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**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**September 19, 2016**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Board's Meeting Room**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on September 19, 2016 in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by James Morrissey, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- James W. Morrissey, Chairman
- Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair
- Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
- Patrick Leigh
- Patricia Libero
- Karen Pacelli
- Mark Palmieri
- Rosa Richardson
- Rosemary Russo

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRESENT:**

- Evelyn Fabian
- David O'Brien

**B. Public Portion of Meeting**

Chairman Morrissey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone would like to address the board during public session. Teresa Heaney, 98 Cynthia Drive, West Haven, CT. Teresa stated that she had several save the date invitations for board members and on November 18<sup>th</sup> they will hold the second annual Decision Day. Last year it was a great day with 60 students who applied to various colleges. They had their interviews at the Conference Center and they received their acceptances. Their parents were in attendance and they received their packages and in total there were 45 to 50 acceptances. This is the best of what the school counseling office is all about.

For the second year in a row Teresa reached out to Ron Quagliani and asked if he could have the University of New Haven supply breakfast and lunch again as so many of our

students do have needs. Once again UNH will supply all the food for this day. We send a special shout out to Ron and the University of New Haven.

Saturday, November 12th will be the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fair. There were 31 acceptances last year along with all kinds of packages offered to the students. This takes place at Riverbank State Park, 679 Riverside Drive at 145<sup>th</sup> Street in New York, NY 10031. \$15.00 per student pick up and drop off will be at WHHS in the hockey rink parking lot. Sign up with Ms. Barnes in the School Counseling Department. Deadline is Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a University of Connecticut (UConn) Group Tour. Departure from WHHS at 8:15 AM returning at 2:00 PM. For more information contact Heather Kannegeiser at (203) 937-4360 X 7123 or [heather.kannegeiser@whschools.org](mailto:heather.kannegeiser@whschools.org)

Chairman Morrissey thanked Teresa for this information. The board gave thanks.

Sandy McCauley, 86 Richmond Avenue, West Haven, CT. Sandy is President of the West Haven Federation of School Nurses. Tonight Sandy is representing the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses and the West Haven Paraprofessionals Union to invite you to attend our second Walk-In at Washington School on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:20 AM. The National Federation of Teachers is having these events across the country to promote public schools and public education. This will be a very positive event that will emphasize the need for the whole community to join together to make our schools and our students successful. Please join us in celebrating Washington School. Thank you. The board gave thanks. Public Session closed at 7:04 PM.

## **REPORTS**

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

Superintendent Cavallaro stated that we had almost 400 kids sign up for band at Carrigan and as a result we will have to hire another teacher; there is no way around it. We believe we have enough savings with hiring just about everyone at 1<sup>st</sup> step. Tonight you will see a Behaviorist on the agenda and that is about a \$20,000.00 savings because the person we are hiring had less experience. Prior to bringing you a name we have to start the hiring process. We planned on having Matt show you some of the savings this year from some of the positions we didn't fill and some that we filled with a lesser position; above and beyond what we passed for the budget. This is necessary because not only will we have the problem this year but hopefully when the kids move up to Bailey we will have to do some reconfiguring of staff. Prior to doing this we will show you where the money came from.

The new behaviorist is coming at a savings as we had a more experienced one leave prior to the end of the school year. This is not a bargaining unit position it is a contracted position. For the most part they work with the emotionally disturbed students at Pagels School coming up with behavior plans and working with the teachers to give them strategies as to how to deal with kids. Patrick Leigh wanted to know if because they are a

district that means they can move around. Yes, the primary location is Pagels but we certainly can call them in to discuss a plan with any student at any of our schools. Patrick asked if this is throughout the system or just elementary. This is throughout the system. Very cool. Pat Libero stated and she is not part of the bargaining unit? No she isn't because it doesn't fit with anything that we have. We actually contracted out with ACES and then brought in our own person who left to start their own business. Patrick asked how long it was vacated for. They left during the summer and the person we are hiring tonight had to give 30 days' notice and will start on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There are plans in place and we are getting by. This is a very necessary position. Neil then updated the board on the Tech Ed position and the Math position at Bailey. We are waiting on the final word from the state on certification for the Tech Ed position and we are currently working with a student teacher who is at Bailey right now and we have to get them a special certification and we have to work with UNH and the State Department for certification. We believe these two jobs will be filled it is just a matter of getting the certification in order. Patrick asked what we are doing with the Tech Ed students currently enrolled in the program. Superintendent Cavallaro said there is a substitute there and we are anxious to fill the job. Dr. Cordone said the students who are enrolled are going through the safety procedures and learning about hand tools and the safety that is involved. We are able to buy a little time to take care of the issues that Superintendent Cavallaro spoke of. Pat Libero asked if there was a long term sub for the math position. Superintendent Cavallaro said we actually held the person who had accepted a job in another district for 30 days so there is a teacher in the classroom. The Assistant Swimming Coach was a vacant position. The Assistant Football Coach position is being funded through the West Haven Touch Down Club. The Touch Down Club and the Alumni Association have done this in the past and when a situation like this occurs they give the money to the BOE and the BOE hires them as an employee because they should be a BOE employee not at will to the football coaching staff. Rosa Richardson said they go through the same hiring process; fingerprinting and all that. Neil said this is what makes it nice and they become our employees after background checks etc. The job goes away if the Touch Down Club doesn't have the money to donate any longer. Rosa said we do require them to be certified correct. Yes because they are BOE hired coaches they have to follow all the protocol that any other coach does and this is another advantage for us. Bob Guthrie asked if the football coach position was an additional coach. Yes it is an additional coach that they are funding. Additional than what is spelled out in the teacher's contract for stipends? It is the same stipend that any other Assistant Football Coach receives. It is an additional coach position that they are funding.

Superintendent Cavallaro said Susan Misur is leaving the BOE and she is going to be missed sorely. This is a job that she started three years ago and it was uncharted waters for us as far as putting information on face book, tweeting and she really has made a big difference in the district. Parents have come to expect the real time news that we provide them with. This is in addition to the website and promoting the school district throughout the summer talking about things that our seniors did. She is a self-motivated person who was very proactive. The HERE Program and the attendance program have been very successful. She has come up with a lot of different ideas that will take us through the year and have been very well received. We will miss her and wish her well. She is going to

the Connecticut Humane Society. Patrick Leigh asked what the contingency right now for her position is. Neil said she has provided us with a couple of weeks' worth of notices we can get up on face book and twitter. We have put the job out and have interviewed a couple of candidates. Patrick asked the job salary. It is around \$40,000.00 a year. She is leaving for substantially more. Lag time would not be good for us. We are very good about the notices and things like that. Once you start something and are into it you can't pull back on it. All our forms are on line, our central kindergarten registration etc. and she has been a part of developing these kinds of programs and we need to continue them. She will be a tough act to follow.

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

The report is attached at the end of the minutes. Thank you.

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

Rosa Richardson stopped in at Mackrille to see how their school year started off and she would like to keep Mackrille this year if that is OK. Rosemary Russo said that is OK. Rosemary reminded everyone about adopting a school as Rosa has done. Chairman Morrissey said he was at WHHS last year and would like to take WHHS again this year if that is OK. Yes that is fine. Susan Walker would like to keep Bailey as she kind of remembers that school as she was only there for 30 years. Yes that is fine. Susan Pacelli will take Forest. OK.

Bob Guthrie went to the Pagels Food Truck event yesterday in the WHHS Courtyard. He thanked Mr. Palermo for taking one for the team in the dunk tank for a while. It was a nice time with a good number of trucks, a wide variety of food and things for the kids to do.

Jim Morrissey said he mentioned during the last meeting the possibility of a 6:00 PM starting time for board meetings. The whole board was polled and they made their suggestions. The only suggestion was to see how people reacted to the time change; either a positive or a negative reaction. The board voted seven in favor and two opposed. We sent an email to the various unions and we received unanimous consent from everyone and most people are here tonight and can comment; Teresa, Marilyn, Sandy and all of our union leaders are present and Frank Paolino. All are in favor of the time change. Chairman Morrissey said Pat Libero made a suggestion of possibly putting this on the website to reach out to the parents. Superintendent Cavallaro said that would be the appropriate next step now that we know that the unions are on board with the time change. Jim said this is a suggestion. A lot of time teachers, who live out of town and would like to come to a meeting, don't want to go back home and come back at 7:00 PM. They can stay in town and just come to the meeting at 6:00 PM and this might be easier for them. Our next step will be to put it out to the teachers, parents and on the website and we will go from there. If we do change to 6:00 PM it will take place around daylight savings time. We will give plenty of notice. Jim said we had summer meetings at 5:00 PM and that time was pretty good also and the board was in favor of that.

Chairman Morrissey said I'm going to keep talking about the No Smoking Policy. We have our first home football game at Ken Strong Stadium on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Superintendent Cavallaro said the letter on the No Smoking Policy went out and an email was sent out to the board members as well. He attached what he sent out the last time. Any athletic event where there is an announcer will announce the no smoking policy periodically throughout the game. Chris Everone ordered more signs to make them more noticeable at the athletic complexes. Another hot spot is Adult Education in the front of the building. Neil spoke to Mrs. Coppola and Mr. Russell and they are enforcing this. These are the big areas and all of the other schools are aware of this policy. Chairman Morrissey thanked Superintendent Cavallaro.

**D.1. Approval of Minutes**

**D.1.a. 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 September 6, at 5:00 PM.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.  
Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve the minutes  
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All board members were in favor.  
Minutes are approved.

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

**D.3. New Hire: (Certified)**

**16-64 Gina Carrozza**, 152 Stilson Hill Road, New Milford, CT 06776  
Music Teacher – Pagels School  
Effective: September 12, 2016  
Salary: \$40,824

**16-65 Mark Manes**, 26 Carlson Road, West Haven, CT 06516  
Assistant Football Coach – West Haven High School  
Effective: Immediately  
Salary: \$3,500.00

**16-66 Haley Padro**, 13 Cullen Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516  
Assistant Swim Coach – West Haven High School  
Effective: Immediately  
Salary: \$2,100.00

**16-67 Leanna Hartnack**, 274 Lenox Street, Unit 1, New Haven, CT 06513  
District BCBA – Pagels School  
Effective: September 27, 2016  
Salary: \$60,000.00 (prorated for start date of 9/27/16)

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.3 New Hire: (Certified)

Items #16-64 through 16-67 inclusive

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion: Chairman Morrissey stated that the music teacher is coming from New Milford, CT so she must have really wanted this job. Superintendent Cavallaro said he understands she is very good and he hopes we can keep her. We hope she doesn't spend the year trying to get closer to New Milford. Chairman Morrissey wishes her the best of luck but said this is an hour and fifteen minute ride every day but this is good. Rosa Richardson said she will fall in love with our kids and she will be all set. Mayor O'Brien said West Haven is so great she can just move here.

All board members present were in favor

Items #16-64 through #16-67 are approved

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

##### **F. Informational**

Chairman Morrissey wished Susan Misur, Communications Director the best of luck in her new position. Susan did a great job on behalf of the West Haven School System and all the updates we received were very current. She has done great work over the last few years and we wish her the best.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn.

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

All board members present were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary

The Student Report can be found on the next page.

BOE Student Report  
September 19, 2016

This week is school picture week for all staff and students. Today was freshmen. Sophomores are on Tuesday, Juniors on Thursday, and Seniors on Friday.

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 WHHS will open its doors to Prospective Students at our annual Open House. Students and parents are invited to attend activities fair, visit classrooms, attend model lessons and hear from student panel presentations.

Next week is Spirit Week at WHHS, concluding with the Fall Pep Rally on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Fall Festival/Car Show/Trick or Trunk/Chalk Art Competition will be held on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!

Sophomores have been busying completing the Fitness Test with their PE Teachers.

The Peer Advocates are preparing for their annual retreat on October 6-7<sup>th</sup>.

Auditions were held recently for the fall play, Lend Me A Tenor. Congratulations to the cast and crew - Devin Pascale, Karen Caceres, TJ Blotney, Meg Waterfield, Courtney Skeens, Camry Young, Jessica LaFrance, Katie Gilmore, Andrew Gordon, David O'Brien, Tyler Newkirk, and Michael DeVincentis. The Fall Play is the first weekend in December.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> is the WHHS Marching Band and Color Guards preview show at 7pm at Ken Strong Stadium.

School Counseling Department is again holding Common Application workshops. Seniors may attend a workshop to receive help on the Common App on Sept. 22 and 27 and Oct. 6 and 18. The Common App is a universal application used by colleges across the country. Students will receive assistance filling out the Common App, as well as the various forms that accompany the application.

Senior Girls Soccer Captain Gabriella Prisco was featured in GameTimeCT with a great article.

*+ Evelyn Fabian*

Senior April Bowen participated in the CRISP High School Research Fellowship this summer.

Junior Ian Cooke and Senior Aaron Vaughn represented WHHS last Thursday evening on a student panel coordinated by One World Progressive Institute focusing on police and community relationships. The episode will hear on Civic Engagement Television and YouTube in the upcoming months.

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September 19, 2016 (pg.2)

The 30th Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Fair is Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

The ACE Mentor Program is again accepting West Haven High School students interested in architecture, construction and engineering. Students participate in bi-weekly meetings/field trips with local professionals in those industries and complete a real-world design project over the course of the year.

The College and Career Fair will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30pm. Students in all grades with their parents and guardians are welcome to attend.