

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 20, 2021

Regular Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on October 4, 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

ABSENT:

Rosemary Russo
Neil C. Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: 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 6:01 p.m.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Assistant Superintendent Judith Drenzek informed the board that the enrichment program started today for grades 2. They will work with the schools in 2-week increments. They will start with Forest School and move from school to school. Assistant Superintendent Judith Drenzek introduced Holly Benedetti & Deborah Kachmar (WHHS guidance office).

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Holly Benedetti-Provided information to the board regarding the changes to the Career Center at WHHS. Please the attached.

Deborah Kachmar- Provided information to the board regarding the changes to the Career Center at WHHS. Please the attached.

Questions from the board ensued.

C.1.b Student Representatives

Danielle Ricketts-Retreat for the peer advocates tomorrow, 30 seniors will be going on a school tour UCONN stores on October 12th and the PSATs will be on October 13th.

C.1.c. Board

James Morrissey- Mentioned the flashing lights for Bailey Middle School. Wishes Superintendent Neil well. Hopes everything is okay. Also Thanked him for his report tonight addressing the issues at WHHS with the problems we have been having up there. He is concerned with the behavior of some students seeing as its only September. He is hoping this stops. He is frustrated that a security guard was injured last week. He hopes the administration takes every effort to fix the problem. The kid should be expelled this behavior is overboard. Thanked him about the press release with the Police Department regarding the Tik Tok challenge. Thanked security for their work.

Cebi Waterfield- Complimented Danielle Ricketts on her participation on the governors visit. She is a fabulous job & was very well spoken. Cebi was very impressed. It was well deserved. Cebi Agreed with Jim regarding the safety of our staff and students.

D.1 Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. The West Haven Board of Education Special Board Meeting was held at West Haven High School, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT 06516 on September 20, 2021, at 5:45 p.m.

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

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Abstain – Patricia Libero

All board members present were in favor

D.2.b. The West Haven Board of Education Board Meeting was held at West Haven High School, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT 06516 on September 20, 2021, at 6:09 p.m.

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

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Abstain –Patricia Libero

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** Approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified):

21-124 Julianne McAree

Teacher Grade 2: Washington Elementary School

Resignation

Effective: TBD due to 30-day hold

Move to Approve.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-124**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

21-125 Melissa Capasso, 185 Brook St., Hamden, CT 06514

Teacher Grade 2: Washington Elementary School

Salary: \$49,949.00

Step 2: 2 BS +30

Effective: TBD due to 30-day hold

21-126 Aaron Vaughn, 20 Lakeview Ave., West Haven, CT 06516

Teacher Grade 5: Carrigan Intermediate School

Salary: \$41,644.00

Step: 1 BS

Effective: 10/4/2021

21-127 Maggie Knies, 665 River Rd., Unit 11 Shelton, CT 06484

Teacher Grade 1: Forest School

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Salary: \$45,786.00

Step: 1 + 30

Effective: 10/12/2021

21-128 Katherine Riordan, 260 Pond Point Ave, Milford. CT 06460

Intermediate School Teacher

Salary: \$45,786.00

Step: 1 BS +30

Effective: 10/4/2021

Move to Approve.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-125 – 21-128**

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

D. 4 New Business:

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 6:24PM

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster

Board of Education Outline

1. Introductions and changes in student plans (more students are looking for career based post-secondary plans and excitement regarding addition/improvement of the career center)
2. Career Center updates:
 - Change in layout to be more student friendly
 - Inclusion of promethean board to allow for virtual visits
 - New programs: EMT, Criminal Justice Series, New HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical courses through ELI Whitney, Scholarship Program.
 - New Connections with Community: Mentorship and Internship and job shadow programs.
 - New workshops and programming for students: Career exploration activities, resume writing, interviewing skills, job application assistance.
3. Upcoming Events
 - College/Career Fair, Wednesday, October 6th
 - Open House - Friday, October 15th
 - Decision Day, Friday, November 19th
 - 2nd Criminal Justice Series Workshop - October 27th

Materials

EMT Flyer

Open House Flyer

Criminal Justice series Flyer

DD Invite

Popcorn

List of colleges attending 10/6 Fair