

# **WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**January 4, 2021**

## **Regular Board Meeting**

Streamed through YouTube at:

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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on January 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:**

Rosa Richardson  
Patricia Libero  
Ann Heffernan  
James Morrissey  
Robert Guthrie  
Patrick Egolum  
Rosemary Russo

#### **ABSENT:**

Andrea Talamelli

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

#### **CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

#### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

### **B. Public Portion of Meeting**

None

### **C. REPORTS**

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

Superintendent Cavallaro – addressed Remote Learning for this week. A copy of the City's Health Department newsletter was handed out. The COVID vaccine roll out for 1B for teachers and school staff is delayed. An agreement for one year extension for the Paraprofessional Union is on the agenda. We are looking into the possibility of moving the health benefits to the State Plan. Board members were given a budget to review for the next meeting. Discussed the Capital Plan.

Questions from the board ensued.

Capital Plan Review – see attached.

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

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

James Morrissey – with the numbers going higher and higher, I was wondering what your plan is for next week. With the vaccine and the governor saying, we are behind, I am concerned that staff will be left out in the cold for the next couple of months. I would like to see it done a lot quicker than later. It seems to me that vaccinations have not been going as planned. I would like to see full-court press that teachers all staff are vaccinated sooner before in person learning. I just feel and been saying from day one that the safety of our students and staff is paramount. Thank you Mike McGrath for handling my problem today.

Cebi Waterfield – Ct has a vaccine database for keeping track of whom and when they have been vaccinated. I think the last I checked we are right on track for administering the vaccine. We are where we should be for vaccines received. There is no current legislation that mandates the vaccine even for health care workers. I was thinking about the past year and all the things that we have suffered through as a society. One of the things that struck me was that I felt so much better when I focused on all the positive things that happened in 2020, that the pandemic drew out. I think it is really important that as a society, as a whole, that we look at all the things we have gained from the pandemic. The reminder of how important the peoples in our lives are and the technology that we have mastered. We appreciate all the hard work that all the staff has accomplished and please know that I can speak for everyone on the board that we have recognized the perk oleum efforts that you guys have put in to make all these successes happen. I just want to say thank you and Happy New Year and hopefully, this will bring about better days for all of us.

Ann Heffernan – the hospital is going down every week. I hope that the vaccine will be sooner than later.

Robert Guthrie – congratulations to Anthony Vendrella for being recognized for All State Boys Soccer LL. Coach Bill McDermott, Coach of the Year for Cross Country. The CABA Legislation Breakfast will be virtual, it is January 22, 2021. You can register on-line.

Rosa Richardson – my neighbor benefited from the WHHS Toys for Joy, I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks, I know you made kids very happy on Christmas day. Thank you.

Patricia Libero – I just want to say about kids going back to school, Fauci came out December 10, 2020 saying kids belong in school. It does more harm than good to keep them home. This is a study from November, Brown University among the 200,000 students and 6300 staff that returned to school, an infection rate of 0.13% among students and among staff 0.24%. They have not seen super spreader events in school and that was done with 47 states over the first two weeks of September. So, I think that people are doing what they need to do when they go to school.

I think it is working and people are doing what they have to do to keep people safe. Kids are suffering not being in school. Is it a choice for staff to take the vaccination? Mike and Chris thank you for everything you do for the schools.

Rosemary Russo – I wish everyone a Happy New Year and I hope things in the school go better than last year. I think I heard Neil say, he would not think of extending the day until the teachers are vaccinated.

## **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 December 7, 2020 at 6:02 p.m.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Robert Guthrie seconded the motion

Abstain – Patricia Libero

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** were approved

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

### **20-94 Nomiki Theodosiou, El Teacher – Carrigan School**

Effective – January 15, 2021

Reason - resignation

### **20-95 Joanne Cooper, Math Facilitator – Seth Haley School**

Effective – June 30, 2021

Reason – Retirement

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2.** all-inclusive **20-94/20-95**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Resignations **D.2.** were approved

## **D.3. New Hire:**

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

##### **20-96 West Haven Board of Education and West Haven Federation of Paraprofessionals, AFT Local 2262 Contract Extension**

##### **Move to approve**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 20-96**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosemary Russo read the job description for a Medical Building Paraprofessional

All board members present were in favor

New Business **D.4. 20-96** were approved

##### **20-97 West Haven Board of Education Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

##### **Move to approve**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.4. 20-97**

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

New Business **D.4. 20-97** were approved

#### **Informational**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Ann Heffernan made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM

Respectfully submitted, Tamara Mursko