

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
December 6, 2010
Regular Board Meeting – Seth Haley School

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at Seth Haley School, 146 South Street, West Haven, CT on December 6, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Howard Horvath, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
Sean Maher, Vice Chairman
Dorinda Borer
Mark Palmieri
Robert Saley
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Toni Paine
Patrick Egolum

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Howard Horvath welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for December 6, 2010. He thanked the Seth Haley Community for hosting the board this evening in the Music Room. He then asked if anyone from the audience would like to address the board during public session.

B. Public Session

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Rd. Mr. Cavallaro's secretary sent her part of the personnel files however they excluded the medical records, dependence, and tax information which I don't have a problem with but evaluations I do have a problem with so I want to be on the record that I'm going to be there as instructed and hope that they will participate and come, and their attorney is here, on December 8th at 2:00 PM. The outline that I understand is that not only does it have to be an invasion of privacy but it has to be offensive to the average person. She doesn't understand what evaluation would be that offensive especially where these are the top two leaders of our district. She is also asking the district to bring with them the personnel files; the reason being because I am going to ask for an in camera inspection. This means the hearing officer will get to see it but neither the public nor I will. The hearing officer can make the call after she reads it and make a determination at that point in time if it is offensive to the average person and an invasion of privacy. If she rules that way I'm hoping that all of you find out at least what is so offensive in these files and if she doesn't then it will become a public document and I will be able to get a copy of it.

The Office of Civil Rights will be here tomorrow and will be touring schools and will also be at Stop and Shop from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Community Room. Mrs. Rossi will be there for part of the time and she encourages somebody from the Board of Education should be there. She doesn't know what schools they will be touring but knows they will be touring schools.

The board gave thanks.

Rosemary Russo, 115 Pheasant Road requested that Molloy parents and children please stand and any other Molloy supporter. She then made the presentation on the following page.

As you all know, each year CONNCAN publishes School Report Cards for each school in every district in Connecticut. Last year, the rankings for West Haven had Molloy rated as the number 2 school. The 2010 report was recently published. In the area of overall Student Performance Anna V. Molloy Elementary School ranked Number 1 in West Haven.

Molloy School, the number 1 school in our city remains closed; an injustice that it is felt everyday among former Molloy students and their families. During the mid-90's to early 2000's rebuilding, additions, refurbishing and new technology were seeded by the state. Many grand projects (gyms, lunchrooms, multi media centers, art rooms, music rooms) were completed at most of the city's elementary schools with the exception on Molloy and Thompson. Even without all of these amenities Molloy students continue to move forward. With determination, focus, strong leadership, dedicated teachers, parental support and a welcoming community spirit of acceptance Molloy ultimately became the top ranked school in our city. Molloy had closed the achievement gap and was excelling. Just think of the possibilities and achievements these children from "the other side of the tracks" would have realized if their school had remained open.

Without any further ado, I would like to congratulate these children for their hard work and their achievements. You are the best. You went out on top!!

I would also like to congratulate and thank each member of the Molloy School staff for all of their efforts and for always putting our children FIRST. You have truly made a difference in the lives of many

children and I am sure you will always be remembered by the children you taught. They are:

Mr. Steven Lopes –Our principal (The only Principal I ever saw opening car doors and greeting students and families every morning through rain, snow, severe cold and nice days.)

Ms. Nicole Provanzano- Preschool

Mrs Kristen Stoner- Kindergarten

Mrs. Danieele White & Ms. Robyn Segali-First Grade

Ms. Maria Gambardella & Mrs. Maria Nicolelli-Second Grade

Mrs. Eleanor Butler& Mrs. Kay Casner-Third Grade

Ms. Diandra Piontek & Ms. Alicia Limosani-Fourth Grade

Ms. Amanda Kivell& Mr. Paul Giglietti-Fifth Grade

Ms. Faye-Marzintto-School psychologist

Ms. Maura Callahan Social Worker

Ms. Denise Miller-Speech Pathologist

Mr. Michael Danishevsky-SPED

Ms. Patty Hamilton-SPED

Ms. Stafani Izzo-SPED

Mrs. Leigh Hauer-Art

Mr. Paul Scanlon-Music Appreciation

Mrs. Helen Smith-Music Appreciation

Ms. Amber Withington- Science Lab

Mr. Spoldi- Instrumental Music

Ms. Hathy Anderson- Phys Ed

Mr. Gene Sullivan-Phys ED

Mrs. Ritamarie Bouchard-Reading Consultant

Mrs. Michele Fiorillo- Literacy Teacher

Mrs. Lisa Raucci- Literacy Aide

Mrs. Rosalyn Diaz-Ortiz- ESL

Mrs. Latanya Joyner-Title 1 Reading

Mrs. Barbara Repetsky-Title 1 Math tutor

Mrs. Patti Fusco- Coputer lessons and TAG

Mrs. Richelle Baretta, Mrs. Sharon Goodhue, Ms. Darlene Riccitelli, Mrs. Elizabeth Werle, Ms. Kellie Dorman and Mrs. Misty Talamelli- Paraprofessional Staff

Mrs. Yvonne Corrado- Secretary

Mrs. Laurie Cassella-Nurse

Mrs. Judy Colandra, Mrs. Joy Pascale, and Mrs. Lucille Blakeslee- Custodial Staff

Again, congratulations to Molloy School staff and students, for a job very well done.

Mrs. Russo said as you can see ten months ago the process of closing Molloy began and at that point we told you Molloy parents were not going away and by testament in this

room this is a great showing for ten months later. Parents and students were thanked for coming tonight. The board gave thanks.

Eric Brown, 31 Meloy Road asked if Seth Haley is a Title 1 School. The response was no it is not a Title 1 School. Last year Molloy School was a Title 1 School. Both of his children received Title 1. One child is excelling and the other one is getting left behind. This is not part of No Child Left Behind. The City basically restructured and reallocated the closing of Molloy for redistricting the money to Washington so that school doesn't close. It is quite upsetting when you have a child willing to learn but not getting any help. Last year Mr. Lopes put the teachers to the grindstone do what you have to at Seth Haley you are on your own; that is how I feel. His children like going to the school but they are not getting the education that they received at Molloy.

This past weekend the BOE was short five million dollars to build part of the BOE at City Hall or wherever it is going and closing of the Blake Building. Molloy was only short \$600,000.00 out of \$1.2 million to keep it open. In June schools got closed. Input from parents and comments on how to restructure was not used. Now in talking with parents you have four busses going down the same road for Savin Rock, Seth Haley, Pagels, and Mackrille. You need to redistrict, combine the schools, combine the roads, and have less transportation costs. It is not right for the students being left behind. I feel shortchanged by the district. Thank you. The board gave thanks.

Christopher Sanders, 375 West Spring Street wanted to stress what Mrs. Russo had mentioned about the fact that tomorrow the Office of Civil Rights is coming to the City of West Haven to hear from parents of Molloy School. He and several other people have called every parent of every Molloy student to inform them about the meeting tomorrow. He requested that someone from the board should show up tomorrow and be present out of respect for the Molloy parents and students. He thinks the teachers and staff from all the schools currently opened has done a wonderful job under the circumstances. Mr. Paolino has been very good and his follow up has been excellent with him and his son. That is not the issue here the issue is that Molloy was the #1 school in the city and it was closed. We are upset and we feel an injustice was done and we basically told the parents that this is their last chance to speak out. The 100 or so parents I spoke with are still very upset that the school is gone. On a personal note although I had not planned on moving I will be leaving West Haven and moving to Meriden. It wasn't easy to sell our house once people found out Molloy School had closed. It was the only school in the area and it made it quite difficult to sell our house. He urged everyone to come tomorrow to hear what the parents are saying. There will be translators there and members from OCR who speak Spanish. There was a big part of Molloy School where people could not speak English and they really want to be heard. Thank you for your time. The Board gave thanks.

Joe Vichellio, 27 Eagle Place has not children in Molloy but did have two grandchildren there. We have four buildings now that are empty. What are we going to do with them? Let's not have a fire sale like we had when Mr. Larry Minichino was Mayor and gave away three buildings. He goes by Molloy School everyday and sees cars there and was

wondering what is going on in that school. Remember let's not have a fire sale when we get rid of those buildings. If you get rid of any and please don't give them to anyplace that is tax exempt. Thank you. The board gave thanks.

Lorraine Carr, 29 Lake Street stated her kids love Seth Haley and Mr. Stencil who greets the kids every day. I'm really concerned because their teachers tell her that her sons are brilliant. I'm very lucky. My sons are bored out of their minds and now I find out the TAG Program has been cut. I'm very disturbed by this we need to challenge our talented brilliant kids and all the kids that go here have the capabilities of being brilliant if these teachers are held accountable and really work with these kids and don't give up on anybody. We have to encourage the children who get it and have no problems we have to give them harder work. She wants her children to go to Yale. I want them to go to college and she is concerned about out this. If they are getting bored in third grade they will give up. I challenge them at home because I currently don't work but a lot of people don't have that capability. We need to have this TAG Program in this school please. Thank you. The board gave thanks.

Public Session closed at 7:25 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro said he was never informed of the meeting on December 7th. They said that on December 8th they would tour the buildings. Neil didn't know if they were doing something separate and was never made aware of the meeting on the 7th and that is why the board was not made aware of it. Neil was going to let them know they would be here during the day on the 8th. He didn't want anyone to think that he wasn't passing along information and he apologized and wants to make sure that we have the right dates.

Rosemary Russo said she didn't know what date they were coming to tour the schools and was told that they were really coming just to talk to parents tomorrow. Board of Education members are more than welcome but it is not going to be a meeting where people are talking publicly. Parents will be talked to individually and what parents say to these representatives will be confidential.

Neil thanked her and wanted to make sure that one of them didn't have the wrong date.

Anne Druzolowski has worked with Larry Ainsworth since he came to this state. The State Department of Education requested that he and Dr. Reeves come and discuss and plan out the future for Connecticut. They helped to create the Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative (CALI) which includes:

- Looking at Curriculum
- Prioritizing Curriculum for research reasons
- Developing continual assessments to place kids and to support kids

Anne worked in another district with them and over five year tenure they had the results that Dr. Reeves had pointed to in his research.

Anne introduced Larry Ainsworth who spoke about all of the happenings in West Haven.

He began by showcasing some pretty impressive things about West Haven. He was honored to address the board and to expand a little about what Dr. Druzolowski just explained by way of his introduction. He was a classroom teacher for 24 years and he lived in Southern California. For the last 11 ½ years he has travelled around the United States and teaching leaders and educators about these practices. In 2004 he began doing the work from the State level working with CALI Districts (Districts in need of improvement). He was actually the originator of a lot of work that the state elected to make as part of the CALI initiative for improving the schools. Dr. Druzolowski contacted him in 2008 after she became Assistant Superintendent and said they wanted to redesign West Haven's Curriculum.

Mr. Ainsworth wanted to highlight a couple of the positive actions that he has seen take place in the shortest amount of time that he has ever seen a school system implement best practices. A few of these follow. This would not have been possible without the hands on directive, supportive leadership of Mr. Cavallaro and Dr. Druzolowski and in particular A J Palermo, Ann Valanzuolo, Judy Drenzek and Raffaella Fronc. They along with Mark Consorte have done the following:

- Prioritized all the Connecticut standards (GLE's) in all content areas which is and enormous accomplishment
- The teachers, the design teams must also be singled out. They are educators who voluntarily elected to do double duty. To teach their classes and come out of their classes to create the curriculum for the teachers to implement. They created units of study and have developed pre-imposed tests (common formative assessments for all these units of study) He has been working with Connecticut School Districts for years that are still working on the first couple of these practices. It is rare to see a school system embrace and implement all of this and in such a short amount of time it is nothing sort of historic.

He is always talking about West Haven in his keynote addresses in Canada and across the United States. To see the impact he takes them to West Haven's website and shows them all the units of study that have been developed in such a short amount of time.

Teachers are implementing the units of study and field testing the units that were created. They are collaborating as professional learning communities and working to further improve these units by making them richer in terms of instruction. He works in this school system more than any other one. It is a stimulating, supportive, collaborative environment and he gave a special thanks to Dr. Druzolowski, who is always present at the meetings. She is there as an instructional leader to facilitate, direct and help the teacher designers that are working so diligently. He also wanted to thank AJ Palermo, Ann Valanzuolo, Mark Consorte, Judy Drenzek and Raffaella Fronc who actually help the teachers do the work that he is asking them all to do. It is because of this that West Haven has been able to make the progress in such a short amount of time.

There is a research base behind all this. Teachers are implementing this and going into their classrooms trying this out and coming back to say what worked and what didn't work and being open and receptive to change them is also pretty pleasing.

The designers, the people in West Haven, the dedicated educators and leaders; these are some of their attributes:

- Professional
- Knowledgeable
- Great expertise
- Dedicated
- Committed
- Receptive
- Willing to learn new ways
- Hard working
- Collaborative
- Friendly
- Respectful and kind

They have personal qualities that make it a joy for me to be with them. These are people who know their content and know their expertise.

What we are ready to do is take it to the next level. West Haven educators and leaders are doing the work. The board has been very supportive and he thanked them for enabling them to do this kind of work. He presented a book to the board that he wrote this year that is really the West Haven story. It is called Rigorous Curriculum Design and it originated based on the work we started doing almost two years ago. I began this process here and I have dedicated the book to the West Haven Educators and Leaders and thanked you for all the work that you have done. The last note he wrote stated that "Your work will have a far reaching impact on education both within and beyond the West Haven Community." Large groups of people from all over are following this model and everybody that I have worked with knows about West Haven. The Connecticut State Department of Education has decided to select this model as the statewide model for developing curriculum across the state. Beginning in January we are having representatives from urban and suburban school district across the state meet in New Britain for nine scheduled days to work the process from the beginning to create curricula in Language Arts and Mathematics PreK – 12. That will be historic for Connecticut to do something at the state level. They asked him if he would like to have any assistance for this work and he said he would and Dr. Druzolowski said that we would be happy to assist him in any way they can. As a result our leadership team will go together to the State of Connecticut Department of Education on January 19th. They will serve as a steering committee to guide the work of the State as we revise the curriculum and that is a huge compliment for your leaders to serve in this capacity. They have done the work and who better to guide the state in a new initiative. Larry thanked everyone for the time given to him to address them and for all they do for kids.

Neil thanked Larry on behalf of Anne, our coordinators and everyone here we want to thank him for the partnership and look forward to challenge and thanked him for all he has done for West Haven and for making us a big part of your book and thinking so highly of our educators here. What you have done is you have gotten the word out for something that we already have known about; what great people and professionals we have here in West Haven so thank you on behalf of all of us.

Larry Ainsworth said there would be no book; there would be no process if it hadn't really happened here. So I couldn't have done any of this work I have just been the messenger but we have had all the workers here so thank you. Pictures were taken. The Board gave thanks.

Neil stated that Dave Russell and Kathy Cassell are here tonight. Kathy oversees Special Ed Services and Pupil Personnel and Dave oversees Title I and encompassing in that is the placing of homeless students. Dave makes sure that students are transported to and from West Haven if there is a DCF placement or for other necessary reasons. Throughout our budget processes in year's past we have said that this is always an unknown factor so as we get ready for next year's budget we will talk about where we are for this year's budget and state some of the unknowns and things that have happened throughout the course of this year and what we have tried to prepare for.

Kathy Cassell stated the following: recently she expressed to the Superintendent some concerns regarding the unpredictability and the limited level of control we have regarding our financial responsibility for students who are placed out of district. We can usually predict the number of students who obtain services within our district that may need specialized services beyond what a public school can offer during the course of the year. Those are the students who require special services outside of our school district who are placed in specialized education facilities or residential facilities.

It is the unknown needs of youngsters who enter our district prior to September that are difficult to foresee or predict. For example 10 children enrolled in our system in September who were currently attending magnet or out of district private specialized schools. We are required by state and federal law to meet these youngsters' needs.

The reality is that West Haven has many children that become our responsibility by law that we can not anticipate in advance to budget development. For example children placed by DCF in either a foster home or a residential school in another city due primarily to the availability of homes, continue to be our financial responsibility to educate. Deveraux is a residential facility used to educate youngsters. The cost for a regular education youngster is \$71,610. Our City, however, would not actualize the reimbursement until the beginning of the next school year.

As of today we have approximately 70 special education students in New Haven magnet schools with tuition of \$532,618. We also have thirty regular education students at the Sound School in New Haven and five students who have an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). The 30 regular education students' tuition is \$239,760 which 5 special

education students' tuition is \$92,280 – all of which comes out of the tuition line item of our general education budget. We have students in and out of detention centers, the hospital and the foster care system. For each of these situations we are responsible for assuming educational costs.

While we pay full tuition for all of these youngsters, excess costs provision is \$51,549 per student. That means that after adding tuition, transportation and any related services, like behavioral intervention specialists, the City is reimbursed for any expenditure beyond the \$51,497. The data for the number of students and the respective dollar amounts for reimbursement of costs in excess of the \$51,549 per student are reported to the state in December of each year using October 1 data and are distributed by the state to the City the following fiscal year. The district does not receive the reimbursement directly.

Consequently, if our district manages the services well and provides much of our special education services in house then we do not exceed the tuition budget line item. If we do not exceed the tuition budget line item, the excess costs go in to the City Budget and are not used to support current needs of special education youngsters. Some critical facts I leave you with:

1. It is difficult to anticipate needs of youngsters entering our district in September and beyond
2. Reimbursement from the state is based on excess costs of \$51,549 (this year) per youngster
3. We are responsible for youngsters placed by DCF regardless of the time of year and
4. We do not receive the excess costs, but rather the city does, even if we use our budget wisely to fund our service providers.

The board gave thanks.

Dave Russell began his presentation by passing out a responsibility sheet for the local liaison person which he is for the McKinney Act for 2002 which is a National Act of Legislation from the former U.S. Representative Stuart McKinney in the 4th District who put forth this law and now every system throughout the U.S. has to follow it. This is included on the following page.

Responsibilities for Local Homeless Education Liaisons
(National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE, Spring 2002)

Issue	Responsibility	Legally Required
Policies and procedures	Review local policies and procedures that may impact homeless children and youth, such as school enrollment and access to school programs (LEA requirement, may be assumed by liaison).	●
	Revise local policies and procedures determined to be potential barriers for homeless children and youth (LEA requirement, may be assumed by liaison).	●
	Ensure that homeless students are identified by school personnel through coordination with other entities and agencies.	●
Enrollment and access to educational services	Ensure that homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the LEA.	●
	Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and preschool programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.	●
	Assist children and youth who do not have immunizations or medical records to obtain the necessary records or immunizations.	●
	Ensure that parents or guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities that are available to their children and are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in their children's education.	●
	Assist with enrollment dispute resolution cases, and ensure they are mediated in accordance with the state's enrollment-dispute-resolution process as expeditiously as possible.	●
Outreach	Ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including to the school of origin, and that assistance to access transportation services is provided.	●

Dave said the most important part of the responsibilities of his Title 7 position not Title 1 is outreach – to ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including to the school of origin, and that assistance to access transportation services is provided. That means for example if a family has a fire at their home and they have to be placed in another community such as Milford, New Haven etc. we are responsible for the transportation of any school children there to transport them from their temporary shelter to West Haven and back to the shelter. For example a ride from New Haven to West Haven and from West Haven back to New Haven daily is \$130. The price is very, very steep. If a mother and family are homeless and are placed in a shelter in Bridgeport, Meriden, New Haven or Shelton we have to transport the children we can not deny the opportunity to have the children come back to the school that they are attending. Presently, we have a student in WHHS under DCF custody that has been placed by DCF to Harwinton, CT which is about 56 miles from West Haven. He contacted the DCF office and stated that not that we are trying to deny the price of \$225 per round trip but thought it would be more appropriate for the youngster to attend an area school rather than driving an hour to West Haven High School and spending 6 hours there and driving an hour back to the shelter. It is a long day for the student. DCF said they were looking also for the best interests of this student and we want the youngster to go to WHHS until a foster home is available because the change of environment may disrupt the child more.

Last year alone \$198,000 was spent to transport these youngsters from shelters and foster homes many of which were mandated by DCF and we are responsible for every single one of them. This year for the first month of September it is a hair under \$10,000. The most important thing is that this is something that is not a fixed expense. Tomorrow we may have a half a dozen families that DCF says the families are homeless; we have to put them in a shelter and we have to put the children in a living center etc. until they get foster parents for placement. There is no control what it will be but if it is anything like last year I just want to leave this information with you. Please contact my office if there are any questions.

Neil said as of today it looks like we will finish the year within budget if it keeps going the way it is but as Kathy and Dave cautiously pointed out to you that could change with the placement of one or two students or a couple of families.

Discussion

Rob Saley asked if this is something that has gone up dramatically in the last five years that \$198,000. Obviously it is fluid. Dave didn't have the stats with him. He makes the contact with the state and Myrtle Stallings who is the liaison and will be retiring makes the contacts with the couriers etc. and then the bills get processed through the special ed office. He also makes sure that if the youngsters do not receive a free or reduced lunch once they are placed out in a homeless situation we have to provide a free meal so I contact Alan Belchak to make sure that the youngsters receive a free meal daily. Dave

offered to get the data for the last few years to Rob. Kathy Cassell said she thinks that there have been more homeless in the last few years than there previously was. Rob asked if we are seeing that in our district. Yes. Neil said since their last address would be from West Haven so then it would be them being placed out of West Haven and coming back to West Haven to attend school. Dorinda asked for a break down of the statistics that Kathy gave in an email. She asked how much it costs to educate special needs children outside of the city not necessarily related to homeless children a rough estimate total. Kathy said that would depend on the facility. Even with the magnet schools it could go from 1500 to maybe 12,000 depending on the student's needs and what services they get so there is no set price. Some of the schools are \$100,000 and it really is an individual plan for the children. Dorinda asked if the needs are so varied and so specialized that it is out of the realm of possibility to actually have those services here and for us to explore and do an analysis of what it would cost to provide those services in West Haven? Kathy said we do a great job here. We have people that come and look at our Autistic Program at Pagels. Some of the other systems say it is like you took an out of district and have it in this school. Once children become dangerous to themselves and others and are so aggressive we are a public school and we have to keep everyone safe. That is what it comes down to.

Dorinda said what if we had a special facility like Molloy where there were these services. Kathy said legally we can have one school with just special education services. Kathy said there is a child who is in our district and had some very serious operations and is now in a rehab and that child's education now costs \$270 a day and that can go on for months before the child returns. While the student is rehabilitating it is very expensive. The hospitals are very expensive. Dorinda thanked Kathy for this information.

Neil Cavallaro wanted to address the TAG Program. There has been no cut to the TAG Program at all. We start testing children in fourth grade and we have put a lot of resources into our fifth and sixth grade school and are doing more whole group type lessons as well as addressing the needs of the individual kids. By law you have to identify kids by 4th grade and we do this and there has been no cut in those services at all. He said he and Dr. Druzolowski would be able to talk to you about the program and meet with the teachers and explain how the program works.

Dorinda asked how a parent would get the impression that the TAG Program was cut. While in Parent Teacher Meetings both teachers told her that the TAG Program was cut. Neil asked the parent to contact him or Anne to give her an understanding of what the program looks like.

Neil said the Chairman and he had a meeting with Mayor Picard regarding the three properties Stiles, Thompson and the Blake Building. Their thought was that an RFP will be going out shortly regarding these properties; hopefully by the end of the month. Mayor Picard is in the process of putting that together. The board has a limited role; in that nothing other than to vote to give the properties back to the city. As part of the RFP there will be the defining language that says everything is subject to not only the board's vote but any other board and commission that would be necessary in order to make the

transaction of property or convert whatever ideas for those buildings are. They are hoping to get that out shortly. The Community House Program at Stiles will need a home sooner rather than later. Beth Sabo has been advocating we move the program from Stiles because of the cost to upkeep Stiles. She said the cost to heat and light the building for 3 to 4 classrooms is not economically feasible and the crisis management costs are escalating because of antiquated mechanicals. In the last two weeks public works had to install a new motor in the compressor and repair two burst pipes that released steam and water into stairwells on the first and second floor. The Public Works Department feels that things like this will continue to happen. Beth Sabo would like to shut the water off in that building, drain and blow out the pipes in order to shut down heat and not incur any additional costs. The City would maintain the security system to curtail any vandalism unless there is a transaction to a private corporation or whatever agency would bid on this property. As a result we have to consider moving The Community House Program. We can consider moving it to Molloy as there are four classrooms we have in mind for them behind the auditorium. This will not interfere with our Maintenance Department. This is a service we provide to the community as these are our kids because they are half day kindergarten programs that allow parents to go to work. At some point in the future we will be alleviating the City and the Board of Ed of the other three properties: Blake, Thompson and Stiles. The Mayor has assured us that prior to it going into the newspaper we would have the right to review the RFP before it is advertised.

Dorinda asked if we have appraisals on all three buildings. Mayor Picard said we have appraisals on all three. We had an appraisal on the Blake Building. Just so you know what the RFP will do is as the Superintendent says the RFP will address all three properties with a six month bid process. There is no need to be in a hurry. We will have people go through it and at that point we can do just about anything we want. With that will be all necessary approvals not just the board or council but also planning and zoning. I know there was an appraisal on the Blake Building at one point we can also get appraisals there but I am in no hurry to do anything. It is very ambiguous whether it will be a long term lease or to sell the property outright and things of that nature. We will get the appraisals before the bids come back; we have six months. If it goes out January 1st and the bids come in by July 1st and you will still have a 90 day window to review the bid and before the bids come we will have appraisals of the property.

Eric Murillo said the RFP means the city has the authority to draw that RFP and decide what criteria they want in that RFP correct? Yes. Eric said why don't we vote on giving you the building before that. I don't understand why we don't do that. I think we should vote on it before you take control and decide what you want on that RFP.

Mayor Picard didn't know if the question was addressed to the Chair or to him. Eric stated he asked this question to the board. Mayor Picard wanted to know if he wanted his opinion. Eric would like to hear his opinion. Mayor Picard said if you would like to vote on that it is fine and if you don't like to vote on it that is fine. The RFPs are going to be ambiguous enough that obviously anybody who is going to buy or lease these properties long term will have to go through an approval process. If you would like to vote I guess

that is your prerogative if you didn't like to vote I'm going to be sure that those RFPs are ambiguous enough to require all approvals necessary.

Rob Saley said he didn't have a problem with the RFPs. We talked about it during the last few months. It is really just a formality but it would make me feel better if we did vote on it. It doesn't matter because one way or the other taxpayers are going to pay for it; but it would make me feel better at night to sleep that I know it is your problem; not a problem but that you are going to be running that ship that is all. Mayor Picard said it is a board decision. Neil said we did bring this up with the Mayor when we met and a lot of the questions had to do with how we would initiate such a process and we can do that prior or anytime before the RFP actually goes out.

This concluded Superintendent Cavallaro's report tonight.

Dorinda had a question on the status of schools. She wanted to follow up on the busses from what was discussed at the previous board meeting. She hates to beat a dead horse but she had talked about how she rode the bus because she had gotten complaints about overcrowding. We talked about how many kids can sit on the bus. She asked for a report of how many busses we had in operation last year and how many in operation this year, how many children were transported last year and how many this year. The answer was 60 busses last year and 60 busses this year with 3,200 children being transported this year but we can't get an answer of how many children were transported last year. My question is why can't we get an answer on how many children were transported last year.

Neil said the information is kept on our Power School and Power School does not carry over year to year that information. It only talks to the current year to what is eligible. However this year what we have in place, which we insisted that Winkle purchase, is a Bus Boss or something that establishes the route type of program and going forward we will be able to keep the information year to year. We never kept the records other than what is current and who is eligible to ride the bus. He could only go back and give a guess he couldn't give her an accurate number. Today he can give an exact head count of what is going on currently. Dorinda asked if Winkle could tell them how many children they transported for us last year. Neil said they couldn't no. He did call them and he has Tammy and Maria Giovanni looking at it and seeing if they can put a number together but Winkle doesn't have the information. Dorinda said we are transporting an additional 500 children this year if you had to guess and we talked about the overcrowding so that means we are putting another 500 children on existing busses. We never added one bus. Neil said this year we are maximizing the routes. Prior to this a lot of routes where we could have eliminated buses and combined routes which we didn't do and this year because of the software program we are getting more efficient routes with the maximum number of kids on each route. That doesn't mean we can't add a route based on an influx or we hadn't anticipated that there is an apartment complex where there are more kids than we anticipated on the bus. We may have added an addition run added because there are four levels of transportation: high school, middle school, 5/6 school and elementary so a bus may be doing four routes instead of three. A further discussion took place.

Howard Horvath said let's determine with specificity what the problem is. Are there 500 children; there has to be a way to nail that and then we decide based on that what we do.

Mark Palmieri said let's get it on the agenda and get the proper people here to answer questions instead of every meeting just going over it. He understands Dorinda's frustration that she is getting calls but she is the only one; he said he shouldn't say that he doesn't know if any other board members are but... Howie said he doesn't think that is really pertinent. What matters is somebody bought up the issue and we as a board are address it. Howie asked Mr. Cavallaro if he could get the right people in the room to determine whether or not these busses are overcrowded. Neil said he is sure we can and we have provided you with all of that information and to my knowledge I don't see any overcrowded busses. That doesn't mean, especially at the high school level that a few kids don't jump on the bus that they are not supposed to. To his knowledge we don't have any overcrowded busses. Howie asked the definition of an over crowded bus there has to be some kind of a number. Neil said on the big school busses the maximum is 70 students and we don't come close to that. The most he can count is 55. I think that was the highest number on the report that we gave you. I don't have a bus with over 55 kids on it and I am not getting reports of overcrowding. Howie said it comes back to Dorinda to try to identify...Dorinda said there are 43 seats on the bus...Neil said let me send something out to the principals tomorrow and we just did this before we provided you with the information but I'll do it again. Let me see if they believe there are any busses that at this point today that they believe are overcrowded. I will get a definite count and have the principal, administrator or bus supervisor go out and count the kids we have done that before.

Howie said OK that sounds like a good approach and Dorinda stated fair enough.

Eric asked if the driver has any authority to make sure the bus is not over crowded or do you have to have someone from the school. Neil said he would hope that the driver would notify his supervisor or the school that there are too many kids on the bus. He could not say to a bunch of students you can't get on the bus and don't go to school. They are in a difficult position.

Howie said we will add this to the next agenda.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

There were no student representatives present at this meeting.

C.1. c. Board

Howie wanted to say congratulations to Anne, Neil and the leadership team. I can only imagine how difficult and challenging it is to get an entire district to move in that direction which I think is an incredibly important direction and so I want to say thanks and kudos to you and your team. Keep up the good work and we will reap the rewards.

C.1. d. Committees

To piggyback on the last meeting when we talked about AFB doing some recycling Rob Saley stated that over the last couple of days he wanted to bring this information to the board. He showed the board papers that he found last week that were from 1949 which are an absolutely 100% recyclable product so is glass; and a milk bottle. What I want to show you is that there are three items here one of them is completely recyclable made from soy. The glass is completely recyclable which we don't recycle enough and paper is recyclable. Today I had the unique position to be on a construction job and that is why I didn't tell you where these were from because they come right out of a landfill. This paper has West Haven's news and is a paper that is 61 years old, June 13th 1949. The reason I'm showing you this is because it didn't decompose and has been in a landfill for 61 years and still didn't decompose. When you look at the AFB report and I'm all in favor it says recycled paper uses 70% less energy. In this landfill that I am working through 25% of the material in the landfill is glass so we need to recycle more. We need to do this as a district.

Eric Murillo wanted to get some information to the board. He stated as part of the facilities sub committee I was in a meeting about the magnet school that is to be built in West Haven. He passed out a map of where the site will be. He met with Attorney Will Clark the attorney for New Haven and Eric wanted to inform the board that now they have 6th, 7th and 8th now and 9th grade next year and eventually it will be through the 12th grade. There will be four classes of each of the 7 grades and 28 students in each class. 25% of the attending students will be from West Haven. Eric wanted to share this information with the board. They want it next to UNH because UNH wants to be part of this process too.

Neil said he was glad Eric brought this up and he had received a call from Robert Canelli the Director of the Magnet Schools in New Haven and they are getting concerned about the city's lack of moving the project forward especially now as they have up to middle school 8th grade and 9th grade next year and are trying to expand through high school. If they don't get moving on the facility they are concerned they will lose the enrollment thereby losing the school as a result.

Howie asked if there is a good solution to that. Neil said Mr. Canelli asked him what can we do. Neil said as a board we have been very supportive and have attended meetings with New Haven's Mayor and their board chairman and Dr. Mayo to meet with council members and planning and zoning members. My guess is that zoning is an issue but I don't know for sure. They want to show progress on it to show parents they are moving forward. Eric said he thinks there is a little glitch there in the zoning part of it but he thinks the City Council is 100% in favor of it. Neil said the city has expressed from all angles that we do support it. Eric said they are trying to acquire those properties right there and are in negation which will take about 1 to 2 months and then whatever they

accomplish with the zoning board. Howie thanked Eric for keeping the board abreast of this. This is important.

Dorinda mentioned that Myrtle Stallings is on the agenda for her retirement and she is the Parental Liaison and I want to stress how important it is that we have a bi-lingual person replace her and I want to make sure the board is supportive of that. I think it would make sense. Neil said that would certainly be a priority.

Howie said that Mr. Ainsworth is a good segue of what I want to talk about committee wise. He was inspired to do this based on having just received this report called Every child should have a chance to be exceptional. Without exception. **The website address for the report is <http://www.ctachieve.org/>**

This report is from the Connecticut Commission on Educational Achievement. He encouraged everyone to read it and he read some quotes made by people we would recognize. The quotes follow at the end of the minutes. Schedule A.

For Sharon Palmer to come on board and say that these things are the right kind of things to be doing is encouraging. Sean said the board members had not received this in their mail and Howie said he would have it copied and out to everybody.

Mr. Ainsworth talked earlier about one of our most important, reform and innovative efforts here in the district and certainly in the State; CALI and what we are doing with standards and common formative assessments and working together as teams. I believe that in essence is one of the most critical things that we could be doing and should be doing and I am anxious to see us reap the rewards. I was especially excited that he said that we are willing to learn new ways here in West Haven because I think change is hard and is something that scares a lot of people and takes a lot of work and I know the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent understand that first hand because it was not easy to move the district in this direction. I think we are happily at a point where we are seeing some real momentum and each day is a little easier. In support of this kind of work and because there is so much going on at the National and State level even at the District school level I would like to establish a new sub-committee. I will entitle it the Education Reform, Innovation & New Grant Monies. I added New Grant Monies to this as well which is because I believe there are a lot of new grant funding sources out there that we need to take a look at to help in these difficult times. He crafted a quick purpose to illustrate or illuminate. Purpose: To collect data and inform the board on current published research and innovative initiatives being conducted in the area of K-12 school reform and innovation. This will include, but not be limited to, providing information from organizations like the CT Commission on Educational Achievement, Federal and ST DOE, ConnCANN, AFT, other K-12 school districts, higher education and research institutions, CT legislature and office of the new Governor. There is a lot going on and I think anybody that has been watching can sense that obviously as Mr. Ainsworth pointed out right here in West Haven we are doing a lot and leading the way and I want to see us continue to do that for the benefit of our students and our entire community. We will set this committee up and it will be another committee going forth.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held at, Savin Rock Community School, 50 Park Street, West Haven, CT on November 15, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve the minutes
Dorinda Borer made the motion to approve the minutes D.1. a.
Sean Maher seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Minutes D.1.a are approved

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held at, Savin Rock Community School, 50 Park Street, West Haven, CT on November 15, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve the minutes
Rob Saley made the motion to approve the minutes D.1. a.
Eric Murillo seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Minutes D.1.b. are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

10-102 Krista Wajnowski, Freshman Girls Basketball Coach - WHHS
Effective: Immediately
Reason: Personal

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

10-103 Myrtle Stallings, Parent Liaison – Blake Building
Effective: December 31, 2010
Reason: Retirement

10-104 Susan J. Kurowski, Paraprofessional – Carrigan
Effective: January 2, 2011
Reason: Retirement

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations: (Certified) 10-102 Through D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified) 10-103 and 10-104 inclusive
Rob Saley made the motion to approve D.2. – 10-102, 10-103 and 10-104 inclusive
Eric Murillo seconded the motion
Discussion: Neil wanted to make a comment on both Mrs. Stallings and Mrs. Kurowski both of whom are long time employees who are retiring and will be missed by the school district. Both are very good people and very dedicated. Neil stated he has worked closely with both of them over the years. Mrs. Kurowski when he was a teacher at

Carrigan and Mrs. Stallings at the Central Office. They are good people and they will be missed. Howie stated he would echo that.

All board members were in agreement.

Item D.2 10-102 through D.3. 10-103 and 10-104 inclusive are approved

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

10-105 Eric Rice, 48 Pleasant Street, Chester, CT 06412

Physics Teacher - WHHS

Effective: November 22, 2010

Salary: \$79,122.91 (Step 12 BS+60)

D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

10-106 Shawn Coggins, 25 Woodridge Road, West Haven, CT 06516

Plumber/Steamfitter

Effective: December 1, 2010

Salary: \$45,987.24

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve items D.5. 10-105 and D.6. 10-106

Andy DePalma Saley made the motion to approve item 10-105 and D.6. 10-106

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

All board members present were in agreement

Items D.5. 10-105 and D.6. 10-106 are approved

D.7. New Business

10-107 Local 2706 – grievance regarding workman’s compensation

Howe said at this point we go into the procedure. Neil said we have Attorney Dugas who will present the administration’s case as well as Dave Orio from Local 2706 to present the case of AFSME regarding the grievance regarding the workman’s compensation section of the AFSME contract.

Attorney Dugas gave a brief overview of what the grievance was about. He said when we deal with worker’s compensation it provides benefits to employees who are injured on the job. It provides 75% percent of the employee’s take home pay when an employee is injured and out of work. In the public sector unlike the private sector it is not uncommon for the unemployment to be supplemented so that an injured employee gets 100% of the pay that they receive when they are working. It essentially is guaranteeing 100% of the salary of the employee if they are injured. They are not required to do that by law it is something that is gratuitously done in collective bargaining agreements. We have a provision like that here.

What happened in this particular case is that the individual involved was part of the reductions in force that happened this past spring because of the fiscal situation. At the end of May this individual sustained a work related injury and then effective July 1, 2010 was laid off. For the period of time beginning with the date of his layoff, in addition to the worker's compensation which continues whether you are an employee or are not an employee and whether you are laid off or not laid off, the union is seeking to have the supplemental wages continue after the period of his layoff. Effectively from the end of May through July 1 he was paid the supplement there was no dispute then he was entitled to that under the collective bargaining unit. Once he was laid off and was no longer an employee of the BOE he is seeking to continue the supplement for the balance of the four months the contract provides for so for an additional three months. The position of the union is that the contract language in Section 7 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement addresses this issue. The administration's position is this language is well and good for employees of the BOE if they are active employees but this language does not apply to former employees who have been laid off. That is essentially the crux of what we are talking about. He referred to Section 7.7 which says Worker's Compensation Benefits shall be paid to any employee that qualifies for the same under the same worker's compensation act. This statement doesn't mean anything because the worker's comp law is separate and apart. Worker's Comp doesn't draw distinction as to whether you are laid off or not. Here is where the language comes into play. The board will pay for a period of up to four months from the date of injury a supplement to the weekly disability benefits which are paid under law in lieu of weekly wages. It goes on to say the total of the weekly compensation benefit and the board's supplement is equivalent to the employee's weekly wage at the time of the injury. It goes on to say in cases of hardship the employee can petition for additional time and payment. The point being the individual has to still be an employee to continue to receive this and secondly this is in lieu of the employee's weekly wages that he otherwise would receive. Once you are laid off you are not entitled to weekly wages. This is the provision that the union and individual are relying on and effectively they are saying that Section 7.7 says not just if you are an employee and you are injured but even if you are laid off and you are no longer entitled to weekly wages because you have been laid off that this provision works; frankly I just don't see that it had the intent to do what they want but as I pointed out to you it is supposed to be the continuation of an employee and we are dealing with a laid off employee here. A further discussion took place about the contract language that is relative which is essentially the dispute.

Dave Orio, President Local 2706 pointed to the exact 7.7 of the contract. Nowhere does it say that if you are laid off you don't continue to receive benefits. It is our belief that you own the employee and compensation until he is able to go back to work because until he is released he can not collect unemployment benefits, he can't get another job and I believe he is still getting his medical paid from here. He is not an active employee but not by his own choosing. He was laid off by the board. If per chance the two lowest custodians in the system were on compensation now and you wanted to save whatever \$5,000 because you don't want to pay the \$120 could you just lay them right off just to save the money; it doesn't make any sense to me. He asked the following questions. Is the only reason he is not getting this is because he is not working for the board anymore?

The last sentence in 7.7 says in cases of hardship the employee can petition the board. This certainly is a hardship and we are not asking for anything extra a hardship we are just asking for what we believe he has coming. It is my understanding he has been paid for approximately 30 out of the 120 days allowed. He also was on compensation before he was given the layoff notice. He has documentation from the board's doctors of his injury and I just believe that you own him and you are still paying his medical benefits, he can't collect unemployment, he is strapped and can't make the money and there is no where in 7.7 that it indicates any language about a layoff. It says if you are hurt on the job and he was hurt when he was an active employee here and I think he deserves to be paid for 120 days.

Attorney Dugas said since this is a language and non-discipline grievance the union has the burden of proof here. It is not necessarily that we have to prove that the language says he is not entitled to it they have to prove that the language says even once laid off he is entitled to still get that payment.

Dave Orio pointed out once again that he is not an employee by the school system's choosing not his own.

Discussion:

Rob Saley asked when he was hurt what day. He was hurt May 28th. Rob said and you laid him off July 1st. Attorney Dugas said that was the effective date of the lay off; notice went out prior to that. Rob asked when was his last wage date. The last week of June. Rob said you are saying he can't collect unemployment. Right. Why is that because he is still on workman's comp? Correct. Is that a state law and is that how it works? The way it works is essentially you can't get multiple remedies. If you are injured and eligible and you are disabled you are not eligible to collect unemployment because you are eligible for worker's comp. So he is eligible to collect worker's comp and can't double dip and also collect unemployment. Rob stated but as of July 1st he was not getting anything? Attorney Dugas said he is getting his worker's compensation payment which is 3/4ths of his take home pay. Rob said and what he is looking for is making it whole. Exactly; the differential. Rob thanked attorney Dugas.

Howard Horvath asked if it was alright to ask the nature of the injury. Attorney Dugas stated he didn't think it was relevant. Howie asked if it is the doctor who says you are alright to come off of worker's comp? Attorney Dugas said Worker's Compensation has to release you. It was stated that it is the employee's doctor basically. If the employee's doctor says he is unable to work it is usually accepted. Howie asked, our doctor if you will? No. Dave said we have documentation here from the Board's doctor. The board sent him to the doctor. Attorney Dugas said he doesn't think that we are disputing that he was unable to work.

Rob Saley asked if we have any precedent here have we ever done this before with teachers or anyone else. No, I asked and we are not aware of any.

Neil said David and I work out a lot of things prior to coming to the board. If there is something that says we have to pay legally we certainly will but what it came down to was contract language, which is why I think we came to this point today and we are in dispute.

Rob said we are still covering him medically because he got hurt on the job. Yes. Dave said wouldn't that say that you still own him?

Howie said you said there would be no hardship request. Is that something that could be written down? Dave said a hardship request would be after he received the 120 days of full pay. Howie said he understands but in thinking about a negotiation if there was to be one if you were to say that there would be no request for it that is one way to interpret what might happen. If you say it is open ended we don't know it could go on forever. We are not planning on asking for a hardship we are just asking for 120 days.

Rob asked, "We have never done this for anybody"? We have a human resource person here and I was wondering. Dave said we haven't had any layoffs since the 80's.

Howie said this is an interesting situation.

Andy DePalma asked if we are just looking for the balance of the 120 day is all we are looking for. Correct. Thank you. Eric Murillo said at 100% not 75%. Howie said it is an additional 25%. Dave said it is an additional 25% of 90 days. Dorinda asked what the total is do we have a total? Attorney Dugas said we don't; but just mental math we are probably talking a couple of thousand bucks. Eric asked what happens after that. That is it. Attorney Dugas said you will continue to have responsibility for his worker's comp as long as he is certified by the doctors to be out and collecting as well as his medical expenses. If at some point in time that terminates he will presumably be eligible for unemployment.

Sean Maher said but those worker's comp payments to that point would only be at the 75% because we have finished? Howie said yes they only talk about four months. Howie asked if we are insured? Attorney Dugas said no that is a common misunderstanding. There were no other questions. Howie asked if the plan is to recess and discuss and come back and vote? Yes. Howie asked Neil if he was ready to do that. He stated he is ready that is why we are here. It is at the pleasure of the board.

Howie asked for a motion to recess.

Motion to Recess: Dorinda made the motion to go into executive session

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

All in favor

Board recessed at 8:40 PM

Howie asked for a motion to return to public session.

Motion to return: Andy DePalma made the motion to return

Sean Maher seconded the motion

All in favor

Board returned at 8:55 PM

Howard Horvath asked if anyone would like to entertain a motion to either uphold the Grievance which represents voting in favor. I guess we could do either but voting in favor of the employee on this issues. The opposite would be to deny the grievance which would be the opposite. Let me ask it this way would anybody like to make a motion to uphold the grievance and we would vote yea or neigh. A yea vote would say in favor of the employee and a neigh vote would be in favor of denying it. Upholding the grievance means agreeing with the grievance.

Dorinda made a motion that we uphold the grievance in favor of the employee.

Andy DePalma seconded the motion.

Eric Murillo would like to have a role call.

Howie asked Floyd if we need to approve the motion first and then vote on it or is it just voting on it. Just vote on it.

Howie said we will have a role call vote. All those in favor of upholding the grievance in favor of the employee starting with Mr. Saley. Rob asked if we could have some discussion on this. Howie said yes, please, I guess.

Discussion: Rob said I'm probably one of the ones most criticized for contracts or obligations but when I look at this we all interpret it differently. I know when I had guys working for me and they got hurt I paid so the only way I would tighten this up is to remove 7.7 not only in this contract but in our teacher's contract too. This is something I think we should have done but we didn't and I will be voting for it.

Howie asked for any other discussion then we will vote. Eric Murillo is in favor of it he believes he was injured at work and we have a certain responsibility to that employee.

Howie said sensing no other questions or comments let's do the vote.

Rob Saley	YES
Eric Murillo	YES
Sean Maher	YES
Dorinda Borer	YES
Andy DePalma	YES
Mark Palmieri	ABSTAINS
Howard Horvath	YES

Motion Passes

F. Informational

Nothing to add

Howard Horvath requested a motion to adjourn.
Sean Maher made the motion
Eric Murillo seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 9:10

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola,
Board Secretary

***Schedule A is attached to the last page.**

Schedule A



Support for the Recommendations of the
Connecticut Commission on Educational Achievement

- ✦ “I commend Connecticut’s leadership community for coming together to produce a plan that starts to address the State’s stubborn achievement gap. We hope this report will spur debate and further efforts in raising educational achievement for all.”
Arne Duncan
United States Secretary of Education
- ✦ “Finally, the State of Connecticut has an aggressive blueprint for how to move achievement forward for all of the state’s children. The Commission on Educational Achievement did a terrific job; we hope its far-reaching recommendations will be widely embraced.”
Kati Haycock
President, Education Trust
- ✦ “I commend the Connecticut Commission on Educational Achievement for a bold and comprehensive report aimed at remedying a critical issue – closing the achievement gap between white and minority students in Connecticut. These proposals merit national attention as well.”
Joel Klein
Chancellor, New York City Department of Education
- ✦ “I would like to compliment the members of the Connecticut Commission on Educational Achievement for their hard work and dedication to improving education in Connecticut. I believe the vast majority of these recommendations deserve serious consideration for implementation. We look forward to working collaboratively in moving forward on these recommendations to close the achievement gap.”
Sharon Palmer
President, Connecticut American Federation of Teachers