

# **WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**November 15, 2021**

## **Regular Board Meeting**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on November 15, 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 6:01 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Andrea Talamelli  
Cebi Waterfield  
Anne Heffernan  
Rosa Richardson  
Robert Guthrie  
James Morrissey  
Patrick Egolum  
Patricia Libero  
Rosemary Russo

#### **ABSENT:**

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** None

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **PRESENT:**

Danielle Ricketts  
Nabiha Khan  
Hannah Davey

**B. Public Portion of Meeting:** Opened: 6:01 p.m. Closed 6:02 p.m.

### **C. REPORTS**

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

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro advised the board member he would like to start off the meeting with the students who were giving the STEM Biomedical Presentation. As you know we are trying to get back to show casing some of our programs and the various schools. Start with the

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high school and we had the opportunity to see the full presentation in the auditorium. They were taken back at how well it was done. Superintendent Neil Cavallaro advised he would like to use the rest of his time tonight to dedicate it to the last of this particular board due to Rosa Richardson, Jimmy Morrissey and Rosemary Russo's last night on the board. He thanked them all for their service and the amazing changes we made over the last couple of years. COVID made it very hard, but they made it possible to put a computer device in everyone's hand, the cleaning of the buildings. Additionally, they were able to get the ball rolling on a brand-new elementary school, modular classrooms in bailey, and take advance of a lot of opportunities. He really appreciated the debates and the discussions and the disagreement; however, most importantly when the decisions needed to be made, he felt that he had the support from all 9 board members. Therefore, he can't thank the entire board enough but especially Rosa, Rose, and Jimmy's service over these last couple of years and it did not go unnoticed. Lastly, Superintendent Neil Cavallaro presented Rosa, Jimmy, and Rose with books in their honor that will be in each of the schools' libraries.

Assistant Superintendent Judy said that the STEM Biomedical Presentation she went to a couple weeks ago the students did an excellent job and she was so impressed with it. She stated that the schools have a lot of wonderful things going on that they will be sharing throughout the year at some of the meetings. In the beginning of the year that there was a lot of transition, but everyone seems to be settling in. They are starting tier instruction to address individual needs. Marissa will be presenting the enrichment program next month. Data teams have been established. ACES is supporting feedback and they are working on professional development to address students and teachers needs.

Coordinator Raffaella Fronc provided a brief overview of the STEM program. She advised there are over 270 kids enrolled within the two programs with 9 courses. She introduced the teacher to the board along with the department head.

The students that worked on the STEM Biomedical Presentation informed the board of their scenario is to design a more efficient and effective emergency department for an urban hospital. Please see the attached presentation.

Questions from the board ensued.

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

Danielle Ricketts-Decision Day is this Friday, November 19, 2021. Italian class translated a whole book from Spanish to Italian. Updates on the school lunch and how the students are very happy with it. Peer advocates are starting their fundraiser for toys for joy. Parent portal workshop will begin soon.

Hannah Davey-Provided info on the powder puff game with a pie teacher in the face fundraiser. Provided updates on activities. Gave information on the fall scholar athlete award. Honor society fundraiser update. Walking challenge everyone who participates will receive a Fitbit. WHHS health teamed up with Stop and Shop for prescriptions.

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

Cebi Waterfield- Being able to share the board with Rosa, Rose and Jimmy has been a wonderful experience. Their unique perspective was most appreciated, and they made her job as chair look easy. Their dedication to the students and resident of west haven will be hard to match. Special shout out to her VP who has always had her back and helped her learn her roll and she will be missed. She appreciated the 3 of them more then they will know. They will be missed.

Andrea Talamelli- Wished the 3 of them the best of luck. It's been a pleasure to serve with Rosa, Rose, and Jimmy. She has learned a lot from the 3 of them. It amazes her the time they dedicated to the board. It warms her heart.

Anne Heffernan-Thank you and even when I don't agree with you guys you always are respectful and educational. Enjoy your time off well deserved.

Rosa Richardson-Thank you it was an honor and a privilege. (She didn't want to get emotional)

Patrick Egolum- Thanked Superintendent Neil and Cebi. Additionally, he feels that Rosa, Jimmy, and Rose will be back to the board one day. Thanked all of them again.

Patricia Libero- Thanked all 3 board members for their time. Jimmy was always good with anything going on in the schools all the time. Rosa always good with the unions stuff and Rose was always good with the kid's stuff. She feels privileged and honored to work with them over the last 8 years and the best of luck and hope to see them back in 2 years.

James Morrissey-Its my last meeting but it's been a pleasure to sit on this board for the last 8 years. He said to Superintendent Neil that it's been a pleasure to serve with him, Anne and now Judy. They have done a great job over the years. Always had your door open for him and the whole board with any questions or concerns they may have had. He stated that any concerns that came up he always took care of them. The last two years with the pandemic it was hard, but the board did a lot of great things like maintaining the schools, making sure schools were safe, the duct work, the equipment for staff and students to keep them safe. He stated he felt like he always advocated for the staff and students because you're the people who really make it work. It's been a pleasure to work with Rosa and Rose it's been a pleasure. Its his pleasure to service the last 8 years. Wished everyone a great holiday. Thanks for the last 8 years on this board.

Robert Guthrie-Along with Patricia Libero they attended the Mackrille breakfast celebration it was a nice time to be part of that with the staff. It's been a pleasure to service with Jimmy, Rosa, and Rose. He doubts that the 3 of them won't hesitate to call and provide their opinions and their opinions are still valued. Thank you for your service.

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Rosemary Russo- She would like to tell Superintendent Neil that she went by Forest school, and she really likes the black top that was done. Great thing for the kids. It was her privilege to serve on this board. She has been a teacher most of her life to be able to sit here and learn more about the education. Thanked Superintendent Neil for the time and answering her 101 questions. He was always very kind. She loved working with Dr. Anne Druzolowski and working with all the board members. She wishes she got to work a little longer with Assistant Superintendent Judy. But she will stay in touch.

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

**D.1. The West Haven Board of Education Board Meeting** was held at West Haven High School, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT 06516 on October 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** Approved

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

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

**21-130 Rebecca Simpson**, 94 Jobs Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492

Special Education Lab Teacher: Pagels

Salary: \$69,894.00

Step: 7 (BS + 30)

Effective: 11/21/2021

### **Move to Approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.3. 21-130**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

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**D. 4 New Business:**

**21-131** Motion to accept the Harry M. Bailey Partial Roof Replacement, State Project No. 156-0141 RR as complete.

**Move to Approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21-131**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patrick Egolum 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

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster