

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
January 17, 2012
Regular Board Meeting
Council Chambers

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on January 17, 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
Eric Murillo
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
David Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Chairman Palmieri welcomed everyone to the January 17, 2012 meeting and stated that before starting the public portion we would like to recognize a young man from West Haven High School for his accomplishments with the West Haven High School Hockey Team; Mike Troiano.

Neil stated that one of the nice things about being the Superintendent is that you can go someplace and see the kids in action. He is also a big sports fan and in particular hockey now that his son is on the A Team. Neil has been watching hockey in this town for almost 40 years and when he saw the Darien game it was one of the most dominating periods of hockey that he has ever seen one individual play. Mike singlehandedly brought the team back to the overtime win at Darien. It was a great performance. When reading the newspaper Neil thought not only is this a tribute to Mike Troiano but West Haven High School and the City of West Haven couldn't buy publicity like this. Neil's secretary Tammy is a bigger fan than he is and she put together the framed picture and article from the newspaper. Neil asked Mike to come up and accept this token on behalf of the board of education. The board and Neil wished Mike the best for the rest of the season. Many pictures were taken by Patti Fusco of Mike and his family with Superintendent Cavallaro and Chairman Palmieri and his hockey coach. Applause followed.

Neil stated the video may still be up on the Register's website and the two things that were great were how Mike stressed the importance of not only hard work and what his role on the team is but also the importance of academics so that means a lot to all of the kids who follow the program so keep it up. Applause followed and the board thanked Mike for his hard work.

B. Public Portion

Mark Palmieri asked if anyone would like to address the board three times. There were no speakers. Public Portion closed at 7:10 PM .

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil said he will be brief as there will be a comprehensive report on curriculum by the coordinators.

Mark is trying to set up a meeting for budget purposes and we thought next Wednesday would give us enough time to get information to the board. We are planning on inviting all the Department Heads and we will have someone from the Rink, Food Services and Chris from the Stadium. Dave is working with Terry DeMattie and possibly having someone from Anthem attend as well. We have tentatively scheduled it for Wednesday, January 25th and the information will be sent out ahead of time.

Neil said a pipe burst at Bailey as a result of the boiler but everything is fine there. An email was sent to the board members but everything is fine now. The concern we had is what was wrong with the alarm system so we are investigating that. It was just a surprise to walk in after ht long weekend and find the boiler down.

Toni Paine sent out an email on the Positive Save School Climate Policy and where we are with it. Toni has done a nice job of keeping everybody aware of where we are in the process. There is a meeting scheduled for early next month.

Neil said we want to hold up on the position for the person who will be replacing the person who is leaving us in the culinary position because we have a certification issue that may be resolved as early as tomorrow item 12-06. We would like to table this tonight. The person wouldn't start until February. Toni Paine moved we table item 12-06 Mark Magas. Patrick Egolum seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All board members were in favor. Item 12-06 is tabled until the next board meeting.

A brief discussion regarding the time of the Budget Meeting on Wednesday, January 25th took place. It was decided the earliest the meeting could begin would be 5:30. A confirmation will be sent out shortly.

Dorinda asked if we were creating more classes at Bailey because we needed more room. Tony Cordone's concern is that he has 13 teachers who are floating right now. We are looking at possibly dividing a couple of larger classrooms in half; one of the art rooms and maybe one of the shop rooms. We also looked at the library because the concern we have there is that more than one class is going on at the same time and there is a disturbance. We will put some plans together and put a price tag on it. Hopefully most of the work can be done in house.

Pat Libero asked if we would consider modular's at Bailey. Neil found for what you pay and for what you get in return with code compliance and sprinkler systems and things that go with it that adds to the cost when you connect it to the building the price was about \$800,000 and it seems like a lot when we can split the classrooms. A discussion continued about soundproofing areas in the library and removing temporary walls in the library. Pat is glad something will be done with the library because it is a situation that is not ideal for the kids and the librarians. Neil agrees that it is something we need to address.

Dr. Anne Druzolowski addressed the board members and stated that some members are familiar with what we have been doing and some who are new to the board are not so we thought this would give everyone a brief explanation of what we are doing and what our course is at this point. If anyone wants further information on anything that is discussed tonight we can set up meetings individually with whomever you need to speak with.

Anne asked her staff members to introduce themselves to the board. The following staff members presented tonight. Raffaella Fronc – Science and ELL, Judy Drenzek – Early

Childhood Supervisor, AJ Palermo – Assistant Principal Carrigan, Ann Valanzuolo – Language Arts Coordinator, Joe Lucibello – Director of Special Education, Stefania Larry - Assistant Director of Pupil Services, and Ginny Bauer – Assistant Director of Pupil Services.

Anne said this is her team and when we do anything we do it as a whole and that is part of the reason why we have been very good at communicating to the district about what our goals are and what our philosophy is. AJ Palermo is a real loss to the team; she has learned so much and done so much for our district that it would be in poor taste if I didn't give her recognition at this time. Our loss is Carrigan's gain. AJ will bring with her more information and more talent than they have seen in a long time from an administrator so congratulations to Carrigan and it is our loss. Applause ensued.

Anne introduced Nicole Danishevsky who will be voted on tonight for the Math and Professional Development Coordinator. Nicole came tonight to also give support to what we are doing.

The CALI Initiative is the Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative. This is a state initiative and this district has been doing everything systematically and systemically for the past three years and we will continue to do this. It speaks to the data teams you here mentioned all the time, the curriculum writing we have done, the conversations about assessments and positive school climate. Everything was designed by the State Department of Education for all districts across the state but particularly for districts in need of improvement. We are the only district in the State that is embracing the whole initiative and Anne would entertain anyone wanting more information on it. For new board members and anyone else who needs a refresher please don't hesitate to contact the office and a private meeting will be set up to go over it in detail.

The entire presentation has been put on the website by Patti Fusco. Everything done here links to things like a school improvement data team at the school level as well as the district improvement team plan. If you look at the goals you will see that most of the targets are 10%. We have looked at a reasonable growth to make AYP and that is what we are required to do by the State of Connecticut. When we start moving into the brand new standards for the State the Common Core this will all be changed up. It will be different language and as we move closer to that point which is September of this year Anne will inform us of the language and how it has affected our curriculum. There will be more rigor in mathematics bringing things down at a lower level in terms of skill. In English Language Arts we will be looking at a faster paced, more involved and more rigorous type of curriculum. We are used to change and have been taking this curriculum and making it something live all the time. The complete presentation can be found on the website.

Questions

Dorinda stated that she knows we have a great partnership with Yale and asked if there was something we could do with UNH and the Forensic Department with Henry Lee.

Raffaella knows Bailey has done something at a small level. Our students have been to the Forensic Lab at Yale and that has worked out well but we can definitely look into this.

Dorinda asked how you identify students as ESL. Is it based on what paperwork they fill out? Raffaella said every student that enters the district fills out a language dominance form. If more than one question is answered with another language we have to test the student and if they score below a 4 they are placed in the program.

Anne said a Language Assessment Survey is being administered to any new child coming into kindergarten so all of our kids are getting a language read because it is not just a foreign language that impedes development in reading, writing and math but it is also any language development. This has been a really good resource to use for the whole district.

Pat asked how many ESL students are in a class. It depends on the school. How do the teachers handle this? It is handled with writing support, ESL and bi-lingual teachers and also with paraprofessionals. Most of Raffaella's paraprofessionals are working with kindergarten because that is where our biggest numbers are. A lot of kids born in the United States speak Spanish at home and are coming to kindergarten without speaking English.

Pat asked how many languages we have. Raffaella said we haven't done a survey in a while but there are a lot of different languages; there are over 60 different languages. Pat asked when they have to take the CMT Test. Neil said it used to be three years but then they changed it. Raffaella said after 10 months for Language Arts but if it is science and math if they come here today they take the test tomorrow. Pat said she thinks that people need to understand that if a child comes to our country and doesn't speak the language and 10 months later if they are in 3rd or 4th grade they have to take the CMT Test and that really impacts on our test scores especially when we have 10 to 12% of kids. Anne said we need to look at more resources and support for our classroom teachers. Raffaella said the population has grown tremendously.

Cebi asked if once the students are identified as needing ESL education do we offer or encourage their parents to attend Adult Education for ESL classes as well. There is a mailing that goes home every year and Francine had a couple of very successful classes of ESL in the past. That is a good point to look into. Anne said the Family Resource Center that we have at Savin Rock serves the whole area and that resource is invaluable at channeling parents to higher ed, to getting these skills ELL and ESL as well as resources for health and just getting around the community. We try to make sure that all the resources support everybody and we have been working diligently to try and get resources to them. A further discussion continued.

Toni said she was at Savin Rock and attended that class and it was wonderful. They had parents and children there all in one group with multi lingual personnel and it was quite impressive. Anne said it is for any child that needs support when they get into our

system. Jean Vitale is one of our staff and we should have her do a presentation on all the things we do in the Early Childhood Committee and how she is one of the links.

Mark Palmieri said Bayer used to have something called Science Makes Sense and he asked if they have anything like that anymore. Yale has the building next to ours and there is a lab there and students do activities and all the programs previously mentioned and every third grade goes to these programs and other grades can go if they would like to. Everything is aligned with what we are doing with Science in the classroom; it is fun but is still aligned with the curriculum. Neil said if board members would like to attend any of these classes we will be happy to take you to show you examples of anything that is taking place.

Dorinda asked what we are doing aggressively to try to recruit bi-lingual para-professionals. Do we advertise to the Hispanic Community. Yes. Applicants need to have 60 credits. Dorinda asked for paraprofessionals? Yes, according to Title III for a bilingual paraprofessional. A further discussion continued.

The board gave thanks.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Student representatives Stacie Hurley, Marium Majid, and Abdul-Razak Zachariah were not present at this meeting.

C.1.c. Board

Mark thanked Dr. Druzolowski and her team. We appreciate your bringing all the information to us. He also thanked Toni for the Bullying Policy and working so hard on that. He also thanked the interview committee for the hiring of our new math coordinator if that passes tonight. He thanked Mrs. Libero, Mr. Guthrie, Mrs. Paine, Mr. Everly and Mrs. Morrissey.

C.1.d. Committee

Bob Guthrie stated the first CABE Meeting will take place this Thursday at 5:00 PM at CABE's Office.

Toni Paine said on the Positive Safe School Climate Policy she sent everyone the email and anyone who doesn't have a copy of the draft please call Marylou and she can get you a copy of it. Toni also sent an attachment with the letter that Attorney Dugas had sent and there are seven policies on it that were directly affected by this new Safe School Climate Policy so she will read up on it and get together all the points that are duplicated that we may do away with. I will send another email with all that information and you can attach it to the policy. There will also be a committee meeting for the Policy Committee at 6:00 PM on February 6, 2012 and Attorney Carolyn Dugas will be there.

Betsy Davis stated she has been invited to a couple of different committees that she is on but they are all held during the day and she is not able to attend. She would like to consider them being held later in the day so some of us could attend these meetings.

Cebi Waterfield stated she seconds this and thanked Mrs. Libero for volunteering to talk about the curriculum at Bailey since she is involved in a huge project at work and there is a freeze on all PTO time and is not able to get out of work. She knows Mrs. Libero will be an excellent resource at that meeting. Pat thanked Cebi.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on January 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.1.a.

Patrick Egolum made the motion to approve D.1. a.

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Eric Murillo and Cebi Waterfield abstained because they were not at this meeting.

All other board members were in favor

Motion passes

Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

12-05 Danielle White, Social Worker - Bailey

Effective: January 17, 2012

Reason: Extended Medical Leave

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item 12-05

Pat Libero made the motion

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All members were in favor

Item 12-05 is approved

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

Mark stated that Item #12-06 was TABLED earlier in the meeting until we have further information.

TABLED 12-06 Mark Magas, 14 Grove Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770
Culinary Arts Teacher - WHHS

Effective: February 3, 2012
Salary: \$54,512.76 (Step 9 BS + 30)

12-07 Dr. Nicole E. Danishevsky, 14 Townline Road, North Haven, CT 06473
Math Coordinator – Central
Effective: To be determined
Salary: \$104,629.90 (Step 4 + sixth year + doctorate)

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item 12-07
Toni Paine made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: Toni stated she was at the interview and the presentation was communicated so well and Toni was very impressed.
Bob Guthrie was opposed
All other members were in favor
Item 12-07 is approved

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

D.7. New Business

12-08 Discussion and adoption of the 5 Year Capital Plan

Mark said we received this at the last meeting and hoped everyone had a chance to look at it. This is in order for us to move forward. This is what Mr. Barbarotta presented to us at the last meeting. These are areas he feels are the most important. Nothing is prioritized this is something we can propose to the City Council so they will have the money available to put aside for us so we will be able to move forward. These things will be needed to be addressed; it is no different than your home. Roofs and hot water heaters and boilers break down so it is important we move forward with this. There is nothing written in stone it is just that we have a plan to move forward with in the future.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to move forward with the 5 year capital plan

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: Bob said there was some conversation about space at Bailey and we are coming close to our budget deliberations and whatever else may come to our attention. Obviously this is a fluid document so if there comes the need to add something at Bailey or any other school to address our classroom space and classroom size I'm assuming that could be reevaluated and put into that 5 year plan because the money will have to be pro-rated over the course of five years not just one or two budgets. All board members were in agreement. Bob said this is a nice starting document but in case something comes to light in the next 30, 60 or 90 days we still have the right to add items to that.

Neil said that is a good point. We need to start that discussion with the city with some long term meetings and hopefully it will generate discussions on what the priorities are and where we see ourselves a few years down the road. For the last five years there

hasn't been any plan or any funding to go along with it so it is a good statement that the board is making in that we want to generate that conversation with the city.

Eric Murillo and Cebi Waterfield asked for a copy of the Capital Budget Proposal. Copies will be provided to them. Neil said those plans were based on the engineering study the last board had authorized so they include Bailey and Carrigan and the Rink is paying for out of its own budget. Next year we will proceed with the elementary schools. This is a fluid document and we certainly anticipate changes as we study the various buildings.

Cebi asked about the district wide equipment line item for \$200,000 including dump trucks and plow trucks and bobcats etc. Doesn't the city own trucks that plow and isn't that some kind of consideration that we should make. Neil said we plow our own lots and the city plows the streets. Neil said it is a good discussion on ways to save money and become more efficient. If we have a swim meet on Saturday and we send our guys out to plow the parking lot by the pool and the city is going by doing the main road those are the kind of things we need to do a better job working collaboratively with in working with the city. A further discussion continued.

Eric said he would like a copy of the plan before voting. He believes in all this because they have been discussing this for the past couple of years but he thought he would have received information in his mail. Neil said it will be sent out to board members again in their Friday packet.

Eric Murillo and Cebi Waterfield abstained

All other board members were in favor

Item 12-08 is approved

Neil said copies will be sent to all board members showing when it was presented to the Superintendent, to the board and when it was passed by the board. All the columns will be updated and forwarded.

F. Informational:

There was nothing to add.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn

Eric Murillo made a motion to adjourn

Betsy Davis seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary