

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
November 15, 2010
Regular Board Meeting – Savin Rock Community School

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at Savin Rock Community School, 50 Park Street, West Haven, CT on November 15, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Howard Horvath, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:10 p.m. and 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
M. Toni Paine
Mark Palmieri
Robert Saley
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: 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: Gypsy Garcia
Brandon Patterson

Howard Horvath welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for November 15, 2010. He thanked the Savin Rock Community School for hosting them this evening. He then asked if anyone from the audience would like to address the board during public session.

B. Public Session

Rosemary Russo, 115 Pheasant Road handed me her complete presentation which follows at the end of the minutes Schedule A attached.

Good Evening.

I would like to start by retracting a statement that I made at the Nov. 1 Board of Ed meeting. I mistakenly said that Bailey Middle School had 0 smart boards. I was wrong and I would like the record to reflect that Bailey Middle School does have more than 0 Smart Boards. I apologize for my error.

Next I would like to address the subject of the budget for the school year 2011-2012. Presently, Molloy School remains closed as a school for elementary aged children. At the present time there are ¹⁰⁰ houses for sale in West Haven, houses that would be perfect for growing families. A great many of these homes are located in the Molloy School district. Selling a home in these times is difficult enough; imagine being a homeowner in the seventh district. People buy homes to be near their children's school. Families want quality education for their children. Currently, West Haven is a district in need of improvement. We rank approximately 136 out of 170 districts in the state. This does not bode well for real estate. When people in the seventh district put their property up for sale and prospective buyers come they ask "Where will my child go to school?" The answer would be wherever there is room in a school across town. A home owner cannot name one specific school because a seventh district child could ultimately be placed anywhere. Every action has many reactions. This is one reaction of the closing of Molloy School. Work on the train station is beginning. The closest elementary school to the train station would have been Molloy. Molloy a high achieving, successful school, a school that would have attracted people to come settle in our city. We have to decide do we want people to come and put roots down here or do we want people to just pass through. Why would a family decide to move here? We close

schools, we move our administrative offices to another town and we spend money on many frivolous things. We need to invest in our children. Molloy School is on a beautiful piece of property. This could be the setting for a state of the art magnet school for West Haven. It could become a prek-6 grade school with full day kindergarten. There could be so many slots for Molloy and Thompson students and the rest filled by lottery. Magnet school projects get 90% reimbursement; the city would only pay 10%. This does not solve the overcrowding issue at Bailey but it puts a neighborhood school back in an area where there is no school. It brings children back to their comfort zone and it offers continuity by being a Prek-6 school. So please when you consider the budget please consider Molloy.

In response to the article in the New Haven Register this morning, I have no motivation to come before this board every 2 weeks other than children. I am not seeking political office, I am not getting paid. Quite truthfully this is not my favorite thing to do. I am not the only parent in this city who is unhappy with the way things are now. I am not a person who is reluctant to accept change if it is change that will benefit the people in this community. The changes I have seen are not providing our children with better educational opportunities. Children have longer days but this is not because they are receiving more instructional time they are just traveling longer. 200 more kids in one school does mean larger class sizes. Core subjects may not be being taught in the library but classes are. Does that mean those classes are not important? Yes, the state gave a waiver for a lunch wave before 10:00 AM but does this provide optimal conditions for these students to learn? What about the child who has lunch at 1:00 and starts school at 7:45? I have been a public school teacher for 30 years, I know that children cannot pay

attention and learn when their basic biological needs are not met. Right now we are a data driven district maybe we need to be a more child centered district.

The board gave thanks.
Public Session ended at 7:30 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro said there will be several reports tonight which will take some time. He introduced Pat Pickering, Deputy Chief of the West Shore Fire District. Pat along with the other Fire Marshalls in the Center District and in Allingtown have worked very closely with us over the summer to get ready for the new year with all the different projects going on. Pat, our management team and Dr. Cordone worked very closely going through the building and looking at our needs. They looked to see if we were overcrowded and looked at egress and capacity and those kinds of things. Neil thanked Pat for the numerous things he has done since prior to the beginning of the school year.

Pat Pickering thanked the board for the opportunity to present this to them and for the time they contribute toward educating our children. As a parent of two boys who attend Bailey Middle School he is proud of the City and proud of what they are receiving from West Haven.

As the Fire Marshall he is responsible for the life safety and the occupancy of basically every building in the city except single family dwellings. After reviewing the occupancy load and the building construction and fire safety codes for all the schools and Bailey Middle School in particular which a fine tooth comb due to some questions that came up due to the increase in the population, it was determined that Bailey is well within all the normal limits for the fire safety code and the building code as it was interpreted by myself and the building official.

Deputy Chief Pickering asked Dr. Cordone the population of the school which Dr. Cordone stated was below 1,000 around 980 right now. So they are actually below the number that we actually looked at which was a little over 1,000 students. The concern was; are we overcrowded? While each classroom was within the normal limits for classroom size both from a fire safety code standpoint and a classroom occupancy from a Board of Education standpoint it was determined that if we took all the classroom areas and assembly areas in the building and added them together that the total occupancy for the Bailey Middle School building is 4,119 people. Not only the square footage and footprint of the building and actual rooms are taken into consideration. One of the biggest factors in fire safety is the ability of people to get out of the building. It was determined that there was enough exit capacity to accommodate 7,500 people leaving the building. We are well within the normal limits from a fire safety standpoint.

There were a couple of modifications made to the building to accommodate another shop. In working with Dr. Cordone and Joe Falzone we were able to resolve a couple of very small issues with regard to how that project went forward. We have some policies now to assure that in the future the working relationship between the board, new management company and the Fire Marshall's Offices across all three districts in the city will be seamless and there won't be any questions left unanswered as was the case with some of

the issues that have been taken into consideration. All three Fire Marshalls are completely new and we have converged in a way that allows the Board of Ed to have one single policy across all three districts. We will be dealing with the same set of policies across the board for all the schools.

Deputy Chief Pickering thanked Dr. Cordone and stated he has been more than accommodating with regard to putting all this data together. We spent the better part of the end of the summer and the beginning of the school year to be sure we had all the data that we needed. One of the concerns that came up was the use of the library area for classrooms and the way it is cordoned off and the exit capacity of that room is well within the normal limits for Connecticut Fire Safety Code. Deputy Chief Pickering stated that Dr. Cordone took an area where when originally looked at the travel isles were not big enough and he reconfigured the area, drew it to scale and got it to him in a very timely fashion and what came out of that was that it is a safe area for the children to be in.

Questions

Mark Palmieri asked how this was driven and was this just driven for Bailey Middle School. Did you check all the schools? Deputy Chief Pickering stated the drive to do the in depth review that was done at Bailey was driven by a complaint and so every year the schools get a safety review at the beginning of the year. We inspect fire alarms, exits, and configuration of the rooms and everything was in normal limits. The issue that came into play with this school was that it was brought to our attention that there was a perception that the school was overcrowded. In addition to the inspection that we did the Fire Marshalls in the beginning of the year did fire drills with the principals. A really good relationship has come from this and we revisited some of the policies that haven't been refined in a number of years. Dr. Cordone and I have done fire drills at every point during the day when the kids are in the hallways and cafeteria so those congested areas, where we could run into some issues, were tested and worked very well. The hallways are definitely crowded there is no doubt about it but the kids were very orderly and exited the building at the standard that they should use.

Neil thanked him again and said during a meeting today it was nice to have all three fire marshalls saying the same thing and us all being very consistent. This will make it a lot easier to work together. We appreciate all you did during the summer and since the beginning of the school year.

The board gave thanks.

Neil requested that the students be allowed to give their reports first in case our meeting gets a little lengthy. Howie said absolutely. Brandon and Gypsy gave their report at this point which follows:

C.1.b. Student Representatives

BOE Student Representative Report – November 15th

History Club Mock Elections Results

The History Club held a successful Mock Election with over 1100 students voting! The WHHS elected Dan Malloy (D) for Governor, Richard Blumenthal in a 30 vote margin over Linda McMahon and Rosa DeLauro (D) for House of Representatives!

WHHS Theatre Workshop is presenting A.R. Guerney's THE DINING ROOM

Please come out to see the Fall Play, the Dining Room, this Thursday and Friday at 7:30pm in the auditorium. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door

The Story: The play is set in the dining room of a typical well-to-do household, the place where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions. The action takes place in this single room over the course of 90 years.

DECA is hosting its annual Winter Wonderland formal which will be held at Westwoods Club on December 3, 2010.

Congratulations to seniors **Eric Stone** and **Jeremy Soule** signed their letters of intent on Friday to attend Boston College and Fairfield University, respectfully. Both student-athletes received an athletic scholarship to attend these colleges.

WHHS FOOD Drive to benefit WHEAT

It is in the interest of school collaboration, local community support, and in the spirit of Thanksgiving that donations to our local food bank will be collected at WHHS from November 4-18, 2010.

Project Graduation: Blue and White: Up All Night 2011 will hold its next planning meeting on Monday, November 28th - 6pm at WHHS.

We hope that you can join the WHHS football team, cheerleaders, dance team, and band at the Thanksgiving Football game on November 25th.

The National Honor Society is selling \$25 restaurant.com gift cards for \$10. Please contact Chrystal Fanelli at WHHS or a National Honor Society member to purchase one today.

Good luck to the WHHS Mock Trial team at their competition on December 1st.

The University of New Haven conducted on-site interviews last week and all eight students were accepted and given scholarship packages totaling \$70,000.

Thirty five students will be attending a day long leadership workshop at Nichols College sponsored by the SLTP (Student Leadership Training Program) on Saturday, November 27th. Students will be provided with the opportunity to see an issues-based play written and performed by students, attend an activity fair, participate in fun, interactive (leadership) skills workshops, and have lunch with student leaders from around the country.

The board thanked Gypsy and Brandon.

Neil Cavallaro said the next report on the agenda stated that Tara Liptak and Jennifer Beisecker from Yale School of Nursing would discuss projects they have been working on with students from WHHS Health Classes. Neil asked Jon Capone to give a little background on this.

Jon Capone said this evening Margaret Grey is standing in for the two women from Yale. Jon stated that Margaret, he and Dr. Druzolowski met about a year in a half ago talking about this project. This project started about a year in a half ago. Margaret Grey from Yale University will discuss what we are doing with our sophomore health classes. It is called Health-e-Teen on the web site. They have come to our school and collaborated with us and it is a win/win for both the high school and Yale University.

Margaret Grey stated that Tara and Jennifer actually work for her. She is Dean of the Yale University School of Nursing and a long time pediatric nurse practitioner with research and clinical interest in pediatric diabetes.

About a year in a half ago the federal government gave money for special projects as part of the stimulus projects. She and her colleagues thought of work they had done with the New Haven Public Schools where they taught teachers a program to reduce obesity and prevent Type 2 Diabetes in youth who are at risk. They also had experience in developing internet based curricula and thought could they combine these and develop a curriculum that could be taught on line for youth at risk for obesity and Type 2 Diabetes. They were awarded fund from the government and have created partnerships not only with West Haven but also with several schools in New Haven. The program launched last Monday and it is called Health-e-Teen. She passed out a handout that will be on the website.

Margaret stated that this is not a program that we will make available and then walk away. We want to make a lasting impact and we are happy to be a partner with you on this project and happy to answer questions.

Questions

Howard Horvath thanked her on behalf of the board. This is a wonderful program that you put together in partnership with us. I really appreciate it. He asked if this was a public site. Margaret stated it is not public now because it is a research site but the teachers who are involved know what is there and have been oriented to the use of the classes and the like. She can make a test site available if anyone is interested. You can see it but you can't really go through it.

Rob Saley said he saw three schools on the list are those the only schools involved. For now was the response Margaret gave.

Dorinda Borer thanked her for participating with West Haven. With the 80% of the families participating in the research will you be able to see the measurable outcome and effects on those families? We hope so was the response. The total number of students that will be participating in this project this year among the three schools will be almost 500 10th graders. If the program is effective as we think it is going to be based on studies done in the past we believe we easily have enough to show the effects. Ethically from a research point of view I wouldn't want to ask children in families to participate in a research study that wasn't going to yield useable data.

The board gave thanks.

Neil stated during our last meeting we told the board that West Haven is now considered a Partner School District with the State Department of Education. Neil said he received an email from Lol Fearon, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Accountability and Improvement saying he would be willing to come before the board to explain that status and explain what it means for us and how they plan to work and cooperate with us. Neil then introduced Lol Fearon from the State Department of Education. Neil thanked him for being here with us tonight.

Mr. Fearon said that West Haven is one of 18 partner districts in the State of Connecticut working with the Connecticut State Department of Education specifically the Bureau of Accountability and Improvement. Those 18 districts represent around 70% of all students throughout the state. It consists of all of the larger cities Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, Stamford and also some of the smaller cities like New London and Ansonia. This year we added West Haven, Hamden and Windsor to the partner list.

We deliberately use the word partnership because we aren't really involved in a compliance type approach any more. The old approach was the state department said we had to do certain things and then expected districts to go ahead and do them and then they disappeared without any kind of support. What the partnership is centered on is the CALI Concept; the Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative. West Haven is already doing most of this work through the Learning and Lead Center with Doug Reeves and Larry Ainsworth.

Mr. Fearon went through some of the highlights of the partnership itself; what it means and some points about what we have learned in working with what was originally 12 partner districts and then expanded to 15 and now to 18 partner districts. An outline follows:

CSDE Partnership

- Move away from “compliance” approach although still mandated by NCLB & Accountability legislation
- Requirements include District Improvement Plan (DIP) to be developed and approved at the local BOE & SBOE level; monitored by District Data Team

- Each school is required to develop a School Improvement Plan (SIP) based upon the goals of the DIP
- School Improvement Plan (SIPS) are not required to be approved at SBOE level unless school is involved in restructuring
- DIP should be focused on those high leverage strategies that impact student learning
- Goals are targeted at STUDENT OUTCOMES & ADULT ACTIONS
- 3-tier accountability system in place District Data Team (DDT, School-wide Data Team (SWDT), Instructional Content level Data Team
- Technical Assistance Team assigned (Shauna Brown, Adrian Wood, Jim Mitchell) works with DDT to monitor plan
- Annual Monitoring Report submitted to Commissioner/SBOE
- CALI participation, demonstration schools (coach & Data Team Facilitator (DTF), Request for Service days (RFS)
- Participation in Advisory Committee to Bureau of Accountability and Improvement (BAI)

What have we learned?

- Narrow focus: avoid “initiative fatigue”; concentrate on small number of high leverage actions focused on student achievement
- Important to translate the work of the district to schools
- Development of Standards for Data Team aids in focusing the work
- It is about the adult actions: What teachers and leaders can do
- Develop a culture & climate for success
- There is a role for the BOE: How can the work of the board support student learning? (Lighthouse Project)

It is hoped that districts will develop their own capacity to do in-service professional development in their own district. The typical cost of that is \$2,500 a day.

During this portion of Mr. Fearon’s presentation the fire alarm went off and everyone exited the school in an orderly fashion.

When we returned Mr. Fearon continued with his presentation.

There is no expense to the district for their involvement in CALI. You can begin to build capacity within the district for your own professional development in terms of school improvement practices. We have added another demonstration school to the district together with a data team facilitator so you can access that and the request for service days which are an in-house kind of professional development. There is a budgetary aspect for that where there is a formula that grants you district days and also school days especially for Title I. There are benefits that go along with being a part of the partnership. The administration is invited as a member of the advisory committee to the State Department of Education Meetings which takes place roughly every six weeks. The

next meeting is coming up in December and the three new partner districts will receive an invitation to attend.

While the District Improvement Plan has to go before the State Board of Education for approval the School Improvement Plans do not. The expectation is that the School Improvement Plans come before the District Board for approval. The only time a School Improvement Plan would have State Department approval would be if the school is in a restructure mode. A further discussion continued.

The districts that have had the most success have developed a climate for success. It is extremely that school climate be on the front burner. You can not have improvement with a toxic climate. There has been a commitment in West Haven for positive school climate. Finally we have learned that there is a role for the Board of Education in terms of how the board can support student learning within the district. We have a training program available to boards of education of our partner districts called Lighthouse Training. It is research based program developed in Iowa with the Iowa State Boards Association. It has the boards examine the seven conditions that exist for highly effective school districts and highly effective boards. It is everything from the kind of leadership exhibited within the district through to climate, communication, looking at data and all the way through to the community connection. Currently we have eight school districts of our partner districts that are involved in the training with several more expressing an interest to come on board. There is a presentation at the CABA Convention this Friday on this. This is what is being taught in the district and what the responsibilities are for the district and what kind of support the state offers.

Questions

Howard Horvath thanked him for coming and asked how did we qualify to become a Partner District? Mr. Fearon responded that West Haven was one of 10 supported districts based upon results of meeting AYP either as a district or within sub groups. There were originally 10 supported districts. It was down to 7 when Danbury, Stamford and Ansonia became Partner Districts two years ago. It is now down now to 4 supported districts with the three former supported districts becoming Partner Districts. Essentially it is that West Haven did not meet AYP as a district in Reading and/or Math based on the CMT or the CAPT; the whole district as opposed to just sub groups. Howie said for some number of years I take it. Yes, usually you have been a supported district for about 6 or 7 years in terms of not meeting AYP for sub groups.

Howie stated this extra support sounds wonderful and had some questions on that too. Ultimately the goal is to become unsupported right. Yes. You talked about using common formative assessments and data teams. We are doing a lot of that and we have a lot of federal money to support the training and as you know the requirement is that 10% of it be spent and it is almost hard to spend that much on professional development. Do you offer anything over and above just the professional development? Can you provide either coaching or coaches that can actually become a part of the district? If we have more professional development than we know what to do with what else could you do?

Mr. Fearon stated that one of the things that happened in the last couple of year is that as the federal money shifted from school improvement or accountability to what is now the State Grants and Race To The Top Approach we found that our funds were shrinking that was zeroed in on the CALI Training so what happened was we lost some of the stipend money we used to be able to provide. We had money that was provided to bring data teams together and provide adequate substitute coverage and we no longer have that. We are left with our CALI Flower at this point. However we are looking at making our work more district based rather than statewide based. It might zero in on one particular aspect of improvement; developing data teams or developing common formative assessments. We are trying to meet each district on their own terms.

Howie asked in terms of the modules or the programs that you offer for professional development is there one that is designed to help if we identify master teachers and or fund some internal coaches or those types on how to really observe the teaching in the classroom to be able to mentor and coach both from a teacher's perspective and also for the administrators.

Mr. Fearon stated there are a couple of modules. There is one on leading change and getting everybody on board that is specifically not only for administrators but for leadership teams. Another works with leadership and school wide data teams that looks at data and follow up and follow through. A new module has just been developed internally which looks at how leaders can use data within the district. What we are looking at is developing the module that ties in assessments with the SRBI framework. This would be much more Connecticut specific and we are hoping to role that out next year.

Howie asked if the common core standards have an impact on what we are doing. Yes. We are working with the Bureau of Curriculum using Larry Ainsworth's new book to develop a model that will role out the common core standards throughout the state. We will train a group of statewide practitioner's first and bringing together people from all levels of elementary and secondary to work with Larry on a training model. They then can go back to the districts and have them turn key them into district standards.

Howie said you talked about some of the assessments and really focusing on those. In your experience doing this with the different districts are they capturing some portion of that data in some formalized way like an online system that says not only are we looking at it but we are actually inputting it into a system that you can look at over time. Yes there are several districts that have either gone to a commercial program or have developed their own data warehousing and make it accessible at the classroom level. Norwich has done this in house. CREC is sponsoring a benchmark assessment program looking at literacy and math at the K3 level and have come up with some on line assessments. A lot of districts have developed their own benchmark assessments but they find they are not really aligned with the CMT and they either expect to do poorly on the CMT's based on their benchmarks and find they do much better or they don't do as well as expected based on their benchmarks; it is a very difficult process to go through to developing benchmarks and having them correlate to what is being tested.

Neil asked Dr. Druzolowski if the conference call with Larry on Wednesday would deal with what Lol was saying. Dr. Druzolowski said yes those are our next steps because the book features a lot of what we are doing. His newest module is really based on what we have done on the district level to start making some consistent change now. While that is nice it is embarrassing because we really have a lot more to do. This week we will be conferencing with Larry and he will be coming in about two weeks to talk about the next place we will be going. We have done a lot of leadership modules starting with the principal to get their language is where it should be. They just gave the school climate modules very successfully. Dr. Druzolowski said that relative to the new standards that would be integrated into the statewide curriculum this will be a time in coming. It is not going to be immediate. We rewrote the curriculum in the first module that we did so it was aligned to the state standards as well as the CMT and the CAPT. Mr. Fearon said if you are working off that design you will be ahead of the curve. It will take time. We are looking at this going through the Statewide Development Design Team going through the end of this school year with training being done over the winter. It is a good time to be involved.

The board thanked Mr. Fearon for coming before them.

Neil stated the monthly report from AFB will be our final report tonight. Neil turned the meeting over to Al and Joe. Neil asked them to explain what happened at Thompson last night. Al stated there was a break in at Thompson where they tried to cut out our copper water pipes with big snips and tried to cut a 2" water line. They cut a lot of smaller water lines and created some damage. Pictures were displayed. Police showed up with dogs and a dog actually caught one of the people in the building.

Neil said he doesn't know where the press release put out by the police department that gave a \$10,000 estimate came from. Al said we can do most of the repairs in house.

A brief description of some of the projects that have taken place was given. See Attached Schedule A. Also discussed was the Capital Improvement Plan. See Attached Schedule B. A discussion of the Recycling Program followed. Neil said a point of concern is we may be paying for the pick up of refuse and getting nothing in return. We asked some very goo questions that we couldn't get answers to. This will be looked at the contracts closely and dissecting them to make sure we are not paying for things that we are not getting from those four companies. This program will be up and running. Al said you will see progress every month with our Recycling Program.

Rob Saley requested that we get four or five containers to Pat Libero at Mackrille for recycling. The kids are doing something with Capri juice containers. Sure we can was the response.

Dorinda asked why for just Mackrille. Rob said because so far Pat has been the only administrator requesting this.

Neil said in one of the contracts they were supposed to supply them to us. Al said and the bins in the schools. We are doing inventory right now and trying to figure out if bins were delivered and what the program is and we will start implementing our program. We will separate cardboard, recyclables, and garbage. We will work to make it part of the curriculum because if the students aren't involved it always comes back to the custodians and everybody blames the custodians. We don't pay anybody to pick the garbage and separate it. We train everybody to put things in the proper containers.

Al stated that we need to spend a lot of money at the high school. If we do a like new renovation we don't have to spend 11 ½ million dollars over a period of time to bring that school into compliance and do what NEASC told us we had to do. If the like new renovation continues and the city says we are going to go ahead with it then we will reduce what we are requesting for the rest of our schools and it will reduce what we are asking for. When you break projects like the high school down into little digestible pieces the state doesn't reimburse you. They don't reimburse you for repair and replacement. It is part of your budget you need to pay for that as a town. If you put in a like new renovation like we have taken steps to do then it is reimbursable so we will be getting 70% back from the state. If not we still have all these facilities issues we have to plan as a city to deal with. This is a planning tool to make you aware of what we have to do to keep your schools safe and clean and protect our infrastructure.

Rob Saley asked if this was discussed with the teachers/principals to get ideas from them what the problems are or are you just going through with a cursory look and saying this is what we can see right off the bat. We will go back and say the numbers we gave are a little soft and we may have to fine tune them? We work with the custodians in the building who are the best source for pointing out what needs to be worked on like leaky roofs, broken boilers and what their issues are with the school. We haven't done this with the principals because we wanted to get a document out so you could look at it. Every item will need substantial backup. For the backup for roofs I need to measure every roof and get the age of each roof. If it is over 20 years old the state would be involved in the replacement of that roof if we put on a roof that has a pitch on it and insulated properly and that is how we generate the numbers. Otherwise we are putting band aids on broken arms. If the principal says we have a leaky roof we still have to go up there and figure out why it is leaking. We will take direction from the administration, board, principals everybody will be involved in this capital project.

Rob asked if the leaky problems discussed at Thompson could be recouped from insurance. They are gathering the information on this.

Mark Palmieri said you stated it was going to cost 11 million over what period of time? This year we will be requesting money for next year and we put 6 more years on top of that. Mark said that makes 7 years. Mark said that is not including the energy efficiency by putting in the new lighting so what you are telling me is it is costing like you said about 75 million 80 million dollars and we need to bond 20 to 30 we can save 11 right there in bonding plus the money we are going to save over those seven years for energy efficiency especially in boilers. Al stated that 11,500 million is basically to keep that

building open and running. Mark said so it is throwing money out the window that is basically what you are telling us. Al would agree with that.

Al stated we are two years down the road from when we started working on a like new renovation and NEASC came in and are expecting us to do work which we aren't doing so his guess is they come back and accreditation at that point will be in question. We need to make an honest commitment that we are moving forward to address the issues they identified in their report and I haven't seen that.

Mark asked how long Al was in the New Haven School System. Al was there three years and 12 years in Stamford. Mark said he brought up New Haven because of the new schools there. Do you have any type of data? Al said there are 37 new schools in New Haven. Mark asked for any type of data where you could show people of this town the cost savings from a comparable school in New Haven; operational costs by building a new school. Al said yes I mean that there are lots of issues and he has talked to Ken Carney about some of them and how you present this information. I will tell you that a new building, energy efficient, we use air conditioning so your energy costs go up when you air condition a building that isn't air conditioned. Don't expect your utility costs to drop. If it is not currently available you don't pay the cost to run electricity so you don't always see the cost drop down. What does happen is you have a new facility which is easier for us to clean and maintain so you are not always chasing problems in the school spending operational money that should go into the budget to buy books and go toward the curriculum.

Mark said that is the point I am trying to make. On repairs alone and the projection of what we are going to need for monies down the road this type of information needs to be made public so people will understand who don't have children in the school district it is going to still hold a savings because sooner or later everything is going to blow up on you anyways.

Sean Maher said out of the 7 million in the priority 2 projects it says it is district wide and also includes the NEASC high school recommendation. Do you have a rough percentage breakdown of that as I know this is a draft. Sean said Priority 2 Projects in Technology specifically. Al said well NEASC really identified the lapse and every page I flipped on said there are technology shortages; things we need to do at the high school. Al asked the technology consultant how much money he plans each year for technology. His response was he takes whatever he can get; he doesn't have a plan. Al told him he needed a 5 year plan. He needs to know if they can do everything the board and superintendent would like him to do is it 3 computers in every classroom; is it 6, is it different technology, is it wireless etc. Al was told he could not get enough money to do the high school so they spread it around. He thought the over all number was 400 to 500 thousand dollars that he would need a year. Al tied in the high school to that and together they came up with about a million dollars is what we need to keep our educational programs supported with technology and the high school is a big chunk of that.

Mark Palmieri noticed that the lighting in the parking lot is out. Al stated that somewhere in the past you made an investment in a management system that we (AFB) can't manage yet because it is a proprietary system and we are trying to take it away from the company. We know we have those issues and we are trying to get that control into our office. Al will check into the lights being out in the parking lot of Savin Rock School. The board gave thanks.

Neil said the administrative cabinet will try to get the board a budget by early January which would give the board approximately a month to work on it and set up a meeting schedule. This would give us a month to work on it and get it to the Mayor's Office.

Chairman Horvath and I have a tentative meeting with the Mayor on Wednesday to discuss issues such as whether the Community House is still interested in Molloy and what the plans are for the building and I imaging the move to City Hall will come up. Hopefully we will get some answers on Wednesday.

Kathy Cassell and Dave Russell raised some concerns at our administrative cabinet meeting today with regard to tuition costs and placement of outside students. They will come before you at the next meeting. Concerns were raised about homeless students that we are transporting on a daily basis to Wolcott.

Anne Druzolowski said all of the school principals reported back to the office with the action plans on school climate and this really showed a lot of commitment to school climate. Schools have action plans in place. We see it as part of the school improvement plan rather than separate from it. You don't need another plan to do something. It is integral as part of the school improvement plan. The principals have all been trained; some have been trained as certified trainers and the response from the staff is just terrific.

Dorinda Borer said the feedback from a lot of the staff about the training was very positive. She talked to some of the school administrators and they went to the PTA meetings and a good question came up about tracking. How can we track what an impact this program has? How can we say it really made a difference? Anne said as part of when they do their data teams they make them measurable. After they do their short term goals so people start seeing results they go into school wide intervention and will measure that and keep the information. The State Department has asked us to be part of their data fair and provide the data on school climate in March or April. Schools are collecting and charting their data. Dorinda asked when is this survey? That survey was supposed to be November or December but they haven't contacted me yet for the start date. That will go out to the community. That will give you just a snap shot of everything. That doesn't give you the intervention results. The intent is to get some research data on different parts of what school climate will look like across the United States. This is just a snapshot for every four or five years to see where it has gone to.

Dorinda asked Neil if the board would receive a budget in January and Neil said that is his hope. This will give you a month to prepare what you actually want to present to the Mayor's Office. Dorinda asked how this is different from last year. Neil said the board

received it much later last year and he thinks it was approved towards the end of the month. Dorinda asked if they would get the budget report every meeting. Neil said you received one the last two meetings. It is a good report if we could get it every meeting it gives us a snap shot. It is good to see if we are at 80% of our unemployment and we are only into four months we have a problem so at least we can gauge where there is going to be issues.

Dorinda rode one of the busses this week because some parents were complaining and she wanted to see for herself what the bus situation was. It wasn't as bad but I think we made some changes before I got on the bus. She asked what the story about bus aides was. Lorie Winkle said we don't have bus aides. Neil said it is in the contract that they can provide us when we ask for bus aides. Dorinda said we have to ask for them? They could never put one on every bus but we can request an aide on a certain bus for a period of time that is part of the contract. To actually pay for a bus aide per bus we would have to renegotiate the contract. Dorinda asked how many busses did we add during the transition. Neil said he doesn't believe any were added and we aren't paying any extra. We did get rid of five or six busses at Thompson and three or four at Molloy. Most of the school rode busses at Carrigan anyway. Dorinda wanted to make sure the board knew that the legal capacity is higher than the 46. There are 46 seats on the bus and they sit three to a seat so two kids are in the seat and one kid is facing the aisle with their feet in the aisle. Neil understands what she is saying. The capacity is 70 and we try to keep it around 46. If you put three in a seat it brings the capacity up to 70. In the bus Dorinda rode on there were 56 kids until they made the change and there are 46 kids. Even though we are legally allowed to stuff the kids into those seats it is very unsafe and I we didn't add any busses for the transition and we are transporting so many children. Neil doesn't want to say we didn't add busses he knows there was no increase in the cost of the busses. Dorinda asked for a count of how many busses were going before and after the transition, how many kids were riding the busses before and after and a count of how many kids are on every bus and how many times a bus monitor is out there. Neil said he knows the principals occasionally request that a monitor ride the bus if it is necessary.

Gary Palermo stated that if we have a very disabled child there have been times we have had to provide the bus aides on the BOE side so sometimes it could be used from our side as well.

Dorinda asked what the bus aides line item in the budget. What is that where we have already spent 93%. Neil said those are for Special Ed kids. Gary said also for pre school car seats for Special Ed kids. Dorinda would like the analysis because she thinks the busses are a little over crowded.

C.1. c. Board

Mark Palmieri suggested we look into what was already talked about. That is a person working with Winkle or with the BOE but this board needs to make a decision to have a position to monitor these issues with the bus company. It is not something that Neil and Anne should have to do at this time. Their job is educating, new curriculum etc. It seems

like every week we have new issues so it is something to think about. Dorinda said what do you mean the board has to make a decision. Is there something before us? Mark said no I'm throwing it out there because it has been said a few times already and I don't think our administrators here should be handling those types of issues on a day to day basis.

Neil said our principals do a very good job of monitoring it and working directly with the bus company. Because I came up as a principal I know the bus system as well as anyone so it is not hard for me to monitor and I am used to looking at numbers. On a daily basis we include transporting kids to the technical schools, to private schools in West Haven, and probably of the 800 – 900 kids that attend magnet schools in New Haven at least 60% of them are high school students so we transport those kids. It is a big job and I have had ongoing conversations with Winkle and we are trying to resolve a fair way to figure out how to pay for that job which I have said is needed. Between Tammy, myself and mostly the principals we do a pretty good job monitoring it. We got through the rough spots and for the most part the numbers look good I do review them. Frank has been really good at looking at some of the routes. Neil said he would be the first to say the position was needed. A further discussion ensued.

Mark Palmieri's main concern is what is plan B regarding the move to City Hall? The city council needs this information and that information. He asked Rob if there was any communication between him and Ed O'Brien or Bob and Ed O'Brien on where we are going here?

Rob Saley said absolutely there is no plan B. Plan A is to move us down town. He was at the meeting last week and there has been communications with Mr. Carney, with Ed O'Brien and Nancy Rossi, Chairman of the Finance Committee. There is another meeting next week and I believe they worked out an agreement but I'm not going to speak for the council. If you like we can go to the council meeting on Monday and see what they have to say. A further discussion ensued.

Toni Paine said she attended the workshop for school climate at Carrigan and it was very well run by Mr. Paolino and Taryn Driend. She came away with a really good feeling it was a cohesive group. They know the seriousness of it and the work ahead of us and all the children. Mr. Paolino is to be commended as well as Taryn Driend.

Sean Maher looks forward to hearing comments at the City Council meeting on Monday because we do need to keep moving forward and stop running on a treadmill going nowhere. He participated in the Cool Schools Celebration at the high school that was on Channel 3. Pam Gardner handled the organization and details for this event were unprecedented. She should receive high commendation for that.

Rob Saley said Donna Kosiorowski spoke at the Policy Committee Meeting that was held earlier tonight and she discussed some policies that we have to amend. He asked the board members to read the information and we will come back to this after the first of the year.

Dorinda asked who in the schools were trained on the defibrillator. Rob answered her stating nurses, coaches, office staff and all principals and some centrals. They are trained every two years. Coaches are trained every year. Dorinda wanted to make sure that everybody is trained as to where the AED's are.

C.1. d. Committees

Dorinda said there are a lot of facility committee questions and suggested more meetings take place and to inform the board about what takes place. Dorinda said she was thinking of the bigger projects such as a report on the high school or we need a report on City Hall

Rob was going to do all that tonight but not on the high school because he is not quite there with the High School.

Mark said he doesn't want to read about it in the paper.

Rob said at last weeks meeting he spoke and said it was right to bond the money. It didn't happen. Mrs. Rossi still had some questions and they will bring it up next Monday for a vote and I will be there. Howie said anybody here can attend.

Neil said we have held up our end with several council members who have asked questions and tried to provide them information. What is a little frustrating is he is not sure what new happened between now and a year from now when the price tag was put on this. Part of the move to Yale was a longer range plan to get to City Hall. In our mind nothing has changed. Yet, because of the delay with the council there is a level of frustration as to how to proceed.

Rob said at the meeting being discussed that you are getting a 37 ½% reimbursement from the state but it is not on the four million but you have three buildings that you can liquidate over the next two years to help offset that bond. Prior to going to bonds you can take the money from the liquidation of Thompson or Stiles or the Blake Building to offset the cost before the bands get rolled over into bonds so instead of being 4 million it might only be 2.2 million.

Eric Murillo said it was a procedure they had to go through and they had some questions and I think that Ken Carney had no problem with it I think that he said in the next two weeks we have to get it done and I think that the City Council decided they differences could be resolved. I think it is a normal thing. I don't think the process hasn't been delayed by the council. It is a big process. Ken Carney and in his committee meeting that he had he explained basically what the whole process was and everything has been going in the right time line. He understands what Mark said but we have to think about the taxpayers of the city too. We don't have 30 million dollars and now you are telling me that the capital budget proposes another 53 million dollars; that is almost 100 million there by the time you are said and done. There are a lot of issues there. Mark Palmieri said a lot of that is cut if you went for a new school. Eric said we have to make a

decision. We have issues at another seven or eight schools how are we going to solve these issues? We have to make a decision; do we do 7 schools or do we do one school. I don't think the Mayor or the City Council is going to give us 70 or 80 million dollars to spend on all these projects we need to get done. I think we need to say what is our priority; the high school or to take care of buildings that already exist. Don't get me wrong I would love to have a brand new high school. I'm not for it; we have decisions as a board to make for the taxpayers of the city. Mark said it is only going to get knee deep and higher as time goes on. Eric said absolutely but so are the building's needs too.

Neil said the board was pretty clear and I know I was when we asked for a blueprint to work off of and we now have a starting point. This will allow you to ask the questions and make a decision based on what you presented tonight so it is a good first step.

Rob said in the next meeting he will get a little more involved with the high school and will talk to Mr. Carney and get most of the information we have and present it at the next meeting.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held at, Washington School, 369 Washington Avenue, West Haven, CT on November 1, 2010 at 7:00 PM
(Enclosure)

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve the minutes

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve the minutes D.1. a.

Rob Saley seconded the motion

All board members present were in agreement

Minutes D.1.a are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

10-101 Joanne Zuk, Junior Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach

Effective: November 9, 2010

Reason: Personal

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.2. – 10-101

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in agreement

Item D.2 10-101 is approved

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

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

D.7. New Business

F. Informational:

Howard Horvath asked if there was anything to add under informational. There was nothing further.

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

The meeting ended at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola,

Board Secretary