

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**May 4, 2020**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Via Zoom and You Tube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQTra2w-5h4>

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on May 4, 2020 as a Virtual Business meeting via Zoom and You Tube, pursuant to Governor Ned Lamont Executive Order NO. 7B. The meeting was called to order by Cebi Waterfield, Chairperson of the Board of Education at 6:03 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cebi Waterfield, Chairwoman  
Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer  
Patrick Egolum  
Andrea Talamelli  
Robert Guthrie  
Rosemary Russo

**ABSENT:**

Rosa Richardson, Vice Chair  
James Morrissey  
Anne Heffernan

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil C. Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent  
Matthew Cavallaro, Finance Director

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Nancy Rossi

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:**

Anthony Ventrella  
Brendan Carew  
Mackenzie Gardner

**B. Public Portion of Meeting**

Chairwoman Waterfield read a public comment received via email into the record.

Victoria Hulse – 97 Morgan Lane

As an educator, it has been extremely difficult to change our ways of teaching practically overnight. I have been impressed with work the teachers have put in; however, I do feel the district could be doing more to promote a sense of community. I'm extremely disappointed that my children have not seen their teachers faces at all during this time period, other than the videos the schools put together. I understand not all teachers are comfortable "meeting" students online, but it should be allowed if teachers wish to do so. The meetings do not have to be live—recordings are a great tool that can be used. With 3 children in the school system

they have not spoken to their teachers this entire time. They miss their teachers terribly and their teachers miss them. It is absolutely affecting the mental health of both parties. Several districts are allowing teachers to meet online or create recordings for their students—so why not West Haven? Is it the lack of training and resources? I'm very concerned that if school must continue distance learning next year that my children will become disengaged in school as they won't feel connected to anyone. This has already been a challenge this year. I love my children's teachers and support them in everything they do. I want my children's school district to support the option of allowing children to meet with their teachers and peers online. It is an educational inequity, especially when other local districts are already implementing this practice.

Public session closed at 6:06 PM.

## **REPORTS**

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

Superintendent Cavallaro's Status of Schools – report attached

Attorney Floyd Dugas, Berchem, Moses PC, presented the negotiated contract for the West Haven Board of Education and CWA Local 1103 for Board approval.

Michael Losasso, Antinozzi Associates, presented the Washington Elementary School Educational Specifications for Board approval to build a new Washington Elementary School.

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

See attached report.

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

Patricia Libero – Thank you for all the hard work you are doing. I am happy with what's going on with staff and students. This is Teacher Appreciation week and I am thankful to be part of this community.

Andrea Talamelli- The administration, counselors and teachers are doing an amazing job.

Rosemary Russo – Thank you to all staff for what they have done for the kids. Happy Teacher Appreciation.

Patrick Egolum – The administration had done a marvelous job. Regarding the Washington School project, it makes economic sense to have a new building.

Cebi Waterfield – proud of all staff from the top to the bottom. Paraprofessionals have been doing on-line workshops that are very helpful. Schools are putting videos on-line. Ms. Morrell tapping and singing, parade videos. All examples of the Westie community pulling together.

## **D.1. Approval of Minutes**

**D.1.a. The West Haven Board of Education Meeting** was held in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

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

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Abstained: Patricia Libero

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

## **D.2. Resignations: (Certified) All inclusive: 20-09, 20-10, 20-11**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the resignations; all-inclusive **D.2.**

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: Patricia Libero said, she worked with all three, they will be missed.

All board members present were in favor

Resignations **D.2.** were approved

## **D.3. New Hire: (Certified) All inclusive: 20-12, 20-13, 20-14, 20-15, 20-16**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the new hires **D.3.**

Patricia Libero made the motion

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Items D.3. were approved

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

##### **20-17 West Haven Board of Education and CWA Local 1103 Contract 2019-2023**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve 20-17

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Item 20-17 is approved

##### **20-18 Educational Specifications for Washington Elementary School**

Chairwoman Waterfield recognizing Robert Guthrie to make the motion to approve 20-18, Educational Specifications for Washington School. He asked me in advance as a former Washington School student.

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: Robert Guthrie- thank you Cebi. Although I don't go back as far as 1909 it is long enough when you walked home for lunch. Back to the days of Principal McClean, Mrs. Gagliardi and Mrs. Dwyer. Washington School has serviced the district and town well. The time is right, the finances are right. It is a pleasure to make the motion.

All board members present were in favor

Item 20-18 is approved

#### **Informational**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Rosemary Russo made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Mursko