

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 1, 2010
Regular Board Meeting

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on February 1, 2010. 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
T. Sean Maher, Vice Chairman
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
Dorinda Borer
Patrick Egolum
M. Toni Paine
Mark Palmieri
Robert Saley

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew DePalma

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor John M. Picard

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Gypsy Garcia
Eric Pang
Brandon Patterson

Howard Horvath welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for February 1, 2010. He then asked if anyone would like to address the board during public session.

B. Public Session

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road said what she says is her opinion no one else's. Everyone on the council has their right to vote just as she does. The five year capital plan that was spoken about was not passed by the City Council. We were not provided a financial plan by the mayor for the things listed in the five year capital plan. That is a charter requirement and was not provided so I could not vote; but and Mr. Saley knows this if you don't take any action whatever it went in by default that particular night.

This is the worse budget meeting I have ever been to in the 9 ½ years I have been coming for several reasons. We have three council members here and if you want cooperative communication common courtesy would have been to provide us with the budget to look at ahead of time or during the meeting. There is no YTD so how do you know how well you did last year if you don't know how much you spent? The board used to meet the end of January and go over line by line what goes into each line item. They had three or four meetings kind of similar to the city council meetings. She doesn't understand where they went from going over line by line to handing out a piece of paper. She is opposed to that type of thinking. She never received notification of any finance committee meetings and doesn't know if they were open to the public.

She has a copy of the audit which is not great news. The deficit went down in the general fund by \$30,000.00 but we built in a \$2,000,000.00 deficit reduction in that budget and it should have gone down that amount but it didn't.

The BOE budget should mirror the city budget. There is not one department that doesn't have a salary line item that states how many people that salary is servicing. When you look at the budget you should have a feel for how many people the \$2,000,000.00 is servicing. It would be nice to see what electricity costs for each school and the rink and have a breakdown of this rather than making it one number for everything. She will receive an email of her requested documents.

She is concerned about the whole budget and doesn't want to see teacher layoffs and schools close. She hopes if it comes down to this that they don't just look at the teachers and schools and instead look at the new positions that were created and scale some of the things down. The benefit of the students is to have teachers in a classroom; we have some very good teachers.

The move to Yale was sprung on us last year and I asked for certain things which I have yet to receive. Figures are now being thrown out and before funding and bonding and everything else the first thing I would say is if we were to put it in the boot we would have more than \$2,000,000.00 so why not look at that type of revenue generation.

I am not against the move to downtown West Haven I'm against the detour to Yale. Yale has done wonderful things. What happens after the two years if we aren't on site any longer do the programs go away. I think if Yale is going to give they will give anyway. I would like all city council members to get a copy of the budget and what everyone was reading from. I would like to see if Yale has given us a proposal. What will happen to our furniture when we eventually end up at City Hall? Are we storing this furniture, selling it as a package deal with the Blake Building. This hasn't been addressed. I'm concerned about the custodian issue that was brought up. I really have a concern about the Orange issue. I understand that part of the building is in Orange but the point of the matter is that it is not in West Haven. I would have like to have been invited on this bus tour and perhaps the city council members would have liked to go along too. Maybe the vote isn't ours but the funding is – we are working as a cooperative group. If we are

going to work together as a group it means work together not just when you need money and the rest of the time be left out.

I think it will be absolutely impossible to put together a \$2,000,000.00 band in a week. It has almost been a year and to rush into a decision and spend the taxpayer's money – I have to believe that Yale would still help our students. First off I would like the answers to my questions and second to sit back this is a major decision and would like you to think long and hard before we rush into something.

The board gave thanks.

Carroll Brown, 56 Highview Avenue stated that everything that Nancy Rossi said is right on target. Everything Mr. Murillo said tonight is right on target.

(Today is Carroll and Teddy's 48th Anniversary and the Board congratulated them)

Carroll is not in agreement with the detour to the Yale Campus. She thinks the move to City Hall is great that is exactly where the BOE needs to be. The Blake Building is a historical spot and was a school over 70 years ago. For the last 40 years I have talked about a community center in the north end of town. This building needs to remain here and become a community center for citizens of the north end of town.

She doesn't understand the logic in moving the Blake Building to the Yale campus. You need to move downtown why waste money. You can stay right here until City Hall is finished. Don't we the public, the taxpayers who have lived in West Haven 47 years or more have a say in this. You are just going to rush in to this because nine people here have said this is what we need to do. You really need to look hard at what your decision is going to be because I really do promise you that while you are making your decision I will be planning to mobilize the community to come together to let you know that we the people do not want you to go to Yale West for a couple of years, take our money and then go downtown. I agree with Mrs. Borer, having parents that can hardly get here now travel to the BOE in Orange because they have a question or need to talk with someone, or see the Superintendent it doesn't make sense. People from this side of town have a difficult time just getting to a basketball game at WHHS so when you think about moving a historical building like this remember Carroll Brown said she will organize and mobilize because you need to hear what we the people have to say.

Robert Wittkosfske, 93 Dalton Street agrees with Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Borer. He is doing what his step mother would have done – fight for education. He sees not reason to move to the Yale Campus. He has tried to get into that campus because he has contracts there and it is not an easy place to get into. I have gone in to see the Superintendent on many occasions and this security system won't let you in the door; it is a really tight security system and I'm sorry you can't do that to the taxpayers.

I read in the paper that we are going to save so much money and it is only \$61,000 for rent how are we saving money because we don't pay rent here we own the building. That

is \$61,000.00 we save right there. I'm against it I think you should stay in West Haven and not move twice only once. I already know that UNH is getting this property so we are selling out like crazy and the taxpayers are losing big time. I have a big problem with the budget because last year there were to be no raises and teachers did get their raises through the union. We do have some excellent teachers. He discussed the conditions at the high school that need improvement. He and his team will team up and not let this happen.

The board gave thanks

Margaret Krisminski, 1 Robart Street is upset about the 9% increase for the BOE budget. These are hard times and surrounding towns have asked for a give back. I was upset when I read this article and would like to know where we will get this money. We know what happened with the Police Pension because the City was having a cash flow problem. You had to go into the pension to pay a lot of contracts at Christmas time. We haven't had an increase in taxes in four years and you are going into your fifth year at City Hall and somewhere along the line we will have to have an increase in taxes. There was no discussion at all about any of the items in the budget. She is amazed it came before the board one time and it was passed for almost \$4,000,000.00 more – where are we going to get the money; that means our taxes have to go up. There are so many foreclosures in West Haven that we are not collecting any taxes on. We are not going to get money from the state because they are \$500,000,000.00 in debt. People are losing their jobs. I'm working for my health insurance.

Yale is a good fortune for us and we should take everything that Yale will give us. How many people in West Haven have jobs at Yale. If Yale wants to offer us a building so the board can use it until the City Hall gets revamped it doesn't bother me at all. If Yale wants to give us something grab it. I say become a good friend of Yale and they will take care of West Haven.

The board gave thanks.

Jerry Proto 71 North Avenue is taken back by anyone giving him a lecture on relationships. He has bent over backwards for the last 15 years and came up with nothing. He is tired of the nonsense where merit no longer means anything. There are people who put their time in and do the right thing all the time and get chewed up.

This is all about the kids. I don't believe the Mayor is wrong in not wanting to bond but there are sometimes when expediency is better in the long run than standing still. Moving twice to save a little bit of money I can go along with. We have to move quickly. The plan makes sense. This town takes forever to do anything. The zoning board takes forever. You need to move this building to downtown. If we have to bond it; bond it – we don't have to move twice.

The board gave thanks.

Ted Brown, 56 Highview Avenue understands the board took a bus trip to the Yale West Campus but they should have driven by Thompson School because renovations are needed there. This is all about money for somebody and the taxpayers have to pay it. No children are getting any benefits from this. Yale has been here for years. Half of Yale Bowl is in West Haven. There is a track right down the street from me that I can't run on; so Yale doesn't give back that much. They have a police force and you cannot go on their property. You have room to move into the high school and Carrigan. You could put your offices there temporarily. What we have here is champagne taste with a beer pocketbook. We can't afford this. Where are we going to get the money from; the whole country needs money and yet we are going to go out and build this and do that. You have to consider this before you start buying things. We have 800 students in New Haven going to school that live in West Haven. What happens if they come back where are they coming to? Why are they in New Haven in school – we don't have the facilities here. We can't teach these kids and build magnet schools. New Haven wants to build a magnet school here to be run by the New Haven Board of Education. UNH is not giving us too much. Yale takes care of Yale. They will charge us rent. If they have so much money why don't they give us the building for free; they are in our city. You have to stop and think about this before nine people make a decision for X amount of dollars that we have to pay for because somebody wants to make the money it is not right.

The board gave thanks.

Tracy Morrissey, 205 Country Hill Drive came back to find out about the bathroom situation at the high school and heard a lot of comments about Yale and accessibility, a shuttle bus. I think we have an excellent relationship with Yale that would also continue.

The bigger issue I have is the 9% increase in the budget. I think before we decide to move anywhere we need to see how the BOE will operate. The Mayor said he would not raise taxes and I have to agree with him people are struggling. There are no jobs out there and unemployment is at its highest. Our main concern is the kids and the teachers and the classroom size. That is where our focus needs to be right now. We are going to be in for a tough couple of months. I've heard about this move for five years what is the urgency now. We have a 9% increase that we have to deal with. We have to work together with city council and I can't be in favor of raising the taxes now. We can wait until May or September after the budget season to address the move.

The board gave thanks.

Public Session closed at 7:55 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration

Neil asked Pam Gardner to introduce the three students from WHHS who were involved in a speech contest from the West Haven Rotary Club. Students are asked to take the

Rotary Four Way Test and apply it to real life. The four way test asks four questions: is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendship and will it be beneficial to all concerned. Three students from West Haven won this contest and won monetary awards they are:

Marisa Berti 3rd place Women's pro hockey
Katie Coyle 2nd place MTV
Carly Lindgren 1st place Barbie

Carly also went on to the Speak Off in Fairfield where she was the 1st place winner and then went on to the Race Brook Country Club where she was a finalist and came in third place and won a monetary award.

The three winning speeches were read by the students and pictures were taken.

The speeches follow:

Katie Coyle

The rotary four-way test asks us to think about how our decisions will affect others before we make them. When making the decision about MTV's portrayal of people how their behavior will affect others should be at the forefront of our minds.

While I will not argue that everything on MTV is bad, the majority of their programming depicts people doing potential harmful things. MTV reality shows The Real World and Jersey Shore glorify partying, drinking, having promiscuous sex, and fighting. Sweet Sixteen shows girls being selfish and money as the most important thing. Sixteen and Pregnant, while not necessarily glorifying teen pregnancy, still makes it seem acceptable. These behaviors are being shown to people starting at a very young age and as they grow up they will accept these behaviors. This will lead to a generation that has harmful morals.

These shows are sending the wrong message to society and degrading our culture. People watching these shows begin to accept the behaviors as societal norms and might eventually begin to imitate them. Such programs also have negative effects on the people participating in the show. Millions of people are watching them make major mistakes in their lives thus putting a lot of pressure on them. These shows have lasting harmful effects with everyone involved, participants and viewers.

First, MTV is not the truth. Few people actually live lives similar to the ones portrayed on these shows. MTV makes it seem acceptable to party, get pregnant, and spend lots of money on yourself. Young viewers especially need to realize that while these things are entertaining they are not everyone's lives and should be regarded as stories, not common events, and that people in these shows are part of our society but they do not represent all of it. These reality shows put these people on pedestals to show their harmful behaviors to the world so children think that that is the right way to live.

Second, it is also not fair to all concerned. The people on the show are not depicted well and the people watching them are receiving harmful messages. Reality TV stars may seem to be having fun while they are there, but they are hurting themselves and millions of people are watching. The viewers are also hurt when they pick up the bad

messages of the shows. Viewers see the stars doing harmful and selfish things every week and may begin to accept it. This lowers their standards of themselves and society as a whole. The only people who are benefiting from these shows are the MTV executives. Everyone else is suffering from the stars and viewers harmful behaviors.

Third, these MTV reality TV shows do not build goodwill and better friendships. Viewers are basically watching peoples' lives get worse even if the people do not know. The constant fighting hurts everyone on the show even if they are not involved. This conflict makes the show entertaining, but builds bad friendships and goodwill. The conflict just builds bad emotions and separates people, hurting everyone. Viewers also see how the participants rely on violence to deal with others and they may begin to believe this is the right way to do things. The shows promote violence and anger which is hurtful in our world that already has enough of that.

Fourth, MTV is not beneficial to anyone. The people watching these shows pick up negative images which skew their self-image and world view. The people on these shows already have negative lives. The fact that someone gave them a television show simply tells them that their behavior is acceptable and their thinking is correct. Because these shows are broadcast on cable, they are accessible to millions of people. The people watching these shows are bombarded by the stars' negative self-images and harmful actions to themselves and others. This causes them not only to accept the stars' behavior, but also to display it. This just starts the dangerous cycle all over again.

In conclusion, MTV's portrayal of life and people does not pass the rotary's four-way test. Reality TV hurts everyone involved and does not depict life the way it rally is. It sends the wrong message to impressionable young kids and gives them wrong and harmful ideas about the world. It also reinforces the bad self-images and thinking of the people on the shows. These shows don't contribute to our society at all, they hurt it. They send wrong and potentially harmful messages to society that hurt everyone.

Marisa Berti

When people think of the word "hockey", the first words that appear into their minds are speed, violence, and especially males. Since the start of the men's National Hockey League, or NHL, which began in 1917, this sport continues to be dominated by men. But at the start of the 1930s, hockey was beginning to be played by women. Then as World War II began, the number of those who participated in this sport began to reduce and eventually stopped for quite some time. However, women started back up again in the mid-1960s. Finally by 1993, women's hockey then became an NCAA-sponsored sport. This began the era of women's hockey. Although women have been playing this

sport for almost 60 years now, there is still only one professional hockey league in the United States, the National Hockey League, which is only played by men. As a female hockey player for 8 years now, I feel that this needs to change. Women have done their part in making this sport such a success and now it is time to begin the formation of a Women's National Hockey League in the United States. I do not think it is fair to have 4 major professional sports leagues for males and only one professional sports league for women. It sends out a message of sexism and gives out a message that people do not care about sports for women.

According to Jaime Fitzpatrick, broadcaster and free lance sportswriter in St. Johns, Newfoundland, "Today the number of female hockey teams and leagues is at an all-time high." I feel this is important because now that the game has evolved so quickly, we deserve a professional league to call our own.

This league would be created by first obtaining investors to fund it. Then from there, locations would need to be picked in order to determine where teams would be formed.

Larger cities that have this sport in college would be appropriate decisions. Examples of these larger cities would be Boston, Minneapolis, Detroit, and Chicago.

The formation of a Women's National Hockey League would be fair to all because if men are able to have this opportunity, then the women should also be given this privilege. All people focus on are the National Hockey League, National Football League, Major League Baseball, and National Basketball Association. However, the only women's major professional sports league, the Woman's National Basketball Association, does not receive even half the viewers of any men's professional sporting event. According to Women's National Basketball Association research, only 7% of girls

from ages 12-17 and 14% of female basketball players from ages 12-17 watch the Women's National Basketball Association frequently, while only 53% of males watch this league. Also, in a Los Angeles Times article written by Susan Favor, she explains how a column writer feels that the Women's National Basketball Association is "virtually absent from the media." But if the Women's National Hockey League is created, then it will not only benefit players of this league by opening tons of careers as professional athletes, but it will also benefit the women of the Women's National Basketball Association because people will realize professional women's sporting leagues are also very important. As a result, the viewer's ratings will increase. These women who are a part of the Women's National Basketball Association also deserve to have their recognition as being a women's professional league.

Just remember that many years ago, women were not quite interested in the game of hockey. But now there are over 60,000 participants, many who continue to play in college. Some are even given the opportunity to play on the USA Women's Olympic Hockey Team. Besides the USA Olympic team, however, there are no other semi-professional or regular professional leagues for women to participate in today.

The creation of this league will build better friendships in a variety of ways. First of all, the men who are apart of the National Hockey League will accept this league as being a professional organization filled with players that are full of determination, stamina, and most of all, filled with pride. They will not consider women's hockey to be a fake sport once they see the organization grow and succeed. Secondly, the other male professional organizations will also realize that this sport is not slow-pacing or even a joke. The Women's National Hockey League will work hard and even though it may be

difficult at first, they will hopefully receive support from the thousands of women's hockey teams around the country and even from the Women's National Basketball Association.

I will now close this speech by once again saying that a Women's National Hockey League should be created in the United States. This is the absolute truth coming from a hockey player, being myself, who has now been playing for 8 years. Women who take part in this sport deserve to have a professional league of their own. There are plenty of women today who go to college to play hockey and then stop after college because there is no next step. Well a next step can be created if everyone works together to form this league. Success is the key to life, and without this league, women today will not be able to follow their dreams and become successful hockey players. Together, we can make this happen and together, we can "go for the gold." the USA Olympic team, however, there are no other semi-professional or regular professional leagues for women to participate in today.

Carly's speech follows:

Barbie Speech

Born in 1958 to the parents of Ruth and Elliot Handler, a new woman was created. Standing just 11 and ½ inches tall and weighing 7.4 ounces, this diva icon was soon going to change the world. Her name was Barbie Millicent Roberts and she was rapidly turning into the doll that would revolutionize women's looks and self-image everywhere. Barbie was the first doll that had an adult body. Her appeal spread like wild-fire and within the first year over 351,000 dolls were sold. This is remarkable because in the year she was created, gas cost 25 cents and the average wage was only \$5000, but yet each of these dolls sold for \$3. People wanted her no matter what the price. The new target market has been born; young children.

Barbie definitely forms good friendships. I mean, think about it. Every girl you knew growing up probably had one. In fact, 90% of U.S. girls ages 3-10 owned at least one Barbie Doll. Furthermore the average number of Barbie Dolls owned by U.S. girls is 13. Girls will play with their sisters or cousins or friends. Barbie instills the ideals of respect, sharing and getting along. She teaches girls that team work is a huge part of life. Having been searched 74.5 million times on Google, 'Barbie' is beyond a household

name.

This great idea was a little too perfect; Barbie's looks were not the truth. Barbie was made as the ideal western girl. With long legs and long arms, a small waist and a high round chest. Barbie's face was impeccable. She was given freckle and blemish free skin with just a touch of make-up on her light eyes. This blank canvas face was nothing representing the woman of America. Acne Vulgaris affects 90% of adolescents and 51% of adult women. The original Barbie's beauty and clothing reflected the national standard of women staying home and waiting to look beautiful for her husband who was arriving home from work. In 1971, Malibu Barbie came out. She had two slight changes; the open smile and eyes looking straight ahead. All dolls previous to this looked to the side or up at the sky. It was not until ½ a century later, in 2000, that Mattel attempted to make her more realistic with Jewel girl Barbie. She had more of an athletic physic and she received her first belly button. Barbie is simply not the truth.

Now as for Barbie's physical features, they are on a whole different level. If Barbie was an actual human her dimensions would be 38-18-34; which corresponds to a 38 inch chest, an 18 inch waist (which is a child's size) and 34 inch hips. This is not humanly possible. Scientists have speculated that Barbie would not have enough body fat to menstruate therefore unable to survive. Scientists say that this unheard of body type will occur one in every 100,000 women. So who created this idea that women have to look like this? And that this body type was is healthy? This insane standard has led healthy girls to destruct their bodies in order to fill the "status quo". The average model stands 5'11" and weighs 117 pounds where as the average American woman is 5'4" and weighs 140 pounds. Statistics shows that most fashion models are thinner then 98% of women! The appearance of Barbie in girls lives had an enormous impact and numbers don't lie. 80% of women are dissatisfied with their appearance and 80% of women say that images of women on TV, movies, fashion magazines and advertising makes them feel insecure; the exact effect that this 11½ doll has. As little girls grow up they think this idea that being stick thin is the only way to live. 42% of girls in 1st through 3rd grades want to be thinner. As girls grow up, the pressure to fill this mold only gets worse. 81% of 10 year olds are afraid of being fat. And who do you think instilled this idea? Their parents? No. It was culture icons like Barbie.

She is not beneficial to all people in many ways. With this idea in their head, more then half of teens are on or want to be on a diet. Most of these girls want to lose a large portion of the 40 pounds that girls naturally gain from ages 8 to 14. Sadly and unfortunately 3% of these teens go to far and become anorexic or bulimic. Barbie is more then just a doll, she is a major part of pop culture.

However, again on the negatives side, Barbie has not always been as culture-friendly as she has recently turned into. When first introduced, Barbie was the girl everybody aspired to be, mothers and daughters alike. No matter what look or race, status or culture, everyone identified with the rich tan blonde Barbie. In 1960, 11% of the country was African-America and yet Mattel still did not produce a black Barbie until 9 years later in 1968. This one African-American Barbie was nothing compared the dozens of variety that the white Barbie had. For example, the white Barbie had 7 different shades of blonde and the black Barbie had just one. And black was not the only major minority in this country. Despite 6% of the American society being born in foreign countries, Mattel did nothing. That is until 38 years later in 1997, when the first ever Puerto Rican Barbie was

put out. Puerto Rico and Latin America had higher growth rate of Barbie than the United States. Strikingly 72% of Puerto Rican children owned at least one Barbie. These numbers, all from the 1980's, would lead anyone to believe that Mattel jumped on this opportunity. Think again. In 1990 there were 22.4 million (9%) Spanish people of the 250 million and they all had no doll to relate to. The impact had been made. In 1994 Mattel made 90% white dolls and 10% black dolls. Surprisingly they sold-out of black dolls by just a little. In order to look more culture friendly, in '95 Mattel made 60% white dolls and 40% black. People did not want to buy them. Black girls all over the country knew the facade that the company was trying to put out. These girls saw through the fact that the black Barbie was just a white one tinted brown. It looked nothing like them. Barbie is beyond unfair...unless of course you are a blonde rich white girl with a great body and a perfect life. It is amazing how much impact a small mold of plastic can have on the world. Thank you

The board gave thanks and said what a great job all three students did.

Mayor Picard said what a wonderful job the three students did and what a shame it was that the press had to leave and missed the very positive things that are being done. He congratulated the students again.

Howard Horvath agreed and said it is another example of the outstanding students we have here in the West Haven School System who are taught by great teachers. This is a tough act to follow.

Neil Cavallaro said that Dr. Rose Paolino asked that he read a letter from the counseling department to celebrate school counseling week. She presented board members with a gift from that department. The letter follows:

National School Counseling Week February 1 – 5, 2010
Theme: Celebrating School Counseling

On behalf of the West Haven Public Schools School Counseling Department, we would like to show our appreciation for the support the Board of Education has given in our endeavors to assist the students of West Haven in reaching their academic, post-secondary, and social/personal goals. We look forward to continuing to work together to support our students in reaching their dreams and becoming successful, productive citizens. With your continued support, we eagerly look forward to building our resources for students and parents.

Neil stated that Rose has done a wonderful job with that department (applause)

The board gave thanks.

Neil thanked the members of the BOE for adopting the budget. In these tough economic times we will exhaust all of our resources to try and get that number to the point where

we can provide great services and retain all of our good teachers and staff. We know 9 is a high number and we are seeking ways to see if revenue and funds are available.

Neil said he will provide Nancy Rossi with as much information as he can. The board members did go through the various line items along with the entire administrative team and he will make those services and people available to her.

He thanked Dr. Druzolowski for all their hard work for the Professional Development Session and for bringing Dr. Reeves to West Haven. Positive feedback has been received. He thanked AJ Palermo and the curriculum coordinators for their help. He also thanked David Cappetta and Tammy Mursko for pulling together all of the information with regards to the Blake Building and the move to Yale.

In response to Dorinda's and Howie's request we are going to be inviting the PTA's here to our next meeting. We will do a couple of schools at a time. They can talk about their schools and any concerns they have. Time will be put in under New Business so we can respond to them. A letter will be going out to each PTA president inviting them along with a schedule.

C.1. a. Status of Schools

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Eric Pang, Gypsy Garcia and Brandon Patterson gave a great report on activities taking place at the high school which is at the end of the minutes.

The board gave thanks.

C.1. c. Board

Rob Saley commended the three student reps for following through with all the areas talked about at the previous board meeting. This is one of his main philosophy that it has to start in the school and this is a beautiful thing. The roundtable we had the other night was phenomenal. It was great to brainstorm with principals and administrators. We are looking at doing a study on all our buildings and want to get this done so we have to research this and this will take some time to do. This is what the administrators need to do and have Joe Yacono and Mike McGrath go through the schools with us and look at what we can and can not do.

Sean Maher commended the three high school students and said they are such a wonderful example of what West Haven has to offer. He commended Mr. Stancil and his Art Day at Haley School. He distributed flyers for the theatre workshop for Haiti on Saturday, March 6th at 7:30 PM. He attended an ELL Meeting with Rafaella Fronc and Eric Murillo and everything is moving along and are proud of the work being done. It was a wonderful visit by Dr. Reeves and he hopes as the teachers got a lot out of it.

Howie Horvath thanked Mrs. Paine, Neil, Ann, staff and colleagues for the time they spent working on the budget. He thanked Mr. Saley for the information on the potential move and all the research this entailed. Mr. Reeves was very impressive and the feedback is great.

Mark Palmieri would like the email from Larry Ainsworth to Doug Reeves read into the minutes. This is inserted at the end of the minutes. He also congratulated the three winners of the Rotary Contest and Margi Maher for being honored by the Jimmy Fund this year in the near future.

Dorinda complimented all three winners of the Rotary Contest. The DARE Graduation had an incredible turnout at Forest School. She also wanted the public to know that they had a lot of meetings on the budget before voting on it. A lot of questions were asked and we were here for a long time. This is how we made our decision.

Toni Paine congratulated the three Rotary winners. She thanked the administration and all those who helped in the many long hours of preparing the budget. It was a little disheartening to hear people say we voted on something without looking into it. We were informed in groups of two or three people to facilitate the ability to ask many questions we went over line item by line item. We were asked our goals and it was quite extensive. The administration will meet anytime so everyone was accommodated. We were well informed. The Seth Haley event was so impressive. Mr. Stancil did a beautiful job; I was there for the whole thing. The meeting with Doug Reeves was exceptional. The introductory letter that Larry Ainsworth wrote to Doug Reeves is something everyone should read. He is actually spotlighting West Haven using it as a classic example of the best progress in the whole nation. Tony read an excerpt which will be attached.

Patrick Egolum said it is nice to see students from WHHS shine this is a good example of what we produce. This is because of the leaders we have put in place.

Eric Murillo congratulated the ladies and was at the meeting with Doug Reeves and hopes that professional development continues. He complimented the time Mr. Horvath gives to him if he has questions or anything. He thanked Mr. Saley for pulling all the information together along with Tammy and Dave. He was very impressed with the student reps and all that they are accomplishing and the three Rotary winners. He thinks that having the PTA Rep here will be a good idea. He enjoyed Seth Haley's Art Day. He met with Mr. Maher and Rafaella for ELL and is impressed. She is very passionate about what she is doing. Neil asked Rafaella to give the board an update to the board on this Eric also congratulated Mrs. Maher.

C.1. d. Committees

Dorinda Borer stated that the first stop on their road trip will be with Carrigan Middle School on February 9th and at Mackrille on February 10th. She thinks it is great administrators are coming here but we need to go to their schools.

Rob Saley wanted to say this is the first initial discussion in regards to the facilities plan. We are going to the council meeting to discuss this with them. We have to listen to all the information so we can base our decision on what we have. Once we discuss this then we will go to you on Monday night to see where we are going. We weren't going to make any decision tonight.

Howie Horvath went to the Arts at Haley and commended Mr. Stancil for a really phenomenal job and said he was so committed he picked people up and brought them to the event if no transportation was available. Our students and student reps are doing a fantastic job. I also want to commend Mrs. Gardner she is setting the tone and providing strong leadership for these students.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blake Bldg. (Enclosure)

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

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

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present voted in favor

No one was opposed

Motion Carries - Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

10-09 Catherine A. Biagetti, Principal – Mackrille School

Effective: June 30, 2010

Reason: Retirement

Howard Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations: (Certified) 10-09

Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve D.2. Resignations: (Certified) 10-09

Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: Dorinda was curious as to how filling vacancies at elementary schools work.

Neil said there is a policy that says four board members, 2 PTA members 1 from the council and the other is the president of the School PTA, the assistant superintendent chairs the committee. We will first look at the positions we have and I may do some internal transfers first and see what opening are left after that. We would rather do this sooner than later. With budget season there is the potential that a job or two may not be filled that would cause some adjustment in our plans. Dorinda stated she would like to be a part of this.

All board members voted in favor

Motion passes

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

10-10 Judith Ann Colandrea, Head Custodian – Molloy School

Effective: June 30, 2010

Reason: Retirement

Howard Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified) 10-10

Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified) 10-10

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members voted in favor

Motion passes

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Non-Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

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

D.7. New Business:

F. Informational:

Howard Horvath asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

T. Sean Maher made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Mark Palmieri seconded the motion

All members were in favor

The meeting ended at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary

The correspondence from Larry Ainsworth to Douglas Reeves follows on the next page.