

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 19, 2012
Regular Board Meeting
Council Chambers

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on March 19, 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
Robert Guthrie
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Egolum
Eric Murillo

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:** Marium Majid

Chairman Palmieri requested that before beginning the meeting we have a moment of silence for former board member William Randolph who passed away on March 6, 2012. Mark thanked everyone.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Mark Palmieri stated the public portion is open and asked if anyone like to address the board.

Lorraine Carr, 29 Lake Street, West Haven, CT

The 4th grade Haley Comet Players present the Big, Bad Musical on Friday, May 18th at 7:00 PM at Haley.

During the last PTA Meeting it was decided to have their children get involved globally. UNICEF has a program where you donate money and they help get clean water. New Haven has a project called cleanwaterinitiative.org and they promote simple, sustainable solutions to provide clean water in Northern Uganda. This was started by a man named Ben Slaver who passed away on October 2, 2009. He was killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan. Previously he had been hired by FEMA to conduct disaster planning for the New York Tri State Area. While he was in Africa he saw the chronic health concerns stemming from the lack of clean water. His mother runs the non profit now out of New Canaan.

Our children will color a piece of paper with a glass or an empty cup on it and they will decorate it. They will put in a dollar and this money will go to this non-profit. Mrs. Carr wanted to let the board know that they will be doing this. The board gave thanks.

Patricia Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven, CT

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. I was very upset when I read in the New Haven Register that Mayor Picard effectively cut \$3 million dollars from the Education budget that you adopted and therefore shortchanged education yet again. In that budget you took into account the needs of the school district and budgeted accordingly. I am certain there was not \$3 million dollars of fluff in that budget.

Mayor Picard claims that he is justified in giving us \$1.5 million dollars less because the Governor MIGHT give us that much in extra ECS money. First of all, that budget has to be approved by the legislature which may or may not happen. The amount could change. There are many towns and cities who did not get extra money and they are not happy. They are lobbying for sharing the wealth. There are many more who feel that the Governor's budget does not address the deficit and in fact makes it worse. They may not vote to give extra money to districts no matter what Governor Malloy proposes. That money is part of Senate bill 24 which you probably have heard of—it is the Education Reform bill that proposes to reform education to lessen the achievement gap. We are one of the lowest performing districts in the state, something none of us are happy about, and the money was supposed to be used to target early childhood education. When

Dr. Druzolowski and the coordinators presented the District Improvement plan to you on January 17, Mrs. Drenzek spoke about the needs of our entering kindergarten students. It was pointed out that they enter our schools with a vocabulary of only about 50,000 words. Their peers in wealthier towns enter with well over a hundred thousand words due to the preschool programs that they are enrolled in and the experiences their parents can provide for them. We have made many changes in our kindergarten program to address that language gap, but there is much more to be done. We need to work hard to get kids reading by Grade 3—and we have many ideas in place, but some of them will cost more money. We can't afford a \$3 million cut in our funding.

Believe me I appreciate Mayor Picard not wanting to raise taxes. My husband and I pay over \$8500 in taxes ourselves to the City of West Haven. However he can't keep making up the lack of increased revenue on the Education side of the budget.

In his proposed budget he adds new positions and gives extra raises to some people above what is contractually required. On our side of the budget teachers and others are not getting 2 ½ % raises—in fact our raises have been minimal for years and with our new health care costs most of us are making considerably less than we did before. We have closed three schools and our administration building. What sacrifices has the City made? I hope you will stand with me on March 27 at the Public Hearing for the budget. You were elected to represent the little people of West Haven who cannot speak for themselves. We need to stand together to try to get back what we need for our students. They are counting on us. They have the right to a quality education—no matter what it costs.

The kids from Carrigan and the High School have teamed up for St. Baldrick's Day this coming Friday, and raised over \$15,000, without the kids even having contributed anything yet. The kids haven't even had a chance to buy bracelets yet so I am sure we will be well over \$15,000.00. All money raised is going for research for childhood cancer. The board gave thanks.

Ralph Eberle, 455 Third Avenue, West Haven, CT

Mr. Eberle stated he is here representing the PTA Council and is extending an invitation to the board to the Founder's Day Banquet on April 4th at 6:00 PM at the IA Club. He hopes all board members can attend. The board gave thanks.

Chairman Palmieri asked three different times if anyone else would like to address the board. There were no other speakers and the public session closed at 7:10 PM.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro stated he has some comments on the budget but we do have a couple of reports first. Mrs. Libero is responsible for the first guest tonight and Neil asked Pat to introduce him.

Pat introduced Jeff Rodensky who she met at her husband's barber shop. Jeff previously worked for Horizon and has changed his career now and works for New York Life and they have a great program for child identification which is free in the schools. Pat wanted to present this to everyone to see if we are on board with it and to give him permission to contact the principals so he could get this up and running for our children. He has a presentation about it and it is a really good program for younger kids.

Jeff Rodensky the program is called A Child Safety Identification Program. Sometimes this is done at school fairs and things like that. Sheets that requested information that are used with this program were passed out to board members. Mr. Rodensky said that they do not retain any of the children's information. Many parents have concerns about the information being secure. He stated when we are done the machine we use wipes out all the information, and when we are done we give the sheet back to the parents. We take the child's information and their fingerprints and their picture and hand that sheet back to the parents. The next sheet they use is the permission sheet. This sheet does include some information that New York Life provides and we are also there to meet people so if there is something that you are interested in we appreciate it if you would let us know. There are boxes to check if you want to participate in the program but do not want to be contacted and that is absolutely fine.

Parents receive a copy of the above and you can have an ID Card. You also receive a CD with the same exact information on it. On the CD there is a printable data file which they can set up to their Smart Phone so they have that identification information right on their phone. The nice part about this program is that it speaks to what New York Life does and that is to protect families and this fits right into that. With a missing child time is of the essence. This makes it much easier for the parents and they can actually show a picture of the child. He asked if there were questions.

Questions

What is the cost? It is absolutely free; there is no charge to the parent or the school. Can this information and picture be updated in a year? Technically no because we don't retain any of the information; but we do events like this and you could start from the beginning again and do this next year. So technically no but overall yes. Dorinda asked if the police department could help with this. It would be a nice place to have this information. Mr. Rodensky could certainly check on this. Some parents do not want their kids fingerprinted. Bob posed a question to Mr. Rodensky. It is 3:00 AM on a Friday and a parent realizes his child is missing who do they reach at NY Life to get their information. They don't because they have the information. It is under their control and we don't retain any of that information. Parents have it on their CD and their card and your smart phone so it will be readily available. Bob thinks there are some questions above the availability to access when you actually need it. Mr. Rodensky said parents can send out information to Amber Alert if they want their information data based. It was said that perhaps we can partner this up with Power School. Neil said we can put almost anything we want into Power School as far as storing information like color of the eyes and those kinds of things. Pat said Jeff wanted to get permission from the board to go and talk to principals and have permission to go to a fair, or be present during a parent

conference night or a PTA meeting. Neil said if there are no objections they can work through me and he can send out information to the principals. A further discussion continued.

Bob said its New York Life here tonight tomorrow it could be Prudential or John Hancock how do we decide who gets access and who doesn't. He thinks it is a wonderful program; now the children are identified for safety reasons. He feels it is too early to take action after a quick presentation. He would like to see if we are duplicating anything that is presently offered. Mark said we are just discussing this tonight I didn't think we were voting on it tonight; we weren't making a decision tonight on this. Neil said if the board feels more comfortable he knows that he would feel more comfortable by putting it on the next agenda and making a vote to allow the access. Cebi said by putting finger prints on power school and making it available to the police department she thinks that would be a civil liberties issue that we might not want to traverse. She doesn't know about marketing of products through the kids and we should wait to make sure we aren't over stepping. Neil said Attorney Dugas will be here for the next meeting to finalize the para professional contact and if it is on our agenda he can answer the questions. Mark said we can put this on the agenda for next time and any concerns can be discussed at the next meeting. The board gave thanks.

Neil said Mrs. Borer had asked for some updates regarding the School Governance Council so we have information for you tonight.

Kevin Dixon teaches Science at WHHS and is also on the Honors Committee, the National Honor Society Discipline Committee, and the Attendance Committee; they asked him to be the representative. He is also the co-founder of the St. Baldrick's event and we are just under \$17,000 now with Rich Weber from Carrigan.

The WHHS Governance Council has been meeting since November 2011. The Council has written and approved bylaws and has adopted parent involvement/engagement as our primary focus. The Council has five teachers, 7 parents, 2 students and 2 community members. Our community members are Professor Scott Graves from SCSU and Ms. Kathy Giotsas, Director of the West Haven Public Library. Headed by the leadership team of Kevin Dickson, Chris Mazzacane and Moriah Michaud and Secretary Janet Morrissey, the council meets once a month at WHHS. The council is in the process of soliciting feedback from all constituent groups and will be placing School Governance Suggestion Boxes in the library at WHHS, City Hall and the West Haven Public Library. Kevin included the Suggestion form. (Schedule A)

Tom Hunt and Gina Prisco gave an elementary perspective. Tom Hunt, Principal of Forest stated that the Forest School Student Governance Council consists of 4 parents, 2 teachers and Tom. The Council has decided to undertake a controversial topic of piloting the school uniform. This presentation is twofold. It tells you where we are right now as the Governance Council and also ask permission to pursue the next steps. The next step would be a survey to our Forest School Community to see if the numbers remain where they were in the past so we can figure out if we want to continue to pursue uniforms. If

the numbers are where they were in the past we would ask that you accept a proposal that will be put together and presented to you. We talked about the May 7th Board Meeting as a possibility. Key issues we would touch base on would be style, implementation, non-conformity issues, vendors, cost analysis and vouchers and sponsors for hardship type cases. We are preparing to present a proposal that will answer the questions and possibly open up some more questions that can be addressed so we can either pursue this or not.

Gina Prisco, Principal of Pagels said our Governance Council is made up of 5 teachers, 5 parents, and two community members. Our PTA President is here tonight but is not on the Council but joined us this year at a Welcoming Schools Conference and that is what our School Governance Council has decided to take on. We found that some parents may not know how to navigate our school. We did two parts of a four part survey; one being the physical environment of the building. Gina was not allowed to partake in the survey but they broke into teams and answered a number of questions. Out of that has come a no longer hand drawn map of our school, two new sets of information racks for the community and our school information. We also have picked some directional locations. How do you get to the main office? Where is the gym? Where is the cafeteria? This was for the physical environment. We did public relations and suggestions were taken from our parents and teachers on how we make our school more welcoming. The last two pieces on the survey are written materials and school policies. We will be meeting in April and May to finish with those.

Frank Paolino, Principal of Carrigan brought some reading material so everyone would understand what the Governance Council is all about. Elections took place in November and the Council meets on the first Thursday of every month and consists of 5 teachers, 7 parents, 3 community members and an administrative advisory team. We talked about Policy 1110.3A and it was adopted. This gives you a lot of information on what the council really consists of and what it is made up of. Minutes are kept and posted on their website as well as meeting dates and council member's names. Officers were voted on and we staggered the officers so everyone won't exit at the same time; it is a two year term. Discussions at meetings centered on CMT scores and progress data, target and subgroups, reading strands, updated school improvement plan, ways to bolster better school/family/community partnerships and ideas to facilitate students etc.

Neil invited people who were not as familiar with the Governance Councils to take some of the information that Frank Paolino brought to the board meeting.

Anthony Cordone, Principal of Bailey Middle School is representing the Governance Council of Bailey Middle School. The Council consists of 7 parents, 3 teachers and two community members. We met as a group in November with representatives from the state to talk about Governance what it should do and can not do. We decided to start our Governance Council in January and we meet the second Wednesday of each month. We meet at 6:30. The involvement that the Governance Council has chosen is Parental and Community Involvement in the School. They have a diverse community in their school; different from what the other schools have ever seen in the past. Within the last two years we have had students come in from 20 different countries. We are starting with a map of

the world being displayed in the corridor of the building and are in the process of trying to purchase flags from every country represented in Bailey. We are looking at the different ways we can bring the different cultures into the school and highlight them. We are hoping to do something this May with a cultural night but may not be able to do it until next year. We are trying to break the mindset of middle school kids that parents should not be with them at any time; they walk three or four steps behind. We are trying to overcome that barrier and do it with activities going on within the school. This is an exciting thing that is going on and he is pleased that diversity is not only being recognized but we are doing something to bringing them out and make them truly a part of the community as such.

The board thanked all of the participants.

Questions

Dorinda said it sounds like a great goal of the committee and asked the demographics of the Council. There is one representative from Sudan, the rest are American; Afro-American, Italian-American, and Irish-American; it is a mix. They have chosen to accentuate the cultural diversity of the English Language more than any of the other cultures. We have cultures being represented from all over the world but the most recent come from 20 different countries; four of the countries speak Arabic, four speak Spanish and we have Turkish and Mandarin also.

Cebi said with the uniform pilot it is important to have measurable goals with what you want to achieve with the pilot before you start the program. You may want to see if the bullying goes down and if the scores go up so if there is a plan to measure those now before you start the pilot and then measure again once the pilot is done. This would definitely add to the evidence of if we should decide to go city wide with school uniforms or not. Tom Hunt said and it lends itself to what we are doing with the CALI initiative, the school climate and the general feeling in the building as well.

Dorinda asked if there was a plan to take on the best practices from the individual governance councils and doubling them up so they could be applied across the board. Anne Druzolowski said she would hope so because right now the state is looking at us as an example. Anne and Tom were on TV recently. The interesting piece is that it has not been done in this state to this degree and they are looking to see what does work. Forest started a little earlier in the game and embraced the compacts and everything fits into each other and Anne would anticipate by January of next year you should see some pretty good pieces that other people could borrow from.

Dorinda asked how Savin Rock is doing and not through any fault of the administration but they seem to struggle. Anne said they weren't tonight. They are doing very well. The Family Resource Center is in that building and is a tremendous asset. There are 65 to 70 different languages being used and most of them are entering through Savin Rock School. Tonight at this parent event there were over 60 not married parents so there were 60 different families represented today. They were all concerned about the special needs of

their kids, behaviors of their kids and what was normal and abnormal; that to Anne said volumes. Anne was impressed by what she saw. The teachers in that building really reach out to the community.

Anne said governance council meeting minutes are collected every month and she looks them over and if she has a question she gives them a call. She is very pleased with everybody; they are moving right along.

The board & Neil gave thanks to all the people who came tonight.

Neil stated that Bob Guthrie brought in a newspaper article regarding the United States Senate Program which is the program that Abdul attended in Washington. Neil thanked Bob for bringing in the article. Abdul will come to a future board meeting to tell us all about this. He couldn't attend the meeting tonight because they are in last minute rehearsals for The Wedding Singer this weekend.

Neil talked about the budget and what he considers to be relevant at this point as it is a lengthy process. We asked for three million dollars and the Mayor gave us two million. The three million dollars literally kept us status quo. That means we have to make some decisions. We can certainly save some money but there is a gap that has to be made up. Patti raised some good points tonight and I certainly don't disagree with her but the obvious question is does the additional 1.5 million dollars in ECS money come with any strings attached. Neil has had some discussions with the Mayor about this and has brought this to the Board of Finance and with Mr. Mancini regarding this. For example would the state have to approve a specific plan that addresses reform in order to receive that money? Neil believes that is the intent of the legislation. Neil said Bob brought this up at the last meeting. Once a plan is approved how will the money come to us? Will it come directly as part of a plan to the BOE like many of our grants do or will it come to the city and be booked as revenue like the majority of the 41 million dollars in ECS revenue. We won't know the answer to that until May. This makes it very difficult. The legislative process in Hartford and our local budget process really don't go hand to hand and especially with something as controversial as this. We don't know if we will have an answer by May 5th when the council adopts a budget and gives us a bottom line number. Hopefully by the time we form an operating budget we will have most of those answers. Neil hopes to be able to work with the administration and council and keep the lines of communication open. The Mayor is in the process of setting up an initial meeting with our legislative delegation our State Representatives and Senators. We expect to be kept in the loop so we can make informed decisions. A further discussion took place.

Neil said we as a board need to be able to put some proposals on the table. What are we willing to do without; what aren't we willing to do without. We need to make those kinds of points to the council at the public hearing. We made some sacrifices over the past five years. We brought to the Mayor some things we are willing to do such as looking at combining services.

Some things have happened since we adopted a budget so we may not need the whole three million. Approximately 5 teachers have formally put in for retirement and we can expect a few more. We save conservatively about \$20,000 per teacher if we can replace them at the top step and that is \$100,000.00 towards your goal of closing that gap. We can save some money up to \$200,000.00 on utility costs because the city put the utility rates out to bid. We are looking at scaling back our professional development for next year. We talked about slow implementation over the next couple of years of a new reading policy and that is the administrations #1 priority. We think this is something that has to happen. We hopefully will be moving to City Hall by the end of August and will be able to find some ways to combine services. Right now I can't tell you that we can run a status quo budget next year as it stands today. We need board members, parents, the PTA at the Council's Public Hearing on March 27th to weigh in on this and speak as one board and one education system.

Bob Guthrie said we need to have these discussions sooner rather than later to prepare for a potential 1 million or 1.5 million decrease. We don't get that bottom line number until the first or second week of May and we have to have an operating budget by June 30th but collectively we have to have some ideas of where that is going to come from. Bob asked the last time early retirement was offered. Neil said around 2004 or 2005. Bob said he was a board member at that time and it was cost effective from a board perspective and believes from a teacher perspective and the union can correct me if I'm wrong. He would like to empower the superintendent to have some preliminary discussions with the unions to see if there is interest. Based on what he has been told he would like to see us implement a hiring freeze for the remainder of the school year unless it has direct impact on student learning. He put this out as a suggestion.

Dorinda asked a hiring freeze for replacement or new positions? Bob said a hiring freeze period unless it has direct impact on student learning. He is putting this out for discussion and if the chairman would like him to form a motion he certain would and we could add that to tonight's agenda later. We need to have some honest discussion now not on May 30th during Memorial Day Weekend.

Mark said we could do this the next meeting he has no problem with it. Mark believes that between now and the next meeting Mr. Cavallaro, Mr. Cappetta, Dr. Druzolowski, Mrs. Paine and he really need to talk with the Mayor to get a little more of a feeling from him about this. You are 100% right not to wait until the 11th hour but before we make the cuts let someone else make the cuts; that is his personal opinion.

Bob said to think that the City Council is going to obtain a super majority to change the Mayor's number is probably not going to happen. Mark agrees with Bob about this.

Neil said he will notify the board of the date when he goes before the Council so there are board members there. It is really important to clarify with the Mayor the status of the 1.5 million dollars. Is there room for using it for operations or is it above and beyond what we are currently spending the money on. I was under the impression it was for Early Childhood type programs; perhaps extending morning and PM kindergarten for an hour

on each end, or extending summer school for ELL Programs. Those things couldn't happen if we are going to take the 1.5 million and put it in our operating budget. A further discussion took place.

Cebi said if you don't have a good school system in your city no one is going to want to live there and that should be stressed to the Council. This will not help improve the city and this is not always in the forefront of their minds during meetings. They may be worried about the taxes in Allingtown, the fire department and the police pension along with everything else. We have to make sure they realize the school system has to be a priority in order for the city to be successful. A further discussion continued.

Neil said he would like to see the additional 1.5 million dollars put toward new programs as it was intended to be used for.

Pat Libero said she attended A Day on the Hill Seminar and the Governor spoke and said that the ECS Money is in addition to your regular budget. It is not to be like they would give us so much money and they take away 1.5 million. That 1.5 million is supposed to be in addition to the money given us and they were talking all Early Childhood.

Cebi said we need to clearly state to them the consequences of eliminating that money from our budget. There are a lot of non-parents that also care about our school budget and can see the bigger picture; that it is the future of the city that these kids are educated and become functioning members of society. You don't want two houses on your street to be empty and become vacant buildings because nobody wants to live there.

Dorinda said she hopes we don't wait for the council to start talking about creative opportunities because in reality we aren't going to get that full amount and we are going to have to cut some things so the sooner we start talking about it and brainstorming the better. She asked when we get that number from the council. The first Thursday in May is when we get the number. We should be proactive and talk about things like the hiring freeze and other areas that we need to address.

Toni said that we have already started to do that and we are going to sit down with the Mayor. Once we speak to him we will then have a meeting. Mr. Cavallaro has already given us options tonight and things to think of. Everybody should be thinking of what they suggest or what they think and come back at the next meeting in two weeks. If we need to have another formal meeting just with finance after that we certainly can do that but we have already started; we are not just sitting here waiting for things to happen. We can discuss what we need to cut or change but we won't know how much until we know what we are getting. The council is going to be the piece of the puzzle that will give us the number. Mark interjected and the legislators too. Absolutely that is a very important piece. A further discussion ensued.

Bob said because of the short window of time he hopes there would be a consensus to let the Superintendent have a discussion on early retirement. Mark has no problem that we make a motion that we give the superintendent the leeway to move forward with that.

Mark said but whatever way you look at it; it does come down to money. Neil said the issue is the start up cost to purchase years of retirement service that you have to buy depending on the number of years the person has in West Haven and their age. There is a formula that states the cost of this. Last year Neil was more opposed to it because he felt that with the change in the medical plan we didn't need to make that offer. It was a good incentive to get people to retire before the medical plan change.

Mark said everything comes with a cost and it is no different waiting for the Governor with teacher reform; no one has a plan yet but in order to do it once again it is going to cost us money and we aren't getting it. Bob said this could be part of a future discussion. Mark said whatever ideas people have we need to move forward with and try to do it because we are going to be in a jam.

Pat Libero asked if we could send out an all call to the parents to come to the hearing on the 27th and support us. Neil said she will do that. We can have Patti get an announcement out on the website. Patti agreed and said it is elementary parent teacher night and she did send an email to the City but she doesn't think the City will change the date.

Mark asked Bob to make the motion which will be added to tonight's agenda.

Bob Guthrie made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to research early retirement for this budget year. Toni Paine seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All board members were in favor. Motion is passed. Item 12-20 is added to tonight's agenda.

Dorinda asked that we do consider the hiring freeze that Bob mentioned. Mark said we are already making all these concessions why are we as a board making all these concessions now why aren't fighting first. A further discussion took place.

Neil sent the board a packet on BYOD bring your own devices to school. Our policy is so restrictive a child couldn't bring in a lap top or utilize a cell phone because policies were implemented long before these kinds of things were implemented. These are the kinds of tools kids need to be using every day at school in order to be prepared for the 21st century work world. Neil said we will be conducting both a parent and student survey to see what device access is available for students to use in school. We don't want to put kids already at a disadvantage at a further disadvantage. By allowing kids who have these devices to use them could allow us to spend resources on kids who don't have those kinds of devices. Tomorrow a short phone survey will be conducted with parents. The questions asked will be do you have these kinds of devices, would you allow your child to bring them to school, and understand if they are misused there would be consequences. The results of the survey will be shared with the board before anything is done. The board would have to dramatically change its policies before anything is done. CABE is coming out with its own sample policy around the middle of April and we will get that for the board. We are starting our survey at Bailey and we are definitely doing it at the high school but we are not doing it at the elementary level but we are sampling the

elementary school parents. We must move cautiously with this. Toni Paine said legal counsel has also been addressed so we know the ramifications and know what the laws are. We have been given sample towns that already have it or are in the process of getting it. Toni thought the hardest part would be making sure everybody has a device. Toni just wanted to add to the conversation that we have addressed this with a lawyer. A further discussion took place.

Dr. Druzolowski said that this is The Week of the Child and tonight they had a behaviorist talking about the types of behaviors that parents should be aware of and what parents can do to limit those types of behaviors that are not appropriate. Tomorrow night is math night and most schools focus on math. Some schools have busses to bring the families in and other schools don't require the busses. Wednesday is game night. All events are up on the website and events are different at every school. We also took advantage of the Savin Rock Conference Center and had the K-12 Art Exhibit which is part of the Week of the Child. There will be entertainment there so drop in, go out to dinner and then go see the High School Show. That is what a lot of us are doing. Neil said this is the second year and we hope it will grow a little every year. This is something that Judy Drenzek and Anne work on from the beginning of the school year to prepare for this and try to make as many attractive events as possible.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Marium Majid gave the report which follows at the end of the minutes. Schedule B.

C.1.c. Board

Cebi went to the Seth Haley PTA Meeting and it was really nice. Cebi is sorry that Lorrain Carr left because she wanted to comment on the water program that she talked about. Cebi thinks it is a great idea that they were piggybacking off of Carrigan's program that they did. Cebi told her to let Neil know because she is sure everyone would want to know. Their meeting was well attended and Cebi stressed that they should come to meetings if they had any questions and that everyone was receptive.

Neil said Lorraine had a big concern this year about the 4th grade play when Mr. Bellucci retired but she organized it and got teacher volunteers to help supervise it. She was very responsible to make sure the tradition lived on at Haley. The Big Bad Musical will be held on May 18th at 7:00 PM.

Pat Libero reiterated information about St. Baldrick's Day. Joe & Teddy from Teddy & Archell's are going to be shaving heads and Frank Paolino has students who will be on television tomorrow. Yes, NBC came and took a little clip of the Carrigan Cougars which will air tomorrow morning anywhere from 5:00 AM and 7:00 AM.

Cebi shared a little video clip of the CMT Pep Rally at Carrigan with her friends and all of her friends were very impressed with the band and what they did and she wanted to let Frank Paolino know. It was so great and those teachers did such a good job.

Toni wanted to thank all the students who cleaned up at the high school this Saturday along with Jon Capone who organized this event for cleaning up the school along with the Social Studies teacher at WHHS, Betsy Bruneau. Betsy also initiated the volunteers to bring non-perishable food items for WHEAT as well. These are the things that are not under their job description yet they do these things because they want to and the kids do it because they have pride in their school. We need to have as much pride in them as they have in their school.

Bob hoped everyone had the time to read the latest high school newsletter that had a full page of student success. It is nice to see multiple kids doing well and we argue about the budget and money but this is what it is all about.

C.1.d. Committee

Dorinda said they held the first Health and Wellness Committee Meeting tonight and we will send the minutes out but the first meeting was just a kick off with a focus on health and wellness of the children and the second part is for the health and wellness of the employees.

Toni Paine gave some information regarding the Policy Committee. CAFE has the capacity to do a search engine on the menu. If you go on the website and look at the policies now it is a lot easier to see. Toni asked if CAFE would be able to do that search engine on ours. Neil said we will now be a part of CAFE Online Policies which will automatically update our policies. We can put them online and there is a search engine so if you were to type in the word bullying you should be able to come up with various policies pertaining to bullying. Toni thinks this is great and very user friendly.

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 March 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM

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

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

D.1.a. minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

12-18 Michele Kluth, Kindergarten Teacher – Seth Haley

Effective: June 30, 2012

Reason: Retirement

12-19 Shane Russell, Assistant Baseball Coach - WHHS

Effective: Immediately

Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve items 12-18 and 12-19 inclusive

M. Toni Paine made the motion

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All members were in favor

Items 12-18 & 12-19 are approved

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

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

D.7. New Business

(Item 12-20 added to agenda during tonight's board meeting)

12-20 Authorize the Superintendent to research Early Retirement for this budget year.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item D.7. 12-20

Bob Guthrie made a motion to approve item 12-20

M. Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

Item 12 – 20 is approved

F. Information

Dorinda asked if we have to formally give approval to Tom for piloting the uniforms. Tom said he was just going to go forward with the survey at this point. Neil's feeling is to go forward and bring as much information as you can to the board in May and at that point you can make a decision. Tom said if the numbers are close to what they were last year to pursue the endeavor we will go on with it. Dorinda said we don't need to have formal support. Neil said no come back with as much information as you can.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn

Pat Libero made a motion to adjourn

Mark Palmieri seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary