

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 21, 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 March 21, 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
Rosa Richardson
Rosemary Russo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Libero
Karen Pacelli
Mark Palmieri

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Edward M. O'Brien

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Susannah Beyl
Evelyn Fabian
Andrew Gordon

B. Public Portion of Meeting

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

David Carr, Lake Street, West Haven, CT came before the board and read from three typewritten pages that he wanted to be made part of the minutes. His document is attached at the end of the minutes. (Attachment A) Thank you Mr. Carr. The Board gave thanks.

Tracy Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive, West Haven CT asked if the Superintendent or someone from the high school would give an update on the levelling as they have started registering for courses. Superintendent Cavallaro said they did put the level in it is all set and they were rolling it out to the Bailey 8th grade students and they did have an information night. It is in place and ready to go for next year and one of the things they need to do is inform the current students at WHHS and the kids at Bailey and they are in the process of doing that. Tracy thanked Superintendent Cavallaro. The board gave thanks.

David Riccio, 667 Washington Avenue, West Haven, CT, City Councilman at Large congratulated the Board Chairman Jim Morrissey for being the Irishman of the Year; it is an honor for you and your family. He spoke to some of the board members after the last meeting about something he has proposed since 1999. He would like the City Council and the BOE to have the opportunity to sit down together and go through the budget. The board is the watchdog for the education side and we (City Council) have responsibilities that go beyond that. Never in the 30 years he has been on the council have we ever sat down face to face, board to council to find out your feelings on our cuts and the Superintendent's feelings on the cuts that we have made and for us to hear how important these programs are that we eliminate. The City Council sees the bottom line and we do what we have to do on the fiscally responsible side and questions are asked later. It is important that the BOE and City Council sit face to face. He has talked with Patrick Leigh, Rosa Richardson and Bob Guthrie and they thought it was a great idea. Education and Public Safety are two important areas that are up at the top; but from years and years of fiscal mismanagement the City Council and administration are at a point where we have to make the decisions to run government the responsible way without losing operation at the normal pace. It is important that we work together on this budget because people have elected you as well as they have elected the members of the City Council to serve with the best interest of this community. Let's get this thing going it will be best for the children of the city and for everyone. Thank you. The board gave thanks.

Mayor Edward M. O'Brien pointed out that he and the Superintendent have had many meetings with the Finance Committee from the BOE. Mayor O'Brien wanted to ask the Superintendent if there are any programs being cut. He feels Councilman Riccio's idea that everyone sit down is a good one but he thinks that the roll of the City Council is to give a dollar amount to the city budget. We have to discuss programs and he doesn't want it to be out there that programs are being cut because he doesn't believe that there are any being cut. Superintendent Cavallaro said at this point he doesn't anticipate any programs being cut. The number was a welcome surprise and was a little bit more than we had anticipated and more than the board had originally anticipated. While we are not where we want to be it is March and we still have two months to get there. We had conversations with the unions and we have had a meeting with Mrs. Heaney today. We have talked with the paras and have talked with the teachers about some retirement incentives and we are in a good place and will get to where we need to be to present to the board a balanced budget come May with no cuts in programs. Mayor O'Brien thanked Superintendent Cavallaro. The board gave thanks.

There were no other speakers. Public Session closed at 7:10 PM.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro stated that both Anne and Matt were home with the flu. We hope they both have a speedy recovery.

We have two groups here tonight. We are very happy to present to the board tonight and you Mr. Chairman Andrew Highsmith, Jeffrey Flores, Abdoul Aremu and Talon Butler. They made up the 4x200 indoor track relay team that won the Connecticut State Open Championship. They advanced to the New England Championship where they placed 6th. Mr. Capone our Athletic Director and Modestine Vaughn who has been a long time track coach and colleague of mine over at Carrigan many, many years ago and who does a great job with our track team are here tonight to talk about the boys and we have a small give for them.

Jon Capone thanked the Superintendent and Board for having them here tonight. We are here to recognize the indoor track boys that won the Connecticut State Open. In the world of Track and Field qualify is what it takes to get there. Qualifying is the key word and you have to qualify as you move along through the season with times. You start off in your league and division and you qualify for your league championships and you move on to the division in your state and we are in the LL the big division and then they take the best of the best throughout all the divisions and have a track meet at Hillhouse at the New Haven Athletic Center where they compete for the Connecticut State Open Championship. This relay team is the best of the best and is #1 in Connecticut and we at West Haven High School are proud of them for their accomplishments.

Coach Modestine Vaughn introduced the students and presented them with a certificate. Track is the only sport in Connecticut where we compete in the New England Championships. Coach Vaughn said she is very proud of these young men and they have worked very hard throughout the season to get where they had to go. They won first place at the State Class Meet and when they were at New England they were ranked 14th and out of the 14 teams in all the New England States they came in 6th place and broke the school record, so there is a new school record for indoor track at WHHS. They did an excellent job and we are very, very proud of them. The team consists of two seniors and two juniors. She asked them to come before the board. Applause. Because of what they did at the New England Championship they are presented with a certificate from the Council of New England Secretary School Principal's Association and they also received a pin for their participation and they broke the school record there. We have Senior Captain Andrew Highsmith, Senior Jeffrey Flores, Junior Abdoul Aremu and Junior Talon Butler who also broke the school record in the 600 this year. Applause. We are very proud of these young men and hope that they continue on in their education as well as with their athletic ability. She knows that Drew Smith has been accepted to UNH where he will be running track and maybe playing a little football. Jeffrey Flores is pursuing his career and we will wait and see what comes from that. The board

congratulated them and pictures were taken with the Superintendent, Board Chairman, Jon Capone and Modestine Vaughn.

Superintendent Cavallaro said there is another presentation for the board tonight and Mrs. Gardner, the Principal of WHHS couldn't be here but representing the WHHS Governance Council is Sal Fiorello, Michelle Caprio and Marilyn McCarthy. One Book, One School Community is a program being sponsored by the School Governance Council and the West Haven Public Library. The title of the book that we are reading and sharing is, "This I Believe" the personal philosophies of remarkable men and women. The board is being presented with this book and is encouraged to read it and get in on the conversation. The board gave thanks.

Marilyn McCarthy serves on the WHHS School Governance Council as a parent; she has two children there. On the Council we have a principal, Pam Gardner along with 5 teachers, 7 parents, 2 students and 2 community members. The Council reviews the school improvement plan and offers proposals to the administration on ways to further its goals. The Council had decided the primary focus last year would be on parent engagement. We are inviting the West Haven Community to join WHHS in the This I Believe public dialogue. Each board member, the three student representatives and the board secretary were given a copy of the book "This I Believe" which is the compilation of philosophies of more than 70 individuals. A further discussion took place. The board gave thanks.

Superintendent Cavallaro said on the agenda tonight under New Business there is a draft letter that if the board sees fit will be sent to the state. We were able to free up some money from the Carrigan project as some of the lighting had already been done so we have about \$238,000.00 and one of the greatest needs is at the WHHS swimming pool. Jon Capone and Chris Everone explained the need for work to be done at the pool; we are getting into prime time with swimming lessons and summer programs beginning. There was an overhead projection of our antiquated steam boiler that they took apart at WHHS. Chris stated there were two tubes that were leaking and two boilers from 1999. The issue is that these boilers were not made for a swimming pool. There are specialty boilers for pools. For the water to be kept at the correct temperature during the summer the boilers have to be turned on which in turn heats the entire building. The boilers run all summer and winter so we are running into major problems. Both boilers have been re-tubed approximately six years ago and now we have the tubes leaking again and the other day both boilers were down. We are wasting a ton of money on these boilers. There is better technology out there now and we would save a ton of money on energy. We are hoping to use some of this money to do something a little bit better. A further discussion took place and questions were asked and responded to.

Patrick Leigh stated so your plan is to get a new system to heat the pool but what about the building heat? Chris Everone responded what he would really like to do is have a separate boiler just to heat the water as we have at Carrigan which has a separate boiler that heats the water and a separate heating system for the building. Is that plan built into the cost of this? Neil said this is the band aide. Hopefully next year if more money comes

through this Alliance Grant we would go full force; this will get us through the next couple of years. What has the maintenance cost been to fix these boilers; just this year. Every time we re-tube them it is a couple of thousand dollars. Do we service this on our end or contract it out? It is all contracted out; it is a specialty as an actual boiler company has to come in and do this. If we run these less there would be less maintenance in the meantime? Yes, absolutely. We could do with one instead of two. A new boiler for the pool would save thousands of dollars. Did you get an estimate for what the new boiler system would cost? Hopefully by the end of the week we will have an estimate of the cost. Do you feel the grant will cover the full cost? He doesn't think the grant will do the whole system but will get us by until we figure out a better plan and get more money he thinks we can get by with that.

Mayor O'Brien asked if solar heating has been looked into. We looked at putting some on the roof for electricity costs but not so much for heating the pool water. Our electricity costs are pretty high. Mayor O'Brien said it seems like a pretty good spot for solar it is wide-open over there. Absolutely. Superintendent Cavallaro said we had a plan for the rink and met with Solar City and they were supposed to be putting a plan together for a lot of our buildings but one of the drawbacks was that the roof has to be in good working order so we need to fix the roofs first and then you can put the solar panels on the roof. Chris said as far as the pool goes the roof is newer around 1999. Mayor O'Brien asked if we could take that quarter of a million dollars and put it into something for more than a band-aide maybe a component that would stay there for the future. Superintendent Cavallaro said this would be part of that it is not a band-aide that was a bad term. The plan is ultimately to have a piece of equipment that is going to stay there. Neil said we have at least two companies looking at different options.

Chairman Morrissey wanted to make sure with the boilers that in a year they will not be obsolete; you are spending 40M. No, Chris Everone said he is on top of that and explained to the contractor he wants pool vacs which are stainless steel to heat the pool. Rosa asked if the boiler was in the basement as it doesn't make any sense to have your boiler in the basement where most of your humidity is going to remain. The problem is that this is an older system where the chlorinated water is getting in the boiler; it is the way the system is designed. Patrick said so it is using the pool water to heat itself? It doesn't use the pool water. Downstairs to heat the pool water it goes through a heat exchanger and the water that comes out of the boiler goes through where the pool water is. Patrick asked what the estimated life is on the system as is. We are passed it; we have been very fortunate to get parts for it and get it running. Rosa asked if it is feasible to move them from where they are currently and put them in a less corrosive area. You are not just corroding the boiler you are corroding everything; electrical everything. If we are going to do it wouldn't we want to move it to an area that would be more sustainable? Yes but the only other solution is to put a building outside the pool where it is not in the chlorinated air. The newer system designed for pools eliminates any issues with this. A further discussion continued. Superintendent Cavallaro said the purpose of the letter is to apply for the revision and once we get a definite plan we will come back to you. This is part one of some major renovations. This will help us for now. The board gave thanks.

Superintendent Cavallaro said the roof project is not taking place this summer at Carrigan it will take place next summer. In discussions with Kevin McNabola in putting the budget together they felt that they can get us a little bit more money for our operating budget by pushing out the bonding to July 1st. We will be able to do some of the solar project in conjunction with the roof and as long as we have a timetable set we are good.

The last item Superintendent Cavallaro discussed, and he has already shared his concern with Mayor O'Brien about this, is that he received a call from the New Haven Superintendent last week who informed Neil that the New Haven BOE is currently looking at phasing in a fee for students who attend Magnet Schools and for a district like ours it would be devastating. They have not decided on anything yet but are looking at around a \$750 start number if they do and phase it in up to about \$2,000.00. Neil contacted the Hamden Superintendent as they have the 2nd highest number of students enrolled and our district has the highest. It has been suggested that we sit down with our legislative group and State Senator Slossberg and talk about how this would impact us today and down the road. We will continue to monitor and work on this situation as this will have a major impact on us as a city and the BOE.

Patrick asked if that fee would come from us or would the parents be responsible for the fee. Neil believes it would come from us as a BOE. It might not have to we could say here is your tuition. Neil said we wouldn't have the room at certain schools if we were to say you can no longer attend magnet schools. There would be a space issue just to say we are not paying anymore and we are bringing them all back. Magnet schools were developed to reduce racial imbalance and make education more equitable throughout the State of Connecticut. The first step is to talk to our legislators and say we can't afford this and we can't take all the kids back if we needed to. We are talking about 1,000 kids from Pre-K to 12 and that would cost us in the neighborhood of \$750,000.00 – \$800,000.00. Patrick asked if that was to boost the New Haven Public School System's income. Neil said everybody is hurting for resources it is a tough year and Hartford doesn't have the money to pass along to the municipalities so they may need to raise revenue to keep operating at the level they are used to operating. Patrick asked how many students in West Haven are serviced at these magnet schools. Neil said over 1,000; we have the highest number and Hamden has about 500. Rosa asked if the New Haven School System gains fees from the State per student. We actually are the benefactor when our kids that go to the New Haven Magnet Schools are factored into us as well as New Haven. The short answer is yes but we also benefit too. Rosemary Russo said but those aren't equal amounts. Neil doesn't know what the formula is but it is factored into their total enrollment as well as ours. Rosemary said with the 1,000 kids that we have that go to New Haven if we said we can't pay additional fees we would have to take these kids back whether it meant opening up another school or not. Neil said this is one of the huge dilemmas we just can't take 1,000 kids back without some sort of plan. Rosemary said don't magnet schools also get federal funding? Neil believes so but doesn't know the formula but even to build the school they received between 90 and 95% on the basis they were going to attract kids from suburban areas to equalize educational opportunities for kids. Rosemary said maybe we should think of becoming a magnet school and getting 95% instead of 75%. It has been looked into and it is not as easy as it was at one time.

Bob Guthrie had done a lot of research on this year's ago and he said at that time it was much easier than it is now. It is early and no decision has been made but this has to be kept on our radar.

Mayor O'Brien said they will meet with the state legislators in the next couple of weeks. He agrees that they took state money and they agreed to take surrounding towns so it is kind of double dipping by taking state money and then taking our money. He spoke to Corporation Counsel and we gave a 50% reduction to the magnet school for building permit fees and we also need revenue so we are searching to find a way to amend that agreement. It doesn't seem fair that we are giving to New Haven so they can build a magnet school and all of a sudden they want to charge us because they need revenue; we also need revenue and this would offset a lot the first year.

Student Rep Susie Beyl asked if the figure of 1,000 students from West Haven does include grades Pre-K through 12. Yes it includes all grades. Does funding for Magnet Schools come out of Alliance District Grants? No they were set up prior to the Alliance Grant.

Chairman Morrissey asked if this is something new will other school districts that have magnet schools....Neil is going to assume it is not going to be limited to West Haven. Neil's assumption is that any student who is outside of New Haven who attends a magnet school would be affected. Do other school districts who have magnet schools in the state of Connecticut charge their towns to have their students attend? Neil said not to his knowledge. Jim said it is a new idea and he doesn't want to start a controversy but it is basically an idea for New Haven to raise revenue to benefit them. The state has given them support to build their schools to bring these students in and now they are changing things in the middle of the game and he questions if this would be legal. Neil said those are the conversations we need to have and the right place to start is where we are going to start with our legislature because he thinks they can put a stop to it immediately. The board gave thanks.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

The student rep report is located at the end of the minutes.

C.1.c. Board

Rosa is currently enrolled in the CABE Institute of Learning which is a four week course for BOE members. Dialog is created with board members from other communities and we share in the same concerns that every board seems to have. This is a positive experience and Rosa is enjoying it.

Patrick had a couple of questions on the tuition handout. He asked why we would outsource students to systems such as Fairfield Public School, Bridgeport BOE, and Middletown BOE etc. Patrick was told that those could be children placed in a house in that district but because their last permanent address or because their parents are living in West Haven we are billed by the other district. We do the same with other districts as well. Why are we billed from Yale/Cedarhurst when zero students were part of it but

there are prices that go across the board? What are we servicing there? Cedarhurst is a program that we use that is affiliated with Yale and some of our students go into Yale for mental health issues and they stay for a certain amount of time. There are students who stay there now so this could be a clerical error and he, Joe Lucibello, will look into it. Wouldn't tuition payments be the same amount each month? It depends on if it is the same number of students and the same students; the numbers are fluid and if a new student moves in at that school the tuition would go up or it could be a student getting different types of services who no longer receive them and that could change the line item. Patrick asked them to redo the graph so that each month would have the number of students next to it instead of the number of students at the beginning. Joe Lucibello said the number of students at the left is the updated version so when you get this that is how many kids are in that school as of the date of the last month of tuition payments. Patrick would like this done month by month. You would have 12 different sheets plus an all-inclusive sheet. You couldn't add in another line item with the # of students each month. Joe can add anything but the visual won't be there on one page. At least then we would know how many students we are servicing. Neil said if we can do a separate sheet and compare just the number of students from one month to the next so you can see a change. Yes that would be good.

Rosemary Russo asked for kids from West Haven who get SPED services in New Haven Magnet Schools do we pay for their services? Yes. So New Haven sends you a bill for the # of hours on their IEP. Yes for anyone on an IEP. Do we get any reimbursement for that SPED if we go over? We could but most students in the magnet schools never reach that level where we would get excess money. Thank you. Rosemary congratulated WHHS students on the performance of Cabaret it was phenomenal you did a great job. She also congratulated Jim for being Irishman of the year.

Sue Walker attended Pi Day at Bailey and watched students measure circles of different sizes and then graph them; they did an excellent job in Ms. Baker's class. She also attended Cabaret and they did an excellent job. Two student reps Susie Beyl and Andrew Gordan were in the play and did a great job. David O'Brien was also in the play and did a very good job too. She was told that some teachers at Bailey still have concerns about block scheduling especially at the special areas. Some kids don't have gym this year, some don't have art, some don't have computers and maybe something can be looked at because this isn't good. Neil said he wasn't aware of the gym problem that is news to him. He knows when you sign up for chorus and band something has to come out as those are electives. Neil thought that all kids had gym but Dr. Cordone stated they were randomly chosen to fill the rosters of the remaining specials. The specials used to be grade specific but they are not grade specific now and this created a whole different scenario. STEM was always an 8th grade elective and now it is grade 7 and 8 so they had to revamp their curriculum to do both so if a kid randomly gets chosen two years in a row which is possible because they are randomly chosen and don't need to sign up. Superintendent Cavallaro said he and Dr. Cordone will look into this. A further discussion took place. Superintendent Cavallaro said to have kids not take gym is something he wants to know more about; this will be addressed.

Mayor O'Brien went to three of the Cabaret performances and the kids all did a great job. He congratulated Chairman Morrissey for being Irishman of the year. He knows Jim will do the Irish Community proud throughout the year. He applauded Andrew Gordan and his friends who started the West Haven Face Book Page #ThisIsWHHS. There are an awful lot of negative things out there and for a kid your age to go against the grain and put out positive things about what is happening in our school system is remarkable. You all know that we have a great school system here in West Haven and Mayor O'Brien wants to applaud Andrew and his friends who started this. It shows true leadership and that is really the reason why you are sitting here today. Applause.

Bob Guthrie thanked the WHHS Baseball Team for opening the doors to the WHHS gym and running a clinic for the community on a Saturday and Sunday in March. Hopefully this is something they will stay with and kids will follow the program. Thank you.

Jim Morrissey congratulated the indoor track team on their great accomplishment. They are #1 in Connecticut and #6 in New England and this is something to be really proud of. Congratulations to Coach Vaughn who did a great job with coaching those four wonderful students. This is another positive thing for WHHS. There are many positive things happening at WHHS that people don't know about. Chairman Morrissey thanked the WHHS Governance Committee for doing a great job and coming to the board meeting. This is another positive thing for WHHS.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. A Special Meeting of the Board as a Whole for Finance was held in the Harriet North Meeting Room (due to the number of attendees), City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Friday, March 4, 2016 at 4:00 PM.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.

Rosemary Russo made the motion to approve the minutes

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion:

All board members present were in favor

Minutes are approved

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was held at Carrigan Intermediate School, 2 Tetlow Street, West Haven, CT on March 7, 2016 at 7:04 PM.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.b.

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Discussion:

All board members present were in favor

Minutes are approved

D.1.c. A Special Meeting of the Board as a Whole for Finance was held in the Board's Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street West Haven, CT on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 6:00 PM. An addendum has been added to these minutes.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.c.
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes as amended
Patrick Leigh seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)
16-12 Erin McCauley, Head Coach – Girls and Boys Swim/Dive Teams –
WHHS
Effective: Immediately
Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignation #16-12
Rosa Richardson made the motion to accept
Rosemary Russo seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present were in favor
Item 16-12 is approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)
16-13 John Ascenzia, 68 Savin Park, West Haven, CT 06516
Assistant Baseball Coach - WHHS
Salary: \$3,350
Effective: Immediately

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.3. New Hire (Certified) #16-13
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve
Patrick Leigh seconded the motion
Discussion: Jim Morrissey said he has known John since they played baseball together many years back and he is a great guy. He will do a great job with the high school baseball teams. Superintendent Cavallaro said it is good to have him back.
All board members present were in favor
Item 16-13 is approved

D.4. New Business
16-14 Vote on a Field Trip to Quebec City in Quebec, Canada April 8th – 10th 2017 for approximately 12 students under the supervision of Gina Reichert and one or two other teachers.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. #16-14

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve item 16-14

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

Discussion: Superintendent Cavallaro said they will need a year to fund raise for the trip and that is why we are bringing it to you now in 2016.

All board members present were in favor

Item 16-14 is approved

16-15 Revision of Alliance Grant \$248,000 from lighting at Carrigan to Boiler for Pool at WHHS

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve D.4. #16-15

Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve item 16-15 with the understanding that it will be for the purpose of submitting the letter to the State and then it will come back to the board for review before expenditure.

Discussion: Superintendent Cavallaro said unlike the other things that were brought before you for the first part of the project we definitely will do this because we have not gotten any prices yet. This is the amount of money that we were able to free up from the other project. This is not a definite amount. Rosa said OK.

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

All board members present were in favor

Item 16-15 is approved

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn

Rosa Richardson made the motion

Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

All board members present were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary

Attachment 2

March 21, 2016

Greetings to Members of the West Haven Board of Education, and those who read my words. First, I Thank You all for your commitment to the success of our students and the community through your work on this committee

There is plenty of information focusing on the failures of mass education, and many ideas of what to do about it. Successful teachers need to be recognized. Teachers that consistently produce incompetent graduates need to be supported, so they can use their professional skills to achieve results. I have a hard time believing there are teachers employed that can not teach, yet I believe there are students and families who do not know how to learn. Each teacher can only spend so much time per day with each student. Yet the student spends a much greater amount of time with their family and relatives in the community, since school is only 6 hours a day over 180 days per year, about 1080 hours a year. What happens the rest of the time? 12 hours a day is 4380 hours a year, which leaves about 3280 hours a year the responsibility of the student's family out of school.

I suggest an ongoing in home counseling with parents and students about:

- a) In home study guidelines and expectations;
- b) Definitive parent/family home study expectations;
- c) Home Study Parent Skill modeling workshops in school for targeted families;
- d) Home Based meetings and study environment coaching for parents receptive to this service
- e) Group Meetings for Struggling Parents to form identity and support .

Parent participation and enrollment in PTA is important as well . I propose a monthly letter mailed, emailed or presented on social media, to non enrolled families. This offer is an attempt to engage non participating families as a way in strengthen the community while establishing a foundation for the proposed Family-School Bridge, I also like internet based meetings where people can listen, comment present and review and participate from their home of smartphone

Creative Systemic Intervention can help families of all students who fail to attain minimum educational goals achieve a life long positive impact on study skills to

prevent future life stage failure. Every Board of Education has the ability to identify the individuals who are in most need of support through test scores and has the ability to intervene with parents or guardians at the student residence.

I propose an ongoing intervention to work with these families on:

- 1) Their child's current academic condition and class ranking position
- 2) The relationship of academic success to future earnings and life satisfaction
- 3) The relationship of academic failure to multi faceted life failures
- 4) The relationship of family participation in education and home study to success in school, secondary education and future employment and earning options.
- 5) The importance of learning as a life long process.
- 6) The importance of having a place with equipment to study.
- 7) The availability of equipment to create a space to study.

In CT, Proficiency is one step below Goal and two steps below Advanced. Proficiency is not an acceptable level of mastery to me, nor should it be to any person who recognizes the challenges of employment and career development in our local and global economy faced by our students. The CAPT clearly defines the difference between goal and proficiency.

Schools cannot overcome a systemic lack of educational priority that has become entrenched in many households. My proposal is a measurable, cost effective intervention. Many families have a variety of functional obstacles that interfere with the support and modeling of traditional education. These obstacles have to be identified and addressed by each family as there are many challenges facing struggling students. We all know where the course of academic failure leads. We can not question the competence of teachers without evaluating individual family role modeling for education, home environment, skill acquisition and life planning

Moving ahead, education professionals and administrators can choose take the lead by building a School to Family Bridge, a definitive, measurable process of reaching beyond the traditional definition of school responsibility and effect, in order to invest in the success of our students, and our community at large. The time has come to chart a systemic path to nurture success. Students can not afford to go into the world with a substandard education, and no community can afford to sit near the bottom of CT mastery ratings.

Proficiency is not goal, and state standards are a minimum expectation.

Since 1991, California has encouraged schools to coordinate supports for students and their families and was the basis for the Community School Model now in place. There are an estimated 200 community schools with health centers, after school programs, and partnerships that support children, families and community success.

"Whether in small towns, urban areas, or big cities, non-academic factors—hunger, safety, health, and other issues—spill into the classroom, affect learning, and create challenges well beyond what schools should be expected to handle alone."(Barton, P.& R. Coley. Parsing the Achievement Gap II. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service (2009)

Please consider, share and support the Carr School to Family Bridge, a definitive, measurable process of reaching beyond the traditional definition of school responsibility and effect, in order to assure the success of all our students, and our community at large.

I am committed to achieving a life long positive impact on student study skills, family strength and community wide success. I will schedule time to meet with interested members of the Board or community who wish to explore my work.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Carr, M.A.

West Haven, CT 06516

203-627-4213

Attachment B

BOE Student Report – February 1, 2016

Congratulations to the cast and Crew of Cabaret. They put on a fabulous performance this past weekend.

The Mr. Westie Pageant will be held on April 1st – we hope you can join us.

The Lil Miss Westie Pageant will be held this Saturday, March 26th - this is a fundraiser for Blue & White Up All Night and other school programs.

Children's Theater will be performing School House Rock, Live, Jr for all 2nd – 4th graders on April 7 & 8th.

Students will be visiting college representatives with at the annual College Fair trip in Hartford next week.

Parent Conferences have been rescheduled for Monday, March 28th from 6-8pm.

School Counseling is hosting the annual College Career Connections night on March 31st. This is open to all grades and attendance is highly encouraged.

The National Honor Society Induction is Wednesday night at 7pm. You are all invited to attend.

Congratulations to WHHS Unsung Hero, Mr. Todd Dandelske. He will be honored at the Founder's Day Dinner on March 30th.

PTSA has two fundraisers coming up – Paint Social Night on March 29th and a Casino Trip on April 2nd. All proceeds benefit Senior Scholarships.

Congratulations to seniors Kristjana Hyka and Brittany Tulchin, Rotary Club of West Haven Students of the Month for February

Congratulations to sophomore Betsy Magana, who memorized 287 digits of Pi to win the Pie the Teacher Contest.

Students are celebrating West Haven High School on social media – check them out at #ThisIsWHHS

Saturday was the kickoff to the spring sports season. Good luck to all of our teams.