

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
December 19, 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, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on December 19, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Palmieri, Chairman
M. Toni Paine, Vice Chair
Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer
Dorinda Borer
Betsy Davis
Patrick Egolum
Robert Guthrie
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Murillo

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
David Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:** Stacie Hurley

B. Public Portion

Chairman Palmieri welcomed everyone to the December 19, 2011 board meeting and said he would like to welcome all the new board members this evening and asked if anyone would like to address the board.

Andrew Miranda, 161 West Spring Street Apt D-5 in West Haven thanked Mr. Cavallaro for helping things get straightened out with the bus situation for his son. His son is in first grade at Mackrille and they were having difficulty with the place the bus would pick up his son. They had to hike almost to Greta Street and they weren't happy. They went through all the steps and now his son is picked up at Glade Street and Coleman which is closer. They are on the corner of West Spring and Coleman. There are no sidewalks in this area once you get past Glade Street. He thanked Neil.

The board gave thanks.

David Carr, 29 Lake Street in West Haven has given us a copy of his comments which is attached to the end of the minutes as Schedule A. (Thank you for the typewritten report).

The board gave thanks.

Public Session closed at 7:10 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro acknowledged the Fine Art Department. It is the concert season and they do a really good job of showcasing our kids. They Music Department and Arts Department decorate the schools. This year they have designed the Christmas card for the Mayor. They go out of their way to make our kids look good.

Mr. Barbarata will present the board with the Engineering Study on January 9th and present the findings for the first phase on the Bennett Rink, Carrigan and Bailey. He will also make a recommendation for a capital budget to present to City Hall. We also will be doing our operating budget to present to City Hall. Rob Saley has talked about this for years and in my opinion is something that is long over due as far as presenting a priority need list to city hall because we haven't been moving forward with the Capital Plan and it has put a drain on our operating budget. David will give a more detailed report at the next meeting because we will be about half way through the year and we will do some budget transfers. Shortly after our next meeting we will have a schedule for budget meetings to develop a proposed budget to send to the Mayor's Office. The Board of Education submits a proposed budget and then the Mayor appropriates to the council and the council

appropriates back to the board before we develop and operating budget. We need to be proactive and work to lobby for the money. We have to submit a proposed budget prior to February 1st to the Mayor's Office.

Mrs. Paine will be the Policy Chair. There is a new bullying legislation and as a result of that legislation we have to have a policy in place. We have to have a draft which we will have by January 1st. We met with Mrs. Dugas who is also with Bertram and Moses to discuss an initial draft to present to the board. We will have it on file with the State and the board will have time to tailor it to meet the needs of our district. We will have the draft in the next week or so and submit it to the state. We will then bring it before the board for a final version.

Toni Paine said she took our existing policy and applied the laws that were passed in July to ours and made changes and added some things to it. We almost have more detail than what the state has. We will submit this as a draft by January 1st.

Neil said we will be taking a look at policies so we can make sure if someone has a complaint or a need that they are easy to follow. This is something the board needs to address sooner rather than later.

Mark thanked Neil for his report.

Dorinda asked if they could talk about the Carrigan administration and that process and how it is progressing. Neil said the posting for the Math Coordinator's job closed on Friday and there were four applicants and Jolene and Dr. Druzolowski are screening the applicants. The week we return from Christmas break we should be ready to do interviews and move forward. Dorinda asked how the new employee AJ is doing in her assistant position. Neil said AJ is an excellent administrator and she will do fine. She has been transitioning and her official start date is January 3rd. Frank is delighted to have her and she will be a good part of the team at Carrigan. She is excited to go there.

Dorinda said when Claudia decided to step down the interview subcommittee wasn't really consulted and she really didn't know anything; she heard from the parents. Neil stated he had called all of the board members and discussed his feeling on this with them. He thinks AJ is a really talented administrator and they have spent a lot of professional development with teachers and administrators and AJ has been very instrumental in that process. We felt this was a very good opportunity for her to go over and be part of that at the school. During AJ's time we have revamped the elementary curriculum and she has rewritten the entire curriculum grades K-12. Neil thought it would be a good opportunity to get a person with a strong secondary math background because our high school kids just aren't doing that well and he felt this was a good opportunity to move AJ and she is excited about the move. Dorinda said all those reasons make sense she was surprised because she didn't originally apply two months earlier. Neil said it is a lateral move and they don't normally apply for the postings. There are decisions we would make prior to doing the posting and then we would determine what the opening should be.

Dorinda said she was a board member on the interview committee and maybe we had a miscommunication but maybe in the future an email to everyone involved could be sent or something so we are in the loop. She gets caught off guard when she could be supportive of a decision. Neil said sure and that he did try to call her but her phone was not taking messages and he did reply to her text about the Turkish night and sent her another text back. He apologized if there was some reason she didn't get it. Neil was notified by Mrs. Davis of her intent to go back to the classroom on the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving. He waited to come back from Thanksgiving to give her a few days to change her mind but that didn't happen and he notified the board members. He had wanted to give her a chance to rethink this before notifying the board. She is an excellent teacher and will be fine in her new position. She is an excellent administrator and was doing a very good job there.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Stacie Hurley was present at this meeting: Marium Majid, and Abdul-Razak Zachariah were not able to attend. Stacie's report is included as Schedule B at the end of the minutes. (Thank you for the typewritten report).

Stacie also said on behalf of the Theatre, Choral and Band Department she would like to thank Mr. Palmieri for inviting the members to sing the National Anthem for the Home Boys' Basketball Games. Sonnetta Nicholson sang last week and Manny Tomez will be singing tomorrow and Abdul Zachariah and Chris Mazzacane are up next. Mark thanked Stacy and said they were very good. Sonnetta was very good.

C.1.c. Board

Toni Paine said they met with Carolyn Dugas on the bullying and as soon as they get their draft the board will get a copy of it. Neil said Positive School Climate is the term and Toni said both she and Carolyn Dugas thought that was great too rather than saying bullying. Toni said they went to a workshop on teacher reform and she thought we had the best representation. We had the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Patti was a union representative, teachers and administrators were there and board members. Each person is looking at it from a different perspective and she felt that was important.

Toni asked David to have a status on the audit when he gives the status on the budget.

Pat Libero went to the CAFE Conference for new board members; it was a ten hour day and was very interesting. She learned a lot of different things and talked with Neil about getting some copies of things. They had some good suggestions and were pretty informative people. It was nice but don't ever schedule a ten hour workshop for teachers it is too long but it was fun.

Cebi Waterfield went to the 7th and 8th grade concerts at Bailey and they did a fantastic job. The new band students performed very well for just having lessons for a couple of months. Those teachers do a great job.

Betsy Davis went to the Bailey Concert and also went to the Pagels Concert and Mr. Griffin is amazing with the children. He played the violin and the piano and he was dancing with them and did a great job; it was fun.

Dorinda Borer mentioned that Veronica Howard put together a night at Carrigan for Spanish speaking parents. Dorinda was present along with Sean Maher and Eric Murillo. This was very well attended by the parents and she said that opened the door and she and Neil spoke about a Turkish family night.

Dorinda spoke about her disappointment with the appointment of subcommittee chairpersons. Some board members were not given subcommittees to chair while others were given two. Mark said he did call everyone and when he asked Dorinda she said she was going to be traveling and he asked her what she was interested in and when he called the other board members they gave him their interests so that is how he did it. Mark said as far as committees are concerned whenever we have an issue he sees everybody show up. He thinks all the decisions are made by a board. Committee members go to committee meetings and give their input but decisions are made at board meetings anyway. He is not a big committee person he believes the whole board should work together. He asked if there was something she was interested in because she mentioned the travel and we can talk after the meeting. She said if the other board members were not interested in chairing a subcommittee and that is why they don't have them then OK. Mark said he spoke to everyone. Dorinda said if everybody is good with not chairing a committee then that is OK.

Mark said he and Mrs. Paine attended that CAPPs meeting with Mr. Marzano and they gave a very good indication of where teacher reform was going. It was very simplified and very interesting. It is definitely the future of boards of education and districts throughout the country over the next few years.

Mark thanked Mr. Miranda for coming this evening and he is glad his problem was resolved. Mark wanted him to know board members are not allowed to speak during public session.

Sonnatta did an excellent job. The gym was packed for the first basketball game. It was a very exciting night but unfortunately we lost in the final minutes. It was a great showing of the students and their school spirit. They have a game tomorrow night and hope that everyone shows up again. He attended the Mackrille Christmas Festival that he found very nice.

Mark said on January 9th we will honor the six students who were chosen to make the Mayor's Christmas Card. Neil said the Mayor will be here along with the students and will present them with their framed Christmas Cards.

Neil said we will also bring six students who scored above goal level on the CAPT Test and we will be honoring those students as well.

C.1.d. Committee

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. Mayor Picard's Organizational Meeting for the West Haven Board of Education held in the Harriet North Room of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on December 5, 2011 at 5:30 PM

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

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All members were in favor

D.1.a. minutes are approved

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on November 21, 2011 at 7:00 PM

D.1.c. West Haven Board of Education ERIN Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on November 21, 2011 at 6:30 PM

D.1.d. West Haven Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on November 21, 2011 at 6:00 PM

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

Toni Paine made the motion to approve D.1. b. – D.1.d. inclusive

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

Discussion: Mark said we will do a roll call because some members were not here. Bob

Guthrie abstained

Toni Paine – yes

Mark Palmieri – abstained

Pat Libero – abstained

Cebi Waterfield – yes

Betsy Davis – abstained she was not a member

Patrick Egolum – abstained

Dorinda Borer - yes

Motion passes

Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

11-186 Karen Holler, English Teacher - WHHS
Effective: Immediately
Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item 11-186

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All members were in favor

Item 11-186 is approved

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

11-187 Sharon Richards, 12 Month Bookkeeper – Central Office
Effective: January 3, 2012
Reason: Retirement

11-188 Maribel Vargas-Guzman, ELL Paraprofessional – Washington School
Effective: December 23, 2011
Reason: Personal

11-189 Matthew Franco, Maintenance Helper – Central Office
Effective: Immediately
Reason: Personal

Mark asked for a motion to approve D.3. 11-187 – 11-189 inclusive

Cebi Waterfield made a motion to approve D.3. 11-187 - 11-189 inclusive

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

No one abstained

D.3. Items 11-187 – 11-189 inclusive are approved

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

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

D.7. New Business

11-190 Request to approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2012/2013

Mark Palmieri said the first meeting was supposed to be on January 3rd but because of the Holiday schools will be closed December 23rd to January 2nd so we will hold the meeting on January 9th. The meeting on the 16th will be held on the 17th because of Martin Luther King Day and the other two days on the 3rd and 17th are School Holidays and are being moved to Tuesdays.

Mark asked for a motion to approve D.7. 11-190

Dorinda Borer made a motion to approve Item 11-190

Toni seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Board Meeting Calendar for 2012/2013 is approved Item 11-190

F. Information

Nothing was discussed.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn

Bob Guthrie made a motion to adjourn

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary

Schedule A

Good Evening. My Name is David Carr, I reside on Lake Street in West Haven. Today is 12/19/11. First, I want to thank the members of this Board for your commitment of time and talent to our community. Your work affects the future of our children and the future of our community. Community development and personal success in formal education are highly correlated.

Current Data from the West Haven 4th Generation Ct Mastery Test shows Students who failed to attain the 2011 State Minimum Goals:

53% of 460 Third Grade Math Students and 49% of 457 Fourth Grade Math failed

53% of 451 Third Grade Reading Students and 45% of 450 Fourth Grade Reading

50% of 454 Third Grade Writing Students and 42% of 488 Fourth Third Grade Reading.

Proficient is not acceptable to me, nor should it be to any person who recognizes the challenges of employment and career development in our local and global economy faced by our students.

I propose to our community that Creative Direct Intervention is required with families of all failing students to make a life long positive impact on study skills to prevent future life stage failure. I suggest delivery of:

a) In home study guidelines and expectations;

- b) Definitive parent/family home study expectations;
- c) Home Study Parent Skill modeling workshops in school for targeted families;
- d) In-Home meeting and study environment coaching for parents receptive to this service

I would like to help our educational community accomplish this. My previous experience qualifies me in this specialty.

WH BOE has the ability to identify the individuals who are in most need of support through test scores and the information to locate students parents at their residence. I propose a direct mail program over the next 60 days to notify these families of:

- 1)Their child's current academic condition and class ranking position
- 2)The relationship of academic success to future earnings and life satisfaction
- 3)The relationship of academic failure to multi faceted life failures
- 4)The relationship of family participation in education and home study to success in school, secondary education and future employment and earning options.
- 5)The importance of learning as a life long process.
- 6)The importance of having a place with equipment to study.
- 7)The availability of equipment to create a space to study.

This direct mail piece should request a written, emailed or texted reply accepting or declining additional support from the educational community. No response should be considered a failed delivery and that addressee should be served again in 10 days.

The letter should be in English and begin with the caveat "If English is not your preferred language please contact (person) so we may deliver this information in your preferred language when you call or write (address)(phone#)." This caveat should be in all languages served by WH BOE

A confidential list can be compiled by a designated employee of all responses and history of multiple mailings until every student's family has replied. Persons who reply will have access to workshops and skill modeling that is appropriate to the situation. Workshops and skill building can be provided by persons qualified and motivated to do so. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Schedule B is the report given by Student Representative Stacie Hurley and follows on the next page.

Schedule B

Three of our seniors were honored by the Rotary Club as student of the month - Kori Wilkerson, Brianna Grillo and Shannon Tucker.

The Peer Advocates have been very busy. They are in full swing of the Toys for Joy toy drive with the WH Fire Department. Over 100 families will have toys due to their efforts.

Both the band and the chorus presented amazing concerts this month, which were well attended and brought the magic of the season to all who attended.

Boys Hockey player, Mike Trioano is the New Haven Register Athlete of the Week. Saturday, the hockey team won a great game in OT against Darien.

Sophomores and Juniors will be receiving the results of their PSAT's this month. Juniors will be receiving them in their English classes and the sophomores will receive theirs in an assembly tomorrow.

Congratulations to the WHHS Band's Ying Guo on her successful audition and acceptance into the Connecticut Music Educators Association's Southern Region Festival Band. Ying will be performing in the CMEA Southern Region Music Festival on January 14th at Francis T. Maloney High School in Meriden, CT.

WHHS Theater Workshop will be holding open auditions for the Wedding Singer, their spring musical in the next few weeks.

Students in DECA held a very successful Winter Wonderland Dance at the beginning of the month. BOE member, Mr. Murillo, was part of the paparazzi that night - thank you for spending your Friday night with us!

The Mock Trial team has won both rounds and has advanced to the semi finals - Good luck to the team.

Lou Wong has had perfect scores in all the Math Team competitions this year. He leads the team in scoring this season.

Students and staff are looking forward to the winter break. Midterm Exams will be here quickly when we return in January.

Happy Holidays from WHHS.