

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**September 8, 2021**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on September 8, 2021, at West Haven High School Cafe, McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT. Cebi Waterfield, Chairwoman of the Board of Education called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

**BOARD MEMBERS  
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Andrea Talamelli  
Patricia Libero  
Rosemary Russo  
Cebi Waterfield  
Anne Heffernan  
Rosa Richardson  
Robert Guthrie

**ABSENT:**

James Morrissey  
Patrick Egolum

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil C. Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools,  
Judith Drenzek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:**

**B. Public Portion of Meeting:** Opened: 6:01pm Closed: 6:14pm.

Public session – Patricia Libero, 146 Connecticut Ave., West Haven, CT 06516  
Please see the attached.

Gina Reichert, 1110 New Haven Av., Unit 124, Milford, CT 06460  
Addressed the board regarding the vaccine and personal choice.

## **C. REPORTS**

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

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro informed the board that the opening of this school year was very smooth. Lunch waves and activities are running well. Superintendent Cavallaro touched base on the overall enrollment in all the schools, and he is very hopeful with the numbers. He stated that the outreach team is doing great with home check and phones made to the homes. Superintendent Cavallaro advised that all summer projects have been completed and the projects are moving along at Bailey. He thanked the maintenance staff for all their amazing work. Additionally, Superintendent Cavallaro talked about adding additional drains and make the drench bigger to avoid flooding. He also informed the board about the damage in the gym, the rink lobby flooding and how the workout gym may need to be replaced from the water damage. Lastly, Superintendent Cavallaro invited the board members to attend the award ceremony on September 15, 2021, he will provide additional information as to time and place shortly.

Questions from the board ensued.

Assistant Superintendent Judith Drenzek informed the board of how well the professional development day went and what they will do at the upcoming professional development workshop.

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

Danielle Ricketts- Thanked all teachers and staff. She advised that lunch blocks and outdoor seating is successful, and all the students are happy to be in person learning this year. Danielle informed the board of their daily news show, and they can access it at [whhsnews.com](http://whhsnews.com).

Hannah Davey- The peer advocates and teachers really helped students this week with classrooms and bussing. They are collecting cans/food for W.H.E.A.T. 1<sup>st</sup> football game is Friday night, and you can buy tickets on the GoFan ticket app. She did suggest an option for pre-sale tickets for students without debit cards. Also, asked if something can be done regarding the parking lot exit since students are walking through the parking lot as drivers are leaving.

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

Cebi Waterfield- Thanked all the administration and staff.

Robert Guthrie- Address Superintendent Cavallaro about the Bailey drop off and pick up. Superintendent Cavallaro advised he is looking into potentially using some COVID funding to

put a large road in the back of the school. He feels it would be much safer. Additionally, Mr. Guthrie stated new teacher orientation had a great outcome.

Patricia Libero- Addressed Superintendent Cavallaro about possibly expressing how much work has been done in the air quality and ventilation in the schools so more people in town are aware.

## **D.1 Approval of Minutes**

**D.1.a The West Haven Board of Education Meeting** was held in the West Haven High School, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT 06516 on August 16, 2021, at 6:01 p.m.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes **D. 1.a**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Anne Heffernan seconded the motion

Discussion: Patricia Libero would like to see her comments regarding staff raises in the discussion.

Abstain – Robert Guthrie

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** Tabled

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

### **21-104 Chandler Arthur**

Teacher: Savin Rock Community School

Resignation

Effective: 08/26/2021

### **21-105 Kathleen Freel**

Teacher: Bailey Middle School

Retiring

Effective: 09/01/2021

### **21-106 Caitlin Wingardner**

Teacher: Pagels Elementary School

Resigning

Effective: 08/26/2021

### **21-107 Madison Suchocki**

Teacher: Carrigan Intermediate School

Retiring

Effective: 08/26/2021

**21-108 Rachel Bernardo**

Library Media Specialist: (Mackrille & Pagels)

Resignation

Effective: 10/1/2021

**Move to Approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-104 – 21-108**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

**D.3. New Hire: (Certified)**

**21-109 Robert Bleggi**, 185 Canal Street, Apt 3079

School Counselor (WHHS)

Salary: \$72,689.00

Step: 7

Effective: 08/27/2021

**21-110 Rosabella Ziou**, 209 Alden Ave., New Haven, CT 06515

Teacher: English (WHHS)

Salary: \$45,786.00

Step: 1 BS + 30

Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-111 Amanda Link, RN**, 117 Gorman St., Naugatuck, CT 06770

School Nurse: St. Lawrence/ Float

Salary: 44,515.21

Step: 2

Effective: 09/09/2021

**21-112 Caitlin Murphy**, 28 Cooper Ln., Hamden, CT 06514

Teacher: 5<sup>th</sup> (Carrigan)

Salary: \$58,794.00

Step: 5 BS + 30

Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-113 Megan Ferraro**, 14 Oakdale Rd. Branford, CT 06405

Teacher: 6<sup>th</sup> (Carrigan)

Salary: \$45,786.00

Step: 1 BS + 30

Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-114 Sean Carroll**, 52 Brainard Hill Rd. Higganum, CT 06441  
Teacher: English (WHHS)  
Salary: \$45,786.00  
Step: 1 BS + 30  
Effective: 08/27/2021

**21-115 John Zalenski**, 139 Park Ave., Derby, CT 06418  
Teacher: 2<sup>nd</sup> (Savin Rock Elementary School)  
Salary: \$41,644.00  
Step: 1 (BA)  
Effective: 08/26/2021

**21-116 Catherine Ghee**, 66 Hillside Ave., West Haven, CT 06516  
Teacher: Special Education Lab (Pagels)  
Salary: \$88,284.00  
Step: 10 (BS + 60)  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-117 Melissa Grenier**, 407 Power Hill Rd., Durham, CT 06422  
Teacher: Special Education Lab (Pagels)  
Salary: \$41,644.00  
Step: 1 (Pending DSAP)  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-118 Kelly Velez**, 1504 New Haven Ave., Milford, CT 06460  
Teacher: 7<sup>th</sup> (Bailey)  
Salary: \$45,786.00  
Step: 1 BS + 30  
Effective: 08/27/2021

**Move to Approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-109 – 21-118**

Robert Guthrie made the motion  
Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor

**D. 4 New Business:**

**21-119** Recommendation for Latanya Joyner to Assistant Principal at Carrigan. Salary per Administrative Contract

**Move to approve**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21-119**

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor.

**21-120** Recommendation for Robin Ferreira to Assistant Principal at Carrigan. Salary per Administrative Contract

**Move to approve**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21-120**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor.

**21-121** Recommendation for Melanie Deninger to Early Childhood Coordinator. Salary per Administrative Contract

**Move to approve**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21-121**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor.

**Informational**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Andrea Talamelli made the motion

Patrica Libero seconded the motion  
All board members were in favor  
The meeting adjourned at 6:50PM

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster