

# **WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**May 6, 2019**

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Board's Meeting Room**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on May 6, 2019 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 Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 6:30 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

Before beginning the meeting Chairwoman Russo asked for a Moment of Silence for Wayne Limosani. Chairwoman Russo didn't know him personally but has heard wonderful things about him. He was the Go To Guy and was always happy and had a story to tell. He was very well liked and will be missed. Chairwoman Russo said we will have a Moment of Silence for Wayne Limosani. Thank you.

Last week was Administrative Assistant's Day so we wanted to let Marylou know how much we appreciate her. Applause. She was given a beautiful basket with two flowering plants and a generous gift certificate. She thanked the board members and told them she loved her job and how much their thoughtfulness was appreciated.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

##### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rosemary Russo Chairwoman  
Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair  
Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer  
Lauren Aceto  
Patricia Libero  
Karen Pacelli  
Rosa Richardson

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** James W. Morrissey  
Patrick Leigh

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools  
Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent  
Matt Cavallaro, Director of Finance

##### **CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

#### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **PRESENT:**

Brendan Carew  
Julia Walker

## **B. Public Portion of Meeting**

Chairwoman Russo welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for staying after the previous meeting ended. She then asked if anyone would like to address the board this evening during public session.

Dr. Rose Paolino presented to the Board of Ed and administrators an invite to our 5<sup>th</sup> Signing Day and we are very excited for this and all are welcome. We recognize our seniors that will further their education in addition to the military and we have surpassed our 120 from last year. This year we are close to 130 or 140. Rose McDonnell is instrumental in getting this together with us. This takes place next Friday at 12:15 at Cielo's. Dr. Paolino thanked the Board of Ed and administration for the support of the past 30 years because as you know I am retiring and don't want to say too much about this as I get very choked up about it. Without this support Signing Day wouldn't be here. Whenever something comes our way we say we have to do that and we just go to the Board, Neil and Anne and they say go for it. Truly that is how it has been for the last 30 years here. They have always had the confidence in the department and I am thankful for that. Hopefully we will see all of you at Signing Day. Please respond to Teresa Heaney by Thursday only because we want to order a special gift that goes along with the theme if you are attending. The board gave thanks.

Superintendent Cavallaro wanted to recognize Rose tonight because her name is on the agenda and we are going to miss her. We have worked together almost the full 30 years from Thompson and Carrigan and we had a lot of fun. Rose you have done a great job with the counseling department and you will be missed. Thank you for everything you have done. Applause. Chairwoman Russo said congratulations and enjoy your retirement.

Dana Paredes, 54 Barbara Lane said in addition to Signing Day we also have our yearly Attendance Hearing coming up. Usually Rosa and Pat take us up on this and it takes place May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 3:00 PM so if any board member is available please come to sit on the panel. It takes place right here in the Board's Meeting Room. It is a long day and a lot of difficult decisions but Rosa and Pat would agree that it is very eye opening to hear what some of students deal with at home and what they are up against when it comes to accessing their education. It is positive in that way so we invite you to serve. Please let Marylou know so she can respond back to me with the names. The board gave thanks.

Pat Libero said when we first started the kids looked on it as attendance court and they were so nervous and would come in all dressed up and some would bring their parents and had the documentation they needed like a doctor's excuse. They do take this very seriously and some of the kids that miss class are frivolous but some would break your heart with what they put up with and are able to graduate. It is a really good night and I am glad we get to do that; thank you.

Steven Christian Mullins addressed the board and the entire address is located at the end of the minutes. (Thank you for your report Christian). Pat Libero said she saw Kinky Boots when it first went on Broadway before it won all the awards and has seen it three times as it is one of her favorite shows and it was so exciting to see one of our own on stage and then we were able to go back stage and meet people and it was very exciting. Pat thanked Steven for letting her be part of that. Steven said you're welcome to Pat. The board gave thanks.

Patricia Bollettieri, 215 West Walk said this year the West Haven Board of Education will have a budget of almost 90M including money that you guys didn't even ask for. Every year we have to spend more and more whether we want to or not because we are an Alliance District. By definition an Alliance District means we are not performing well; so the worse we do the more money we get. In her opinion we should get more money the better we do. It does not take a lot of money to educate a child and throwing more and more money at education isn't going to help our students do better. So much of our money is not spent wisely. State Government is at fault primarily making you comply with mandates which require the time and energy of administrators. Our legislators in Hartford need to repeal the laws which say you have to spend more and more every year and get rid of mandates which waste money on compliance reporting and enforcement and let you the West Haven Board of Education run our system without interference from Hartford. A lengthy further discussion took place. The board gave thanks. There were no other speakers. Public session ended at 6:50 PM.

## **REPORTS**

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

The Superintendent's report will be found at the end of the minutes. Mr. Ken Carney was also in attendance and gave an update on the feasibility study for the purpose of a renovation project at Washington School and an update on the budget projections for the WHHS project. Questions were asked by board members and responded to.

Superintendent Cavallaro talked about the updated Kindergarten Registration. Pagels is low right now we are going to keep three classes and that is a good thing as we have a place to maneuver some kids if the numbers stay that low and the other numbers don't change this could possibly be two classes and move the teacher someplace else. He does anticipate the numbers to go up a little bit. Haley is a little bit high but being so close to Pagels we may be able to do some moving around.

Bob Guthrie asked that at the end of the year to have a side by side from where we started with the enrollment per building from day 1 to the last day. Can you note the transient population per building so we can see the history? Tammy saves the monthly reports so I am sure we can do that. Neil thinks that while the numbers vary they are not that much different because kids leave and they come back so it is a little bit deceiving. Bob said it will be interesting to show us how many kids started, left and came back. Superintendent Cavallaro is sure that can be done. Superintendent Cavallaro told the board members to take their time and go through the packet that he supplied them with during the meeting and if there were any questions to please let him know.

Superintendent Cavallaro said that on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April the South Central Superintendent's Association recognized six students from each school district. Students are recognized for community service, service to others, academic prowess and leadership to the school community. We recognized two students from Carrigan, two students from Bailey, and two students from the high school. The students and their principals, and most of their parents were at the luncheon at Anthony's Ocean View. Michael Luzietti and Gabrielle Bash are from Carrigan Jayden Ginsberg and Takiya Awwal are from Bailey, and Dominic Cambino and Rua Osman are from West Haven High School. This was a real nice event and Superintendent Cavallaro wanted to make sure that the kids were recognized.

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

The Student Representatives Report will be found at the end of the minutes.

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

Rosa will report something under New Business as the liaison for the playground program. Thank you. Karen Pacelli attended the Forest School Math Night where they had the Connecticut Stem Academy in charge of the whole night which was very nice for the students to see. Students from Southern Connecticut State University and there might be some from Quinnipiac and teachers from the Wallingford area and they came into different stations for the students and this was very well attended. Karen also attended an all-day PD that was done through Heather Mazzone and it included a lot of literacy how and structured literacy practices and provided her with a lot of input that she can bring back and also get her ready because she was moved to first grade now. She appreciates being able to attend this.

Bob Guthrie attended the City Council Budget Hearing along with Chairwoman Russo and Superintendent Cavallaro. He also attended the Carrigan Concert and the students did a wonderful job and it is good to see that program continue to grow. He also attended the Bailey Junior Honor Society Induction at WHHS which was a nice event with a packed audience and packed stage.

Pat Libero and Evan went to the Carrigan Play Mother Goose which was very cute. They went to dress rehearsal on Saturday and Evan and Pat also went to the Carrigan Concert which we enjoyed a lot. The Carrigan kids are amazing. It was a pleasure to see what you start with and what you end with; they are so young and they are amazing

Sue Walker attended the Bailey Honor Society Induction Ceremony and it was very well done. There were 139 students that were inducted and that is wonderful. The kids did an excellent job. Sue wanted to mention now that with the three teachers that are retiring tonight Robert Penna, Rose Paolino and Tammy Perzanoski she has had the great fortune to work with them at different times during her career. Sue worked with Roberta the longest on classroom projects and we also worked together on the Honor Society. Dr. Paolino has revived, revamped the Guidance Department and Tammy Perzanoski is retiring as a computer teacher but she was a TAG Teacher for a long time and she used to use Sue's library to work with the kids and she used to ask her all the time to join her class because it was always so much fun. You will find people to take their place but in many ways they are all irreplaceable.

Chairwoman Russo commended Mackrille for their Science Fair. She took pictures and is all set for her Science Fair next year. The kids really did a tremendous job and it was a very well attended event with lots of parents and family members. Rosemary was able to attend the Carrigan 5<sup>th</sup> grade concert and it was phenomenal. It is so important that we start our kids young and keep giving them as much as we can at a young age because it really pays off. It was a wonderful night. The number of kids on that stage was amazing so thank you and kudos to all the Bailey Jr. Honor Society inductees that was a really nice ceremony. Rosemary thanked all the teachers in West Haven for what they do on a daily basis. It is Teacher Appreciation Week and she wishes we could give all of you a million dollars but you know the city is broke so we appreciate everything you do and don't want you to think it goes unnoticed because we do notice and are very grateful for all the time and effort you put in. Rose received a very nice thank you card from the first grade students at Washington School that she read to. She showed the card and said look how nice these first grade students write; Rosemary was really impressed. There is a lot of celebration tonight which is good. There were no committee meetings so we will go on to the minutes.

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

**D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Special Board Meeting** held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 5:45 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes D.1.a.  
Karen Pacelli made the motion to approve the minutes  
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor  
Minutes are approved

**D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting** held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:18 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes D.1.b.  
Karen Pacelli made the motion to approve the minutes  
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members present were in favor  
Minutes are approved

#### **D.2. Resignations: (Certified)**

**19-11 Roberta Penna**, Language Arts Teacher - Bailey  
Effective: June 30, 2019  
Reason: Retirement

## **D.2. Resignations: (Certified) Continued**

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 19-11

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosemary said that Sue spoke very eloquently about all the retirees and on behalf of the board we wish everyone a happy, healthy and long retirement and thank you for your service.

All board members present were in favor

Item 19-11 is approved

### **19-12 Tanya Dana, Special Ed Teacher – Mackrille**

Effective: June 30, 2019

Reason: Personal

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 19-12

Karen Pacelli made the motion

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion:

All board members present were in favor

Item 19-12 is approved

### **19-13 Dr. Rose Paolino, School Counseling Department Head – WHHS**

Effective: June 30, 2019

Reason: Retirement

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 19-13

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion:

All board members present were in favor

Item 19-13 is approved

### **19-14 Tammy Perzanoski, Computer Teacher – Carrigan**

Effective: June 30, 2019

Reason: Retirement

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 19-14

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion:

All board members present were in favor

Item 19-14 is approved

**D.4. New Business**

- 19-15** Approval of the WHHS Annual Band Tour to Disney World in Orlando Florida for approximately 40 students accompanied by teacher chaperones and band parent association members from June 22, 2019 to June 27, 2019

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 19-15  
Lauren Aceto made the motion

**D.4. New Business (Continued)**

Pat Libero seconded the motion  
Discussion:  
All board members present were in favor  
Item 19-15 is approved

- 19-16** Approval of the Resolution for the Forest School Playscape presented by the Board of Education Liaison

Board Member Rosa Richardson said as liaison for the Forest School Playground in your packet there should be the resolution that I would like to read. The resolution follows on the next page.

### **Resolution for the Construction of the Forest School Playground**

Playgrounds/ Playscapes and other outdoor recreation facilities located on public school grounds for joint school/general use are strongly encouraged, provided that the facilities are not part of the normal and usual program and responsibility of the educational institution and that they otherwise meet requirements for a grant under the funding program. Facilities need to meet the physical education and athletic program requirements of a school or may not receive funding assistance. The Grant application must include a schedule of the times the facility will be open to the public. Additionally, adequate signage must be installed, prior to final payment on the project, at the site indicating when the outdoor recreation facilities are available to the general public.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the City of West Haven has reviewed the proposed recreational development of the area locally known as the Forest School Playground

1. That approval is given for the construction and development of said recreational facilities on Board of Education Property (Forest Elementary School located at 95 Burwell Road, West Haven, CT).
2. That said recreational facilities will be open to the general public for the times generally described on the enclosed schedule of use.
3. The Board of Education agrees to place appropriate signage, as described in Recreational Grant, in the area of the future playground.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Education at its meeting held on the

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated



Rosa stated that this would be presented, approved and certified at the Board of Education Meeting. Rosa asked who should sign this. Superintendent Cavallaro said the Secretary or the Chair person.

Rosa would like to have a motion to approve the Resolution as read.

Pat Libero made the motion

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: Bob Guthrie had a couple of questions. He didn't see a schedule of the times listed that the facility would be open. Rosa said it hasn't been determined yet by the committee. As a board who is filing this the PTA, the Board of Ed? We have a committee that was formed and Rosa represents the board as the liaison but we actually have a building committee of which Superintendent Cavallaro participates, the Forest School Principal, the Forest School PTA, the Sixth District Council Person, and Rosa Richardson herself and Chris Everone. Bob asked if there were any conceptual drawings to show the location and design or not yet? Rosa said that has not been established yet. Bob said in one of the pieces in there it says the property developed with fund assistance must be retained and used for public outdoor recreation and gratuity. Correct. Bob's concern with that is if there is a need to put on an addition or change the Forest School Playground or this building did you just put yourself in a corner there? Rosa said these are the guidelines when we accept a grant and she cannot answer that question as the liaison only facilities and the superintendent would be able to answer that question but it is her understanding that in the area where this is going to be constructed that should not be an issue.

Superintendent Cavallaro said it shouldn't be an issue he knows that Tom Hunt and Cary Malangone the PTA President actually decided upon the site and it's in the back of the building Bob where the field is more towards the outfield and fence on David Street so Neil doesn't see it being part of an addition. Bob said so the BOE or City would forever be obligated to keep a playground or replacement playground there based on the multi-piece document you gave us. Bob said he is not arguing about a need for it. Rosa said we would be obligated yes based on the fact we are accepting state funding. Bob asked that the final plan include lighting or additional lighting not only for the safety of the school but also to discourage vandalism to the property. Bob remembers when we went through this with Pagels they had to add a light after because it was entirely too dark back there and was encouraging an element at night that was not kind to the playground. Neil believes that one of the reasons that Tom and Cary picked the area was because it is close to David Street and there is a street light there. We did walk the property and Neil thought he said that. Bob said only because we went through this with a brand new playground, and he hates to say this but the media was our enemy there because you advertise a new playground and people that probably had no reason to know about it showed up with intention to cause damage.

Rosa feels that Bob has brought up some very valid points and we do meet on the first Wednesday of each month so we should be meeting and she will address all of the concerns you have addressed. Bob said he is not opposed to it or anything but just trying to look out going forward to make sure if you are putting something there.....Rosa agrees with Bob however she does think that it is far enough out that it should not be an issue.

Chairwoman Russo asked if there was any other discussion.

All board members present were in favor  
No one was opposed  
No one abstained  
Item 19-16 is approved  
The rest is informational

**F. Informational**

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to adjourn  
Rosa Richards made the motion  
Pat Libero seconded the motion  
All board members were in favor  
The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola  
Board Secretary

**Steven Christian Mullins**  
**Address to West Haven Board of Education**  
**6 May 2019**

Madam Chairwoman Russo, Mayor Rossi, Officers and Members of the Board of Education, Ladies and Gentleman:

Good Evening.

My name is Steven Christian Mullins. I am a sixth grade student at May V. Carrigan Intermediate School.

In November of 2016 as a fourth grader at Forest School, I auditioned for a role in the national tour of the Broadway musical Kinky Boots. After getting the part, I left school to embark on a tour of numerous cities in the United States and Canada. I was gone for six months and during that time period was tutored on the road by a teacher hired by the stage company.

When the tour ended and I returned to West Haven in June of 2017, school had ended for the year. I started at Carriagn the following September and began the fifth grade. In October of that year, I received a call from my agent offering me a position as a full-time actor on Kinky Boots, Broadway in New York City.

From October of 2017 until last month when the show ended it's Broadway run, I went to school at Carriagn in the morning and took the train down to the City and returned late night to attend school the next day. It was a four hour commute round trip. During that time period, Superintendent Cavallaro allowed me to be out of school every Wednesday in order to perform in afternoon matinees. These Wednesdays did not count against me as absences.

During my time period on tour and on Broadway, numerous teachers came to watch me perform. When the tour was in Clearwater, Florida, Mrs. Pamela Gardner, then-principal of West Haven High School saw the show during spring break. Other teachers that came to the Broadway performance are Miss Morrell, Miss Wyatt, Miss Sasso, Miss Pinkerton, Mrs. Menzo, Miss Blake, Miss Iuterry, Miss Sacramone, Mrs. Marmelstein

**Steven Christian Mullins**  
**Address to West Haven Board of Education**  
**6 May 2019**

and Board of Education member, Mrs. Patricia Libero. Thank you all for your support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Superintendent Cavallaro, Forest School Principal Mr. Thomas Hunt, Carriagn Principal Richard Weber and my fourth grade teacher Mrs. Piscitelli for their support as well.

Thank you.

West Haven Board of Education Meeting  
May 6, 2019

Superintendent's Report

1. Status of Tentative Agreement with AFSCME Local 2706 – Similar Agreement as with other unions whose contracts have been resolved
  - Union is currently reviewing with their membership
  - Issue to be resolved is the timing if the City and Board decide to move to the State Partnership Plan
  
2. Status of Budget for the 2019 – 20 Fiscal Year – The Appropriations Committee of the State Legislature's adopted budget shows an increase for West Haven of \$1,574,796.00. That was the amount that was anticipated when we began the budget process.

The city has "Flat Funded" its contribution as anticipated.

There was a mistake in the amount given to the Board in the Mayor's Budget. It was adjusted when the City Council adopted a final budget.

MARB has since rejected the final budget document, however, at this time, I don't believe the Board's final numbers will be affected.

The Appropriations Committee also voted to assess cities and towns to contribute to Teachers' Pensions. Based on the current status of the bill, West Haven would pay \$160,860.00 over a two-year period. That money would be deducted from the ECS increase.
  
3. Status of Bailey Roof – Bids were opened last week. The attached letter from the engineer is recommending that the bid be awarded to Young Developers, LLC of Hamden. The cost, which is being paid for by the city, is between \$70,000.00 and 75,000.00.

- A scope review will take place, and a final contract will be awarded.
  - Given the timing, work will likely begin as soon as school is let out for the summer.
  - Attached letter is from the consulting engineer dated May 2, 2019.
4. Washington School – The Mayor has authorized Ken Carney to proceed with a feasibility study for the purpose of a renovation project at Washington School.
- An architect would have to be hired to conduct the study and develop a concept (Attached RFQ).
  - Anne is working on preliminary Educational Specifications.
  - We have a ten-year enrollment projection (Attached).
5. We anticipate several openings for a variety of positions (certified and non-certified) for next year.
- We've begun posting vacant jobs internally as required with all bargaining agreements.
  - Based on current enrollment, we are anticipating three additional elementary teaching positions and one additional itinerant.
  - There are also two additional special education positions that were requested by the Pupil Personnel Department (one at Bailey and one at WHHS), that I believe we'll have to fill.
  - There were several other requests that we'll review once a final budget is ready to be adopted.
6. We are in the process of finalizing a plan for implementing our computer leasing program for next year. We are working with TBNG and a leasing/financing company.
- The plan is to add approximating 3,500 computers to the elementary schools, Carrigan, and Bailey.

- TBNG is also working with the design team on the High School project.
- It is a large undertaking, but we believe we can get it all done by the opening of school in late August.
- I've asked TBNG, once a plan is finalized, to address the Board and share the details.

7. High School Project – Budget Projections

- Ken Carney to present an update (Attached is a summary sheet).

**Marylou Amendola**

---

**From:** Brendan Carew <bpcar124@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2019 7:34 PM  
**To:** Marylou Amendola

CAUTION: The e-mail below is from an external source. Please do not open attachments or click links from an unknown or suspicious origin.

AP Exams started today  
Senior prom is May 23rd  
Half day on May 22nd for professional development  
College Signing Day is May 17th  
The Honors and AP Award Ceremony is May 21st  
No school May 27th for Memorial Day  
Senior Scholarship Award Night is May 29th  
The top 20 breakfast is May 30th  
Last day of classes and senior cookout is May 31st  
Graduation is June 11th  
Senior band concert is May 30th



