

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 3, 2021
Regular Board Meeting

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on May 3, 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 6:03 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT:

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Mackenzie Gardner

B. Public Portion of Meeting: None

Public session closed 6:03 pm.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools Superintendent Neil Cavallaro expressed how well the 1st extended day of school went. He informed the Board the high school graduation will be on June 15, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. He has discussed using both sides of the bleachers and maybe having the top 30 families on the field. There is a ticket maximum of 4 per family due to COVID. Neil advised that at the next Board Meeting he is going to have Marissa Acampora and Matt Cavallaro present the Board with a funding presentation. Additionally, Neil stated he sent out a letter regarding Distance Learning for next year and what the requirements would be. Neil thanked the Board and the Unions for the pizza truck and how successful it was. Superintendent Neil touch base on the Teach Rock Partnership Program and how it would show student how to incorporate music into Language Arts and culture. Coletta Bennett (Language Arts/ Social Studies/Library Media Coordinator) gave additional information on how the program would work. Superintendent Neil spoke about the Vaccine Clinic at WHHS on Friday, May 7th between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Lastly, Neil had Ken Carney from the Building Committee explain the entrance situation with the Board.

Questions from the board ensued.

Ken Carney, chairperson of the Building Committee updated the Board on the entrance to WHHS as well as Baileys roof timeframe and parking concerns.

C.1.b Student Representatives

Mackenzie Gardener-addressed the students concerns with food allergies such as dairy, gluten and peanut. She informed the Board about wellness week at the school and how the Dental Truck came and some students for the first time received dental services. Mackenzie talked to the Board about the Band Concert, National Honors Society, and the Vaccine Clinic. Lastly, she expressed her concerns with the lack of graduation tickets per family. Mackenzie advised that students need to provide a negative test 72 hours prior to prom or should their vaccine card. Lastly, she informed the Board May 14th is college decision day.

C.1.c. Board

Cebi Waterfield- Requested a moment of silence for Pauline Burke. She wished all the retirees well. Additionally, she expressed her appreciation for all the teachers and staff for their hard work through a difficult and unprecedented year, not only academically but physically, mentally, and socially.

Patricia Libero- Said the hockey banquet was very nice. Erin Blake has a Tinker Blake award each year. This year was the Pam Gardner award which Mackenzie Gardner received. Additionally, she said thank you for the invite to the banquet.

Robert Guthrie- Said thanks to the chairwoman for sending a letter to Education Secretary Cardona it was a wise choice on behalf of the Board.

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 April 5, 2021 at 6:02 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 – Anne Heffernan & Patricia Libero

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified):

21-11 Twana Shirden

Principal-Washington Elementary School

Reason: Resignation

Effective: 6/30/21

21-12 Linda Carlson

5th Grade Teacher-Carrigan Intermediate School

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 6/17/21

21-13 Alice Herrmann

Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher-WHHS

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 6/30/21

21-14 Modestine Vaughn

Physical Education-Carrigan Intermediate School

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 6/30/21

21-15 Lynn Bonaldo

Math Facilitator-Carrigan Intermediate School

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 6/30/21

21-16 Margaret Maher

Director of WHHS Theatre Workshop-West Haven High School

Reason: Retiring
Effective: 6/30/21

21-17 Carol Jacobs

Special Education Department
Reason; Retiring
Effective 6/30/21

Move to Approve.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2.**
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor

D.3. New Hire:

21-18 Judith Drenzek, 44 Winthrop Ct Milford CT 06460
Assistant Superintendent
Salary: To Be Negotiated if approved
Effective: 7/1/21

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.3. 21-18**
Ann Heffernan made the motion
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
Discussion: Robert Guthrie expressed his concerns with the lack of information on the salary.
Aposted: Robert Guthrie
All board members present were in favor

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

D. 4 New Business:

21-19 Adult Education Grant Expansion of NEDP 2021-2022

Move to approve

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 21-19**
Robert Guthrie made the motion
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
Discussion: none
All board members present were in favor

New Business **D.4.** were approved

Informational

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Ann Heffernan made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster