

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 5, 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 5, 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
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
David Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Prior to the beginning of the board meeting the WHHS Cheerleaders were honored by the board for representing West Haven High School and the State of Connecticut at the National Cheerleading Competition in Florida; they placed 7th and 8th in the competitions. The Cheerleaders were invited to enjoy some cake before the board meeting began. Mark Palmieri said they did a fantastic job this year and wished them the best of luck.

Superintendent Cavallaro said this will hopefully become a tradition where we can have the WHHS Cheerleaders come every year. Not only do they compete well we know how hard they work all year. Neil has told one of the attorneys for the City that he really believes that cheerleading needs to be fully recognized as a sport by the CIAC. There is not a team that works as long as you do throughout the course of the year. You are as competitive and have just as many athletic skills as any of our student athletes in any of our sports. You are all very good students which makes us very proud and when you go on these trips whether it is the State Cheerleading Competition or the National Cheerleading Competition we are very happy with the way you represent West Haven and the feedback we receive on how you conduct yourselves. Neil thanked Coach Angie because this is certainly a reflection on her and all the work that she puts into it.

Mayor John Picard congratulated the cheerleaders and stated he is very proud of them. As Superintendent Cavallaro said not only for the way you compete and your academics but also for what you do all year round to help so many other people. Mayor Picard knows many of the things that the cheerleaders show up for whether it is the Heart Association, Diabetes and so many different charities that you are there for to help out and that means a lot to us. You always conduct yourselves as professionals and we really do appreciate the job that you do. Mayor Picard requested a big round of applause for the WHHS Cheerleaders. (Applause)

Jon Capone, Coordinator Health, Physical Education & Athletics said that cheerleading is a unique sport at WHHS and across the state. Cheerleading started this year back in May and will come to an end this week. These girls have been working out and going to different competitions and we end the season this Saturday at the New Haven Athletic Center with the CIAC sponsored competition. This is recognized by CIAC but it is not a recognized sport; it is sort of a Catch 22. He has questioned this a few times.

Whenever the cheerleaders are asked to volunteer they never, ever say no. They always volunteer their time and give to the community and we really appreciate that. This couldn't be done without the commitment of not just the athletes but the commitment by the parents to get behind these girls and support these girls because of the time involved to do this. This Florida trip was not funded by the BOE. These girls raised the money on their own to make this trip possible. Jon stated he has never seen an Ad Book like the one this year and these girls went out on their own and had this done with the support of their parents. Jon thanked Wendy who is the contact person who emails Jon whatever they need and they communicate through the parents. Wendy is the support person and everything she does is appreciated.

Cebi Waterfield congratulated the cheerleaders and stated all the girls come back and help the little girls in the Seahawks Program who look up to them like they are the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. Angie taught Cebi everything she knows about coaching and Wendy also volunteers with the Seahawks. These cheerleaders always give back to the community. We are very grateful to them.

Neil congratulated the cheerleaders again and thanked them for coming as we want to recognize you for your accomplishments. Neil invited them to enjoy the cake and refreshments that Alan Belchak, Director of Food Services had brought in for them. (Applause)

The board 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.

Mark Palmieri requested that before starting the meeting he would like to have a moment of silence for four people who recently passed away. He named former Mayor Sal Guerra, Mr. Vitto Mazza, Mrs. Janice D'Onofrio and Mrs. Donna Sheehan. Mark thanked everyone and asked three times if anyone would like to approach the board.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

There were no speakers for the public portion of the meeting.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro stated that we have several reports tonight. The first report will be given by Mr. Alan Belchak the Director of Food Service. Alan stated that this will be our third year for the Program. Currently 70% of the schools in Connecticut enrolled in what is known as the Healthy Food Certificate which is what I will be speaking about tonight along with other things that are happening in food service now and down the road. Flyers were passed out to board members that show the way the government would break down the meals for the next few years. The Federal Government is revamping the Food Service Program completely due to many issues; health issues, overweight issues etc. The My Plate (cover of pamphlet) shows the five categories of food that we currently serve children whether it is for breakfast lunch or dinner. There should be one component, defined by size, shape and weight for each child's categorization. We serve all the children K-12 the same portion size. The changes the government is making for the meal pattern next year is to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables and to decategorize them as a group together. They want half of a cup of serving of fruit and half of a cup of serving of vegetables with each meal and to up the vegetables a little bit. They don't want to see as many light colored vegetables like squash and corn all the time. They want us to serve leafy, green types of vegetables such as spinach and broccoli. They want us to offer this but it doesn't mean the children will eat them. Last year we introduced children to different fruits and vegetables throughout the year. They want us to serve more colorful fruits such as red and orange fruits and bananas along with the

apples for their fiber. We are dealing with the federal government and we have to use fruit and vegetables grown in the United States but I haven't heard of any state that is growing bananas. Protein will be increased 3 ounces instead of 2 ½ and the milk requirement is staying the same. All the milk we serve now is of the low fat variety. These things are the difference in the lunch pattern for next year.

We have to put legumes (dried vegetable such as navy and kidney beans or vegetarian beans) on the menu twice a year. We currently serve them with our hot dog and that gets the fiber into the child's diet and that will be one of the requirements that we have next year. Basically there are not a lot of changes just an increase in the fruits and vegetables and the same with the milk. A further discussion continued about what will be done in the future with calorie counts per meal, sodium counts per meal etc.

Neil had two questions; he asked Alan to explain two things.

- To explain to the board what their vote tonight to accept the Healthy Food Initiative will actually mean
- How will following the government's new standards impact us

Alan said these were great questions and on the vote tonight is done once a year and it has to be approved by the board of education. In doing that you are regulating what you can do in our public schools and service under state contract foods. The reward for this 10 cents a meal which makes up for the monies we don't make because we are not serving French fries or high in fat a la carte items and we are following strict state guidelines. Once approve Alan has to compile a list of every food sold in the high school, middle school and elementary and submit it to the state for approval and once approved by the state those are the only foods that are served within the West Haven Public Schools. The extra funding for doing this amounts to approximately \$60,000.00 given to us in a grant from state funds based on the meals served. Last year we served about 600,000 meals so we will get about \$60,000.00.

Alan now answered Neil's second question. USDA who runs the lunch program calculates that the increase in the federal meal service that we will have to provide is going to be approximately 32 cents per meal and the government is going to give us 6 cents back so it really is a negative. Neil said so when the board adopts a budget in May or June we may have to vote on raising the prices of our lunches; this is a possibility. Alan said that is the only way we can recoup any income is to raise the price of the paying student lunch. A further discussion took place.

Neil asked Alan if he is confident we have been in compliance with the food service this year meeting all of the guidelines with the food we are serving and will be able to do so and meet our goals nutrition wise in the future. Yes. Alan said he is meeting with the PTA on a regular basis and planning the menus. We are working together coming up with many new items and staying with the menu items that they like. We also changed our packaging system where we take fresh foods and repackage them at the high school with an automated machine which didn't cost us any money because we are buying the containers to put the food in. He invited the board members to come see this system.

Questions - Cebi asked if it had to be whole grained bread or could it be whole grained pasta because it is a lot more palatable. Alan said you have to serve a grain with every meal; about an ounce of bread with every meal. Once in a while you can serve a whole grain chicken nugget and that would be your grain for the day. Rice has become a big hit with the children and we make Spanish rice at the high school almost everyday.

Neil wanted the board members to keep in mind that we vote on Food Service separately when we vote on a proposed budget and operating budget because it is the expectation that they run a balanced budget. Alan and David have worked very well together over the past three years and traditionally there has been a deficit but we have narrowed that down. We want to feed the kids the best we can feed them but we want to keep the cost in mind. We don't want to out-price ourselves and yet we also need to meet the federal guidelines.

Dorinda asked if we went over things like this in our culinary curriculum; it would be nice for them to learn how state regulates and what the changes are. Pam Gardner said we do this in our parenting class and food and nutrition and they bring in information on how to make a healthy smoothie vs. something else. They are doing this across the board showing healthy options and how to decrease the amount of fat and calories in a meal with other options.

Neil said Pam is here to talk about NEASC and the new high school and one of the goals with that building is to really expand our culinary program and link it up with our Food Service Department and have much bigger offerings than we currently have.

Alan said we have told our supplier we want produce that is grown in Connecticut and he is delivering that to us. This lunch program started in 1938 because there weren't any young men fit to enter the service; now we are trying to fix the program because they are over fit. Food is a very essential part of everybody's life whether at school or at home.

Eric Murillo asked the current price of lunches; \$2.25 for elementary, \$2.50 for the middle and \$3.00 for the high school. The government pays us \$2.78 for a totally reimbursable lunch and that is not even with the increases we will incur for next year. Eric asked if they increased the prices like they discussed last year. No they did not. Eric asked if they served French fries now. No. Baked fries have to be less than two ounces and are only served when on the menu. The fryalaters haven't been turned on all year.

Patrick Egolum asked if we are dealing with two standards; the federal and the state. Yes, we have to abide by the federal standard but the state rules are stricter than the federal standards and that has a lot to do with a la carte sales and the type of juices we can use. We can't use carbonated drinks of any kind because of the state rules and we can't use anything that has aspartame in it which is all your artificial flavors.

Bob Guthrie asked the last time you went up in your rates. Alan said approximately six or seven years ago. It has been a while now. Bob said he know some of the other districts

have opted out of this and asked what the rationale was for doing this. Alan said they would rather sell the a la carte and they would make up the funds they are loosing.

Cebi asked if the salad bar that they had a Carrigan was still being done. Not a salad bar but they include a salad almost every day with a meal. Cebi asked if these guidelines will affect any of the PTA fundraisers. No only food consumed at school. During school events they can sell candy and soda and other similar items.

Eric asked when the last time was when we opted out of the program. Two years ago. He then asked if they were going to increase the prices this year. Alan said that is something we will look at with Mr. Cappetta. Neil said when the board adopts an operating budget it is something we will have to look at because we build in a little bit of a deficit but if it looks like it is going to increase based on Alan's increase cost it is something we certainly have to consider.

Dorinda asked if this would go through the Food Service Committee and who is the Chair of that committee. Betsy Davis said it is me. Dorinda said it would be nice to go through a committee where you can really evaluate it and make recommendations. Absolutely.

Pat Libero asked about dietary restrictions for kids and do you serve any vegetarian meals. We do offer vegetarian meals and any for any type of dietary restriction a form is filled out by the school nurse so we have to follow this because it is kept on record. With power student, which is the accountability we use, it is easy for us to know what each restriction is.

Mark Palmieri and the board thanked Mr. Belchak for the cake and refreshments for the cheerleaders.

Neil said the next person to give their report will be Nicole Danishevsky who is the Math Coordinator and has been in her position about two months now and both Anne and I feel she has done an excellent job of assessing our current program and looking at our needs. Since she is new to the district and able to look at things with a different perspective we thought we would have her come in and talk about what she has seen and what some of her ideas are going forward. Nicole gave the board members a packet that was broken down by different schools and building levels K-4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 – 12 which gives a perspective of what she has seen, what we have been working on and some of the questions she has for exploring things further. Nicole's report and an Algebra 1 Proposal are located at the end of the Minutes as Schedule A.

Questions - Cebi Waterfield asked if Math Seminars is an all year program now. It will go to a full year. Cebi asked how that affects graduation. Neil said we would give two credits for the Algebra because it is a double period. Our feeling is it is more important to get the skills and if the kids are going to be in there to give them the credit for it.

Dorinda said Forest had the program because they had the room and technology? Neil said the reason they had the program was because over the summer our budget was set

and our number of teachers were set and Tom Hunt asked if he could eliminate a class and create this particular lab and have modeled the other two math coaches after this. At our administrator's meeting we talked about the need district wide to increase our math support to the point where in every school we have a reading specialist and sufficient reading help and we certainly would like to get to that point in math.

Dorinda asked if there was a school that was standing out in more of a need than any other school. We would probably start with our Title I Schools and then expand.

Nicole said it is really important that we provide support in all the schools with these common core changes that are going to be happening with math. These changes are much more significant and at a greater degree than those that are occurring with Language Arts and anything we can do to provide our teachers in-house building based support to help them transition to these changes will only benefit our students. Neil said Anne and he have talked about increasing support over-all with Bailey. It is not a Title I School because it is the one feeder school to the high school. If we are to prepare kids better for high school they need to be better prepared when they leave middle school so we need to increase support at the middle school as well.

Dorinda asked how we choose the 50 children who will be in the additional algebra. Are those 50 capable or are those 50 who are at the bottom. Nicole said we were going to use the same criteria that we used to select placement into the math seminars. We look at CMT scores and, if created, an end of year assessment which would give us a skilled needs assessment and make a recommendation and targeting those to get more proficient on the CMT. The board thanked Nicole for the very informative report.

Neil said Joe Lucibello, Director of Pupil Services, is here to give an update on Special Education. Neil stated we do a pretty good job of keeping the board informed during our budget presentations about some of the issues and unknown variables that come up with special education with students coming in and out and the various needs of students in our district. Today we are OK budget wise but at the point we felt we needed to update the board and let you know we are dangerously close to going at or above the budgeted number.

Joe gave the board a quick update on the Special Ed tuition budget which follows.

Tuition Update for Special Education

Purpose: Update the Board on our current Special Education tuition budget status and to have this information on record that we will exceed our current funding allotment. We will require reallocation of funds to provide a free and appropriate public education through IDEA (special education law).

- 2010 – 2011 a little over 6.7 million for outplacement of youngsters
- 2011 – 2012 about 6.9 million for outplacement based on historical increases
- Number of students served with 6.9 million (169)
- Average tuition cost \$39,000 - \$50,000
- 4 students were brought back into district from outplacements since September 2011.

- Current spending projection indicates that we will exceed our budgeted amount due to unanticipated and unforeseen student outplacements.
- As of March 1, we anticipate another 4 students will require out of district programming and are waiting for IEP decision
- To date, we have no other youngsters, of our knowledge, who will require out of district placement. Given this information, we need to plan our budget accordingly.

Joe said we definitely will have to allocate some funds to. Anne Druzolowski said we will have to. Joe and Dave have been talking but can't give you a definite number yet but wanted to let everyone know where we are at this point in time.

Questions - Toni Paine said obviously the number of students is what makes the numbers go up and down. She asked if the fees and the charges have gone up at all. They go up every year. We look at our past history and do increase our budget about 5% every year. Up until this year we have not gone over the allotted amount in the last four or five years.

Dave asked Joe to explain about unexpected placements. Joe said this could be a placement by DCF. They could pull a student out of the home and places them in a residential placement whereas that student may have been just going to Bailey Middle School. Once they do that we do not pay the residential piece but do pay for the educational piece so that is an unforeseen expense. Another example would be when DCF places a student in our district and they currently are in an out placement facility. We will honor the placement if we see it is appropriate.

Pat Libero asked how successful the kids that are brought back are. When we bring someone back we are almost positive that they will succeed. Recently we have not had any bad experiences.

Eric Murillo heard Joe say that on March 1st maybe four students will be out of district. Joe said there are four more. Have they been in our district program for many years? One has been in district and three are the unforeseen costs. Eric asked the difference between the regular education cost and the Special Ed cost. It is the same amount of money unless they require more services. A Special Ed student may require speech but the base amount would be the same. Neil said you are assessed the tuition that the receiving district would charge per child whatever that is.

Bob Guthrie asked the total number of placements we are looking at now. This year we have 169.

Dorinda said for seven million dollars is there any additional support we can provide so we can have children stay in house? We have a lot of support right now at Pagels where we have a great autistic program which we are moving to Carrigan. We are saving money and are able to give the students what they need. We do have programs at the high school where we are able to bring kids back. A further discussion took place.

Anne Druzolowski said disturbed youngsters are a growing population and there aren't a lot of facilities around to be able to accommodate them other than with out-patient treatment. We have talked a lot about this because kids are getting younger and younger and that is a group we are keeping our eye on. The dilemma when you get into such high need groups is that for every three kids in that institute you need an adult and the older they get the more adults you need. From a regional perspective ACES is that regional piece that provides the districts at a reasonable rate those resources that we can't provide by ourselves. If we were looking at expanding anything we would probably try to look at this group and see what more we could provide. The board thanked Joe for his report and Neil asked him to keep them updated.

Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent, said that one of the exciting things she has been looking at is STEM. At our high school we need a little more diversity in terms of our program offerings. One of the types of offerings happens to be around technology, engineering and the medical profession. Anne didn't know if everyone has heard about Project Lead the Way so she went on to discuss the program. Ann's report follows as Schedule B at the end of the minutes.

Questions - Anne said there are only a few colleges that are given the authority to be able to train your staff to do this and UNH has the opportunity to provide that training to our staff. We also have a staff member who was one of these teachers. Mark Palmieri asked who it is because his son is interested in Engineering and the gentleman at UNH is gun hoe that we try to hook up with whomever to get this underway. Anne said yes we are hooking up with UNH. Mark said there was also a person working here in our district about five years ago who left.

Anne said they visited Bristol again to look at their program but they didn't have the bio-medical that we wanted but they did have that in New Britain and in Stamford as well so we will be looking at those. We have a proposal and can start looking at the expenditures on what it would cost. The majority of the cost would go into computers; you have to have the computer assisted drafting and we do have that program. We may need a few more computers and will have to purchase the software and have the professional development. By the time that a student graduates they will have 15 credits towards that degree in a college and that is pretty powerful and is a nice thing to offer a student from West Haven. There is another varied pathway you could take which may be not as many credits but gets you along the same lines. You are dealing with math and science as hands on rather than separate from application of information. It is exciting and we have somebody who can do the training, organize it and who has done it before and can make it work. This is the right time; strike while it is hot. We can probably look at maybe 20 to 40 kids this year going into next year. We are going to keep abreast of this and come back to you with a very thorough presentation. This should please everyone and this is for all kids; for any kid that has an interest or develops an interest in that piece. We are also trying to take that engineering piece and creep it into the middle school.

Eric Murillo asked if the people who will be trained will be certified with this individual or do they have to go to the University. The University certifies them. Eric said so you

want to start the same project here. Yes for both areas for the biomedical as well as for the engineering.

Bob Guthrie asked if this will be up and running before the end of the school year. Yes, absolutely no question. Bob said he just figures it is March 5th and we have to identify a funding source because so far we have heard about the need for more money in a couple of other line items. I just want to be sure the board is going to be able to find funding to make this happen. Anne said she feels absolutely sure and has no doubt.

Pat Libero will send Anne an article that was in Education Weekly, published on line December 1, 2011 that was called Steam. Pat will send her the article.

Eric asked when that project started in New York. This started in 1997. The board thanked Anne for her report.

Pam Gardner, Principal WHHS was the next presenter who gave the NEASC Report . Neil said that as soon as Pam finished the report and submitted it we tried to get it to the board members so they would have it for tonight. Pam will update you on where we are with the accreditation process. Every ten years we are up for full accreditation. This school is currently fully accredited however at various intervals throughout the ten year period we have to provide updates as to where we are. Patti Fusco will put the entire report on the website.

Questions - Eric Murillo asked how many students there are in the FAST and the SST Programs or teams. FAST and SST are not teams they are referrals. So you get referrals in and work with the kids until you feel they no longer have the need that has been identified. In the Freshman Academy we are looking at 27 people and some were grouped together based on the same similar needs and about 7 or 8 kids we are looking at for the SST which is for grades 10, 11 and 12 right now. Eric said for 2011 you had 2.1% of drop outs what does that mean? There were 15 dropouts. Eric said and that is higher than last year. Yes. They might not have been drop outs. If a student moves and doesn't withdraw and they are 18 years of age eventually they are just withdrawn for non attendance. It may very well be that they did in fact enroll in another school but not a public school in Connecticut you never get it done that accurately so we may never know. If a student goes to Adult Education we don't really have to report them as a drop out currently. So the number you are looking at are the number of students who truly did continue schooling or who we really don't know where they went. If a student is 16 or 17 and hasn't been to school in six months and we can't locate them we are required to keep them on our books so that is not a drop out because we can't dis-enroll them so the number isn't really as true as we would like it to be.

Eric said of the seven committees that were established in the last few years wouldn't that present an advantage to getting accreditation because we implemented those suggestions. Pam would say that everything we have done and the things we have highlighted NEASC looks upon very favorably. Lots of what we are doing is looked on very favorably but our

facility right now isn't support where common core curriculum is going, 21st Century Skills is going; we don't have the types of technology in our beautiful bricks.

Neil said we, Pam, the administration and the teachers at the high school have done everything in their power to meet every goal. The two things that are not complete are out of our control at this point.

Eric asked if this will affect our accreditation. Neil said Pam is saying it could. Will it she doesn't know but it could.

Toni said she was part of it five years ago and people tend to look at this list as a wish list but it is not. You need to do this because if it doesn't get completed or done properly you will lose accreditation.

Eric said in the past five years he has been on the board there has been a huge improvement. Neil agrees with Eric but the facility itself has been in question. Bob Guthrie said since the original accreditation.

Toni said we originally didn't talk about doing the high school but the reason we talked about renovating the high school was because the things we did need to do; the science lab, media center, and the technology areas were added up and it was going to be cheaper with State reimbursement to renovate the high school and get it all done than it would be if we just did the items.

Eric understands and he is all for the new high school.

Bob says he thinks once Neil gets the response back from the state about the requested extension that will dictate the board's direction. If you are given a one year notice than you need to put the City Council and Mayor on notice. Multiple people agreed. Your clock is starting ticking as of the date of that letter. You now have 12 months to take action and put it on your agenda to at least move it out of committee and move it forward. Neil said he thinks Bob is right and the other point is that if the City Council were to meet tomorrow and put the bonding in place things don't happen over night. Now you have to proceed with putting legal documents and contracts in place and secure a team that would actually be responsible for building the high school; a construction company, an agent, an owner's rep and those kinds of things.

Eric said if you are going through those steps he doesn't think the state would say we aren't going to accredit you any more. Eric was told they may. We are in tough economic times right now and the commission would recognize that I certainly think we are not going to get a warning letter at this point because the school district has shown good faith in doing what we need to do. We have four architects ready to make presentations and we can't go any farther than that until we know about the funding.

Dorinda said so it is just sitting in committee at the Council level? Neil wouldn't say that because it has not officially been introduced to the council yet. Dorinda asked by whom

the Mayor? Neil said the Mayor would have to introduce a bonding ordinance to the council. Dorinda asked do we know when it is going to be introduced. It is felt that by waiting and getting the extension and starting the process in a couple of years he will have dramatically reduced the city's debt which will put us in a better position to go out and bond for the money and not have to worry about increasing taxes.

Dorinda knows we are trying to be proactive by working with Ken Carney to select the architects but her understanding is that when you are getting state funding there are procedures you need to follow in order to do any type of bids or select any people or RFI's or RFP's you need to have a certain selection committee in place in order to select anybody to do any work related to the project. I know we want to get ahead of the curve but I don't know if we are allowed to do any of that now. Neil said the committee I in place as far as a building committee (The Building Over Sight Committee) and anything that committee has done up to now has not cost us any money.

Dorinda said she thinks we should double check to see what type of committee needs to be in place do if there are decisions made nothing comes back to haunt us that we didn't make them right. Neil agrees. For some reason twelve members of a committee jumping out when you get state funding...Pam said she has asked questions like that and her understanding is you need to have a school building committee in place that can go up to as many as 15 members and that is part of the process. A further discussion continued.

Pam said she is an educator and her kids are in the system and she needs to be able to tell others what it will cost them. Are taxes going up; what is happening. Her understanding is the total project will cost (and it has changed because of the economy) with the reimbursement rate it will cost us between twenty eight and thirty million dollars to do the new high school. If we need to do the renovations and all of those things it will cost us thirty to thirty five million dollars. The cost is still coming to the taxpayer and what you get will be the different thing and the answer is consistently the same. It won't be any difference to your taxes and I don't get the answer but that is the answer I have received.

Dorinda thinks we should be sending a formal communication to the Mayor and City Council asking what their plan is because as we sit here we are saying it is our understanding etc. This was approved three years ago and we don't know what their plan is and they need to come up with a plan. They are either putting it on hold for two years and we understand that or they will approve it soon and they need us to communicate this to the public but we can't sit around waiting what this council or the next council or mayor is going to do right? Neil's suggestion is he believes we will know shortly if we will get the extension and how long will it be for. Bob said and that will dictate the message. Neil said once we get that answer that is when we can use that to say now we are putting in jeopardy up to eighty million dollars and we need to make those decisions.

Mark said we are never going to get a chance like this again; to get the seventy nine million. Neil said if we don't get an extension there will be no way you will get that amount of money reimbursed. At best it will be 60/40 and what they are trying to do is rather than give districts like West Haven high rates and some districts low rates of

reimbursement there has been talk of a 60/40 split; the most 60% and the least amount 40%. A lengthy discussion continued.

The board thanked Pam for her report.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

There were no student representatives present during tonight's board meeting.

C.1.c. Board

Bob attended the Spelling Bee Championship and it was interesting to see the brother and sister go head to head in the finals.

He wanted to recognize the students in the district for the Black Heritage Celebration and also the Black Coalition Dinner. Ms. Borer was recognized for her contributions to the community. Applause.

The CAFE Breakfast was cancelled, but not timely, so there were 30 administrators, legislators and people from various districts there so they had some good discussions. Bob passed information to the board secretary information for board members for CAFE's On-line Learning Seminar.

Toni said she went to the CMT Rally Friday and it was awesome; it was one colossal room of enthusiasm by the administration, teachers and children and she hopes they carry it through the testing this week.

Cebi said during the Carrigan Pep Rally for CMT's her daughter Riley was amazed at how talented the teachers and administrators are at Carrigan because they did skits and sang and played music. She was much less stressed about CMT's this year than she was last year.

Cebi went to Ed McCarthy's Roast Friday night. The West Haven Football Alumni raises money every year to support the football program at the high school and they put in a new weight room with the money they raised at these roasts. Many people who came from other schools districts said some wonderful things about Coach McCarthy and his winning record and talked about his humanitarian efforts on behalf of other coaches and kids in other schools and it was nice to have other cities point that out about one of our teachers.

Dorinda attended the Black Coalition Dinner and said it was nice to see Bob and Pam there. Dorinda wanted to thank Pam because it was wonderful to see so many of our high school students there. She was very proud to see all of them there.

Mark said the basketball team had a tough season but ended up with the second leading score in the State and the fourth leading three point shooter in the state. This year we did something different and we showcased students throughout the year singing the National Anthem. The final senior night we recognized the Cheerleaders, the Steppers and the

dancers. We played Hand of Madison and they were totally blown away; the gym was jam packed with parents and students. The student body this year was so supportive. Even though we didn't have the greatest year they were there every game. The choir did such a phenomenal job that the parents from Hand turned around and said what wonderful voices they all had. The head coach from West Haven kept looking back and said you guys were phenomenal. Mark thanked the student body they were just wonderful and in his eight years of doing this it was the most exciting time he has seen. Pam Gardner read off the student's names from the choir who were singing. Ashley Afonso, Josephine Ankrah, Olsen Briceno, Waverly Rose Brim, Megan Ciarleglio, Christine Grazio, Dan Mitchell, Alyssa Perez and Diana Ramadan. Mark said they were just excellent. He can't tell you how nice they sounded and how many people commented about it.

C.1.d. Committee

Chairman Palmieri said Mrs. Borer had called him and stated she would like to Chair the Health and Wellness Committee. Eric Murillo, Cebi Waterfield and Betsy Davis stated they would like to be on this committee. Dorinda brought up some great points and Mr. Belchak will be involved in this too.

Neil said the city is starting some initiatives to help reduce costs and promote wellness so when the committee first things we could do is get someone from the city maybe Mrs. Mullin along with Jolene Barnes who has been to a lot of the meetings to represent the BOE to give you some background as to where we are and to give you some suggestions you can take back to the city would be great. Mark mentioned the idea of the Fair and Dorinda said yes we can have our first committee meeting and brainstorm. She doesn't want to take away from the food committee but it all interrelates. Mark asked the Board Secretary to add this committee to the committee listings.

Toni Paine said the Positive School Climate Policy was adopted and sent up to CABE and they have numbered it. She asked the new board members if they had an up to date policy book. Yes they do have one. Toni said she would like to see this on a DVD personally. Neil said that we are working on this now and are trying to make sure that what we pass out is correct and that the schools have everything the same and that we get to the point that you can code in a word and go to an actual policy so we are working on that now. Toni hopes that very soon we can go to our website and see this listed under policies. Neil said this is not yet complete to say the least. Toni said she wants to work on the attendance policy regarding excused absence and unexcused absence because what we have is very nebulous. The state will define what an excused absence is so we can wait for the state or amend ours to have some sort of uniformed decision. She had a sample policy and passed it out to board members. She asked board members to read it. Toni said she will be calling a policy meeting for coaches because they are re-negotiating their contracts. Neil said we have not formally started negotiations since we met with our attorney a couple of months ago. We made some recommendations as to what we would like to see and they countered and as a result of the counter we would like to look at upgrading requirements for student athletes. If we were to go forward we could negotiate

with coaches and maybe other advisors too where they are held to a higher standard. Again whether it be a C rule for student athletes or some other type of requirement, I think that probably the next step for the board is to say here are what our expectations are and ask can you live up to them and then we start negotiations.

Eric Murillo asked what that has to do with the policy. The board can pass a policy as far as a standard such as in order to participate in sports you can't have less than a C in any class. Eric said then that must be part of the negotiations. No, the board can pass a policy first and that would be Neil's recommendation. Neil said he is only using the C rule as an example; it is open for debate and discussion. Toni said she will be calling a meeting and it would be nice to have as many of the board members who are able to attend the meeting to bring their suggestions.

Pam Gardner wanted the board members to know that teachers at the high school coordinated by Kevin Dickson and at Carrigan coordinated by Rich Weber decided to unite together to see if they could raise \$1,000.00 at each school on St. Baldrick's Day for Kid's Cancer Research. As of today Rich Weber told Pam that Team Westies Blue and White has raised over \$9,000.00 for Kid's Cancer Research. Information will go home in the WHHS Newsletter and a listing of all the teachers who will be having their head's shaved will be included. Joe Libero will be the head shaver on March 23rd. The kids are excited and are doing a separate fund raiser.

Cebi saw this on Face book and has been a longtime supporter of St. Baldrick's because she thinks what they do is amazing. She suggested that they may want to contact the Emerald Society Pipe and Drummers because they may come to play the Pipes and Drums at this event seeing that St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner and this may add some more excitement to the event.

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 February 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM

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

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Pat Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Cebi Waterfield and Eric Murillo abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

All other board members were in favor

D.1.a. minutes are approved

D.1.b. West Haven Policy Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on February 6, 2012 at 6:00 PM

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

Toni Paine made the motion

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Cebi Waterfield and Eric Murillo abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

All members were in favor

D.1.b. minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

12-12 Susan Galvin, Elementary Teacher Grade 4 - Washington

Effective: June 30, 2012

Reason: Retirement

12-13 Elizabeth Rakiec, Special Ed Teacher Inclusion – Carrigan

Effective: June 30, 2012

Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve items 12-12 and 12-13 inclusive

Dorinda Borer made the motion

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All members were in favor

Items 12-12 & 12-13 are approved

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

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

12-14 Elisangela C. Egraca, 1 Campbell Avenue, Apt. 57, West Haven, CT

Bilingual Aide – 17.5 hours per week - Washington School

Effective: February 27, 2012

Salary: \$16.09 per hour

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item 12-14

Dorinda Borer made a motion to approve item 12-14

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

Item 12-14 is approved

D.7. New Business

12-15 Approval of Field Trip Permission Form from Heather Lennon for 15 students to visit Washington DC from April 16 – April 19 and tour Howard University and the Smithsonian.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item D.7. 12-15

Toni Paine made a motion to approve item 12-15

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

Item 12 – 15 is approved

12-16 Approve participation in the National School Lunch Program and certify that all food items made available for sale to students will meet the nutrition standards.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item D.7. 12-16

Toni Paine made a motion to approve item 12-16

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: Eric Murillo asked that we specify what year this will be for. Response – You have to do this annually so it would be for the next school year 2012/2013.

All board members were in favor

Item 12 – 16 is approved

12-17 Approve the West Haven Department of Education School Calendar for 2012 – 2013

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item D.7. 12-17

Bob Guthrie made a motion to approve the School Calendar for 2012 - 2013 Item 12-17

Pat Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: Bob Guthrie asked Superintendent Cavallaro if we were pretty confident the dates would stay the same and not change at all. Response – Superintendent Cavallaro stated no, for those of you who don't know once we develop an initial calendar this has to meet the approval of all the unions first prior to taking it to the board. If this should change we are required to take it to all the agencies including the board before we could make a change. Toni Paine asked what the last day of school this year will be seeing that we didn't have any snow days. Response - Superintendent Cavallaro believes it is the 19th as we did have to use a day for the hurricane. Cebi Waterfield asked if the statement put in last year's calendar regarding February vacation stating if we lose too many snow days the time will be taken from the February vacation. Is it something that is standard now? Response – It is not standard; we could certainly advise parents that it is subject to change. We would have to come before the board if we were to change it but the board would have to act on that. It would not have to come before the union because it would not impact working conditions.

All board members were in favor

Item 12 – 17 is approved

F. Information

Bob Guthrie said March 14th CABE will have Day on the Hill if anyone would like to attend. Bob also stated that it is good to get a school calendar as he has had four calls asking about it. He asked if it is possible to put a banner on the website. Superintendent Cavallaro said this will be done.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn

Toni Paine made a motion to adjourn

Pat Libero seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary