

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Organizational Meeting
December 5, 2011

The Mayor's Organizational Meeting for the Board of Education was held in the Harriett North Court Room of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John M. Picard at 5:34 PM. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: **Dorinda Borer**
 Betsy Davis
 Patrick Egolum
 Robert Guthrie
 Patricia Libero
 M. Toni Paine
 Mark Palmieri

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: **Eric Murillo**

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: **Mayor John M. Picard**

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: **Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent**
 Anne Druzolowski, Asst. Superintendent

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
 PRESENT: **Stacie Hurley**
 Marium Majid
 Abdul-Razak Zachariah

Organization

Mayor Picard welcomed everyone and stated that this is an organizational meeting for the Board of Education per Chapter IX, City Charter of the City of West Haven. The first call of business is to ask for a nomination for Chairperson.

Patrick Egolum nominated Mark Palmieri. Mayor Picard recognized Patrick Egolum to nominate Mark Palmieri.

Mayor Picard asked is there a second.

Toni Paine seconded the motion.

Mayor Picard asked if there were any other nominations three times.

There were no other nominations.

Mayor Picard requested a roll call vote:

Cebi Waterfield - yes
Betsy Davis - yes
Pat Libero - yes
Mark Palmieri - yes
Patrick Egolum - yes
Dorinda Borer - yes
Toni Paine - yes
Bob Guthrie - yes

Mayor Picard congratulated Chairman Mark Palmieri. (Applause)

Chairman Palmieri thanked the Mayor. He then thanked the members of the board for giving him the opportunity to serve as chairman during the next two years. He recognized his wife Bonnie, his three children Mark, Alex and Samantha, and his friends who have always supported him in all he has taken on. Mark is looking forward to continue working with Mayor Picard, his administration and the City Council. He looks forward to continuing his open, working relationship that he has developed with Superintendent Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent Druzolowski and Finance Director David Cappetta and the rest of the Board of Education's administration that has taken this district to the forefront within the State.

To the members of the board, he hopes we will be willing to agree to disagree and not to hold grudges and just do what is the best for the children of this district so we can continuously move forward.

As most of you know my wife and I are life long residents of West Haven. We graduated from the West Haven School System and our family truly loves this City. The thing he is most proud of though is the quality of education that my children have had and are still receiving. For that I would like to thank all the teachers, administrators and others who make that possible. We have an excellent school system that I believe together we will continue to make it even better. Mark stated he could go on about West Haven all night but knows we have other business to attend to and he issued a challenge to everyone in the room tonight. Put your political and personal agendas aside and he will make sure to communicate on a weekly basis with everyone on this board so we can all work together to obtain success for this district.

One of Mark's main goals is to see a new high school built so we do not lose our accreditation status for our children in order to get them into the best colleges and universities as possible. He presented the following question to the board, the board's administration and to the Mayor and his administration: "Ask yourself this: if not now when; if not us who"? Please let's move forward with this project. We need to begin to look into the future together to do whatever is necessary to prepare this generation of students for whatever awaits them in the global economy that we live in.

Once again Mark thanked everyone and stated he really appreciated this honor and for his first official act as Chairman he called for nominees for Vice Chairman.

Patrick Egolum nominated Toni Paine.
Cebi Waterfield seconded the nomination.
Mark asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chair three times.
There were no other nominations.
Mark asked for a roll call vote.

Bob Guthrie - yes
Cebi Waterfield - yes
Betsy Davis - yes
Pat Libero - yes
Mark Palmieri - yes
Patrick Egolum - yes
Dorinda Borer - yes
Toni Paine - yes

Chairman Palmieri said it's unanimous and congratulated Vice Chair Toni Paine.
(Applause)

Chairman Palmieri asked for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer.
Toni Paine respectfully submitted a nomination for Pat Libero.
Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion.
Mark asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary/Treasurer three times.
There were no other nominations.
Mark Palmieri requested a roll call vote.

Cebi Waterfield - yes
Betsy Davis - yes
Pat Libero - yes
Mark Palmieri - yes
Patrick Egolum - yes
Dorinda Borer - yes
Toni Paine - yes
Bob Guthrie - yes

Chairman Palmieri said it is unanimous and congratulated Mrs. Libero. (Applause)
Chairman Palmieri asked for a motion for adjournment.
Betsy Davis made a motion to adjourn.
Cebi seconded the motion.
All board members were in favor.
The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Secretary

