

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 3, 2020

Regular Board Meeting

Board's Meeting Room

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on February 3, 2020 in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by Cebi Waterfield, Chairperson of the Board of Education at 6:23 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cebi Waterfield, Chairwoman
Rosa Richardson, Vice Chair
Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer
James Morrissey
Robert Guthrie
Rosemary Russo

ABSENT:

Patrick Egolum
Anne Heffernan
Andrea Talamelli

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Mackenzie Gardner
Anthony Ventrella

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairwoman Waterfield asked if anyone would like to speak during public session.

Farah Najjari 33 Kenneth St, West Haven, CT spoke in support of Ms. Daniels, teacher at West Haven High School. On the top of her midterm, it said, you got this, keep going, almost there and you made it. She never had such a wholesome experience with a teacher. Ms. Daniels is passionate; we are standing by a teacher who stands by us.

Jenna Saier, 75 Downdraft Circle, West Haven, CT spoke in support of Ms. Daniels, she is always there to help me. Always put me before herself. Helps me with my disability.

Dante Rodney, 70 Hemlock St, West Haven, CT spoke in support of Ms. Daniels. She is very welcoming and has motivated me to do better.

Kaleb Eagles 258 Brown St, West Haven, CT spoke in support of Ms. Daniels, she is a very real teacher, done nothing but showed us support. Explains things to me that I can understand.

Divine Belcher, 36 Blohm St, West Haven, CT spoke in support of Ms. Daniels. Great teacher to all students. Wants us to succeed. Being the teacher that everyone likes was never the goal for her. But being the teacher that sets students up to reach their fullest potential, was.

Riannie Mustafa, 259 Park St, West Haven, CT spoke in support of Ms. Daniels. Coming from an immigrant family, I wasn't comfortable all the time. Ms. Daniels went out of her way to make us welcome. Always making sure all students are ok.

Rikki Brown, 5 Prospect St, West Haven, CT a colleague of Ms. Daniels. As a person of color it is helpful to have another person to turn to when students come to you with issues. Having a conversation of diversity is hard. We teach the students why words are so powerful and so meaningful and what is the history behind these words.

Cassie Marcella, 216 Beach St, West Haven, CT spoke in support of Ms. Daniels. Ms. Daniels inspires the students and the WHHS staff and I want to thank her for that.

Ms. Daniels addressed the conversation and the mission that was surrounding this controversial conversation. Contacted Don Sawyer, Associate President and Diversity Officer at Quinnipiac University. In summary we as stake holders need to challenge and validate the students so they can prepare themselves for their futures. It was an educational history of a word commonly used every day. This is not a West Haven issue but an American issue. Proud to work at a school with an administration who knows the importance of these conversations.

Public session closed at 6:44 PM.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro thanked the students and staff of Washington and Mackrille. Dr. Anne Druzolowski will give a report in the near future regarding the four schools classified as Schools of Distinction.

Presentation – 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan – Ken Carney, West Haven Building Committee, Michael McGrath and Chris Everone, Facilities, went through the plan with the Board of Education members (attached).

Presentation – Jason LaFleur, Project Manager for Construction Solutions Group regarding the Educational Specifications for the Bailey Roof Replacement Project.

Meg Kingston, Food Service Director – regarding two motions for the Healthy Food Certificate.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

Anthony Ventrella – this past Thursday, Mackenzie and I were inducted into the National Honor Society. Brendan Carew, is President of the National Honor Society. Thank you to the Board of Education members that attended. The 8th Grade Open House will be taking place at the high school on February 5, 2020.

Mackenzie Gardner – this week is Spirit Week, Westie Pride Day and Unity Day. We are proud of all students that spoke tonight. It is very important that high school students have a voice. We would like the Board to visit WHHS during school hours.

C.1.c. Board

Ms. Russo – Congratulations to the Honor Society inductees. Looking forward to hearing from Dr. Druzolowski on the Schools of Distinction.

Ms. Libero – The Honor Society was very nice. As they build the new high school up, it will change the whole school climate. Thank you, Bob for being Co-Chair at the CABE breakfast in Derby. The Derby turf is beautiful.

Mr. Morrissey – asked if it is possible to open the concession stand for the UNH Hockey games.

Mr. Guthrie – went to CABE breakfast in Derby. CABE Day on the Hill is in March 11th. Thank you to Carrigan and Bailey PTA for supporting this. Spelling Bee kids did excellent. Thank you for remembering former Council Member Ralph Eberle. His family appreciates it.

Ms. Richardson – thank you to Mr. Guthrie for opening up the breakfast for Board members and taking advantage of CABE. Maybe bring them in to keep us up to date with changes.

Ms. Waterfield – thank you Mr. Guthrie for always keeping her updated on CABE. If there is an opportunity for us to have them come and speak, I am more than happy to have that happen. Spoke to the 1984 Champions on Saturday, they were so thankful and impressed with the day.

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, January 21, 2020 at 6:29 PM.

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

Patricia Libero made the motion

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Abstained: Patricia Libero, James Morrissey and Rosa Richardson were absent

minutes D.1.a. are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

D. 4 New Business

20-04 Recommendation of 5-year Capital Improvement Plan

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve 20-04

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa Richardson gave thanks, we needed to address this for a long time

All board members present were in favor

20-04 is approved

20-05 Educational Specifications of the Bailey Roof Replacement Project

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve 20-05

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Robert Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: none

All board members present were in favor

20-05 is approved

**20-06 ED-099 Connecticut State Department of Education Agreement for
Child Nutrition Programs**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve 20-06

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: none

All board members present were in favor

20-06 is approved

**20-07 Approval of the Connecticut State Department of Education Child Nutrition
Program (ED-099) Healthy Food Certification Statement; Consideration 2 –
Exemption for Food Items**

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve 20-07

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: none

All board members present were in favor

20-07 is approved

Informational

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Rosemary Russo seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Mursko