

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 5, 2020

Regular Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on October 5, 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
Anne Heffernan
Robert Guthrie
Patrick Egolum
Rosemary Russo

ABSENT:

Patricia Libero, Andrea Talamelli

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Anthony Ventrella
Mackenzie Gardner

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Marilyn Halligan Richmond Ave, Georgianna Dini, Jones Hill Rd. addressed the board regarding livable wages, struggling to pay the 11% for insurance. They would like their contract to remain the same for the next three years.

Public Portion Closed 6:08 pm

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Joseph Morrell, Athletic Director presented an update regarding Fall/Winter sports.

Marissa Acampora, COVID Liaison – see attached

Superintendent Cavallaro spoke regarding contact tracing and staying with the four-hour session at least to the holidays. There is a lot going in a four-hour day with the elimination of lunch and recess. However, when does the Distance Learning end? The teacher's paras and secretaries are doing soluble work. We need to get kids by to school. I do not know if we can keep up the pace. I might know more after the Superintendent is meeting on Friday.

Rosemary Russo – how will you manage with all the students returning

Neil – it is going to be a challenge, but if schools are open, you have to come back. We do not have staff to do two jobs.

Rosemary Russo – with the money spent on Distance Learning there has to be a better way than 35% getting an hour teaching.

Neil – I am concerned about those students too. However, family that opt out are assuming the responsibility of teaching their children. There are a handful of kids coming back.

Rosemary Russo – The Commissioner of Education made it sound like we have people available.

Neil – we might use some of the teachers at home due to COVID. It would be based on the building needs. The State has to make a decision to get back to school.

James Morrissey – hoping the kids will get back. How is it going with the union and the administration? Take a deep breath it is for the students.

Neil – I have met with Kristen. We are giving a quality education.

Patrick Egolum- we need an incentive to send kids back to school. If teachers doing double work, is there any money in the budget for them?

Neil – I can't imagine a safer environment than what we provide. It is very safe. Teachers doing a great job keeping kids apart. We are looking into forming a Distance Learning team, which we are willing to pay extra. The principals are developing a plan.

Matthew Cavallaro reviewed the fiscal year 2021 operating budget and money spent through the CARES Act.

Questions from the board ensued.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

Mackenzie Gardner – will there be mask breaks once the winter comes.

Anthony Ventrella – B wing hallway is a high traffic area.

C.1.c. Board

Rosemary Russo – works with paras, hopes we can move little bit closer to helping them out. Asked about the Tennis courts.

Rosa Richardson – thank you to the administrators when we came to visit. It was very enlightening. The teachers, para and students were involved, focused and all had masks on.

James Morrissey – Rose and myself went to Forest and WHHS with Marissa to look around. We found a few things, ceiling tiles, which were fixed, thank you. It will take two days to go through the high school. Neil took care of tech issues. Neil and WHPD officer agreed to put a speed monitor at Bailey. People are speeding. The flashing lights on Jones Hill Rd are not working. Traffic and the UI will look into getting it resolved.

Cebi Waterfield – Thank you paras, you always come out and support. We know how hard you work. Happy to hear we are moving in the right direction. If I get emails, I always pass them along to the building administrator. I only received one since the last meeting. That's a good sign.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1. the West Haven Board of Education Meeting was held in the WHHS Auditorium on Tuesday, September 21, 2020 at 6:04 PM.

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

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Robert Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.** were approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified) 20-87

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the resignations **D.2.**

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: none

All board members present were in favor

Resignations **D.2.** were approved

D.3. New Hire: none

D. 4 New Business – Adoption of the Board of Education approved budget fiscal year 2021

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

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: none

All board members present were in favor

Resignations **D.4.** were approved

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 7:18 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Mursko