

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**October 18, 2021**

**Regular Board Meeting**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on October 18, 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  
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

**B. Public Portion of Meeting:** Opened: 6:00 p.m. Closed 6:05 p.m.

Robin Lewis, 84 Hillside Street, West Haven, CT 06516- Currently the PTA President for Forest School asked the Board how the playground was funded and what portion was the PTA responsible for. Superintendent Neil Cavallaro & Ken Carney it was through a state grant and the remainder of the money was fundraised. She advised that the PTA was asked to provide a check of \$3,600.00 for musical flowers on the playground. However, Superintendent Neil Cavallaro & Ken Carney advised that the BOE did not authorize this request. Additionally, she asked about the playground warranty.

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### **C. REPORTS**

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

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro thanked all the people at the Career Center. He also congratulated the Counsel Department in particular Deborah Kachmar & Holly Benedetti for overseeing the development of the Career Center. He informed the board member that the Board of Education is not involved in the ongoing investigation. Superintendent Neil Cavallaro advised that he had the Director of Finance create a spreadsheet with all our funding and how we plan to use it. Additionally, Superintendent Neil Cavallaro requested Ken Carney show the Board Members the plans for the lecture hall & all the projects in the schools.

Director of Finance Matthew Cavallaro gave a breakdown of all the Board of Education grants & COVID funding.

Questions from the board ensued.

Ken Carney provided the board with a presentation of the Lecture Hall & provided updated on each school. Please see attached. Mackrille new playground in the front, Carrigan bid for an auditorium, garage is just about done, solar, replace of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor & lighting. Seth Haley lights almost done, playground going in & paving in the back by the basketball. Forest lights installed & paved one area and working on an artist to paint. Bailey the most active construction site. Modules are going in working on foundation. 4 additional classrooms with air conditioning, roof is complete. Looking into adding onto the café and adding air conditioning. Having a large playscape going in. Lastly, solar going in. Savin Rock new lights & finishing package (RP) for HVAC. Molloy is getting solar and a solar field in the back. Washington 9 companies' response to the RP. WHHS canopy off the Café for the loading dock to protect the employees & guard shack is up. Working with site guys to get the draining installed.

Questions from the board ensued.

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

Danielle Ricketts-Provided an update on the Presentation on Emergency Room. Flu shots & COVID testing all week for students. Senior night information. National Honors Society field day fundraiser for muscular dystrophy association on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Peer advocates are preparing for their annual Toys for Joy fundraiser.

Nabiha Khan-Provided a recap of last week at WHHS. Dental Van weekly due to high demand.

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

Cebi Waterfield-Thanked the PTA President from Forest. Thanked Matthew for his break down on the funding. Thanked Ken for all the updates on the school. Lastly, advised how wonderful it is to see the lecture hall being created in Pamela's memory.

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Anne Heffernan-Requested additional information on more classrooms for WHHS.

Rosa Richardson-Asked Matthew Cavallaro if the plans for the Lecture Hall are premature do to funding/approval.

Patrick Egolum-Do we have the funds to pay the fee if the project is delayed.

Patricia Libero- Congratulated Mrs. Judith Drenzek 10 years at Mackrille US News & World report has ranked Mackrille number 25 out of 560 elementary schools. Blown away by how wonderful the lecture hall is going to be.

James Morrissey-Thanked Matthew for his break down of the funding. Questioned if anyone from the BOE (Salary employees) received additional money & if all schools were open throughout the pandemic. He also thanked all salary staff for going above and beyond during the pandemic. Asked about the duct cleaning services and if it will continue. Asked if Washington school project is a PLA. Asked about the WHHS draining situation and asked for an update. Asked if the insurance will cover all the things that need to be fixed. Very happy tonight the blinking lights by Bailey are up and running.

Robert Guthrie-Questioned the Lecture Hall & Promethean boards regarding the approval for funding. He also asked if we would lose any parking with the new Lecture Hall.

**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 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Robert Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Abstain –Rosemary Russo

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** Approved

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

**21-128 Ann Bode**

Teacher: Bailey Middle School

Resignation

Effective: 10/08/2021

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**Move to Approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-128**  
Rosa Richardson made the motion  
Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor

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

**Move to Approve.**

**D. 4 New Business:**

**21-129** Matter to approve funding for the construction and dedication of a Lecture Hall at WHHS.

**Move to Approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-129**  
Patricia Libero made the motion  
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion  
Abstain: Anne Heffernan  
Discussion: Board requested updates on the plans & Patricia Libero said this is a wonderful tribute to Pamela and thanked everyone for approving.  
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 7:18pm

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster

**West Haven High School**  
**Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall**  
**1 Circle Street, West Haven**



**Addition Components**

3,800 square feet

Lecture Hall

Vestibule

Lobby

Men's and Women's Restrooms

Storage



**Lecture Hall**

- Seating for 120 (115 seats + 5 handicap seats)
- Dual-level access
- Tablet-arm seating
- AV package – projector with screen, touch screen, wired and wireless peripheral connection, document camera, wired and wireless microphone, computer, remote lighting control, surround speakers, and WIFI.
- Lectern

**Vestibule**

- Entry courtyard
- Card-reader entry
- Recessed walk-off mat
- ADA entry
- Storefront glazing with canopy

**Lobby**

- Dual connection to main school
- Terrazzo tile flooring
- Video display screen
- Decorative lighting
- Drinking fountain with bottle filler
- Connecting stair