

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
October 15, 2012
Regular Board Meeting
Council Chambers

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on October 15, 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
Dorinda Borer
Betsy Davis
Patrick Egolum
Robert Guthrie
Eric Murillo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer
Cebi Waterfield

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Stacie Hurley

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Mark Palmieri stated the public portion is open and asked if anyone would like to address the board three times. There were no speakers.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil invited Ken Carney because the board members had received all the information and the contract that is going before the City Council next week so I would like him to bring everybody

up to date. Mr. Carney said the plan is to go before the City Council on October 22nd and we will propose the four year owner's representative contract which is roughly 1.4 million and ask the council to approve that contract. The council will also be asked to forego all future purchasing ordinances and all future contracts for the high school. There is a state mandate that has to be followed and is very strict in order to maintain the 82 million dollars. We feel by giving the owner's rep the power to hire the architect and construction manager they will do a better job than we would do in house. The Building Oversight Committee and the West Haven Building Committee will partake in that process but the professional process of putting together a program to hire these individuals should be in the owner's rep hands.

Bob Guthrie asked how the city would have recourse if one of the contractors or sublets doesn't live up to the expectation. Does the city go back through the designee or do they have to pursue it outside on their own. Mr. Carney said in the past the City has always held the contracts for the subcontractors but not in this case. In this case we will only have three contracts; the owner's rep, the architect and construction manager. The construction manager will be responsible for guaranteeing us a price. How he achieves that we don't care. He hires all the subs and if a sub does not perform he is on the hook not us. If his overall price exceeds what he guaranteed us he pays the difference. A further discussion took place.

Dorinda has difficulty in understanding how the council is going to approve a project where there is no funding in place yet. Mr. Carney stated we have to achieve a certain goal before June 7th; securing twenty million dollars and there is nothing more important than that. With the city side funding is not actually in place we went out to bid for the owner's rep and the architect and we put in the specifications they could not submit a bill to us until after July 1st in spite of the fact they will do a lot of the work before July 1st. This has happened in other towns. The problem is if you bond for 20 million now you are paying the interest on that and you are not using that money. These companies are willing to wait. A further discussion took place.

Dorinda said you are saying this company is going to do all this work (Mr. Carney said two companies) and if for some reason the Mayor does not bond and the project does not go through...(Mr. Carney said we will be on the hook for their work absolutely) Dorinda said we will be on the hook? Mr. Carney said absolutely they are not going to work for free. A further discussion took place.

Dorinda said shouldn't they approve the project first and then enter into the contract. Mr. Carney said at the risk of 82 million dollars he doesn't think it matters. What matters is that we don't have to spend any money until July 1st. We will secure 82 million dollars, we are going to get the best deal by getting a new building that will cost us 20 that saves us spending 40 and gets us 82 million. Dorinda said but if this project does not go through we are going to pay two companies for work done for a project that doesn't come to approval. A further discussion took place. Dorinda doesn't understand why no one will go on record to say this project is going forward. The Mayor should say yes I support this project it is going forward and I am going to bond and put it in this Capital Year Plan and you go forward with your contracts and the council votes on it but you are going forward but there is no approval. There is nowhere on record that the mayor is approving this project. Mr. Carney disagrees and stated we have a council resolution approving the project four years ago we've got an expenditure commitment from the

council; couldn't get the EDO49 filled out without that; couldn't get 82 million without that and maybe two or three boards ago approved it. They mayor has put it in the budget for next year and has signed the proper paperwork in order for us to get the 82 million. Technically speaking it would be nice to have it in this year's but if you have companies willing to hold off on their payment for 8 or 9 months, and you don't have to pay the interest on the bonding, he doesn't see the harm personally of waiting. A further discussion took place.

Neil said it is important for the council to realize that if they don't take that action fairly soon by the end of June if we can't get something started we then run a real risk of losing the 82 million dollars. Mr. Carney said it is worse than that the state actually outlines in great detail all the steps you have to take. If you look at the timeline available to us and what we have to achieve we are going to make it but if we don't get this approval on the contract we simply aren't going to make it. Not only do you lose the 82 million but you are faced with a structure that requires 20 million dollars in almost immediate repairs. Neil said that is his concern it is time to act on this one way or the other. Dorinda said that is what she is trying to say. A further discussion took place.

Eric Murillo asked about the leaking roof. Mr. Carney said we have water penetration into the gym and we have been cleaning up the water. Eric understands with this project the roof won't be on for about three years and wants to know how we will address the problem with the leaks now. Mr. Carney said the facilities people are doing the bear minimum to keep the water out and they are monitoring it. A further discussion took place. Neil and the board thanked Ken Carney for coming and explaining the process.

Dr. Druzolowski said as a result of requests from teachers about changing the grading procedures for the past two years we have been working as a committee along with board members Toni Paine and Pat Libero to see if there were policies out there but there were no policies. People are very vague with grading procedures. We decided to do something very quickly because when students get to 7th grade the rules of the game are you shouldn't be able to get by easily. The expectation is that things are getting tougher and you are responsible now and there is no way around that F game. We anticipate that this will improve students' expectations, parents' expectations and obviously those of our teachers. Dr. Anthony Cordone and his staff discussed the grading procedures at the middle school level. The whole purpose is to increase the performance expectations. This is the first time we have a supporting commitment for changing the status quo and it includes the student opportunities for success in the middle school that will carry over to the high school. He discussed the new guidelines that will address the areas shown on the overhead; the efforts to raise the achievement bar. The committee included staff and the principals from both Carrigan and Bailey, the assistant superintendent, content coordinators and two board of education members Toni Paine and eventually Pat Libero joined the group. The committee as a whole and in the past believes that the lack of high student expectation is contributing to the failure of many students at WHHS.

Patrick Egolum asked when they take a test over again (re-take test) will it be a different test. Yes it will. Mark Palmieri asked if they are failing do they lose the privilege of team activities. No not at all. They aren't punished from participating in any other activities. Dr. Druzolowski said that the additional support they are getting removes them from an elective. That is saying

that Reading, Math, English and Language Arts are far more important right now at this point in their life than Art is. It is sad that we have to draw the line but we have to get students up to the level and no longer embarrassed to be in a math class and not know what is going on. Dr. Cordone said once their skills are up to the level that is sufficient they can be put back in their elective. A further discussion took place. Patti Fusco will put the complete presentation on the website. Neil and the board thanked Dr. Cordone and his staff for their presentation.

Neil introduced Frank Paolino, Principal of Carrigan who gave a report on the Administrative Internship Program that he has been developing. This is something that we hope to put in place for the next school year after it has been brought before our administrators. Neil said Frank has done a real nice job.

Frank Paolino wanted to make sure that this Administrative Internship Program does not guarantee someone who takes this on a position in West Haven but it will prepare them for a job in any system. It gives them a knowledge basis for what they want to do in the future. This is a pretty comprehensive program that looks at all types of areas that someone would need to have in their background to be a successful administrator. Even with a wealth of background knowledge learning on the job takes time. We decided they should have approximately 100 hours to get in tune with what they need to do in all the areas they need to learn about; curriculum assessments, data team, CALI, Professional development, SPED laws, budgeting, staff evaluation procedures, community out-reach, (how do you get the public involved in your school) and anything that they would do that would reference West Haven to become part of the document we would keep. Frank would take on the role of the Intern Coordinator because he is already the Intern Coordinator for any internship for teachers and is already in charge of the TEAM Program for all of the beginning teachers so it is just felt like he should do this. A further discussion took place.

Bob Guthrie asked if he would put a number of years that an administrator had to be in their position in order to be a mentee. Neil said they hadn't thought about that but his initial reaction would be no. If we charged a person with operating a building or putting them in charge of a program we would certainly think they would be capable enough to take on an intern should they choose to. Bob asked if they had a maximum number they would expect to have during one school year. Frank said he would take on probably two from his school because it is comprehensive for his part as an administrator to keep track of it also. The high school has different people; they could even do it under an assistant principal. Neil said two per school as opposed to two per district. Bob asked if would be a full year's duration or would you break it up into a half year to provide other people the opportunity. Frank said it depends on how long it takes them to get the 100 hours in. Neil said we don't have the number of positions that open every year where people would be denied. If you didn't get it the first year you may get it the second or third year and still have ample opportunity to apply for a job. A further discussion took place. Patti Fusco will put the entire presentation on the website. Neil and the board thanked Frank Paolino for all his work.

Neil reported on the vandalism at the new Pagels Playground and how Mr. Cordone, the contractor, stepped up and made a donation to fix the playground. In addition to his donation we have probably received five or six additional offers. Gary Palermo is talking with these people to

see if they want to put their pledges into a fund so if something happens we would be able to fix the playground right away. We have a lot of needs in the school district and a lot of these things happen when school is out of session so we really have to be cognizant of how we are spending our money and we can't always fix everything we would like to fix right away. This was very generous of Mr. Cordone.

Toni Paine asked if Pagels received enough money to put in a fund would it be possible to use that money toward a video camera for that school. Neil said cameras are very expensive and the systems that we have in place now are antiquated and we need them at all of the schools. Certainly if people would be willing to and as long as they knew that is where the money would go and they wanted to make the donation we would accept that. I can have Gary talk to some of the people. Toni said sometimes it is a deterrent just to have the sign up. Neil said we had ordered some additional lighting called Light the Night Program with the U.I. and we have done that at WHHS and Savin Rock and we will be increasing the lighting at Pagels so that should also help.

Mark Palmieri said we are sending Mr. Anthony Cordone a letter of thanks for his donation. Neil said we will see who else makes a pledge and invite everyone to a future meeting to give them a thank you on behalf of the board. A further discussion took place about the Newsletters and getting the word out to parents about helpful hints or things you can do with your kids. We are very pleased with Dr. Danishevsky and the math coordinators in how they are utilizing and implemented the supports in place and Dr. Cordone alluded to this in his report in how we really want to get parents involved and I think they have gone above and beyond in trying to get this done. Mark also thanked Dr. Druzolowski for her article in The Voice letting parents in the district know about the CAPT and CMT scores. It was very good article and he appreciated it and hopes everyone saw it in this past week's Voice.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Stacie Hurley gave the following report.

WHHS Student Representative Report

On October 10th, WHHS hosted an **Honors Showcase** for current 8th grade students. Students learned about the WHHS AP/ Honors Program. They heard from current students, visited classrooms to observe model lessons, found out how to earn college credit while still in High School and spoke with representatives from the School Counseling Department and Department Heads.

On Wednesday, **October 17th**, students will take the **PSAT** test during the school day. All students will follow a special schedule.

As a reminder, **Senior Portraits** will be taken from 2:00pm – 8:00pm on **October 18, 19 & 22**.

Our **Electives Showcase** will be held on Wednesday, **October 17th** from 6:00pm – 8:00pm in the cafeteria. Come learn about all the incredible elective courses offered at WHHS.

Other events coming soon:

October 24th = Athletic Open House (6:00pm – 8:00pm)

October 25th = Homecoming Dance

October 26th = Pep Rally and Homecoming Football Game

October 27th = Children's Theatre & Trick or Trunk

The board thanked Stacie for her report

C.1.c. Board

Bob Guthrie feels there are some board members and city council members that have difficulty grasping the concept of what will actually be the new high school because we haven't heard in a while. After the funding is secured and before the conception drawings become concrete perhaps we can have Mr. Carney for a joint meeting of the board and City Council to share in the process. Mark said this has been talked about already and he really believes we should have CREC do it and let them explain it not only to the board and council but also to the public. Questions could be submitted beforehand and we could have CREC answer questions. A further discussion took place about defining roles and responsibilities of the board and council and how pleased they are that CREC was selected.

Dorinda added that she knows Ken Carney said that because it is in the Capital Plan that the funding is in place but having it in the Capital Plan and bonding for it are two very different things. She has concerns about spending money without the commitment of bonding in place and she would like to get a commitment from the Mayor. We have heard from Ken a lot which is great but we never hear from the person who needs to bond for this project.

Mark reminded the board members that on the Wednesday, October 24th there will be another CABA Workshop at 6:00 PM.

C.1.d. Committee

Toni Paine discussed what transpired during the Policy Committee Meeting prior to tonight's board meeting. Attorney Carolyn Dugas will make revisions to the Truancy and Attendance Policies and email the changes to the board members requesting a read receipt so Toni knows they have received it and they can look over the changes and let Toni Paine know immediately if there are any questions so this can be put on the next agenda. Toni is also getting more information on transportation.

Dorinda is on the ACES Board which she attended last week and they had a great presentation on how all the schools are involved with ACES. This information could be sent to us or they could come to a board meeting. They were working on a Pre-K Magnet School in Wallingford that will do a pilot program. Neil said he would like to have them here it would be good.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

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

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

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

The minutes are approved

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on October 1, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

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

Dorinda Borer made the motion

Betsy Davis seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present except Bob Guthrie were in favor

Bob Guthrie abstained because he did not attend the meeting

The minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

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

12-135 Stacey Anquillare, 4 Hunting Lane, North Haven, CT 06473

Title 1 Math Aide – Forest School

Effective: October 11, 2012

Salary: \$16.09/Hour

12-136 Allison Johnstone, 16 James Street, Milford, CT 06460

Title 1 Math Aide – Savin Rock Community School

Effective: October 11, 2012

Salary: \$16.09/Hour

12-137 Leona Kusmit, 470 Main Street, Apt. A2, West Haven, CT 06516

Medical Building Paraprofessional – Pagels

Effective: October 16, 2012

Salary: Step 1 plus medical stipend

12-138 Deborah Leum, 10 Gertrude Lane, West Haven, CT 06516
Medical Building Paraprofessional – Pagels
Effective: October 16, 2012
Salary: Step 1 plus medical stipend

12-139 GERALYN THAYER, 65 Atwater Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Medical Paraprofessional Preschool – Haley
Effective: October 16, 2012
Salary: Step 1 plus medical stipend

12-140 Natalia Arboleda, 70 Colonial Blvd., West Haven, CT 06516
Medical Bilingual Building Paraprofessional - Carrigan
Effective: TBA
Salary: Step 1 plus medical stipend

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.5. and D.6. Items 12-135 through 12-140 inclusive.

Toni Paine made the motion

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

D.6. Items 12-135 through 12-140 inclusive
are approved.

D.7. New Business

12-141 Request from Dr. Anthony J. Cordone to offer an 8th grade enrichment excursion to Rhode Island and Massachusetts for graduating eighth grade students from June 5, 2013 to June 7, 2013.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7 Item 12-141

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

12-142 WHHS Team Leader Recommendations 2012-2013 School Year

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7 Item 12-142

Toni Paine made the motion

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

D.7. New Business (Continued)

12-143 Request from John R. McKee to offer an 11th and 12th grade field trip to the DECA Regional Conference in Washington, DC on November 16, 2012 – November 18, 2012 for approximately 10 students.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7 Item 12-141

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

F. Informational:

Mark asked if anyone had anything to discuss under informational.

Discussion: None

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn

Dorinda Borer made the motion to adjourn

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary