D.1.9.

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION June 6, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Board's Meeting Room

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut on June 6, 2016. 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 Rosa Richardson Rosemary Russo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Palmieri

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

Matt Cavallaro, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairman Morrissey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone would like to address the board.

Louise Martone, 4 Big Spruce Lane, West Haven, CT Councilwoman from the 10th District addressed the board as a follow-up to her letter requesting a forensic audit and an organizational structure review of the Board of Education. The reason for her request is because the Board of Education Budget makes up 46% of the overall city budget at just under 90M. Taxpayers are asked to pay more, state funding is being reduced, city departments are asked to make do with less and less but the Board of Education Budget continues to rise while the number of students we are educating continues to decline. Our

lowest paid workers paraprofessionals and our food service workers are again asked to give back their wage increase while other administrators including the highest paid continue to receive raises. I don't think this is fair. A close look is needed to see how this money is being spent and to identify if business practices and organizational changes need to be more in line with our shrinking enrollment and increased financial burden on our taxpayers. Hopefully this audit can show areas that can be streamlined and recommend the allocation of resources and point out potential areas of reduction or consolidation in staffing at the Board of Education. This process can help the Board of Education be more efficient and reduce the cost to our taxpayers while providing a quality educational experience. The board gave thanks.

Marilyn Halligan and Georgiana Dini spoke and were kind enough to provide a copy that is attached at the end of the minutes. Thank you.

Before calling the next speaker Chairman Morrissey called on Superintendent Cavallaro to speak. Superintendent Cavallaro stated it is not our intention to present to you a budget with any new positions. That is top from a top level administrator to a paraprofessional or a food service position. We have never had any discussion and that was made very clear when we went before the City Council in March. The last question was from Chairman O'Brien who specifically asked the question if the money the City Council was allocating was getting down to the classroom from the administrative level and we assured him that it was. It is not Superintendent Cavallaro's intent to present to the board a job with any new positions in it. There will be less paras and a few less teachers. Given the times we are in we are actually lucky compared to what a lot of the other towns are going through and we will be prepared to show you how we will justify our budget without those positions. Chairman Morrissey asked Neil to state for clarification once again the rumor of the job being created. Neil stated he has been here for a long time. He started at Central Office in 2001 and these rumors come up a lot and unfortunately there is not much we can do when they come up. Given the amount of conversation and the social media and all the things that have happened it is important we put an end to this right now. There will be no new jobs in the budget. The board gave thanks.

Steve Mullins stated he is a parent and a taxpayer and resides at 22 Oak Road in Allingtown. Mr. Mullins doesn't believe it is necessary at this point in time in our fiscal situation to possibly create a new position at the administrative level. Mr. Mullins thinks we are basically balancing our finances on the lowest paid individuals like the paraprofessionals and everyone else who has been asked to give back in the Board of Education and he doesn't think it is right; they are the backbone of our kid's lives. He has two kids in the system and these paraprofessionals may not have the educational level of a teacher but they definitely have the backing of our young people and they are a major part in their education so I want you to consider this when you make your deliberations. The board gave thanks. There were no other speakers and public Session closed at 7:10 PM.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

We are finalizing the budget and will get you a proposal next week and don't anticipate any major changes from what the board passed in March. We will get this to you early enough to have a discussion during part of the next regular meeting or prior to that.

We have a tentative agreement with our CWA Union for non-certified managers. We will have Attorney Dugas here on the 20th at 6:00 PM. This is a very comparable agreement to what we are getting from the other unions. It is important to get a history of this union to get a better understanding of who they are. They kind of fly under the radar a little bit.

We are not going to arbitration with our elementary cafeteria workers we are in the process of finalizing that deal. We are saving a lot of money by not going to arbitration.

Neil is confident with the budget and that we will reach our goal of no layoffs and no reduction in services when you do see a presented budget.

Superintendent Cavallaro introduced Dorinda Borer from the Rotary Club. Diane Milano and Michael Buraco from the Rotary Club also spoke. Dorinda is here tonight in the capacity of Vocational Chair for the Rotary Club of West Haven. The Rotary Club works with individual schools on a continual basis and they thought it would be a good idea to come and give a holistic view of what we do in the school system and what Rotary is all about. Dorinda gave a slide presentation. The complete presentation is with the minutes on our website. Dorinda stated that there are over two million members of the Rotary Club internationally. The West Haven local club is one of 31,000 clubs across the nation. There are 65 members in our club and we have a board of directors that are very active. Roland Depew is our President next year after we do our installation. We meet weekly and have a couple of fund raisers but the lion's share of our funding does go to the school system. In addition to the school system we also support our community partners. We have guests from the VA Blind Unit, we bought the trailer for the Boy Scout Unit, and we bring the new Amber Alert State of the Art Program to community events and to the schools. Superintendent Cavallaro said we have an excellent partnership with the Rotary Club. The Rotary does a lot for our students. They have supported us financially with dictionaries, thesauruses, nooks for our fourth graders, and scholarship money. Superintendent Cavallaro said we are very appreciative for everything the Rotary Club does for us and the West Haven Community.

Chairman Morrissey thanked the members of the Rotary Club for the wonderful work they do on behalf of the children of our City. I am glad that they came here this evening it was long overdue. Thanks so much. The board gave thanks.

Raffaela Fronc, Eric Rice and Mike Barraco gave a presentation on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and how we are moving into the area of STEM. Examples of some of the work that has been done this year were shown by students from Vex

Robotics Sumedha Chowdhury, Francesca Irish Esperida, Marianne Loo and Oreo Olowe and the ACE Program students Fernando Rey-Alvarez and Ian Cooke. The Engineering Students were also present along with the science facilitators who have been an important part of this science course since its beginning about 12 years ago. Students built a functional robot and gave a demonstration. They used this robot against many other school's robots throughout Connecticut. The complete presentation is on our website. The board gave thanks. Applause

Dana Parades and students from the PACE Program talked about the program. The PACE Program is a program for students who have not been able to be successful in a traditional classroom. These students have the opportunity to enter the PACE Program which combines credit recovery with an outside the box approach to education. We try to do everything technology based, everything hands on, we have a google classroom, we do everything on chrome books and kids read on Kindles instead of books which allows them to read at their grade level without having to be embarrassed about what kind of book they are reading in front of their classmates. We work on manners, etiquette and how to be a gentleman and how to be a lady. We work with students throughout the year to make sure they have the skills to be college and career ready and also the skills needed to transition back into the regular school. We are a transitional program and after one year we hope to give them the skills they need to transition back to the regular program. Sometimes kids stay for two years for the extra needed support. Our classes are small and are all in one hallway. Kids learn coping skills to function in a traditional classroom. We function in a 3 tier system and our lowest tier has students with behavioral problems and they earn their way up to the top tier where they get perks. (They can listen to music when they have completed their work and they have more freedom as far as movement through the day). Three of the PACE students talked about their experience with this program.

Zhaire Wilson-Brown stated before he went to PACE he struggled with the work and after being in PACE he had more confidence and was able to get the work done and stayed on task. He stated the teachers there are amazing and helped him out and built up his confidence. He thanked his teachers Mr. Nixon, Mr. Leapley and Miss Ronan who helped him out tremendously when he needed them the most. He knows he will continue to do well because of them. Applause followed.

Erica Koontz said her experience in PACE has been great. The teachers go above and beyond to help us succeed and get good grades. I feel they actually care about me and my education. They do their best to prepare us for a successful and bright future. One of the things she learned in PACE is to always try her best and to never give up. They make education fun. They joke around with us but are serious when they need to be. PACE is a good way to get back on track with our education. Erica thanked her teachers for pushing her to do better and always believing in her. Applause followed.

Tyrese Reilly said before he started PACE he was horrible in the classroom, had bad grades and found it hard to stay on task and found it hard to focus because it seemed boring. PACE is more interesting and because of the teachers he started to understand it

more especially with algebra. Mr. Leapley made him understand it more with shortcuts etc. His social studies and science teacher made it very interesting because Tyrese had a lot of questions. His English teacher Mr. Nixon expanded his vocabulary because there were a lot of words he didn't know or understand. Miss Bias helped me stay on task along with Miss Ronan and Miss Tremblay. Tyrese said that PACE has been awesome for him. Applause followed. Questions were asked by the board members and responded to.

Karen Pacelli asked how it is determined who enters the PACE Program and do you have a plan in place for them to transition back to the regular classroom. Dana said teachers recommend students who have not been able to be successful and this is the most common way of entering the program. There are interventions that are tried before this and if none of the interventions get the student back on track that student would go into PACE. There are other things we also look at. The plan for the following year is that we try to put them together in an academic lab and one teacher monitors their progress. We keep on top of them and most of the students come back and visit a lot. Our goal is to get them where they need to be. We try to individualize a plan for each student. Rosa Richardson asked how many students were in the program. They service 45 a year. Rosemary Russo asked how many classrooms this was broken up into. They have three tiers so three classrooms of 15. Rosemary asked if those tiers would be kids of multiple ages. They mix ages and try to keep the large number entering from the middle school together. They earn their way into a tier. Tier 3 is the most restrictive placement with the least amount of movement during the day and Tier 1 has more movement during the day and is allowed to choose an elective and they have other privileges that they earn. Patrick Leigh said he is so impressed with this program after sitting down last week to spend some time with it and to talk about the program. It is awesome and the fact that it is a grassroots program started here speaks volumes for the community. Dana said we have great teachers in the program who give so much of their own time and really care about the kids. Chairman Morrissey said these are great success stories. These students came up and talked like they were pros. Chairman Morrissey congratulated everyone and said to keep on doing great work we are really proud of you. The board gave thanks. Applause

Dana Parades thanked Rosa Richardson and Patrick Leigh for sitting in on the attendance hearings. It is an important part of the process for kids to present their case to people who don't know them and have an unbiased opinion and it went really well so thank you both. Applause

Eric Rice discussed the two contracts that were under New Business on tonight's agenda. Eric said these two contracts are no cost contracts for our dual enrollment program. This program is an extended day program for a small number of students to go over to Gateway Community College during their period 8 classes to take a Monday and Wednesday class starting at 1:30 and ending at 3:30 for the fall semester and taking a second class in the Gateway sequence in the spring. The classes are AUT 132 Automotive Specifications and ARC 133 Technical Drafting which is the co-requisite for manufacturing process which kids will take in the spring. We are just getting grades back for our dual enrollment piece and all students that completed the program had great

grades and they all highly recommend the program to other students if possible. We are getting good results back and the automotive program at Gateway will be a tremendous partner for us in moving forward with our automotive; it has really been a win for us. Rosemary Russo said this is different from the program where the kids leave school. Yes they are not missing an entire day of school and teachers aren't leaving the building one day a week; this is an extended day program. Rosemary asked if the other programs where students leave school will still exist. Not as we did this past year as this was a special circumstance that drove it initially in the fall with us being temporarily displaced. Moving forward we believe the extended day partnership will be sustainable. Rosemary asked how many kids are involved. We have 7 or 8 students and are currently going through the application process. Patrick Leigh said so we forego the other program and will this program continue to be no cost or will there be a cost. Eric sees this program being funded by a grant; either by Gateway or locally and he believes this program is sustainable as an extended day program. Bob Guthrie asked if the cost of transportation is covered through a school bus or public transportation. Winkle School Bus Company. Chairman Morrissey asked if a teacher go with students; no we inform parents through orientation sessions and students get transported there and back. The board gave thanks.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

There was no report given tonight.

C.1.c. Board

Rosa Richardson participated for the third year in the absentee hearings and it is heart wrenching at times but she loves it and hopes she can be a positive influence on the students that come before the hearing committee. Rosa attended the belated Mother's Day Luncheon at Mackrille. Karen Pacelli attended the Adult Ed Graduation and it was so nice to see the students honored and to see how proud they were and how proud their parents were of them to have the opportunity to finish their schooling in a different setting. Patrick Leigh sat on the attendance hearing board and it was an eye opening experience. Some students had maturity issues but some really had some hardships that none of us have ever really experience. It was nice to have teachers give them a pass to success. Pat Libero is sorry Louise Martone left but the definition of a forensic audit is an examination and an evaluation of firms or individual financial information for use as evidence in court so Pat is a little concerned that she wants a forensic audit. It says a forensic audit can be conducted in order to prosecute a party for fraud, embezzlement or other financial claims so Pat isn't sure if this is what she really wants and thinks she needs to define it better if she does. Our bills are paid upstairs and they can go look at our bills any time they want; it is public knowledge. Pat addressed the new position everyone is talking about. It wasn't in Neil's original contract and everybody has taken a zero %. we cut positions and how many years ago did we have two assistant superintendents it was years ago. It seems to be working now and she can't imagine we would be considering a new position at this time especially since the teachers were told they can't get their summer check. She needed to bring these two things up and she looks forward to the Bailey Graduation and at WHHS. Rosemary Russo agrees with Pat about the Assistant Superintendent position but she also feels like that was nothing we ever discussed as a board and it wasn't something that I was considering so she thinks it is

hard to be judged constantly in the courtroom of public opinion without facts being stipulated. Neil covered this tonight and she thinks he has made it clear that the position doesn't exist. May has been a very busy month with lots of activities and she has really enjoyed going to as many as possible. The West Haven Adult Ed Graduation was really a wonderful ceremony and she was glad to be a part of it. (Board members said Rosemary spoke and did a very nice job.) Susan Walker attended a lot of the senior activities at the high school and enjoyed Senior Awards Night. The amount of money given to the students was by the number of organizations and people who donated that money was incredible. The students are wonderful and she is getting to feel like she knows them and some of them were sixth graders when she retired. They all are very adult and very mature children we can be very proud of and we can look forward to what they will accomplish in the future. She went to the Honors Course Program and it was run very well by Marilyn Lynch and Jillian Woychowski. It is nice that the students are rewarded for taking more honors courses. The get a certificate for the first courses then the next year a pin and the third year a sweat shirt which is pretty cool walking around with an academic sweat shirt on and senior year they get the gold tassel to wear at graduation. The valedictorian Jeremy Borelli took 20 Honors Courses in four years. She also attended the Top 20 Students Luncheon which ended up being a breakfast which was also very nice. She is concerned about the teachers not getting their lump sum payments until July. She was a teacher for 35 years and is familiar with the process and you always received your lump sum payments in June and if there was a problem with having to change pay days because of there not being the usual 26 payments it was usually dealt with at the beginning of the year and teachers were certainly given warning. Apparently most of the teachers were shocked last week when they found out the paychecks would be delayed and they have college tuition to pay and vacation plans and it was very disconcerting to find out this was what was going on. Superintendent Cavallaro stated that the problem was the lateness and the last minute knowing. In addition to the teachers we have other 10 month employees; our paraprofessionals, our nurses and some of our AFSCME clerical and custodial help. All the contracts very clearly say that the teachers and other unions are to receive their lump sum checks during the first payment period of July. On June 15th all employees will have received their 26th check of the year and two weeks later we start the process for the following year and that is when everyone will receive their lump sum check. While it is a little bit disappointing no one is going to miss a check. We will be in compliance with the first check in July where everyone will be receiving their payment. Neil passed out the language to all the board members. Patrick Leigh asked how teachers are paid bi-weekly or weekly. All the Board of Education is paid bi-weekly. On the 15th they will get their regular check and unfortunately some of the 10 month employees were expecting their summer checks. No one is missing a check you will be paid on the 15th and two weeks later you will begin the 26th pay period and all of the employees will get their lump sum checks. Pat Libero asked if this was past practice. Superintendent Cavallaro said they normally received their check when they got their last check in June however past practice only comes into play when there is a grey area in the contract and all contracts specifically say they are entitled to the lump sum check during the first check in July. Patrick asked if all teachers take lump sum. No it is optional. Bob Guthrie recognized the WHHS Tennis Team we tried to get them here. Neil said the Coach said they had a commitment tonight. For August for back to school

could we get the projected enrollment numbers showing enrollment with the magnet school children coming back. With all this magnet school upheaval can we show where the 750 - 800 magnet school kids would be if they came back in district. Neil said yes we can get that through power school. Bob went to Pagels' Field Day which was a success because of the Bailey Buddy Program. The kids from Bailey came over and staffed the events so the elementary school field day would run smoothly. Chairman Morrissey and I were invited to the Bailey Student Government Luncheon and it was nice to sit and have a conversation with the children. Most of them were very happy with the direction that Food Service has taken. Bob went to the Seth Haley Science Fair. Bob would like the Board to get their suggestions in for the Superintendent's Goals to the Chairman by July 1st and then hopefully by the middle of July have goals in place for the Superintendent. It is not a good thing for the district or the Superintendent to go another year without goals and this is more of a reflection on the board rather than the Superintendent. Bob thinks this is in everyone's best interest. Neil said yes it is in his contract. Chairman Morrissey thanked Bob and said everyone pretty much stole his thunder tonight as far as all the award ceremonies. Jim was at the Award Ceremony at the high school and asked the amount of scholarship awards they gave out. Neil thinks it was about \$140,000.00. Jim said it was a nice ceremony but a little long. Neil said we are working on that now we know it was long. Jim said the students did a great job and they should be commended for that. Jim also went to the Bayer Awards Ceremony and the kids did a great job there also. Jeremy Borelli had 20 and Neil thinks that is the record; the most you can take is five classes a year for four years. Jim said all the kids did a great job. We were at the Bailey Student Government Luncheon at Biagetti's and the kids had a lot of questions and they were prepared. They mentioned a possible Health Class. Superintendent Cavallaro said they are looking a plan for next year that we are trying to make work. It could happen. Chairman Morrissey said they also talked about Block Scheduling and the kids said after the fourth class of block they are pretty tired; it is pretty grueling for them. Superintendent Cavallaro said he doesn't have the exact plan but thinks they have done a better job for next year so all the 7th and 8th graders will cycle through all the offerings based on the new schedule. It will work out much better and we are trying to spread gym out so the kids have it most of the school year. We have talked about adding Health back and making sure all the kids get as many different options for itinerants as possible. The whole premise behind middle school is to let them experiment with a lot of different types of subjects so we are working on this. We will bring something before you in the summer to update you.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved

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 May 16, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a. Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes Karen Pacelli seconded the motion Discussion:

All board members were in favor.

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

16-24 Judi Aronow Lampner, Special Ed Inclusion Teacher - Savin Rock

Community School Effective: June 30, 2016

Reason: Retirement

16-25 Gayle Morton, RN, School Nurse – West Haven High School

Effective: June 13, 2016

Reason: Personal

16-26 Steven H. Levine, MS, School Psychologist - Bailey Middle School

Effective: June 30, 2016 Reason: Retirement

16-27 Edward McCarthy, Physical Education Teacher – West Haven High

School

Effective: June 30, 2016 Reason: Retirement

16-28 Danielle M. Marseglia, School Counselor – West Haven High School

Effective: June 30, 2016

Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations

Items #16-24 – #16-28 inclusive

Rosa Richards made the motion to approve

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa thanked everyone for their years of service. Jim Morrissey also thanked them and said he knows a few of them and wishes them all the best in their retirement.

All board members were in agreement.

Items #16-24 - #16-28 are approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

16-29 Nicole Siley, 156 Hansen Avenue, Pearl River, NY 10965

Science Teacher - Location to be determined

Effective: August 25, 2015 Salary: \$44,884 BS (Step 1)

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.3. New Hire Item #16-29

Rosa Richards made the motion to approve

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Discussion: Superintendent Cavallaro stated that this was not a new position. During the last meeting we had a retirement and this position had to be filled. We had the option to get graduates from Quinnipiac University and we were able to get this science teacher who is a very talented person.

All board members were in favor

Item #16-29 is approved

D.4. New Business

16-30 Agreement between the West Haven Board of Education and the West Haven Federation of Paraprofessionals, AFT Local #2262, CFEPE, AFL-CIO

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. #16-30

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve item 16-30

Pat Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa thanked them on behalf of the board for their understanding. We witness what you do on a daily basis and we truly appreciate what you have to offer to the students and the community and we appreciate your consideration during these difficult times.

All board members were in favor

Item 16-30 is approved

16-31 Contract between the Board of Regents for Higher Education on behalf of Gateway Community College and the West Haven Board of Education for AUT 132 Automotive Specifications from 8/29/2016 through 12/07/2016

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4, #16-31

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve item 16-31

Pat Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: Patrick Leigh asked if this was the no cost. Yes no cost extended day.

All board members were in favor

Item 16-31 is approved

16-32 Contract between the Board of Regents for Higher Education on behalf of Gateway Community College and the West Haven Board of Education for ARC 133 Technical Drafting from 8/29/2016 through 12/07/2016

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. #16-32

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve item 16-32

Pat Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: All board members were in favor

Item 16-32 is approved

16-33 Adult Education Program Improvement Projects PIP Contract

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4, #16-33

Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve item 16-33

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: Rosa asked if they are requesting \$30,000.00. No it is a state grant that we receive for \$30.000.00. Rosa thanked Matt for the clarification.

All board members were in favor

Item 16-33 is approved

Before adjourning Susan Walker mentioned that under informational item F.5. is the retirement of Karen Capone the 12 month secretary at Bailey. She has been wonderful.

The board members all agreed and Neil said she has been a nervous wreck making sure everything is just right for her replacement.

Chairman Morrissey 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 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola Board Secretary BOE Speech:

Marilyn Halligan & Georgian Din (Co-President Paraprofessional Union Local #2262

We come before you tonite on behalf of our members urging you to oppose the creation of any new administrative positions for the upcoming school year. This request is based solely on dollars.

It is the collective opinion of the paras' union that the recent decision to create any new administrative positions is not fiscally responsible given the financial situation of this city.

Based on City Council meetings & hearing that there was "just no money available", our members ONCE AGAIN agreed to freeze our contract in good faith. Were we misled?

The decision now to create a top level administrative position directly contradicts the information provided at those public meetings. Consequently, we're requesting the BOE to provide clarity about the benefits of a newly created position & how this will directly impact our students both short & long term. We believe transparency is important & it will provide integrity to the process.

Due to budget constraints, 17 paraprofessional positions have been cut from the upcoming summer school program that services our most "needlest" population and we've been advised that our 5 retirees' positions will not be filled because there is no money! Yet there's discussion to create a position to to the tune of \$160,000!

The salary range for a paraprofessional is \$17,000 to \$23,000 which equates to a \$6,000 increase over an entire career! A side note, sadly that salary meets the state's poverty level for a family of 3!

Collectively, paraprofessionals save this district millions of dollars by servicing students who would otherwise have to be outplaced. We are your best return on investment!!!

In closing, I'd like to remind you that at least 95% of our paraprofessionals are your tax-paying constituents who all agree that to create an unnecessary high level administrative position would be fiscally irresponsible.

Thank You