

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
October 17, 2011
Regular Board Meeting
Council Chambers

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 255 Main Street, West Haven, CT on October 17, 2011. The meeting was called to order by T. Sean Maher, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sean Maher, Vice Chairman
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
Dorinda Borer
M. Toni Paine
Cebi Waterfield
Patrick Egolum
Mark Palmieri
Robert Saley

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Sean Maher welcomed everyone to the meeting and said we will begin with the Public Session.

B. Public Portion

Lynn Bonaldo 67 Wellington Drive stated that Thursday night Carrigan School will hold Family Murder Mystery Night and it is called Terror on Tetlow if you dare to follow the Yellow Brick Road this year. It starts at 6:30 with a skit put on by about 15 of the teachers and then you will go to your activities and then you will go to the auditorium where we will find out who murdered who. This starts at 6:30 until about 8:30 on Thursday so please stop by if you have some time. The board gave thanks.

Public Session closed at 7:05 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil turned the meeting over to Dr. Druzolowski stating that the presenters are here and ready to begin their presentation. Anne Druzolowski said they had met with the Fine Arts Department regarding Drama and Music. Anne had previously said they would be getting a group together to advise as to what our needs were for the curriculum, for resources and to try to get a real good handle on our scheduling of all the concerts. What you have in front of you in a synopsis of that and it is on the web site already. All of the dates have been prescheduled so as not to interfere with each other.

Francine Coppola, Coordinator of Fine Arts stated that this evening we are fortunate to have the opportunity to present to you an overview of the Fine Arts Department. Before doing this she wanted to thank Superintendent, Neil Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Anne Druzolowski for their commitment, their vision and their support. The panel tonight that will be presenting is Leslie Cote who is our elementary school teacher at Savin Rock School for art. Helen Smith is our general music elementary teacher at Forest School and Washington. Rachel Mekeel is our instrumental music teacher for Bailey and band. Margi Maher heads our Theatre/Drama Department at WHHS. Francine thanked many department head members who attended. She asked them to stand and be recognized for supporting the Fine Arts. (applause)

Leslie Cote thanked Francine, Board Members and especially Mr. Cavallaro and Dr. Druzolowski for inviting them to present a Slice of Life in the Corner of Our World; The Arts Department. This was a really great opportunity and they were delighted to be asked. Leslie said she is happy and proud to say that this is her 25th year in the fine City of West Haven being an elementary Art Teacher. She is currently working at Savin Rock as the Art Teacher.

Three out of the six elementary teachers were selected and asked if they would write elementary curriculum for Art education in West Haven. Leigh Hauer and Pat Flanagan were her colleagues for over two years while writing the curriculum for Elementary Art Education. It was quite a learning experience because they are very right brained (right

sided) and she thanked AJ Palermo who was one of the administrators on board with Larry Ainsworth because she enabled her to bridge from right side of the brain thinking (Art type) to left side and to be able to marry the two together; to be able to converse and dialog about: common formative assessments, what is a dip stick, learning about essential questions and becoming conversant in data driven curriculum that is all over and infiltrating into our system. Her essential question was how does one measure the joy, the beauty, the passion, the creativity, the inspiration, the motivation of a child's creation of splash on a paper; beautiful color. How do you measure this in a scientific means and how do we dialog about that? How do I measure myself as an effective teacher when her style is the Gestalt Method and it is a kind of combustion of styles and methodology how do you harness that; measure it and put it on a chart? She was allowed to have collegial banter and discussion and discourse and argue with Larry Ainsworth and through that she was able to extrapolate and go through a process. Two years later we are very proud to show you our curriculum. She thanked Patti Fusco who has uploaded the presentation in its entirety to the website. It is up with all the common formative assessments and every rubric and essential question you could possibly come up with and it is wonderful. Binders were shown which are in the elementary Art teacher's hands and also in the middle school, junior high and the high school so we have a nice streamline reference.

A couple of people who were writing the curriculum were asked to be on the Arts Advisory Council and they meet once a month for an hour or two and talk about everything from can we do this, what date here, what date there, sharing an electric pottery wheel, communicating better and this was a brilliant idea that has increased morale. A further discussion continued while the slides were being shown.

Helen Smith said because of the Fine Arts Advisory Council which she was asked to be on in June she gets ideas and came up with the idea of Japanese Tacko Drumming for Music. She had some hand drums that were useless so she put strapping tape over them and made them into drums you could hit with mallets. It is a very forceful type of drum. A slide showed a Japanese hand game and a Japanese song about a butterfly. Students learned about the Japanese culture. We are teaching kids the culture not only of America but also of different countries. The slide show continued and is on the website.

Rachel Mekeel is the Band Director at Bailey and is here representing the secondary schools and the instrumental and choral programs. She gave an overview of the benefits of doing the curriculum that they had done. It was really nice to have that time with her colleagues to align the curriculum and make sure we had the vertical alignment all the way through fifth through 12th grade and we really appreciated that time. What they found was that there are a lot of commonalities between the core academic subjects and Fine Arts. In speaking with some of the Art teachers at Bailey we found that they are already applying mathematic skills and science and reading skills in their projects and she is doing this in her classroom as well. They are really trying to highlight this in their classrooms. The Fine Arts Department has made a concerted effort to include writing assignments that solicit students to infer and interpret while utilizing the Language Art Department's open ended response format. By encouraging more writing in her classroom she has found it has actually helped in other aspects of her curriculum as well.

This was in direct response from the data. The analysis of the CMT data in her classroom showed that 84.9% of her current 8th grade band scored at goal or higher for writing so that is higher than the West Haven average but we still need to bring the score up so that is one of the reasons she decided to focus on writing. Her math scores were 92% were at proficient or goal so there are definitely a lot of reasons for using music. The students perform much higher on their CMT scores. The high school Band and Art classes have also started to use non-fiction reading in the open ended responses as a natural extension of the curriculum. We try to find new ways for students to communicate and reflect on portions of the Fine Arts Curriculum while still developing their critical thinking skills necessary for the CMT and CAPT so we are doing our best to try and incorporate it all in. The slide show continued and a further discussion.

Anne Druzolowski said resources were also purchased for the music department. We are in the process of purchasing some instruments that couldn't not be fixed any longer they would be cost prohibitive so we picked up some instruments and a couple of others that they don't have around like a French Horn and another instrument. Because if you don't have these instruments available to youngsters they don't readily go out and gravitate to them but the sound and quality of music is made so much better I just can't explain it. Mark Palmieri stated it quite often can get you into college too if you can play those instruments. Absolutely.

Sean Maher said they have been developing a communal art supply area at Molloy School. Anne said they are also doing the same thing with music so we can start coordinating this better. We might be able to set up some type of lending library for kids who want to play instruments because too many kids are falling through the cracks by not having that opportunity because of finances especially now. To rent an instrument is expensive so Neil is also looking into this. Neil said we are trying to build these libraries because we want to know and be able to budget better. We don't want Art and Music teachers coming to us and saying we ran out of supplies and we only have this amount of money because we have many kids. In most cases they service the entire school or a good chunk of the school. By warehousing we will be able to budget much better and more efficiently going forward.

Mark Palmieri asked if anyone from the Art Department saw 60 Minutes. It was an excellent program about Van Gogh and the fact that they were bringing science into this because of how he supposedly committed suicide was a great story for the kids. You can go on line and take that story right off of 60 Minutes if you wanted to address this; it was very interesting.

Margi Maher was the next presenter. She stated that now we will step into her world which is theatre. She thanked all her esteemed colleagues for coming and doing such wonderful work on the elementary and middle levels because by the time she gets the students they are already singing and acting and their set making in phenomenal so she thanked them all for the wonder jobs they do.

Margi has approximately 160 students a year just in her acting and performance classes. She has taught English for seven years at the high school and whenever she told students they had a writing assignment there were groans that could be heard throughout the land but in her acting class when she told them they were going to do a monologue they interjected can we write them can we write our own scenes; they are writing constantly and they love it because they are choosing their own topics and once they put the words on the paper they become theirs. Once they finish writing these pieces whether they are monologues or scenes they then create their own blocking, they build on their characters, they learn the words that they wrote which is far more challenging than they anticipated and then they perform for their classes. We also have a children's theatre class which was started under the direction of Dr. Joann Andrees which is now six years in the running. We do three shows per year and the little ones (10 years old and under) come for free and they bring their little pillows and blankets to sit on to watch the show; hence Pillow Time Theatre.

The students get to learn all sorts of things under the Connecticut Standards and the National Standards without even realizing it. They come in the evening and they give of their time and effort to paint our sets. (Slides are being shown of Charlie Brown and other productions.) Ms. Marcella was pictured who always comes with paint brush in hand. Students design makeup for the shows and they help each other to look their very best on stage. Most of the costumes are created by her mother-in-law Peg Maher who is an amazing woman. Senior Missy McDermott created the jackets for the Yellow Brick Road and painted them. The set was based on a painting by Welsh Artist Thaneeya McArdle. <http://flickrriver.com/photos/thaneeya/3410839331/>

Our students also learn about strike. We take everything apart and it looks as though nothing ever happened. Once or twice a year we fill the biggest dumpsters you can possibly find with things that we sadly never are able to use again.

Students learn about the intricacies of history in a set and various sets were depicted on slides. For "Moon Over Buffalo" which takes place in a 1950's Green Room. Students along with Margi's husband Sean did all kinds of research as to what they actually looked like, what posters would look like and what the furniture would look like and together they made it come to life. Earlier when they did "Fiddler On The Roof" the Silver family invited 25 cast members over for a lovely Seder dinner. Various other sets were shown in slides along with a further discussion about students who graduated and what they were now doing. The board gave thanks

Patti Fusco has put the entire presentation on the website.

Questions/Comments

Cebi thought the flip chart, books, and curriculum tie in is fabulous; what an innovative idea and way to help kids who need an outside influence from the Arts to help them learn the core curriculum. I can't say enough I'm so impressed; not only that you are using them but that you came up with them on your own. As a parent of a child who struggled

except for the Arts, that is where she felt successful. I think a lot of other kids will benefit from this. Her daughter's grandparents travel a lot and offered to take her anywhere she wanted to go for her 13th birthday: Disney World, Universal Studios or Hawaii. She said she wanted to go to Paris so she could see the paintings Mrs. Siepold talked about in class.

Rob asked if during the last five years have the number of children in the Arts Program increased. Margi said when she came in eleven years ago there was one acting class which had eleven kids in it and the musical had 18 audition. We did Damn Yankees and now you know why the team lost because we didn't have enough players. Now we have over 160 kids who just auditioned for a 33 person role.

Bailey Middle School has had a lot of transition and in the last two years we have seen steady improvement. There are about 20 – 30 more kids in the music department than there were last year. There has been an increase and we anticipate it to continue now that we have streamlined it and have our equipment coming in from the intermediate school.

Rob said since you mentioned streamlining, last year we did something different and we did it without a couple of extra teachers; has this affected you? On the chart for elementary you should have between 60 to 100 minutes for both Art and Music are we anywhere near that; where are we.

Neil would say you have one Art class and one Music class a week that is 80 minutes and that is about the average at the elementary school. A discussion ensued. Rob asked if they were close to that and the response was that they were about half way there. There is no flat answer to that at Forest and Washington only because the scheduling is difficult because the teacher is not in the building the whole time. We need one Art and one Music teacher in each building in order to get that. A further discussion continued.

Dorinda had a question to the 60-100 minutes and she knows that it is because of the economic times that we aren't at that point but can we get some sort of financial analysis that shows us for X amount of dollars we can add this and we can change this. We just spent so much time talking about how important the Arts are and what they do for supplementing academics and it would be nice if we could do more of it. She hears Margi talk about doing a lot in the high school. It seems that the elementary is where the younger kids seem to not get it as much is that a fair assessment. It has been more or less understood that the itinerants cover the free period for the classroom teachers and that has always remained constant. We probably added periods because at one period we had seven periods in a ten day cycle and we now have eight but also have collaboration time so it is not that they are getting any less than they used to because of financial times. Could we add more we certainly could but we have always hired Music, Art, Physical Ed and Library to cover the free periods that is how it works.

Dorinda would like to see what other districts are doing so we can compare how many minutes for an elementary or we can do all the grade levels. I think the collaboration and curriculum is so impressive. Dorinda asked if the information would go out to

everyone in backpacks. The information shown will go out to everybody after the copy center is finished.

Dorinda's next question was how do we reconcile/incorporate West Haven's population into the Arts and programs we are doing. We have a high Muslim population and a high Hispanic population and we have a core curriculum and certain aspects we want to teach but do we somehow try to bring them into play? Absolutely. Songs are done in Spanish in the elementary and intermediate school. A teacher just received a resource for some Islamic Folk Songs. The library will have resources for this. Many other examples were given. The population drives the curriculum which you have to adjust and adapt to your changing population constantly.

Toni Paine said Japanese Drums were shown in tonight's presentation and she remembers seeing the African Drum presentation a couple of years ago and has noticed that at every Holiday Choral she has seen and heard all the songs in many different languages. She had two comments. She wanted to thank everyone for all they are doing this is overwhelming and it is really beautiful. There is a difference in punching the clock and doing the job and being able to express yourself with the care and the love that you put into this. Thank you.

Neil said this presentation was long overdue because you don't get to see the amount of work that is put in and the pride that these guys have in their subject matter. It has been a great experience to sit down and hear your concerns and some of the things can be resolved; a room for supplies etc. We look forward to keep making progress and becoming more proactive with instruments and even budgeting to be able to get you the things that you need to deliver an even better product than you do right now so thank you.

Sean said in being part of the Advisory Council I get to watch you all work together and in the Art world that doesn't happen a lot. (laughter) When you get a bunch of artistic minds in the same room seeing them working together rather than being oil and water is beautiful to see and the things that are coming in the future are going to be that much more terrific.

Toni asked if any student plays the Cello. No students play the Cello. A few students at Bailey play violin and a student at the high school plays the viola.

The board gave thanks. (Applause)

A five minute recess was taken.

Neil introduced Al Barbarotta who will answer questions which came up at the last board meeting on the status of where we are with an energy agreement. He will also update you on the final report on the first phase of the capital improvement project and the custodial update.

Custodial - Last year we negotiated with the custodians and worked out a formula which would get our buildings cleaned better for less money. We are still negotiating with the union and are getting very close. We now have 14 part time custodians in any of our building and we can choose where we can spread them out. We have four at the high school at night and two other custodians one at Bailey and one at Carrigan meaning that we have six part time custodians that replaced three full time custodians placed through attrition (no one with a job lost a job). This saves money so we can afford to do some other things. Our strategy is to get the head custodians in the building to take ownership of the building and in doing so we are going to change their title to a building manager. We will have assistant building managers in the night when the cleaning is done. We will have two executive type positions that are full time union positions and we have negotiated a stipend of \$3,500.00 and \$1,500.00 hundred dollars respectively. We get that money from the savings of using the 6 part timers saving around \$40,000 a position. We can get to reorganize now with the money saved and have our buildings cleaned better. We are working to finalize the union positions; head custodian, building manager and basically the custodial positions. In the past these positions were posted and listed five or six responsibilities which were very general. We needed to create a job description that was very specific and we did that with the building manager and assistant building manager which is very detailed. Basically we are in the building to support the principal and the principal should be able to come to the head custodian at any time and deal with any issue they have in the maintenance of that building. The head custodian should supervise and coordinate all the activities in that building as far as cleaning and maintenance, the assistant custodian works for the head custodian and custodians work under the assistant custodian and we all work on behalf of the principal. The job description will allow us to evaluate and allow the head custodian and building manager to evaluate his staff. If everything works out we will have 14 part time custodians that will save us \$250,000 to \$300,000. We will have building managers and assistant building managers. Our job as the management team is to get these people in place and train them and give them the tools they need to do their job and basically that is where we are. A further discussion ensued. The executive board will hopefully vote on the contract this week.

Capital Improvement - We have part time positions now in the Rink doing the cleaning and maintenance and running the Zamboni. We do not have full blown union positions now in the cleaning and the running of the Zamboni and this will hopefully give us the opportunity to break even or maybe even make money in the Rink. Updates about the management of the Rink will be forthcoming.

We expect a report back from Savin Engineering and Bailey and Carrigan will be the first two reports coming back. We now will take a look at the Rink. We still have exposure and have to maintain the Rink. The Zamboni will break down in the very near future and will cost about \$100,000 and we will have to find a way to pay for that and the ice making chillers are old and will need service. We want to do a capital study of the Rink and equipment and we will show you what the Rink cost us over the years as we try to reduce our expenses with our new management formula.

Energy – Handouts were given to the board members. There was an RFP and three companies responded and we were one of the three. We talked about a formula where we would save energy by reducing consumption and use that money to get to all of the things you are looking at on the handout (wheel) attached. (Attachment A). He understands that Ken Carney and his committee interviewed two companies and one does something called performance contracting that we are very aware of and part of our overall program. This is a good company and we have used this company in Stamford to do some work for us.

Our program has three separate sections in the wheel we first collect the data and have a three year trend on what we spend based on the bills. We then go building by building and do an energy audit of all the buildings. We see what can save each building our goal is \$100,000.00 per building. We achieved well over that in New Haven and done the same thing in Stamford. A lot is behavior modification (shut lights off and turn heat down). Once we start saving money we want to take a portion and start doing things in the building that need to get done; put LED Lighting in everywhere. He supports what Ken Carney says so whatever we do in the school system we should be doing in the town. Putting LED Lighting in all our parking lots is brilliant; it might cost us a million dollars to do in the City but there are companies that will put up the money and you just keep paying the same on your electric bill for the seven or eight years and it will pay for the lighting. Performance contracting to replace lighting, boilers and roofs is what we try to do here. You will have to spend money at the Rink on the chillers, in our schools the boiler rooms; we will always have to come up with money what we try to do through our energy program is do things that will save us money. If we can reduce the energy bill and convince you to leave the money in the budget it will have paid for the renovation and replacement of old equipment; that basically is what our program does and will answer any questions you have.

Questions

Cebi asked are the savings in New Haven and Stamford on comparable aged buildings to the buildings we have in our city. He said it is a nice spread he would say we probably mirror Stamford more than New Haven. New Haven has thirty five new schools out of fifty five. The twenty that aren't new have some that have been renovated and some that are falling down. The savings in New Haven because they air condition all their spaces and if you leave the air conditioning on seven days a week and don't monitor it you spend a lot of money. A lot of the reduction in New Haven was from air conditioning but we do things in all of our schools by habit but unless you put a timer on it you can't count on all your electrical being off at the same time in your buildings. In some buildings there are hundreds of individual opportunities that add up to that \$100,000.00. A further discussion ensued. Stamford has 20 schools.

Rob said originally when the Celtic Group came in they were going to take a cursory look and Energy Audit for \$30,000.00 and be able to finance the money for 2% - 3% of the construction cost. Can you explain to me what you are doing? Are you doing the same thing they are doing? Are they not in the picture anymore? Art said the both of them are in the picture. Ken and the Oversight Committee are still in the process of trying to figure

out what is best for West Haven. Nobody has been chosen yet. The biggest part of their program is to find the money to find the repairs whether it is lighting or windows or roofs and lots of things have formulas to figure out how long it takes you to pay it back. If you need a new boiler and I go borrow the money like these other companies would do for you they would borrow the money to pay for the boiler. The boiler will be more efficient than what you have so there will be savings. But if they buy the boiler for you then you will pay a profit to them for buying the boiler. You will pay a higher interest rate than we would borrow money at as the City. You would pay a higher interest rate because they are not a municipality and they will make a profit for sure so you will pay for all of those three things when we believe we can do this without putting any money up front and we would have to prove we have been successful through the utility bills. Our whole formula is very simple. Look at your utility bill and if it didn't reduce we don't make our 25%. If it does reduce you save 75% and our program would be to use that money to do the repairs at the Rink and everywhere else we need to do repairs and if we need to borrow money the LED company will come and present to West Haven and they will put up the money and fund the whole project and want to work that same type of formula. We will do some of that same type of stuff in our program but we will be your watch dog to make sure that program works. That is only one small piece of what we do.

Rob said you will spend the time, effort and labor to look at three buildings, the Rink.....Al interjected no he will look at all the buildings. Neil said those three buildings were the ones we did the capital study on; exactly said Al. Rob said so you will look at all the building for a cursory look and say OK we can save you X amount of dollars in this building because we are going to invest \$25,000 to put in the timers for lights, computers etc and after we do this investment with the savings for next year you get 25% and we keep the 75%. No what he said was he would go in the building and take all the utility bills and create reports that show how much we used in every single school for every meter and compare it over a three month period. Then we will do an intense audit and find every single opportunity in that building to save money. Replacing a boiler and putting in air conditioning doesn't save you money. If you don't have air conditioning and now you do I don't care how efficient it is you will spend money. There are a lot of factors that go into proving that you are really saving money or not; that is why we want to simplify it. Have any one of those companies said we will take a percentage of what we reduce and if we don't reduce you don't have to pay us. That is basically the comparison. Frankly I would tell you that we probably know the buildings as well as anybody in the city at this point and there are lots of opportunities but what New Haven proved was that they had the most sophisticated energy management system in the world; it is a Honeywell System. They had Air Mark managing their system for fourteen years getting paid for how much energy they were saving New Haven and in three years we reduced their utility bills by 5.3 million dollars now that Air Mark is gone. The only way you save energy is by managing it all day, every day at every single outlet.

Rob said so you feel there is enough savings to augment the time and labor you put into investigating this. Absolutely there is a ton of money. We have an investment already. Our energy management team is entirely separate from everything else we do. They need to be here identify, focus and have meetings for training and oversee every single school

every single day and that is what the additional cost is. We have three full time energy managers in New Haven that they paid for based on what we saved. They have given us three full time positions to manage energy there and report on it every single week.

Neil said he and Al would discuss this more and come back to the board with a plan.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

There were no student representatives at this meeting due to homework assignments.

C.1.c. Board

Sean Maher said before moving into executive session he would like to entertain any board reports.

Mark Palmieri said the Rink was mentioned during our last meeting so he stopped by and spoke to a few parents who were there and he walked around and found it to be immaculate. The parents seem to be very happy and there were no complaints made to him. Parents said things were going very well with the ice and cleanliness of the Rink so he just wanted to report back on this.

Mark said it seems like just yesterday but six years ago when he was first getting on the board when the subject was brought up about Homecoming people were against it but now each year it continues to get better and better. He commends Mrs. Gardner and the kids. The kids did a great job from the West Steppers to the Band to all the different groups. This is a fundraiser but it also showcases what is involved at the high school and there are over thirty six different groups involved this time; it was the most ever. The kids are what made it and the way they acted. The kids had a great time; they were dancing together, there was a DJ there and it was a real fun day and to see the kid's school spirit and to see the way they were getting along is a fantastic thing; we have come a long way with this and I hope it continues in the years to come. You take that fear out of the 8th grader coming to the high school. The school is open to everyone; parents and students can go anywhere throughout the high school. This is a great day for everybody in high school and especially for parents who are coming to the high school with their 8th graders.

Sean Maher thanked the Fine Arts teachers for their terrific presentation today and of course everybody knows it is near and dear to my heart. To see how everybody came together, presented and showed exactly what is happening really did my heart good and I hope everybody else enjoyed it as much.

Neil said OCR did schedule what he believes is their last visit to West Haven and they did interview him and Dave Cappetta and will go back and look at all the information and will issue a report. He expects one soon. They have completed all the interviews with West Haven.

Neil said all administrators and a very good showing of teachers were at the meeting on School Governance Councils last week. We are on target to have it in place by November 1st. We will be talking to the PTA's during the Tea on Thursday and the ballots will go out shortly after that and it will be in place by November 1st.

Neil heard that Coach McCarthy will be out a couple of more weeks due to heart surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery but he will be out for the next two weeks.

Dorinda asked about getting teachers more involved in the PTA meetings. Neil said when she brought that up they sent out a memo to principals to encourage teachers to get to the meetings. The Governance Council is required to have five teachers so we don't want to take away from the PTA so if we could have a good PTA and a good Governance Council the more people that get involved the better.

Rob Saley asked how we are doing with the drains at the Field. Neil said Al, Chris and Ken came up with a plan to temporarily fix the drains. Rob thought they actually did it. Neil said we are still pursuing this and all city departments are having a meeting about the status of insurance and FEMA on Wednesday or Thursday of this week and this will certainly play into it. We do have some solutions we will try to do in the meantime.

C.1.d. Committee

No committee reports.

Sean Maher asked for a motion to go into Executive Session

Mark Palmieri made the motion

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The board began executive session at 8:35

The board returned at 9:45

Sean Maher welcomed everyone back and asked for a motion to add to tonight's agenda the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation which took place during the Executive Session.

Toni Paine moved to add to tonight's agenda the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation as discussed in Executive Session.

Mark Palmieri seconded this

All board members were in favor

No one was opposed

Motion is passed and is entered Under New Business as Item #11-170

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 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Sean Maher asked for a motion to approve D.1.a.
Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.1. a.
Toni Paine seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All members present were in favor
Motion passes
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

11-166 Jean Albanese, Assistant Custodian – Seth Haley
Effective: October 13, 2011
Reason: Retirement

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

11-167 Jennifer L. Brien, 93 Skokorat Street, Seymour, CT 06483
Teacher Grade 2 – Washington School
Effective: TBA after Board Approval
Salary: \$37,974.28 Step 4 BS

Mark Palmieri made a motion to do D.3. 11-166 Resignations – D.5. 11-167 New Hire inclusive

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob asked what effective to be announced after board approval means. Neil said this is the position we discussed last week. A concern was the class size in first grade at Washington School so upon hiring this person we need to now transition the teacher who will assume the reading position for the first grade and then bring this person into the second grade classroom. Rob thanked Neil for this information.

All board members were in favor

No one abstained

Motion passes

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

D.7. New Business

11-168 Request by Dr. Anthony J. Cordone for graduating eighth grade students to partake in an 8th grade enrichment excursion to Rhode Island and Massachusetts from June 6 to June 8, 2011. Students will view many educational sights they have studied throughout their middle school experience. This educational excursion presents an opportunity to bring life to the curriculum.

Sean asked for a motion to approve 11-168
Dorinda asked what this was for. It is a field trip. Dorinda asked what they are doing in Rhode Island. Sean said they view many educational sights that they studied throughout their middle school experience. This educational excursion presents an opportunity to bring life to the curriculum.
Eric Murillo made a motion to approve 11-168
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
Motion passes

11-169 Recommendations from Pam Gardner, for Team Leader Assignments for the 2011 – 2012 academic year

Sean asked for a motion to approve 11-169
Patrick Egolum made a motion to approve 11-168
Eric Murillo Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
No one was opposed
Motion passes

11-170 To add the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation as discussed in Executive Session.

Sean Maher asked to have the motion read back to him.
Motion: To add to tonight's agenda the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation as discussed in Executive Session
Sean asked if we need to establish within that motion what the results were.
It was decided to talk about this again in executive session.
Sean Maher requested a motion to enter into Executive Session for a brief moment
Mark Palmieri made the motion
Toni Paine seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
Executive Session began at 9:55 PM and ended at 10:00 PM

Sean Maher asked for a motion to amend 11-170 to read
We agree to accept the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation and are proceeding with negotiations for the extension of his contract.
Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve amended item 11-170
Eric Murillo seconded the motion to approve amended item 11-170
Discussion: Everyone's view was that there was no definite time frame for negotiations but hopefully we can get something done at the next meeting. Neil said he could contact the board attorney and request to write the contract as if it had the administrator's language in it as far as salary and benefits and give it to Toni Paine and use it as a starting place.

All board members were in favor
No one was opposed or abstained
Motion passes

F. Information

There was nothing to add under Information

Sean asked for a motion to adjourn
Rob Saley made the motion
Eric Murillo seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola