

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**September 6, 2011**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**City 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 September 6, 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  
Dorinda Borer  
M. Toni Paine  
Cebi Waterfield  
Patrick Egolum  
Mark Palmieri  
Robert Saley

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman  
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:** Marum Majid

**B. Public Portion**

Vice Chairman Sean Maher welcomed everyone and said he would like to call to order the Board of Education meeting for September 6, 2011. We will start with the public session is there anyone who would like to address the board.

Rosemary Russo, 115 Pheasant Road, West Haven, CT was the first person to speak and she was kind enough to include her entire typed presentation which follows on the next two pages. The board gave thanks.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the article in the New Haven Register on July 21, 2011. In that article, Mr. Cavallaro states and I quote, "It looks like the Carrigan kids may have done better as a result of being combined with the Bailey kids." I find this statement disturbing because it once again pits one side of town against the other. As far as I know there were no Bailey kids at Carrigan Elementary School last year. I thought it was the intent of this administration and a big part of the redistricting Plan A, to bring the children together as one, so there would not be this type of rivalry when they reached the High School. To read this in the paper did not sit right with me, in my opinion this was an insulting remark to former Carrigan students and families. Another thing that disturbed me about this statement is that you cannot compare the scores of Carrigan Middle School to Carrigan Elementary School. They are virtually 2 different schools consisting of different staff, different administration and a totally different student population. I think it is totally misleading to the public to say Carrigan may have done better when there really is nothing to compare it to. Remember, Carrigan Elementary School was only in its first year last year.

The other issue I would like to address tonight is the discussion on bridging the achievement gap which took place at the last BOE meeting on July 20. I would just like to remind this Board that we did have a very successful school that did in fact bridge the achievement gap but this board saw fit to vote and close that school. I think it would have been more beneficial to the children of Molloy School and the city of West Haven if you had had this discussion prior to May 17, 2010. It is very sad to hear about the low scores from our other schools that have high

minority populations when you had a school team that really understood how to teach and reach these children.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs. Borer for always taking the time to ask the hard questions. I as a taxpayer would like to see and hear more discussion about policy that directly affects my child. I do not see this as micromanaging but rather doing the job you were elected to do. Thank you Mrs. Borer.

Lorraine Carr, 29 Lake Street, PTA President of Seth G. Haley School stated the PTA's concern for the playground. She stated that before hurricane Irene came somebody put

some mulch and twigs in their playground and now she understands it is 5” - 6” deep and is still sitting there so their kids can not play and it is a danger. She would like to get this cleaned up. On a positive note on October 22<sup>nd</sup> a Saturday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM they will have a Haley Harvest Festival with vendors, crafters and games for the kids with a silent auction and a photo group. We hope you can come.

Neil said if she gets him the information it will be sent out to the other schools as well.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Rd., watched a workshop on CTN and found it very interesting because one of the things she has learned is that board members can be held personally liable for over expenditures in a budget if they know it was overspent. This is why interim financial statements should be given to every board member every month so they do know what the bottom line is. If you see that you are running at a deficit or need more money you do need to come to the governing body which is the City Council at that point in time and not just let it run over.

The other thing she found interesting because as you know she wants to see the Superintendent get evaluated and she understands that he is but she didn't realize that a lot of boards in executive session evaluate themselves on how they are doing and where they are going. I thought this was an excellent idea and I think the City Council should do the same thing. If you are going to evaluate the superintendent and his or her goals and what is happening and where you are going I think the BOE should be on task too to do the same thing for themselves for the up and coming year and you can wait until the new board is seated but this might be something worth exploring.

She requested from the Superintendent the rating sheets for the interviewing process for the assistant principals and principals. Neil said he has them ready at her convenience. Nancy said it will probably be after the 13<sup>th</sup> and thanked him. The board gave thanks.

Candy (sorry could not make out last name), 473 Second Avenue said her son attends WHHS but there are no busses that take him and other students to school especially when it rains, snows and is cold out. This is a long walk for them to be walking and when winter comes it will be dark and the children have to walk in the dark. Many parents are overloading their cars to take students to WHHS and this is unsafe. They had busses last year and now they don't. The board gave thanks.

Neil interjected that he believes some of them were left off and hopes to add those areas back by Thursday. He asked her to have her child go to Mr. Shand tomorrow as we are in the process of adding back and hope to add that area back by Thursday. (There have been bus stops added to second and Blohm and First and Center).

Ms. Lori Nacca, 109 Kaye Road stated that Pagels is having a fundraiser to benefit the school playground project on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Savin Rock Concert Center. This is a musical murder mystery that takes place in a 1920's speakeasy and people are encouraged to dress in 1920's attire. There will be a prize for the best male and female costume. This is put on by Theatremania Productions and is called Joe Sent Me. There is

a cast of seven plus a production stage manager. Seating is limited so reservations are being taken. The show begins at 7:30 PM and doors open at 7:00 PM. There will be a silent auction and raffles. The cost is \$25.00 per person with tables of eight. There will be wine and appetizers provided by Texas Road House.

Cebi Waterfield, 70 Seaview Avenue said there is an eleven year old student, Casey Ridgway, who has been recently diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer). There will be a fundraiser for her family; they are currently out of work supporting her through her chemo process. The fundraiser will be September 18<sup>th</sup> at Veteran's Field, Bull Hill Lane, West Haven, CT. There has been lots of involvement has come from all areas of Casey's life. This involves her softball team, her basketball team and she is a Seahawks Cheerleader. Tons of area businesses have donated raffle prizes. She is currently not able to attend school yet but will be a student at Carrigan. If you want to volunteer your time they are taking volunteers. There will be lot's of events planned along with great food, bands, DJ, raffles, T-shirts, support bracelets, face painting, feather hair extensions, pitching machine, moon bounce, dunk tank, basketball, softball and many other things. The date is September 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is a \$5.00 admission charge and the Seahawks will run the concession stand with all proceeds going to Casey. They also are selling wristbands around town that are yellow or purple down at Image Salon and at our concession stand during home games and practices during the week as well as during Notre Dame home games. Participation will be appreciated. Checks can be made out to Casey's Crusade and mailed to the treasurer, Mike Last at 62 Great Circle Road in West Haven.

Public portion closed at 7: 20 PM

## **C. REPORTS**

### **C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools**

Sean handed the meeting over to Neil for the reports. Under New Business we have the 2010 – 2011 Operating Budget Transfers and Neil asked Dave Cappetta to talk about how we ended the year and discuss some of the transfers. Neil said this is at the board's pleasure you don't have to vote tonight.

Dave said at the end of the year this list of transfers account for all the items that came in under budget and some of the items that came in over budget so the form that was passed out summarizes all our accounts and will bring everything to zero and will summarize the transfers. Neil said he wanted Dave to make this report and when we get to New Business if the board wants to vote fine if you would rather wait that is also fine. Dave asked if there were any questions. Sean Maher said we can take care of that where it appears on the agenda.

Neil said we had a really good opening. The hurricane through us a little bit but by moving the opening day to Thursday things went about as normal and as smoothly as possible; attendance was good throughout the district. We had a very good attendance at the high school about 92% for the first day. We have some bus issues that we are

resolving. I want to take a minute and thank Winkle Bus and Jean as well as all of our secretaries, Tammy and many of our principals who worked throughout the weekend to resolve and update lists. Everyone really did a great job and everyday we get a little bit better so today we were much better than where we were on Thursday. We thank all parents for their patience and hope to have all issues resolved in the next few days. Our teachers do a very good job of getting the kids on the bus and making sure they are on the right bus but when we start to get special instructions to have a child on one bus for two day and a different bus for three days or making special stops it is difficult. What I tell parents is that busses end up being late and we end up losing instructional time. We will work through all of these problems but we are asking for your patience. A further discussion took place.

Neil said the Ken Strong Stadium Field is closed temporarily. He met with a person from the manufacturer today because we had some issues with seams which are pretty natural and normal but because of the hurricane there are a lot of seams that need to be repaired and hope to get that resolved in the next week or so. Fall sports were to begin next week and we have been able to juggle and move the teams around but we are hoping by next week or thereabouts we will have our field in playable condition. We won't put the kids on the field if we feel it will be a hazard to them.

Neil had Anne Druzolowski speak on the technology that they had spoken about and some of their meetings prior to the school year with our administration. He said at our next board meeting he would like to dedicate the entire meeting to presenting everyone with the AYP scores; where we stand with our testing results, where we stand with our curriculum and what our plans are for the next year and the entire staff of coordinators are working on that now.

Anne applied for a grant from the Department of Education to a group called Literacy How (a group she had previously worked with) in the middle of August. When you access kids in grades K-3 you can have technology in the classroom and you don't need to go through all the paper; it can be done on their ITOUCH. The data is recorded automatically on this preloaded software for each kid. That information gets downloaded and can be accessed by the principals and myself. We can look at all classes and individual classes. This is for early elementary reading particularly but there are applications we can put on for other things. Right now it is a Pilot Study. We applied and you can only apply for three schools because it is a study as well. You receive training for teachers K-3 and an ITOUCH. They received notice they received the grant about three weeks later from the Department of Education. It is not a grant; we are actually getting the services of the grant and we were only one of four school systems in the state to receive this; Waterbury, West Haven, Bristol and she believes Meriden. There were a total of 15 schools and the larger schools have a little bit more and they gave us three. We had chosen Haley, Washington and Savin Rock. In the study they picked the names out of a hat and made a control group. The control group has nothing done to it for the first year and you just look at student progress and a variety of other variables and that school happened to be Savin Rock. The next name drawn was Seth Haley and received both a mentor two days a week and the hardware. Each teacher received the

technology; ITOUCH. Washington just received the technology not the mentorship. We received this information a week in a half ago and we had to have our teachers registered K-3 and on the road for training beginning the 12<sup>th</sup> next week. So we had to move very, very quickly. All K-3 teachers are going and are receiving training on the technology. The mentors will come in shortly after this because assessments begin very quickly. The second year of the program Savin Rock does receive the technology. If we do well with this we may be able to convince the Grossman Foundation to give us more for the other schools. This is what we are trying to balance right now. We would like to go with UNOVISION for our mathematics program at the high school. Anne asked if there were any questions.

Anne updated everyone on the professional development that was done. We waited to have the principal's professional development until right before September and had two days back to back. The principals now become part of the teaching as well as the learning. Each principal analyzed the CMT and CAPT data and created a presentation to present to their peers and did a phenomenal job. They shared all their information with each other and will deliver their presentations which they will be delivering the 14<sup>th</sup> of September to their school staff.

We have another day coming up with the principals and are continuing instructional strategies and what they look like in classrooms and an intermediate type of training on SRBI for our elementary school principals.

The new teacher orientation went very well. Neil said we had almost 50 teachers attended and were quite impressed with the way we are looking at things with from a holistic approach instead of separately. Many came to us because they heard from their friends that these things were happening. Neil said they received very positive feedback from the new teachers. One of the things we stressed and is most important is that we really want these teachers to make West Haven a home and make long term commitments. We don't want to see them resign in a couple of years and go to a job because it pays more money. We heard feedback from some teachers that left for more money that they wished they could rethink it and come back so that was really nice to hear as far as the feedback goes.

Anne stated that when we give all these presentations all staff is present. Each one of the sessions that our staff has had the opportunity to go through the new teachers will have that opportunity as well; responsive classrooms, making standards work which Larry did and he will be doing this for our new staff, understanding better what your curriculum looks like and how you interface it with instructional strategies. We are trying to fit all the staff development in before December through March 1<sup>st</sup> because we don't want to schedule anything during snow because we had to keep rescheduling everything last year. Anne said we want to give support to our new teachers and want them to know that the door is always open for whatever support they need. Neil said in our second meeting in October we have asked that a representative from the music department and a representative from the art department to come and update the board on their progress. A

further discussion took place. Anne said our mantra this year is we are just going to get better at what we do and not work harder. Anne asked if there were any questions.

Dorinda said there has been a lot of good professional development. In the past there was a gap in hiring substitutes for the teachers. Because the dates have been locked down are the teacher replacements being worked on so there is no gap. Neil said as soon as the teacher knows they are going for professional development they can actually call into sub finder and make those arrangements. Some unfortunately wait until the last minute and they don't get the subs. Sometimes we look at who best can be without a sub. Sometimes teachers lose their free period because if there is a sub needed for the gym teacher or art teacher we will pay teachers to stay in their classes and we will put the subs in the other classes where the teacher isn't there. Teachers should sign up for a sub as soon as they know they are going to a workshop.

Anne said new teachers will be going to many different sessions and our other teachers will be getting a lot of onsite support especially as it relates to our data teams. We received a facilitator for data team needs from the state who will be assigned to the schools to support them. Three coordinators and one principal are all certified data trainers and they will be helping in schools to move that professional development. Staff have received a lot of support and specialized training and now we need to see it in operation and that is why we are shifting a little bit to more of the administrators to the teachers then being responsible for what is going on in their classrooms. The principals will be starting after September and will come from around 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM one day a month if not more right before board meetings. We can have our meetings there with our entire staff including our assistant principals.

Cebi Waterfield asked if there was any process to increase kindergarten from a half day to a full day at any point in the near future. Neil stated it comes down to finances. If you told me tomorrow you had the money we would find the room and a teacher and we would make it.

Neil said at our last meeting when we appointed two assistant principals for Carrigan we had stated we expected to receive some savings because of a program we purchased which allowed kids to do credit recovery enrichment system and mostly save on homebound services. Dana Martinez did a wonderful job of researching it out and going for the training. This is something we have talked about for a long time and Dana is about to get it underway. She will explain what Odyssey software is and how we plan on using it and not only save money by doing so but also offer a better quality and higher level of instruction for kids who are on homebound.

Dana Martinez and Marilyn Lynch gave a presentation on Odysseyware which Patti Fusco has posted on the website. Jasmine McElya an honor student at WHHS who has honors AP classes and mandatory classes spoke about her use of Odysseyware and how it has helped her obtain courses that would not fit into her normal schedule. She was able to take the nursing program because she was able to take Physics through Odysseyware. Some information follows below.

The state department said we should look at some type of program or technology that would allow our students to regain some of their lost credits. They looked at many areas: what could be done for kids in order to recover credits that they have lost, what can we do for teachers to allow them to incorporate technology into their classroom to get kids engaged in education, what can they we do for kids on expulsion in order to maintain that fidelity of instruction so they have the same instruction as their classmates. It became very difficult to have the appropriate amount of certified teachers available to deliver this instruction on pretty much an individual basis to kids who have been expelled. They did a lot of research and met with a few different sales representatives to find out what really was the best out there. The program we found was something called Odysseyware. A complete description is available for all to read on the website. [www.Odysseyware.com](http://www.Odysseyware.com) or by clicking on the link on the West Haven High School home page.

Neil Cavallaro said over the years we have had a lot of requests from board members and Eric Murillo is not here tonight and has been a big advocate of increasing security and making a greater presence at WHHS. We think that now is the right time for a couple of reasons. One reason because of the whole focus on school climate brings a good opportunity to bring a new group into the high school and Pam will tell you how she will utilize a security team. The other reason is with money being tight this is an opportunity as one of the security ladies retired and we can take her salary and the benefits we are paying her and put all of that money towards defraying the cost and increasing a presence at the high school. This was supposed to be given at our last meeting prior to sending out the RFP but we are a little behind. We did put the RFP out and spoke to a few board members about it. We received the results last Friday and copies will be passed out. We planned with the board's consensus we don't need a vote tonight to go ahead and interview the companies, make a selection and bring that company to your for a final interview before entering into a contract. Our goal is to have a group in place by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Neil said he knows this is late but we had to wait to see where we could access the funds from and we had to get this out through the city and advertise so that all takes time because we have to follow the purchasing ordinance.

Pamela Gardner and Kurt Ogren gave the following presentation on Campus Security.

West Haven High is a school committed to excellence. Excellence in many areas – academics, co-curriculars, community service and more. We, as a school community, are making great strides toward becoming an effective school, as defined by the research.

Effective schools come from all areas of the country, encompassing all subgroups, and have seven characteristics that unite them on their mission of “learning for all”. These characteristics are part of the culture of the school and have staff buy-in. I am very proud of the way the staff at WHHS has embraced these characteristics and are working hard at the district and school initiatives related to instructional leadership, student achievement, student engagement, school climate and parent involvement. We are placing an increased focus in 2011-2012 on #5 Safe and Orderly Environment.

All of these characteristics, including safe and orderly environment, are part of the CALI flower that serves as the unifying force for all of our adult actions which will ultimately increase student achievement. But, it all starts with a clear and focused mission. At West Haven High School, we believe that all students can and will learn.

And, in order for our students to achieve, they must want to come to school, ready to learn. It is our responsibility to provide that for them. We are working hard to this end.

Students and staff must feel safe intellectually, emotionally, and physically.

**We are in the business of education and high student achievement. The foundation for this is the creation of a safe and orderly environment. Students and Staff must feel safe intellectually, emotionally and physically at WHHS.**

**Some ways we create a safe and orderly environment are:**

**I.D. Badges for all; identifying who belongs and who does not belong.**

**Consistent Enforcement of Rules – Data shows that # of students who receive ISS or OSS has decreased for six consecutive years. Clear and publicized consequences for breaking rules. Department Heads conduct hall sweeps.**

**School Climate Actions:**

**Advisory Program – Our goal is to have every single student make at least one positive adult connection.**

**“If it’s mean, intervene” – Bullying, Intimidation or Harassment is NOT tolerated.**

**We are a “Character Counts” School. We follow the six pillars of character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring & Citizenship) in all we do.**

Dorinda had to excuse herself from the meeting at 8:00 PM.

#### **Campus Security:**

It is 2011. We live in a different world today...so vastly different from when the “pink lady” and the “blue lady” were so effective in their roles at WHHS. We need to change with the times and have a security team that addresses the needs of our students and compliments the efforts of our SRO’s.

Consider this...With the exception of UNH, Between the hours of 7:00am and 3:00pm, the WHHS Campus is the most densely populated area in West Haven during the week.

Our campus is extremely large (330,000 square feet/ 78 doors/ 1550 students)...We are limited with our current Security Guards ( One = stationary at the Security Desk, One = stationary at the Guard Shack, One = escort for the entire building).

We need to send a strong message...loud and clear- at WHHS, there is only one focus – and that is student achievement. WHHS in 2011 needs a team of uniformed security guards that are trained, and that are visible throughout the school building and campus reinforcing that school rules are in place to keep our students in class and learning.

Campus security is a necessity to keep all students and staff safe emotionally, intellectually and physically. This is absolutely necessary in order to keep our focus on improved student learning

Campus Security personnel are responsible for providing a safe and secure school environment, fostering an optimal learning environment and acting as a deterrent to unsafe or poor behavior by patrolling the school hallways and campus, monitoring student behavior, enforcing school and District policies, intervening in negative physical or verbal encounters, monitoring security cameras, monitoring visitors, reporting unsafe or unhealthy conditions and assisting administrators and School Resource Officers with emergency or investigative situations.

#### Qualifications:

1. Minimum of five (5) years of experience in law enforcement, private security or related profession.
2. Experience or training in conflict resolution and mediation.
3. Possess effective written and oral communication and interpersonal skills.
4. Have excellent integrity and demonstrate good moral character and initiative.
5. Desire to assist in maintaining and enhancing cooperative relationships between West Haven High School and the community.

Working with the Superintendent, we are hoping to adhere to this timeline which would have uniformed security guards at WHHS sometime next month.

Improving school climate is among the most effective ways of improving the lives of youth, preventing violence and creating physically, emotionally and intellectually safe, supportive and positive learning environments.

Neil said companies were asked to submit proposals two ways. One with two full time security people and another with three. This is well within our price range because we really would like a fourth person because with three floors and the cafeteria that would really be the minimum of the security we have. We did it for 185 days and we may be able to do some staggering where each person would work 175 days and we would be able to bring them back for sporting events, dances and things like that. These would all be possibilities once we go out and begin to negotiate with a company to contract with.

Rob Saley said you think you will be able to expand on this down the road if you have the money. Neil said we have the agreement with the union and we are not looking to displace anybody right now we are looking to really form a team with the security team and the security ladies who are still in place as well as with our school resource officers. Basically much of this will be paid for by a person's retirement so as those guys retire we can expand and replace. Ultimately Neil would say the resource officers would be the key go to people who have the arrest power.

Pam said they way they are looking at this is campus security. Looking at identifying based on the number of people we are able to hire where we want these people and where we need the visible presence more. We would look at our existing security staff and put one at the security desk, one at the guard house and one stationed in the cafeteria. We would have the new uniform hires circulating very visibly throughout campus on rotation. She told Rob it all depends on how many we hire and the hours they are hired for. She wants the message to be very clear that WHHS is a safe building and when you come to WHHS you will be safe and you are here to learn.

Rob said just to clarify the numbers you said with the Odyssey Software you would be saving about \$150,000 and that is going to be paying for the two assistants. Neil though about \$80,000 for four people roughly.

Mark asked how much the person's salary who retired was. Neil said salary and benefits cost about \$40,000. We have also used substitutes and various other people so that was an expense so we are looking at taking some of that money up to because we want to estimate high about \$50,000 or \$60,000 from that account and put it towards it. Mark asked during sporting events if we don't hire policemen any more is that part of this price part of them covering this because that would be a cost savings. Neil said there is a cost in there for what they consider overtime events. Neil said we would always have at least one police officer and then we might be able to hire security people who would ultimately report to the police officer. Yes, there would be more of a savings at each athletic event and dances, graduation etc.

Sean said he spends about 75 nights a year at WHHS. Would this involve evenings and Adult Ed. Neil said we are not planning on Adult Ed it is a separate budget. Once we contract with a company we can make that service available to Adult Ed but it would have to come out of their budget. We can ask the company to send us people and then be

paying that hourly amount so it is a possibility. As current security personnel retire we may be looking to expand it to Bailey and Carrigan.

Sean always felt that by increasing security at night it may also limit the amount of action we need to take in the morning when it comes to bomb threats and things of an emergency nature. If we know what is going on in the school at night then perhaps we will have a better handle on things in the morning. Neil said this is certainly something we would like to do and we have thought about that.

Mark Palmieri said this is a lot to digest and you have a timeline for October 1<sup>st</sup> so are you looking for a motion from the board to move forward in order to interview these companies. Neil said right now we are going to proceed, unless there is an objection we really don't need a vote, with the interviews and once a company is selected and we will use a similar process to what we have used with all our RFP's where there is an interview and questions. Then we will bring that person back before the board to answer questions. Certainly we want you to feel good about who we hire. We believe the money is there so that will not be an issue right now; we certainly have the money set aside.

Mark said his question was that he sees a fluctuation in pricing here and heard the saying we aren't comparing apples to apples on a few of these companies and asked if he was correct. Pam Gardner said she reviewed all of the RFPs and she thinks that some of them were completed more thoroughly than others and some of them answer all of your questions right within the RFP and some just fill out the paperwork that was on the website. I think that we need to sit down and talk about what we see happening and look at the dollar amount that they are actually paying their employees and say is that the type of person we are looking to hire or what type of person are we looking to hire. Neil said some of the companies have very good references as well and especially with an issue of security it is something we would follow up on and cross reference before we actually said yes. Mark said so you are going to move forward and compare each company and make sure all the apples are in a row. Neil said exactly. Neil said these came back on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and the bids were opened and we received a copy on Friday and got it out to you today and we are ready to go because we understand that the school year has begun and we would like to have the team in place.

Neil wanted to mention that Eric Murillo has been advocating for this for a long time and did say he would be willing to sit in on the committee if no one has any objections to this. Mark said do we need any type of consensus. Neil said no we are going to move forward and we will bring it to you at a later date. Mark said that was fine.

### **C.1.b. Student Representatives**

#### **Marium Majid stated the following.**

West Haven High School has had a smooth start to the school year, albeit a day late. The administrators have met with each freshmen team in classrooms to welcome them, explain the support services at WHHS and to

remind them of school rules. The senior class assembly was held today. There will be a fundraiser at 5 Guys on September 12<sup>th</sup> – please support the senior class! Junior and sophomore assemblies will be held tomorrow and Thursday, respectively.

Senior Josephine Ankrah has been appointed to the State Student Advisory Council on Education. Josephine will meet seven times throughout the year with the Governor and the commissioner of education, offering her perspective on education in Connecticut.

The Homecoming Festival will be held on the grounds of WHHS on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Character Counts at West Haven High School and there will be a school-wide movement emphasizing the Six Pillars of Character – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, caring, citizenship and fairness. We will be sponsoring an essay contest to commemorate 9/11 based on the Six Pillars of Character as seen in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, and we hope to bring the winners here to share their essays with you.

### **C.1.c. Board**

Sean Maher wanted to thank Mrs. Martinez, Mrs. Lynch and Jasmine who came along with her for doing a terrific job on the report despite the technical glitches. He also thanked Mrs. Gardner and Mr. Ogren for the discussion on the security at the High School, and lastly Neil and Dr. Druzolowski for all the work that was done over the summer. We had a smooth and great opening for the school year. From all reports it went extremely well.

### **C.1.c. Committee**

Cebi Waterfield didn't have a report but stated that Dorinda asked her to give her report because she had to leave. Sean Maher requested that this information be put under committee rather than under board reports.

During the Parent/Community Relations Committee Meeting which was held right before tonight's board meeting at 6:30 PM the following was stated:

- the Governance Board will be up by the first of November
- the Compact at Forest School is modeled for other principals to utilize in their schools and they have been working hard on that since last January
- Power Panel roll out to the elementary schools will be starting training next week

- Emergency Preparedness was talked about briefly for the beginning of school. This was a well sent out message and we would like to increase the use of the website as well as Dial A Number for emergency messages to be sent to parents
- More teacher representation has been requested for the PTA Meetings

Mark Palmieri wanted to add although he did not come to that meeting that UNH does that and what they do for that type of hurricane emergency is that they assign one person to a group and that person texts information to the others in that group about what is going on. That is the easiest way and the most energy efficient way when you loose your power. They tell you to make sure you leave your phone powered in to the very last minute and most people have a charger in their car so you keep that charged so you have a way of being contacted. That is their way of contacting me. Neil said one of the things we mentioned is that the School Messenger System that we use has the ability if we have a contact number to transcribe whatever the principal or superintendent says and it can go out as a text message or an email. We talked about trying to get those cell phone numbers to be used in an emergency. We added a space for email on the registration so we can get the message out to people more carefully.

Rob Saley said a couple of months ago we met to look at the Energy Report and he asked Neil where they were with this. Neil stated that one of the things that came out of that meeting was to look at it just from a school perspective might not be the wisest choice. He doesn't think there is any harm in contracting with AFB because there will be some savings but he thinks the consensus was that we should look at it from a broader city perspective because the potential for savings isn't there unless we are willing to do some upgrading.

Rob said that is what the original consulting person was talking about. He said that could be financed through the savings and the banks would accommodate us. He didn't go to that meeting but it was head and shoulders above the first guy. Neil said we haven't done anything with it yet because his understanding was that Ken Carney was going to bring Celtic Energy which was one of the companies to the Building Oversight Committee to explain where and how you really reap the greatest bang for your buck. Rob said that meeting will take place next week so he will be interested to here about it.

Rob said at the last Building Oversight Committee an RFP for an architect for the high school was discussed. He thinks they are putting this out aren't they. Neil believes it has gone out but does not believe they have done the interviews or have done anything with it as yet. Rob said there are a lot of hoops and hurdles to get over.

Toni Paine wanted to mention that she has been in contact with Dave and everybody has been getting emails with all the final information which culminates into this evening's transfers which will bring us to a zero you know it will transfer from one to the other.

**D.1. Approval of Minutes**

**D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting** held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on July 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM

**D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Special Board Meeting** held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on August 2, 2011 at 7:00 PM

**D.1.c. West Haven Board of Education Special Board Meeting** held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on August 24, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Sean Maher asked for a motion

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.1.a. through D.1.c. inclusive

M. Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: Cebi read the minutes and didn't know if she had to abstain.

All members present were in favor

Motion passes

**D.2. Resignations: (Certified)**

**11-148 Lori DellaValle**, Reading Teacher – Seth Haley

Effective: August 31, 2011

Reason: Personal

**D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)**

**11-149 Coralina Garcia**, Medical Para – Seth Haley

Effective: August 30, 2011

Reason: Personal

**11-150 Karena Zaino**, Medical Para – Forest

Effective: August 31, 2011

Reason: Personal

Sean Maher asked for a motion

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.2 through D.3. inclusive

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob Saley asked if the three that were leaving left because of money. No, one left for another job and is going back to school which is nice. She is a bi-lingual para and is looking to further her education. The other person has a higher paying job out of the education field. The remaining person is leaving to work for a company that does curriculum for education.

All members present were in favor

Motion passes

**D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)**

**D.5. New Hire: (Certified)**

**11-151 Lauren E. Galatie**, 75 Stable Ridge Road, Monroe, CT 06468  
Grade 3 Teacher – Forest  
Effective: August 29, 2011  
Salary: \$42,512.06 (Step 5 BS+30)

**11-152 Megan Moran**, 67 Orion Street, West Haven, CT 06516  
Grade 5 Inclusion Teacher – Carrigan  
Effective: August 29, 2011  
Salary: \$37,974.28 (Step 4 BS)

**11-153 Valerie Tamburro**, 12 Tower Drive, Norwalk, CT 06850  
Half Kindergarten/Half Literacy Teacher – Forest School  
Effective: September 1, 2011  
Salary: \$40,808.54 (Step 4 BS+30)

Sean Maher asked for a motion

Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve D.5. 11-151 – 153 inclusive

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

Motion passes

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

**D.7. New Business**

**11-154 2010 – 2011 West Haven Board of Education Operating Budget Transfers**

Sean Maher said Mr. Cappetta discussed the transfers before may I have a motion to approve them .

Toni Paine made a motion to approve the transfers

Mark Palmieri seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob Saley said he is sorry and knows it came to him in an email but did not have a chance to look at it. He said if everyone wants to approve it that is fine but he has to look at it and if he has questions he will ask them.

Sean asked if we have a consensus to possibly table the motion. Rob said no he will talk to Dave. Mark said Mr. Saley is very correct in what he is saying and that has been the criteria already that everyone just calls Mr. Cappetta anytime they have a question and I think he has always answered it and as it has been stated he has been sending us this information by email right along. I have seconded the motion and would like to move forward and move with these transfers. Sean said absolutely. Rob said because of the hurricane he has been extremely busy the last 10 days and haven't had a chance to look at

this. Neil said if you look at the amount of budget that we have in the scheme of things we are not moving that much money and for the most part we do live within the individual line items of our budget. I think this is important to point out because there is that perception or misconception out there. Dave has done a very good job of monitoring the money and making sure that we are living within our means. Sean asked if there were any other questions. Rob asked if there would be a problem if he voted no. Toni Paine said no you can abstain.

All board members present approved the motion except Rob Saley who opposed the motion.

Motion passes

#### **F. Informational:**

Sean asked if there was anything under informational.

Mark Palmieri said he would be remiss if we did not have a moment of silence for Joseph John Moran who unfortunately just passed away. He is the father of our new teacher Megan Moran. A moment of silence followed.

Mark thanked the board 's Vice Chair.

Sean said we do have an addendum to the agenda which should have been included; D.2. D.3. and D.5. they weren't in regular agenda so we will now vote on the following.

#### **ADDENDUM ITEMS**

#### **D.2. Resignations: (Certified)**

**11-155 Jennifer Scott**, Grade 3 Teacher – Forest

Effective: August 26, 2011

Reason: Personal

#### **D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)**

**11-156 Marilyn Halligan**, Part Time Math Aide – Savin Rock

Effective: September 1, 2011

Reason: Personal

Sean asked for a motion to approve D.2., and D.3., Resignation, 11-155 and 156.

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve 155 and 156 resignations

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob Saley asked if this was due to money. Neil said no. Toni Paine said if it states personal are we really supposed to discuss this because a person's name is on it.

Sean said we really should not be discussing this. Rob said but we aren't mentioning any names. Neil said 155 took a job closer to home and 156 was recalled by us as a para so she has a better job with us.

All board members present were in favor

Motion passes

**D.5. New Hire: (Certified)**

**11-157 Emily A. Sgrignari, 118** Angela Drive, East Haven, CT 06512  
Grade 1 Teacher – Seth Haley  
Effective: September 2, 2011  
Salary: \$37,974.28 (Step 4 BS)

Sean asked for a motion to approve 11-157 New Hire  
Patrick Egolum made the motion  
Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor  
Motion passes

Sean Maher asked for a motion to adjourn  
Cebi Waterfield made a motion to adjourn  
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion  
All board members present voted to adjourn.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola  
Board Secretary