

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 16, 2021
Regular Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on August 16, 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 6:01 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Andrea Talamelli
James Morrissey
Patricia Libero
Rosemary Russo
Patrick Egolum
Cebi Waterfield
Anne Heffernan
Rosa Richardson

ABSENT:

Robert Guthrie

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil C. Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools,
Judith Drenzek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Marissa Acampora, Director of Programs & Engagement

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

B. Public Portion of Meeting:

Public session – Portia Bias, 155 Bull Hill Ln, Apt 302, West Haven, CT 06516
Addressed the board with her concerns regarding the Paraprofessional contract.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro addressed Ms. Bias regarding the mutual agreement and her concerns. He did inform her that out of all the unions the Para's pay the lowest cost share. In addition to the low cost share we changed health plans which in return is a lower premium; therefore, the paras receive more money in their paychecks. Additionally, Superintendent Cavallaro addressed the Board with all the Bailey projects and timeframes. He also stated that he was looking into extending the Bailey cafeteria (beginning stages). He touched base on the new number of teachers that will work with the students directly along with some opening left but for the upcoming school year they are in very good shape. He made it clear to the public and board that he promises to spend all COVID relief money, and he will not leave any on the table. He complimented all administration staff for the hard work and dedication they put in. He gave a special thank you to Marissa for the summer programs and how successful it was. He touched base on the additional security and cleaning for the upcoming school year and how he would like to continue with additional cleaning throughout the year. Lastly, he provided the board with a news article and Marissa's presentation.

Questions from the board ensued.

Assistant Superintendent Judith Drenzek informed the board of teacher orientation and workshops in the upcoming weeks.

Questions from the board ensued.

Director of Programs & Engagement Marissa Acampora gave a presentation to the board and public. Please see attached.

Questions from the board ensued.

C.1.b Student Representatives

C.1.c. Board

Rosemary Russo- Wishes everyone a good healthy year and good luck.

Cebi Waterfield- Thanked Superintendent Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent Judith Drenzek, and Marissa for all her hard work.

Patrick Egolum- Asked Superintendent Neil Cavallaro about the percentage of staff vaccinated. He replied with between 70-75%.

James Morrissey- Asked Superintendent Neil Cavallaro if he plans to continue cleaning the schools each year moving forward. Superintendent Neil Cavallaro said he is hopeful because it is

very important. He also asked about the light by Bailey. Superintendent Neil Cavallaro advised there are some factors that are being worked on with the UI, but they have the permit and will reach out to the UI.

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 July 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion

James Morrissey seconded the motion

Discussion: none

Abstain – Anne Heffernan & Cebi Waterfield

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.a** approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified):

21-80 Cynthia Franco

Special Education teacher: Savin Rock

Reason: Retiring

Effective: 08/1/2021

21-81 Makenna DiGuilio

Teacher: WHHS

Reason: Resignation

Effective: 07/22/2021

21-82 Rachael Polansky

Spanish Teacher: WHHS

Reason: Resignation

Effective: 07/22/2021

21-83 Jamie Hearn

Teacher: Bailey Middle School

Reason: Resignation

Effective: 07/23/2021

21-84 Rafay Irfan (New hire on previous agenda)

Teacher: Carrigan Intermediate School

Reason: Resignation

Effective: 07/23/2021

21-85 Robert Nehrkorn

Teacher: Carrigan Intermediate School

Reason: Resignation

Effective: 08/31/2021

21-86 Natalie Souza

Teacher: English (WHHS)

Reason: Resignation

Effective: 08/26/2021

21-98 Stacie Rivard-Pedigo

Reason: Resignation

Kindergarten-Forest School

Effective: 08/24/2021

21-99 Sharon Gissel

Reason: Resignation

Teacher-Forest School

Effective: 08/26/2021

Move to Approve.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-80 - 21-86 & 21-98 – 21-99**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

21-87 Victoria Ramada, 2 Lasalette Way. North Branford, CT 06471

Teacher: 6th Grade (Carrigan Intermediate School)

Salary: \$45,786.00

Step: 1 BS + 30

Effective: 08/26/2021

21-88 Alysha Noss, 335 Ferry Blvd., Stratford, CT 06615

Teacher: Pre-K (Seth G. Haley Elementary)

Salary: \$49,949.00

Step: 2 + 30

Effective: 08/24/2021

21-89 Elizabeth Kiley, 353 Kneeland Rd., New Haven, CT 06512

Teacher: Special Education Inclusion (Bailey)

Salary: \$49,949.00
Step: 2 BS + 30
Effective: 08/24/2021

21-90 Amber L. Elusma, 360 Meadowbrook Ct., West Haven, CT 06516
Teacher: Special Education Inclusion (Savin Rock School) (DSAP-Pending Praxis)
Salary: \$41,644.00
Step: 1
Effective: 08/24/2021

21-91 Christina Kalafut, 14 Simos Ln., West Haven, CT 06516
Teacher: Drama (Bailey Middle School)
Salary: \$41,644.00
Step: 1
Effective: 08/24/2021

21-92 Vinnie Carr, 35 Spruce Peak Ln., West Haven, CT 06516
Teacher: Grade 2 (Pagels School)
Salary: \$45,786.00
Step: 1 BS + 30
Effective 08/26/2021

21-93 Alecia Massaro, 35 School St., Unit A6, Hamden, CT 06518
Teacher: Art (Seth Haley)
Salary: \$41,644.00
Step: BS 1
Effective: 08/24/2021

21-94 Samantha Silver, Conestoga Dr., Madison, CT 06443
Introduction to Journalism (Bailey Middle School)
Salary: \$52,030.00
Step: 3 + 30
Effective: 08/24/2021

21-95 Lars Edeen, 403 Pilgrim Harbor, Wallingford, CT 06492
Current Events/Sports & Culture (Bailey Middle School)
Salary: \$52,030.00
Step: 3 + 30
Effective: 08/24/2021

21-96 Krzysztof Lasocki, 122 Willard St., New Haven, CT 06515
Teacher: Chemistry (WHHS)
Salary: \$48,908.00
Step: 1 + 60 Ph D Stipend \$3,500.00
Effective: 08/24/2021

21-97 Gianna Grotto, 1019 Gambelli Dr. Yorktown Heights, NY 1059

Teacher: 3rd Grade (Mackrille)

Salary: \$45,789.00

Step: 1

Effective: 08/30/2021

21-100 Rebecca Ouellette, 23 Dove Lane, Middletown CT 06457

Teacher: Social Studies (Bailey Middle School)

Salary: \$44,226.00

Step: 2 BS

Effective: 08/24/2021

21-101 Christopher Hughes, 477 Alling Farm Rd., Orange, CT 06477

Teacher: Mackrille/Seth Haley

Salary: \$41,644.00

Step: 1 BS

Effective: 08/24/2021

21-102 Eugenie O'Callaghan, 141 Atwater St., West Haven, CT 06516

Teacher: Special Education (Bailey Middle School)

Salary: \$64,198.00

Step: 6 BS + 30

Effective: 08/26/2021

21-103 Lindsay Smolka, 75 Hickory Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Teacher: Spanish (WHHS)

Salary: \$76,624.00

Step: 8

Effective: 08/27/2021

Move to Approve.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve **D.2. 21-87-21-97 & 21-100-21-103**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

D. 4 New Business:

Settlement Agreement between the West Haven Board of Education and the West Haven Federation of Paraprofessionals, AFT Local 2262

Move to Approve.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosemary advised she cannot accept this contract. She explained that we continue to add more and more onto the para's job description. They have physical altercations, they change diapers, yet they do not receive additional pay. Minimum wage will be at \$15.00 shortly and she feels it's a slap in the paras faces who have been here for years. The paras need a livable wage. James Morrissey agreed with Rosemary. Also said paras are under paid for what they do. They do a great job but with that said leadership and management negotiated and its tough not to vote on it tonight but down the road their pay needs to be discussed. Patricia Libero stated I would like to give all staff a raise, but since we are under MARB, they certainly would not approve a huge raise. Our city is broke. Hopefully, next time we negotiate, we will be in a better position to offer raises to all!

Apposed: Rosemary Russo

All board members present were in favor with the exception of Rosemary Russo

Informational

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster