an exceptionally great job they did in coming to their aid. Donna Kosiorowski, Supervisor of School Health Services wrote that we are fortunate to have nurses of such high caliber in our schools and wanted to share this letter with the board members.

Dorinda asked why the board members received information about children with diabetes testing their own glucose. Did we get that because it is new or because there was an issue? Toni Paine said she asked Marylou to make a copy for everybody. When something comes through from the State it is given to Donna Kosiorowski and she needs to implement it and it needs to be sent to C.A.B.E. This is the procedure change for Policy 5141.21. Since Donna was sending it to C.A.B.E I wanted everyone to get a copy. The board thanked Mrs. Paine.

C.1.d. Committee

Toni Paine said we just met earlier tonight in case there were any last minute questions on what is on the agenda tonight that we had done at previous meetings.

Mark Palmieri stated again that Antonozzi was selected as the architect for the new WHHS. They were the lowest bidder and there were three other vendors.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on November 19, 2012 at 7:15 PM.

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.

Robert Guthrie made the motion to approve D.1.a.

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

All board members present were in agreement

Minutes are approved

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on November 19, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.b.
Robert Guthrie made the motion to approve D.1.b.
Pat Libero seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

12-160 Heather Lennon, English Teacher – West Haven High School
Effective: December 7, 2012
Reason: Personal

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations 12-160
Pat Libero made the motion to approve D.2. Resignations 12-160
Robert Guthrie seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Item D.2. Resignations Certified 12-160 is approved

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

12-161 Anna K. Rohde, 15 Foster Street, New Haven, CT 06511
English Teacher – West Haven High School
Effective: December 3, 2012
Salary: \$43,256.02 Step 5 BS + 30

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

12-162 Ann Dowd, 10 Chin Clift Trail, West Haven, CT 06516
Literacy Aide – Carrigan Intermediate School
Effective: November 26, 2012
Salary: Hourly rate: \$16.09

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.5. New Hire Certified item 12-161 & D.6. New Hire Non-Certified item 12-162
Toni Paine made the motion to approve D.5. New Hire Certified item 12-161 & D.6. New Hire Non-Certified item 12-162
Pat Libero seconded the motion

All board members present were in agreement
Items D.5. New Hire Certified item 12-161 & D.6. New Hire Non-Certified 12-162
are approved

D.7. New Business

12-163 Approval of the Truancy Policy

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-163
Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-163
Toni Paine seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Item 12-163 is approved.

12-164 Approval of the Attendance Policy

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-164
Patrick Egolum made the motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-164
Pat Libero seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Item 12-164 is approved.

12-165 Approval of the Extra Curricular Activity Grades Policy

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-165
Toni Paine made the motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-165
Pat Libero seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Item 12-165 is approved.

Mark Palmieri thanked Mrs. Paine and her committee for the hard work and effort they put in on those three policies. He knows this will definitely make a difference for our students.

12-166 Move to delegate to the superintendent authority for the hiring of all non-certified personnel

Discussion: Before voting Chairman Palmieri said he did speak with Attorney Floyd Dugas on this and he felt as though it was in the policy that Neil already had that right and he said other districts do this. Mark also spoke to the Superintendent and said when this is done it will be included under informational.

Chairman Palmieri then asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-166
Toni Paine made the motion to approve D.7. New Business item 12-166
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Dorinda Borer was opposed

All other board members present were in agreement
Item 12-166 is approved.

F. Informational:

There was nothing to add under informational.

Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn
Patrick Egolum made the motion to adjourn
Pat Libero seconded the motion
All board members present were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Secretary

The Student Representative's Report follows on the next page.

Attachment A

Board of Ed Student Representative Report – December 3, 2012

MTV loves our Westies so much that they will be returning on Wednesday to do another casting call for MTV Made. They also are hoping to shoot a commercial at WHHS later this year in conjunction with our “if it’s mean, intervene” theme.

Twenty five students attended the Student Leadership Training Program’s Re-Energizer workshop at the end of November. They are motivated to bring positive energy to WHHS and hope to share their leadership ideas with other student leaders and captains. They also are interested in attending future workshops and summer camps.

Get into the spirit of the season and attend the following musical performances – Wednesday night at 7pm – the choral concert; Friday at noon – Trees of Hope benefitting the Ronald McDonald House and December 19th – the band concert.

WHHS is ready to help the community. Student Government is holding a food drive for WHEAT. PACE is holding a new and gently used book drive to benefit Savin Rock School and the Peer Advocates and PRIDE committee are working with the Fire Department on their annual Toys for Joy drive. We’d love to have you participate.

The DECA Winter Wonderland Dance will be held Friday at Westwoods.

The Mock Trial team will compete in their first competition on Wednesday against High School in the Community.

During parent conferences, the School Governance Council sponsored one-on-one tutorials for parents and guardians on the Powerschool Parent Portal and Naviance.

Congratulations to our Football team on their successful season. They played hard in a playoff loss to Staples last Tuesday.

Senior pitcher/third baseman Cameron Stone signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at Stony Brook University at WHHS on November 20th.

Construction Technology Education students recently toured the Quinnipiac River/Pearl Harbor Veterans Memorial Bridge Project. Walsh Construction hosted a group of 23 students, who were given a safety briefing and equipment, toured the project and actually set foot on the deck of the bridge, 150 feet in the air. This bridge is unique in that it is an “extra-dosed stay cable bridge” and is the only one of its type in North America.

During the month of November, the School Counseling Department hosted two on-site application workshops with Southern Connecticut State University and The University of New Haven. 23 seniors signed up for the opportunity to meet with admissions representatives to receive an admissions decision on the spot. Over the course of the two on-site application workshops, 21 students received acceptance letters, and over \$82,500 dollars were awarded in scholarship money.

The Spanish Club is hosting an exciting evening of “Salsa (dancing) y Salsa (dip and chips chef’s competition)”, with dinner provided by club members. This event will take place on Thursday evening, December 6, between 6 and 9 pm in the WHHS Cafeteria.

Mrs Maher’s Acting classes welcomed 2005 alum Michael Enright into the Little Theatre on November 27th. Michael, a graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia, shared his audition and performance experiences with the students. Advising them to take all criticism to heart and learn from it, to always be kind and respectful of other actors and to never give up on their dreams.