

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 2, 2020

Regular Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on November 2, 2020 at West Haven High School Cafe, McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT. Cebi Waterfield, Chairperson of the Board of Education called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rosa Richardson, Vice Chair
James Morrissey
Robert Guthrie
Patrick Egolum
Rosemary Russo
Patricia Libero
Andrea Talamelli

ABSENT:

Anne Heffernan

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Neil C. Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Anne P. Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
Matthew Cavallaro, Finance Director

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Anthony Ventrella
Mackenzie Gardner

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Karen Studley, 258 Richmond Ave, the district did many things right, athletics, amazing teachers, best teachers in the state. Return plan better than district she works in, communication outstanding. Two concerns: how to teach when classes are quarantined. Distance Learning is not consistent. It is imperative to make a plan for teachers to feel comfortable.

Public Portion ended 6:14 p.m.

REPORTS

Rosa Richardson made a motion to move D.1.b. Student Representatives up.
Pat Libero seconded the motion
All members present were in favor
Motion passed

D.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

Mackenzie Gardner – spoke about the “Toy’s for Joy” program by the Peer Advocates. Grace Nowak spoke about the “Fill-A-Bag Fuel-A-Mind food drive.

Anthony Ventrella – spoke about the sports and clubs doing a great job. Clubs are remote and there is a great attendance rate.

C.

Rosa Richardson made a motion to move to **Executive Session - Discuss Superintendent’s goals and possible contract extension**
Patricia Libero seconded the motion
All members present were in favor
Motion passed 6:22 p.m.

7:01 p.m. meeting called back to order

D.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro – COVID is on the rise in the City. The principals have done a good job keeping the schools open. We want to keep the schools open. The suicide rate is going up. Kids are in school and participating in school activities. The State Department of Education put out a letter stating schools are safe. The schools is not where the virus is spreading. Right now, the classes are covered. I want to congratulate Anne on her retirement and the last twelve years of service. We had a good marriage. I want to compliment her because she would not settle for second best. She knew our kids could do more. She brought her vast experience here and had high expectations. She taught the administrators and the kids to be better. Thank you for your service and friendship.

D.1.c. Board

Robert Guthrie – would like a Bailey roof update

James Morrissey – wish Anne the best in retirement on behalf of the West Haven School system. She has helped so many people along the way. Thank you and I wish you the best.

Rosemary Russo – When Superintendent Cavallaro found Dr. Druzolowski, he actually found a pot of gold. Anne has brought so much to the table. With Anne came change and change for the better. She taught our teachers how to educate our children through data driven instruction. Anne was all about the data and because of this it-changed education in our city. I remember when Anne first came, I was sitting in the audience at the Board meeting and just listening to her, in the end, I learned so much from you, you helped me become a better teacher. Instruction is not the only thing that made Anne a memorable assistant. Anne was also very generous. When MARB first came to town, Anne’s contract was up for renewal, and when asked if she would consider a pay cut, she agreed without hesitation, making her the only city official that did. It made me feel bad for the rest of the year because I was the one who asked her. I just thought that was incredible. Anne you have worked very hard your entire life and have truly made a difference. I wish you the happiest of all retirements and may it be healthy and long. Thank you for working so hard for the youngsters of West Haven.

Pat Libero – Thank you, Anne. I got to work with you as an administrator and on the board; you never got rid of me. I got to see it from a different perspective. You’ve meant a lot to this school system, I learned a lot from you, I appreciate that, thank you. Enjoy.

Patrick Egolum- I was quite unaware of Anne’s retirement and tempted to make a motion on behalf of the board and myself not to accept. I know it is impossible. When I was on the board previously you and Neil had been the most consequential pair that we ever had in this school system. You have been marvelous. I thank you so much and wish you a very good retirement.

Ross Richardson – I talked to Anne in her office and said everything I needed to say already.

Cebi Waterfield – Anne, you know how I feel. From day one, I was a fan. We will never be able to replace you. You and Neil complimented each other so well. There has never been a time that I have come to you to have you work on something that your number one priority was not putting the kids first. That is a very admiral trait. Not everyone has that. I truly appreciate you. We will desperately miss you.

Dr. Anne Druzolowski – I learned more from everyone here I am sure, than you learned from me. I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to take everything that I thought I knew and learn to make it into something better with the help of the teachers and support staff. It was like a dream come true. It may be bitter sweet for me. You will see me around. Thank you so much for everything you have done, it is so much appreciated.

E.1. Approval of Minutes

E.1.a The West Haven Board of Education Meeting was held in the WHHS Cafe on October 19, 2020 at 6:04 PM.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **E.1.** were approved

E.2. Resignations: (Certified):

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes **E.2.**

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor, but motion carried with regret.

Resignation **E.2.** was approved

E.3. New Hire:

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes **E.3.**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Robert Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

New Hire **E.3.** were approved

E. 4 New Business: None

Informational

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Mursko