

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 7, 2020

Regular Board Meeting

Streamed through YouTube at:

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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on December 7, 2020 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 6:02 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rosa Ricardson
Ann Heffernan
James Morrissey
Robert Guthrie
Patrick Egolum
Rosemary Russo
Andrea Talamelli

ABSENT:

Patricia Libero

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Becky Charron, 252 Richmond Ave, spoke about the comparison between Distance Learning at Bailey and WHHS. Bailey, team 3 was 90% live lesson, six hours and very positive. WHHS did not look the same, only 4-hour session and only 60% live. Some class not live and the day shortened. Spoke of the time students have lost. Three months in springtime, 1/3 semester one and 1/3 semester two. What is going to happen?

Rosemary Russo – see attached

Public Portion ended 6:11 p.m.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro – is meeting with the Administrators’ on Wednesday to review the Distance Learning from last week and the plan going forward. We received positive feedback. If we were able to incorporate the DL with the in school students we can increase instructional hours. I am recommending keeping schools open. I sent you the Department of Health newsletter. After a meeting of the Department of Health, we are hearing that the schools will be Tier 1B for the vaccine.

Questions from the board ensued.

Miguelina Felix – Communication Director gave a presentation on Distance Learning – see attached.

C.1.b Student Representatives

C.1.c. Board

Rosemary Russo –You’ve done a great job keeping the schools open but with the numbers where they are now and Christmas coming I think it should be something to consider. I want to clarify the numbers I gave; it is 82.2 per 100 thousand. We been lucky so far, but it is a high number.

Andrea Talamelli – it is important to wear a mask, we have to be so conscience.

Ann Heffernan – agrees we need to follow protocol.

James Morrissey – agreed with Rose, why did we come back to school this week. I don’t have the numbers but I am concerned that opening the schools now is premature. I wanted to give a shout out to the staff at Bailey, last week the staff was there at 6:30 a.m. getting ready for DL. Thank you to all the teaching staff.

Robert Guthrie – what is the status of the Bailey Roof. After the project, he would like a letter sent to the neighbors on Morgan Lane and Benham Hill for their cooperation during this time.

Patrick Egolum – I understand what Rose and Jimmy are saying but on the other hand if parents send their kids to school, I don’t think it is a good idea to go against their wish. I think we should defer this decision to Neil whether to do in class or DL.

Cebi Waterfield – read a thank you note from Anne Druzolowski. It is a difficult decision that Neil has to make. I received emails from staff with their concerns but also parents that are concerned for their children’s education. Asked to look at the contact tracing in schools and what the State Board of Education says about keeping schools open. Thank you for everyone’s effort.

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 November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes **D.1.a**
Robert Guthrie made the motion
Rosemary Russo seconded the motion
Abstain – Cebi Waterfield
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor

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

D.2. Resignations: (Certified):

D.3. New Hire: all inclusive 20-92 – 20-93

20-92 Alyssa Haigh, 10 Skyline Drive, Oxford, CT 06478
Position: Elementary Teacher, Seth Haley
Salary: \$41,644.00
Step: 1 BS
Effective: November 23, 2020

20-93 Suzanne Torre, 350 Savin Ave, Unit 31, West Haven, CT 06516
Position: Nurse, Notre Dame High School
Salary: \$44,515.21
Step: 2
Effective: November 02, 2020

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes **D.3.**
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor

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

D. 4 New Business:

Informational

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM

Respectfully submitted, Tamara Mursko