

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**June 21, 2021**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Revised 07-19-2021**

Streamed through YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnxjT9Xhh5zXqpca2AVKZbg>

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on June 21, 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 6:21 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cebi Waterfield  
Rosa Richardson  
Robert Guthrie  
Andrea Talamelli  
James Morrissey  
Patricia Libero  
Rosemary Russo

**ABSENT:**

Patrick Egolum  
Anne Heffernan

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRESENT:**

Mackenzie Gardner  
Anthony Vendrella

**B. Public Portion of Meeting:**

Rosemary Russo- Few teachers asked about the agenda being posted on the website.

Patricia Libero- Jerry Fermento (founder of Eco Camp) she was supposed to say it last week which is why she forgot. He would like to thank the board for their support throughout the years with echo camp. Patrick Falon has recently taken over. Jerry and Nancy, they basically write the curriculum and oversee it but Patrick is running it now. Jerry called Patricia Libero and said

please tell the board/city that he appreciates all the support throughout the years. Very glad that the echo camp can still go on.

Public session closed 6:24p.m.

## **C. REPORTS**

**C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools** Superintendent Neil Cavallaro thanked the board for all their support this year. Additionally, the Superintendent thanked all the teachers, staff and parents for the support, hard work and dedication this year. He stated that it was a hard year, but in the end, everyone was pleased with how the school year turned out. The Superintendent also informed the board that our administration got a head start on new hires for this upcoming year. Lastly, he expressed his concerns with all the new hires for this upcoming year that he may request a quick meeting to vote on the new hires since the summer there is 1 meeting per month but he would like to get all the new hires on board and ready to this upcoming school year.

Assistant Superintendent Judith Drenzek- thanked the board members, staff and parents for all their support while we navigated through this difficult school year. She was very pleased with the graduation. Additionally, she advised the board that there will be a workshop for next year regarding process improvement and teacher evaluations.

Questions from the board ensued.

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

Mackenzie Gardener-Thanked the board and entire school district. She said it was an honor to work with such hard-working people. She thanked her mentor and thanked Anthony for being a great co-student representative with her.

Anthony- Thanked the board. He was happy with how productive this year was and the for the bond/ friendship he made throughout the year with the board. Lastly, he wished the upcoming student's representative's good luck.

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

Cebi Waterfield- Thanked the student reps. She expressed how happy she was with graduation. She advised how the opening of school was challenging but appreciated how the board handled all the decision making this year. Lastly, she thanked all the staff.

Patricia Libero- Congratulated Mackenzie and Anthony on their successful year. She stated she was not thrilled with the 4:00 p.m. graduation time but it ended up working out very well.

Robert Guthrie- Thanked the staff and informed Mackenzie and Anthony that it was great to share the stage with them at graduation. He was very pleased with the 4:00 p.m. graduation start time and the stage setup.

James Morrissey-Mackenzie and Anthony did a wonderful job this year. He thanked them and wished them well. He also thanked Dana and staff for all their support and cancelling graduation due to rain. He was happy with the date change. He said it was a hard year but Rose and himself went to all schools to make sure everything was up to par and doing well. He is hopeful for next year being better.

Rosemary-Thanked Mackenzie and Anthony. Thanked all the staff for extra work this year in making it special. Additionally, she thanked Superintendent Neil Cavallaro for always listening to her suggestions.

Andrea- Congratulated Mackenzie and Anthony. She said they are wonderful. Additionally, she was extremely happy with graduation, and it was nice to see things go somewhat back to normal.

Rosa- Love Mackenzie and Anthony and she will miss them. She said they keep the board on their toes. She thanked all the staff and the Superintendent Neil Cavallaro. She is hopeful for next year.

## **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 May 17, 2021, at 6:03 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 – Rosemary Russo

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** approved

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

### **21-24 Catherine Baylis**

Teacher- 1st Grade Washington Elementary School

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 6/30/21

### **21-25 Mary Van Deun**

Psychologist-WHHS

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 10/01/2021

**21-26 Jaclyn Anglin**

Mathematics Teacher-Bailey Middle School

Reason: Resigning

Effective: 06/17/2021

**21-27 Amy Singer**

Social Worker-Bailey Middle School

Reason: Retiring

Effective 06/30/2021

**21-28 Carol Ventura**

Special Education Teacher-Seth G. Haley School

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 06/30/2021

**21-29 Marc Sizer**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher- Bailey Middle School

Reason: Resigning

Effective: 06/17/2021

**Move to Approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-24 -- 21-29**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

**D.3. New Hire:**

**21-31 Mary Luz Heidtmann, 148 Church St, West Haven, CT 06516**

Special Education Teacher- TBD School

Salary: \$44,226.00 Step 2

Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-32 Samantha Stevenson, 36 Grapevine Row, Milford, CT 06460**

Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School

Salary: \$45,786 BS + 30 credits

Effective 08/24/2021

**21-33 Katherine Gilmore, 70 Perry Merrill Dr., West Haven, CT 06516**

Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School

Salary: \$41,644.00 BS

Effective 08/24/2021

**21-34 Michelle Wyskiel, 42 Gentile Place, Branford, CT 06405**

Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School

Salary: \$41,644.00 BS pending cert. (waiting on results of Reading Foundations Test)  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-35 Kim Athan**, 1 Brook Road Wallingford, CT 06492  
Italian Teacher-WHHS  
Salary: \$79,729.00 Step 9 + 60 BS  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-36 Julia Raucci**, 44 Lake Ave. West Haven, CT 06516  
Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School  
Salary: \$41,644.00 BS Step 1  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-37 Marie Chutjian**, 8 Central Ave. Milford, CT 06460  
Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School  
Salary: \$41,644.00 BS Step 1  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-38 Erica Toledo**, 1212 Beachland Ave. Milford, CT 06460  
Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School  
Salary: \$48,908.00 BS + 60  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-39 Gabriela Reis**, 496 New England Ln. Orange, CT 06477  
Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School  
Salary: \$49,949.00 BS + 30 (step 2)  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-40 Linda Pisani**, 34 Allan St. West Haven, CT 06516  
Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate -Mackrille  
Salary: \$52,030.00 Step 2 BS + 60  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-41 Ashley Dalton**, 85 Parker Ave, West Haven, CT 06516  
Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School  
Salary: \$45,786.00 1 BS + 30  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-42 Paige Rifino**, 4121 Avalon Haven Dr. North Haven, CT 06473  
Grade 1-6 Teacher- Elementary/ Intermediate-TBD School  
Salary: \$45,786.00 BS + 30  
Effective 08/24/2021

**21-43 Teri Axelrod**, 27 Wilson Ave. West Haven, CT 06516  
Grade 4-Pagels Elementary School  
Salary: \$41,644.00  
Effective Date: 08/24/2021

**21-44 Kyla Proades**, 768 State Street, New Haven, CT 06511  
Grade 1 Teacher- Seth G. Haley  
Salary: \$52,030.00 +30 Masters  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-45 Amanda Gratton** 33 Buttonwood Circle, Wallingford, CT 06492  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher-Carrigan Intermediate School  
Salary: \$58,794.00 Step 5 BS +30  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-46 William Ortoleva** 55 Denison Dr. Guilford, CT 06437  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher-Carrigan Intermediate School  
Salary: \$69,894.00 Step 7 BS + 30  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-47 Grace Farley** 225 North Airline Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher-Mackrille Elementary School  
Salary: \$45,786.00  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-48 Stacie Rivard-Pedigo**, 28 Northrop Rd. Woodbridge, CT 06525  
Kindergarten-Forest School  
Salary: \$49,949.00 Step 2 BS +30  
Effective: 08/24/2021

**21-49 Michelle Lonsdale**, 11 Norway Rd, North Haven, CT 06473  
Math Coach  
Salary: Present salary and step + \$4,800.00 Stipend  
Effective: 08/26/2021

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.3. 21-31 -- 21-49**  
James Morrissey made the motion  
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor

New Hire **D.3.** were approved

#### **D. 4 New Business:**

**21-50** Settlement Agreement between the West Haven Board of Education and the West Haven Federation of Nurses, AFT Local 1547

**Move to approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21--50**

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

New Hire **D.4. 21--50** were approved

**21-51** Contract for Judith Drenzek, Assistant Superintendent

**Move to approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21--51**  
Rosemary Russo made the motion  
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor

New Hire **D.4. 21--51** were approved

**21-52** Contract for Matthew Cavallaro, Business Manager

**Move to approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21--52**  
Robert Guthrie made the motion  
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor

New Hire **D.4. 21--52** were approved

**21-53** Contract for Tamara Mursko, Administrative Assistant

**Move to approve.**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21--53**  
Rosa Richardson made the motion  
Rosemary Russo seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor

New Hire **D.4. 21--53** were approved

**Informational**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Robert Guthrie seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster