

D.1.a.

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 6, 2016

Regular Board Meeting

Board's Meeting Room

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on September 6, 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: Mayor Edward M. O'Brien

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Andrew Gordon
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. There were no speakers for Public session.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro welcomed back student representative Andrew Gordon who is beginning his second year on the Board of Education and is now a senior and introduced our new student rep David O'Brien. David is a junior at West Haven High School. Student Representatives are basically selected by peers and the former board members. There is some input from staff but the nicest thing is that you are put here based on the recommendations of the kids who came before you. David is fully immersed in the West Haven community and you can find David on the athletic fields, on the stage and in the

classroom. He is on the tennis and cross country teams and holds a leadership position in the Marching and Concert Band. He represented West Haven High School at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership concert last spring and he is also a Washington School mentor and on the Mock Trial Team. David is a hard worker, good student and is dedicated and committed to helping others. We are delighted to have him join Evelyn and Andrew as Board of Education Student Representatives. Applause ensued.

Superintendent Cavallaro updated the board on some last minute resignations and some openings. There are three openings and we are currently interviewing for a math position where we held the person for 30 days so the former teacher is still in place there and we have an elementary music position that we feel will be filled relatively soon and on the tech ed position at Bailey we are working on getting the certification from the State Department of Education for a candidate who we believe can be certified and has enough credentials. All of these classes are being manned as of right now.

We have really tried to increase the number of registrations starting with our kindergarten registration in March and all of our central registrations. We may have to offer more opportunities for people to register or that people are just late no matter how many different sessions we have but this is something we want to work on given the campaign where we want kids in attendance day 1. We have to do more to get kids in school from day 1.

Superintendent Cavallaro thanked Jim Morrissey, Karen Pacelli and Patrick Leigh for coming to the orientation. It is nice for you to see the enthusiasm and excitement with the returning staff as well as our administrators who take the new teachers through the process. It was a very successful opening with very few complaints. The attendance campaign is going very well.

Superintendent Cavallaro thanked all of the teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals who attended tonight's meeting. We have improved our scores and have made some significant gains in math and received some good news today in science on where we rank within our DERG and we want to keep up this momentum. We believe that because of the work we have done laying the ground work we will sustain it. We have a lot to be proud of in our school district.

Questions: Patrick asked if the flex from pre-k to kindergarten to first grade is because of the registration you talked about. If you look at the Pre K through kindergarten numbers and then you look at first grade and above there seems to be a disconnect or is that a sign of things to come for class size. Neil said in PreK he would throw out the mix because those are mostly special Ed spots. Our kindergarten numbers look like they leveled off. District wide we are averaging around 21 kids in a class. The only number that he is a little concerned about is 4th grade at Washington which averages around 24 students. The numbers look very good over-all Patrick. Mark said Marylou has been sending out this information every day and he was going to comment that everywhere except for the 4th grade which was a little high you guys have done a great job everything has been level in

the 19 to 20 range. Chairman Morrissey asked if there were any questions for the Superintendent. There were no other questions. Chairman Morrissey thanked Neil.

Dr. Druzolowski said the presentation you are about to see will be on the website. Dr. Druzolowski thanked the board and all the boards before this board for their unending support as they moved forward to improve our school district. State scores are another way to examine things like our teaching skills, student learning and to determine professional development needs. Anne thanked the board and our teachers for the gifts of time and patience. We see that all youngsters can learn and we believe all youngsters can succeed and this data substantiates that. Our results demonstrate that when reading, writing, listening, speaking and listening skills are consistently taught across grades and immersed within the structural units student learning is noteworthy. Noteworthy scores and gains today are what you are going to see. We will continue with our voyage and monitor our voyage with common assessments and aligned curriculum. We anticipate and promise that you will see more success as the full day kindergarten group moves forward. The gains you see today are of an aligned curriculum with teachers understanding what they are doing and feeling comfortable with it because they are the creators. We thank all of you for your unending support and can't thank you enough for your patience. Applause. The complete presentation that the coordinators presented can be found on the website.

Questions

Rosa Richardson applauded each and every one of you because you are what makes it a success and I want to thank you for it. Applause.

Bob Guthrie said now I think our job gets harder to encourage the legislators to continue this funding. It is almost time to start thinking about lobbying them once the statewide election is over and not supplanting the local funding and make sure it stays above and beyond for the Alliance Districts. Neil said he and Mayor O'Brien were at a meeting today where we believe we can anticipate this but there are no guarantees right now because the state is in some financial difficulty so it will be imperative that we continue to fight for the funding.

Pat Libero congratulated everyone and said it has been a long, arduous road you have been on. She sat in when you began the curriculum writing and it is kind of nice to see that we are number 1 in so many areas. This is not easy and she applauded everyone's work and congratulated everyone.

Chairman Morrissey thanked the teachers, paras, principals and the whole staff. You have done a great job and the scores are really climbing. You have worked very hard over the last several years and the results do show this. Keep on continuing to do the good work you have been doing on behalf of the Board of Ed and we are certainly proud of each and every one of you. Thank you again for all your great work. Superintendent Cavallaro thanked Chairman Morrissey. Applause ensued.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

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

C.1.c. Board

Bob Guthrie welcomed all the student representatives and wanted to remind them that if they were going to collect Toys for Tots this year that now would be the time to contact Walmart if you are hoping to get funding or assistance with the toys. Chairman Morrissey thanked Bob.

Mark Palmieri passed out pamphlets on the Dietetic Internship Program from the University of New Haven which shows the partnership and collaboration between the West Haven School District and the University of New Haven. Mark stated that the Director of the Dietetic Internship Program at UNH wanted to commend Meg Kingston who is going to be running a program at UNH for Nutrition starting this fall. Students will become a registered dietician by completing an undergrad course in an accredited program with 1200 hours of a supervised practice program. Meg has offered to take four students to work at different times during the spring in Child Adolescent Rotation and Community Service. Next year Meg and Gordon Hayes from UNH will be doing a culinary program for our students.

October 28th is our Senior Night and the West Haven Band and the UNH Band will play a song at half time and then the UNH Band will play. The band at UNH has grown from about 30 students to about 280. We want to promote that if you qualify you can attend the UNH which costs approximately \$32,500.00 a year but as a student from West Haven with the partnership it would only cost \$16,250.00 a year. The band also has a very good program where you can play with the band and receive an education at a very reasonable price. Chairman Morrissey thanked Mark.

Karen Pacelli attending the Savin Rock Back to School Party and it was very nice to see that the Vertical Church had so many volunteers to make this event a success. The children were very excited to receive their free backpacks and to have their face painted. Children enjoyed a good time with their parents and had great food and were able to play on the newly dedicated playground which was updated. Chairman Morrissey thanked Karen.

Patrick Leigh attended teacher orientation two weeks ago and it was nice to see the administration, department heads, teachers, and union support there. There were 10 new hires and two were prior students of Superintendent Cavallaro. It is nice to see community investment there. Neil and Patrick then took a quick ride to visit some of the schools. It was awesome to see the lots full of teacher's cars when they were not required to be there. This shows the dedication that our teachers have to our community. Patrick saw the erosion damage to the pool's heating system at Carrigan. Superintendent Cavallaro said we are still waiting for the U.I. to come up with a solution to try to do something on the outside and run something inside putting the system on the outside of the pool will limit the corrosion. Patrick thanked Superintendent Cavallaro. Patrick also stopped by the rink where they were putting down new ice and putting down the new paint. It is nice to see everything coming together and this week everything opened up without any issues. Chairman Morrissey thanked Patrick.

Pat Libero stopped at the last stop for Westies on Wheels when it was about 200 degrees. They had a tremendous turnout and Dana ran back several times to get more backpacks so perhaps we should start collecting things earlier because of the number of people that were there and the kids who were so excited. It was completely incredible and it was a nice effort that everybody puts in. Chairman Morrissey thanked Pat.

Rosemary Russo asked the board to keep in mind about Adopt a School. She will send out a list of schools and it might be nice to switch it up this year so that you get to see a different school from what you saw last year. She will bring a list to the next meeting or email you so everyone can pick a school. Chairman Morrissey thanked Rosemary.

Mayor O'Brien said we have a good partnership with UNH and they do a lot for our students. The Mayor's Advisory Council put together this WestFest and it will be bigger than last year. Mayor O'Brien encourages everyone to stop down and to get you there he will be in the dunk tank from 1:00 to 1:30; laughter ensued. This is a good thing for the city if you can support this. Chairman Morrissey thanked Mayor O'Brien.

Bob Guthrie thanked everyone involved with Westies on Wheels. He also had the opportunity to go to Vertical Church. Though not a school project he wanted to thank Lowe's for rebuilding the play area at Painter Park. These are all community groups that want to help the kids in our community. Bob would like an update on the new high school at some point during a future meeting. Mayor O'Brien said if it is OK with the Chairman we will give you an update at your next meeting. Superintendent Cavallaro stated that we have the construction manager's job out to bid and we will have a lot more information when those bids come back a week from today. There will be a small committee to review bids and then based on that recommendation the building committee will interview four potential firms to be the construction manager and at that point the project will really start to come together and we will be able to give the board a more thorough update on cost and what the project will look like. Because of the timing and the restart of the program the board does have to approve the educational program in the building but that won't be for a while.

Bob said CAFE has a workshop on Thursday, October 13th on Legal Issues and asked Marylou to make this available to board members.

Bob asked Superintendent Cavallaro if we have officially closed out the 2015/2016 budget year. Matt Cavallaro said he submitted the ED001 last week. The audit is just starting and there are still some entries to be made. Bob asked if we are in good shape with no surprises. Matt is not ready to comment on that based on the meeting with the state as some of the information we received back was in direct contradiction to what Matt has always known and what the law actually states so we have a few calls into the State for clarification because he wasn't invited to the meeting. Matt will comment more on this in future meetings. Chairman Morrissey thanked Bob.

Chairman Morrissey welcomed our student reps back and welcomed new student rep David O'Brien and as Neil said earlier don't be afraid to comment we look forward to our

student rep's discussion along with any questions or concerns you may have. We want to have your input. Chairman Morrissey also went to Savin Rock and the Vertical Church did a great job. They had a lot of staff there and they passed out backpacks. They had an ice cream truck there and they had hot dogs and hamburgers for everybody. They did a great, great job with lots of refreshments for the kids. Jim talked with Anne and she thought it was a good idea to invite them to come to one of our meetings just to thank them for their support. We want them to know that their support doesn't go unnoticed and we can't thank them enough for all the good work that they do on behalf of Savin Rock School.

Chairman Morrissey attended teacher orientation and he met a lot of new teachers and saw a lot of smiling faces. We have a great, young group of incoming teachers and we look forward to them joining our school system. Last week Senator Murphy came to Bailey Middle School. The kids were very excited to see him and Dr. Cordone brought him around to the different classrooms and the Mayor and Superintendent were there and the kids were really happy to see Senator Murphy and he gave a nice speech. Jimmy Mastriano's classroom was so totally involved with his class when Senator Murphy walked it was wonderful to see.

Chairman Morrissey said at the end of the last school year we discussed the smoking policy. Superintendent Cavallaro said that it is on his desk and they will send something out this week. Jim said it is really not good for anybody to smoke and doesn't want to see anyone, and this includes our staff and visitors, smoking on our property. Mark Palmieri as if this includes our football games. Yes this includes our football games and events at our hockey rink. Mark asked who will enforce this. Chairman Morrissey said we hire police officers and they will have this become part of their job description. People will receive a warning to put out their cigarette and then if they don't do this then the police will have to take the next step whatever that may be. Chairman Morrissey doesn't want to see any more smoking on school property and he thinks the superintendent feels the same. Superintendent Cavallaro very strongly about this also and said when he sent out the notice last year you may remember it is the law and we have policy so we will do our best to enforce it.

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 August 15, 2016 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

Karen Pacelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor.

Minutes are approved.

D.2. Resignations (Certified)

16-58 Jennifer McCorrmick, Behavior Analyst - Pagels
Effective: Beginning of the 2016-2017 School Year
Reason: Personal

16-59 Pierre de St. Croix, Math Teacher – Bailey Middle School
Effective: October 7, 2016
Reason: Personal

16-60 Steven Lopes, Principal – Washington School
Effective: December 31, 2016
Reason: Retirement

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations
Item #16-58 to #16-60 inclusive

Rosa Richards made the motion to approve

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa extended her gratitude to each and every one of the people who resigned.. Rosa has known Mr. Lopes for a long time and wished him well. Applause. Superintendent Cavallaro wished Steve well also. They worked together for over 20 years. When Neil received Steve's resignation, which was a long and hard decision to make, he held Steve's original letter for awhile because we were trying to get him to stay the year. He will be missed and has been a good friend and a big supporter of education in West Haven. Neil thanked him for not only being a great educator but also for being a great friend over the last 20 years. Applause ensued.

All board members present were in favor

Item #16-60 is approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

16-61 Katherine T. Scalesse, 22 Bailey Road, North Haven, CT 06473
Social Worker (Grant Funded Position) – West Haven High School
Effective: September 1, 2016
Salary: \$53,706.34 (Step 1 BS+60 plus stipend)

16-62 Marcy Stober, 21 Larkspur Lane, Higganum, CT 06441
School Nurse – Mackrille Job Share
Effective: September 12, 2016
Salary: \$41,832.52 (Step 1)

16-63 Jonathan I. Lopez, 24 Hilltop Lane, West Haven, CT 06516
Social Studies Teacher – Bailey Middle School
Effective: August 25, 2016
Salary: \$40,824.00 (Step 1 BS)

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

Item #16-61 to #16-63 inclusive

Rosa Richards made the motion to approve

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: Patrick Leigh said on item 16-61 Katherine Scalesse he was wondering how that grant funding position worked. He sees there was a stipend and was wondering how much it was and is it covered in a grant. Neil said the stipend is required because all social workers receive a stipend. Anne Druzolwski said the grant really supports those kids at home, getting them to school, dealing with any problems they may have in and around the buildings and really trying to focus on those kids most at risk and it is all subsidized. Patrick asked if that is a grant we apply for yearly or how does it work. Anne said we were approached to apply for it and pending the availability of funds the position will continue. If the money is there we will be applying again for it absolutely. Patrick asked if you have to prove success as a stipulation of this grant. No, if you use it as intended to support youngsters they pretty much give it to you each year. Will this always be a grant position? Right now Anne doesn't see anything coming out of the Department of Education other than grants unless there is something on the federal level but we will see what happens. Is this position new to our system? Yes. Excellent. Neil said this person does become a member of the teacher's bargaining unit and has all the rights and privileges of a regular teacher regardless of how they are funded. We however wanted to make it clear that this particular position is only here for as long as the grant is funded. If that grant goes away that teacher may have seniority if someone retires and they could move into another job; it doesn't necessarily mean they are out of work but there is that possibility. Patrick thanked Neil.

All board members present were in favor

Item #16-63 is approved

D.4. New Business

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn.

Rosa said she wanted to bring something up before adjourning for a future agenda. She has been getting a lot of feedback from parents about uniforms and this has come and gone through many boards over time but on social sites parents want this and we need to consider putting out on our website a yes or no for parents so they can give us some feedback. Rosa would like the board to consider putting this on the agenda at some point for discussion.

Chairman Morrissey said this was brought up several years ago and obviously it is a hot topic for discussion. There are people who want to see the uniforms and people who don't. Rosa said the last survey was 70 to 30 in favor of uniforms and that is pretty substantial. A further discussion continued. The dress code would be khaki's and polo's and you can buy them at Walmart or Target. Jim said Forest has a dress code correct. Neil said they have relaxed this and one of the reasons they have is that people were waiting to see if the board was going to take action and since they didn't it has been more difficult to enforce but the majority of the people certainly are in favor. The uniform could be whatever the board dictates as part of its policy. It could be as simple as a khaki

and a polo shirt and leave the colors open. Principal Steven Lopes said the misconception is uniform or dress code; when you talk about a uniform people think about, no offense, Catholic Schools and their attire. This really should be talked about as a dress code; a polo shirt and khaki's with no particular color are mandatory and just those items and that would probably eliminate the whole issue of I have this and you don't and so on. Uniform is probably not the best verbiage and dress code is. This is what happened the first time we brought this up. A further discussion continued.

Rosa Richardson made the motion
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion
All board members present were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary

The Student Report can be found on the next page.

BOE Student Report
September 6, 2016

The first day of school at West Haven High School was smooth. Students knew where they were going, peer advocates were in the halls to assist new students, and our campus security team was visible throughout the building. Winkle bus had the busses organized and dismissal went off without a hitch. Opening Assemblies for all classes were held the first week of school.

Meet the Coaches night will be held tomorrow for all fall athletes and their parents. CIAC rules and regulations as well as team rules and Academic eligibility information will be discussed.

Back to School Night will be held on September 13th from 6:00-8:00pm. All parents are encouraged to come "back to school" and follow their students schedule.

The School Counseling Department sponsored the College Application Kick Start program in August. Students worked on filling out a resume and the common application for college, as well as getting advice on college interviews and references, and heard from an admissions rep from Sacred Heart University. The Counseling Department is also holding common application workshops this month for seniors.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, September 7th is the first PTSA meeting of the year. The primary goal of the PTSA is to fundraise for senior scholarships and Blue & White: Up All Night. Their first fundraiser is Thursday, September 8th from 6:00-9:00pm at Rita's.

Congratulations to senior Salah Oumorou, who was one of just 23 boys from around the country to be selected to the All-USA Preseason Soccer Team, announced by USA Today!

Freshman Orientation was held on Monday, August 22nd. Students went on tours of the school's cafeteria, library media center, gym and freshmen academy classrooms, were given their locker combinations, and had their photo ID taken. There was also a meet-and-greet with teachers, raffles, snacks and a dress code fashion show.

Peer Advocates visited Camp Rising Sun this August to help campers bring their belongings into their cabins. Once again, this was an amazing experience for all who attended.

Westies on Wheels was held on August 18th to an overwhelming turnout. Special thanks to the coordinators for their efforts – Ms. Kozlowski, Ms. Deninger, and Mrs. Paredes.

The University of New Haven is once again hosting West Fest on the Green on Saturday, September 10th. Many WHHS groups will be participating and we hope to see you at this great community event.