

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
November 1, 2010
Regular Board Meeting – Washington School

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at Washington School, 369 Washington Avenue, West Haven, CT on November 1, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Howard Horvath, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. and opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
Dorinda Borer
Patrick Egolum
M. Toni Paine
Mark Palmieri
Robert Saley
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: T. Sean Maher, Vice Chairman

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Brandon Patterson

Howard Horvath welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for November 1, 2010. He thanked the Washington School Community for hosting them this evening. He stated as you know we are moving around from school to school. He then asked if anyone from the audience would like to address the board during public session.

B. Public Session

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, talked about a few things. She stated that for the last three board meetings scheduled two were cancelled very abruptly and it is unfair to the public. She thought the last cancellation was a disgrace because the parents who came to attend the meeting only received a sign on the door stating it was cancelled. She still does not know why it was cancelled was it lack of quorum? If certain elected officials don't want to show up that is fine but please don't run again. It is a disgrace and disservice to the parents and school system. It wasn't only her who received no notice of the cancellation of the board meeting. I hope notice is taken so this doesn't repeat itself again because it is really not fair to the public, administration and the school system.

Mrs. Rossi commented on the fact that the board is holding its meetings at different schools and she has not seen a large influx of people attending the meetings other than administrators. This didn't work in the past and stated she really wishes you would do what you promised when all the talk first started about moving the West Haven Board to Orange and that is to hold the meetings in City Hall. You need to have consistency if you want to get people involved. People know that on the second and fourth Monday the City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall and this shows consistency. With the way the board is moving from school to school people don't know where to go. I think it is easier to have a stable, set schedule.

An F.O.I. hearing was set for October 14, 2010 and she had requested the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent's personnel file. She drove with her husband to Hartford in case she couldn't find a parking place only to find out that the board's attorney did not come. When asked the hearing officer replied to her that they said they did not receive notice of this hearing. These notices were sent certified mail return receipt requested to 75 Broad Street, Milford, CT and unless Bertram and Moses moved I think this was a nasty, unprofessional trick to make somebody waste their time to go all the way to Hartford. If no one was going to go everyone knows how to get in touch with me. If your attorney doesn't know where he is supposed to be maybe you should get another attorney because clearly you pay them enough money. I don't even know if the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent knew about this hearing because when there is an attorney on the case they send notice to the attorney and I know he was informed and I have copies of this. I was going there to get the personnel files of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Personnel files have been released in the past. You can do research on the internet the case is Perkins vs. F.O.I. which shows case history where personnel files have been released. The only reason they wouldn't be released is if there is something offensive to the public. Frankly I would like to think that there is nothing in the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent's personnel files that would be that offensive to the public that couldn't be released to us.

One other thing is I read in the paper that we are looking for money in the budget for a transportation director. I understand all that happened with the bus etc. My thing is though whether it is a great thing or a bad thing you didn't have money in the budget to keep schools open why would you have money in the budget now to create this position. We are back to where we were; we never have money in the budget but once the budget is passed we can find money in the budget. I really don't think we can close two schools and move our administrative offices to Orange and then create a new position. No new position should be made unless for an emergency. If the bus company said they would pay for a transportation director why not let them pay for it first and see how that goes before you spend taxpayer's money.

Regarding the transition some people have come and stated the transition went well. I have heard stories and would like to address specifically one of them tonight. Bailey is so over crowded that they are teaching classes in the library with two or three classes being taught at the same time and now children can't use the library. This was supposed to be worked out and put into place before school began. I don't know if any of this is true but this would be easy to rectify by finding out if they are teaching classes in the library and finding out how many classes are being taught there at the same time. Why are they teaching classes in the library if everything was to be worked out properly as promised?

The board gave thanks.

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

Eric Brown, 31 Molloy Road thanked the board for helping with the bussing situation and asked a couple of hypothetical questions of the board.

- What if Molloy and Thompson were not closed what would the CMT scores be like for those two schools if they were to have remained open.
- What would the CMT scores at the current schools be if Molloy and Thompson had remained open?

The board gave thanks.

Pamela Gardner, 16 Big Spruce Lane, Principal of WHHS spoke today as Principal of WHHS. Last Friday, October 22nd, Channel 3 recognized WHHS as one of the Cool School. At 3:45 AM the police were patrolling the bus routes so students could get on the busses at 4:00 AM with busses provided by Winkle Bus Service. Food Service was at WHHS and provided breakfast for our students. At 4:30 AM we had 850 students who showed what WHHS is all about. It is a tribute to the students and staff that they came that early in the morning to promote everything that is positive about our student body. They were very proud of everything that happened that day. It really was one of those memorable moments that you can't recreate. I want to send out a strong thank you to our student body, faculty, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent who supported this initiative. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Channel 3 Cool School's Host Mark

Dixon was very impressed with WHHS he never saw a school fill up both sides of the gym and have their staff and 42 alumni come. He burned a copy of the CD for us so we will have footage available for us. It was a great day for WHHS.

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road recognized the staff at Carrigan School. Last Wednesday night they had mystery night at Carrigan. Thirty staff members attended and students put on a skit. Over 400 students with their families attended and they went to various classrooms for CMT activities to earn clues to figure out who killed Patti. She wanted to recognize the staff. For new staff it meant a lot to see everyone pull together and build a spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Neil commented that Patti was quite good in the skit and it was fun.

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

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro said we have several reports tonight and said Deputy Chief Pat Pickering could not be here tonight as he had a scheduled vacation day and it makes sense to have him attend our next meeting when AFB will be here and discuss the issues as far as going forward, pulling permits, the status of the buildings, the crowdedness and the things that were discussed at the first meeting that Dr. Cordone did address.

It is my pleasure to recognize tonight on behalf of Chairman Horvath and the board of education students who performed at the advanced level on all four subjects in the CAPT Test which are Mathematics, Science, Reading and Writing. They were recognized through a letter from the Commissioner of Education Mark McQuillan. Neil read the proclamation and then called up each of the students to receive their framed letter. Julie McDonald, John Birch and Gabriel Borelli attended the meeting. Samantha Garcia was at swimming and Jeffrey Pestalozzi was not able to attend. Applause followed.

Rob Saley asked Board Chairman Howie Horvath if he could ask the students what elementary schools they attended just for informational purposes. Howie said sure. John Birch went to Pagels, Gabriel Borelli went to OLOV, Julie McDonald, Samantha Garcia and Jeffrey Pestalozzi attended Mackrille. Rob thanked the students for this information.

Neil said as part of our CALI initiative and part of our bigger initiative from the State of Connecticut we are working on what we call our School Climate Campaign and part of that is our anti bullying which our school administrators will explain. Tomorrow at all of our schools we have a full professional development day. It is a mandatory staff development day for all of our teachers. All of our principals under Dr. Druzolowski's leadership have attended training and actually put together the workshop which we will do in all of our schools. Tonight we will give you a preview since this is such a big initiative on our part this year of what is going to happen tomorrow as far as training our

teachers and paraprofessionals. We will be training all staff members and certainly rolling out to parents and the rest of the school community in time. Neil turned the meeting over to Taryn Driend, Pam Gardner and Gina Prisco who gave the presentation.

The district will be focusing on improving school climate to support student achievement creating climates of respect. This presentation is based on the work of two very powerful national individuals JoAnn Frieberg who works for the Connecticut State Dept of Education who is nationally known for her work on instances of mean spirited behavior and her work on school climate and is one of the authors of the National School Climate Standard which just came out this year. Marta Koonz is also working with them and she is the author of One Caring Adult and works with techniques of presentation as well. All of this fits in with our CALI initiative. Positive School Climate is one of the things we need to focus on to help move our students forward.

What was really learned about School Climate was the relationship between adult to adult, adult to student, and student to student. The better we are in relationships the better instruction and the better our students will be. We can not start with the kids if the teachers are not on board. School Climate is really about morale, the ownership of building responsibility and how we treat other people. We are looking at adult behaviors and kid behaviors.

The main piece in both our basic training and certification training was talking about school connectedness. There are five measures of school connectedness for both adults and children. When adults feel connected to the school and staff they work better. You have collaboration. When you have these positive relationships you have engaging collaboration among the teachers which fosters an increase in sharing of effective teaching strategies which are utilized to meet individual needs of students. All of this will bring up our student achievement. There is an actual school climate survey which will be going out and the teachers, parents and students will be filling that out.

An invitation was given to board members to Carrigan's workshop tomorrow from 8 to 3.

The full presentation will be available on the website.

The board gave thanks.

Neil asked if there were any questions. Dorinda asked what schools did you say were doing the surveys. All of the schools were doing the surveys was the response. Dorinda asked who was filling out the surveys. The National Survey of School Climate is being done across the country Dr. Druzolowski stated. They will be doing some slight changes and adoptions for the electronic version and schools will get them in November or December.

Dorinda asked how we would reach the parents electronically. Dr. Druzolowski said there are a variety of ways. We have the automated school messenger, we also have paper announcements which will be very clear and it will probably take a week or two so it

won't be done all in one day. Dr. Perkins and his staff have done two so far in the past seven years and this is the next one. It was three years ago that the last one was done I think. These are a variety of characteristics of a positive school climate. It doesn't speak to one piece or another. The most important piece we have all learned in going through this is that bullying behavior is a result of mean spirited actions by adults and children. A better understanding by all of what mean spirited behavior looks like was achieved. Everything that we have learned and that we are leaning towards is systemic and long term it is not a workshop where they do something and that is the end of it. It has to be as demanding and continual as we have done everything else. It is imperative in an effort such as this that principals take the lead on this.

Dorinda said so part of the training is to recognize it. Is there a next phase as to what to do when you recognize it – how you enforce it; how you reach out? Dr. Druzolowski said that part is our action plan. Dorinda said will you develop that after you get the survey back and after you take the next step. Dr. Druzolowski said you will see the action plan as additional information.

Rob Saley said in all the article he read in the last couple of months most of the scores in your schools start with the administrators and it is very nice to see that our administrators are going in this direction. This is the first step in raising our test scores as a district and I commend Dr. Druzolowski for that.

Howie asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Neil thanked Dr. Druzolowski and the entire administrative team who put a great deal of time in planning this and we are certain because of the amount of time it took to plan we have no doubt that it is going to be a success. Trying to change a culture is not an easy thing to do but we have worked hard and are ready to begin the process.

Dorinda asked if the survey results would be shared with the board so we could see if there is a certain school maybe that is having more issues than other schools. Dr. Druzolowski said the results will go to the Superintendent and then will dissect the data. You don't want to put anything out there that will hurt the school's progress. When we get that information we will share it with you. Neil said Anne has met with Dr. Perkins who is doing the survey and has gone through the logistics and what not. The results will be presented when we have it. We don't like to just present the results we like to present it in context of here how we are going to address the issue.

Eric Murillo said there have been two previous surveys. Three years ago he did the last survey. Anne said he has done it twice before yes. Eric asked the same survey? Anne said a little bit different with times changing. The technology plays into some of this. Three years ago we didn't have as many problems as we do now; it was a different type of problem and that is why we are developing new research on it.

Neil said Dave had anticipated on giving the board a more finalized version of last year's budget but ran into some difficulties with the auditing process and our MUNIS System.

Dave Cappetta shared with the board where we are in the process and what we are cleaning up so we will have a much easier process to deal with. Dave uncovered problems with MUNIS so he is spending the next two days at City Hall to address the year end closing which we go back almost four years and uncovered that there are some year end entries that have corrupted the data so basically this information is questionable so we are going to spend time with MUNIS to fix that issue. Once we get MUNIS corrected we anticipate within a week to two weeks we will finish up with the audit and then give a final report on the fiscal year 2010 YTD and that is where we stand right now. I believe the current fiscal year sent out the August and September YTD actual in the last agenda and we will have October's by the 10th of this month.

Neil complimented David because these were issues which from the time he was hired he has been trying to get City Hall and Business Office there to address them and he has worked very well with the City administration and the finance director to get us to this point. I really believe that David actually spearheaded expediting this process so I want to thank him for all the work he has done.

Dorinda said since we are speaking of finances at what point are we going to discuss how we are going to plan out the budget. Dave said we sent out requests to all the departments last Friday so we should be getting back by December 1st all the requests from the department heads and all the schools. We can layout some type of system that the board and the administration can work together on as we receive those requests. Perhaps Toni Paine and I can put together a timeline for everyone to sit down and try to develop a process so we can start a little earlier this year than we have in the past. Dorinda asked Toni if she had given this some thought of us laying out a process. Toni said we did and if you remember not at the last meeting where we met but the meeting before I said you first need to close out the previous year, then the requests go out from the schools and when they come in we can put this information is together – you can't make a plan without knowing what you are dealing with. As soon as David knows he was going to let me know and then we would start the process and poll the board. Dorinda said we don't know the numbers until we have the final numbers; we can't build on those numbers but can we lay out a process. Are we going to do it differently this coming year? Toni stated I'd said when he receives all the information and we know what we are dealing with we will know how to go about going at it. Evidently it wasn't sufficient for some people last year so we may go about it in a different way. The process last year was the same process that was used for I believe four years while Jerry was in charge of it and I followed suit on that. If we think it needs to be done in a more comprehensive way then that is what we will do.

Dorinda asked Neil if there was any way that he could get more information from the City prior to February so we can start to get a handle on what we will be getting as this will be key to the discussion. Neil said we certainly will but one of the things I would point out is that David and I have had this discussion with City Administration in meeting and our real concern is are we going to be working with accurate numbers given that a new administration is going to be in Hartford and they have some big decisions to make as far as ECS funding and some of our grants. We will start to get a clearer picture on

our budget in the coming weeks. We just completed the arbitration process with the teachers and are finalizing the administrator's contract tonight and these are two items that will weigh in on what your budget looks like. The raises drove our budget last year as well as some of the clean up as far as the medical benefit as well as taking care of some of the overages which the city used to take care of normally. We shouldn't have to worry about that this year and once we get the arbitrator's decision we will be able to have a clear picture of where we are going and where we can set our educational priorities. We met today as an administrative cabinet which we do every week to specifically talk about the planning stages of the budget and we certainly want to start the process early. We want to articulate what our needs are. We want to look at more literacy teachers in the elementary school to deal with more kids coming in but until we can see what our preliminary salaries are we can't do that. We will get you information that is asked for and Dave does a tremendous job of getting things that are asked for given his technology savvy and we will work with you on any format you want to work with. When we do an operating budget our goal is to give you a five year capital budget that you can present to the city. We can do a presentation as well. We haven't done this in quite some time but I believe it is important so the City knows what our needs are down the road.

Dorinda asked Chairman Howard Horvath if we can consider having Bob Barron come talk to us about the city's finances. We are moving along and then we hear that our grand list is shrinking by 10% and we overestimated revenues and didn't pay down the deficit. We need to know a consistent picture about what is going on with the city as this will be critical for our planning. HH Yes I think we can make that request. DB Can we ask that he come on the next agenda. HH I don't see any reason why not depending on his availability.

Rob Saley to piggy back on Dorinda's request I know we apply for and get a lot of grants with David Russell and Matthew Cavallaro and I would like the next week after Mr. Barron come in if those gentlemen could come in and discuss at length what they applied for, what we have gotten, what we think we might have, the process just to enlighten the board that would be great.

Mark Palmieri stated for grant writing? Rob said yes Grant revenues. Toni Paine said this is just a suggestion because this is pretty intensive information rather than piggyback on a regular meeting perhaps have a board of education as a whole finance meeting and have it be strictly finance with Bob Barron giving us information.

Howie said sure that sounds like a good idea. Let me ask since we are proposing some approaches and ideas given that we think we will know the final verdict on the teacher's contract in a couple of weeks and we know will know with the administrators fundamentally in another week that tells us a big portion and we have some level of control. I was wondering if we could start with that piece of information what does that do to the current staffing and current configuration of our system knowing that things are going to change and there are other variables. Maybe we can put a calendar together to identify some of these other key milestones so when we find out the ECS money we

know when that deadline is coming as we work toward that deadline. When we find out how many teachers are retiring if that is the case that would be another key milestone instead of waiting for all the information and applying it toward the dollar amount at least that is one thought. Any other thoughts or comments? I see a quizzical look so what I am saying is in two weeks we will have two major contracts done what does that do to the current plan for next year as is. Mark Palmieri said so you want to make a meeting sometime in December you mean. No, the meeting Mrs. Paine is suggesting is we have a subcommittee meeting finance meeting. No, Toni Paine said a meeting of the board as a whole for finance. Howie said what he is talking about are these ideas for example let's identify the revenues.

Neil stated what he thinks David can do by knowing the raises of seven of our bargaining units (there are several others) we can probably put something out. If we did nothing and just gave everybody their contractual raise and stayed status quo that is probably a good place to begin. Howie said that is what he was trying to say thank you.

Dorinda asked Neil if they received a comparison of Title I money from last year to this year. We did get a slight increase but not much and that money gets spent over two year. Dave said it is 2.2 vs. 2.1. Neil said the state has a big dilemma and Anne and I have addressed our concerns with the Commissioner as well as several other key people in the State Dept. of Education. We are an urban district with needs and have said would you please re-look at us and re-examine us as possibly becoming a priority school district and funding us at a level we used to be funded. There are no guarantees. Regarding ECS monies at some point the Mayor has to deliver a budget in March. He will put a number in which he is obligated to give us however is that a final number and can he meet his obligation for the City and this is something we will pay close attention to as we move forward in this process.

Howie said you mentioned priority school and we heard today from CABB that we are now a supported school; some other new category. Neil said we don't literature on that we are now considered a partner district with the State of Connecticut. The good news is when we went up there to discuss this we were told keep doing what you are doing. They would help us implement CALI which we are certainly one of the leading school districts across the state and we did it with the Leading and Learning Center. We went right to Leading and Learning and we are getting the benefit of the training from Larry Ainsworth himself and Dr. Reeves. I get paperwork to the board once I receive it.

Neil said he received the report from the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the incident that took place on October 21st with Winkle Bus. It is a letter form Winkle's attorney giving the status of their own investigation. He doesn't believe there is any new information that you haven't seen before but one of the things I would like to point out and Nancy brought out at the public information session is there is a paragraph that says that Winkle will work with us on funding a position as long as we can mutually agree on how we will do that whether it will be a BOE employee or a Winkle employee I think that is the question. I'm sure we will be able to work out the funding with Winkle. I originally thought it could be a Winkle employee but if we are going to do oversight it

should be someone who works for us. Once the final report is in we can sit down with Winkle and work out the details.

We are moving the Maintenance Department to Molloy and we will clean out the Blake Building in the next month or so. We have a lot of records we need to go through and keep a lot of them. It is quite a task if you look at what we have in vaults etc. that go back 50 – 60 years. Speaking of Molloy Beth Sabo the Director of Public Works has asked that we consider taking the Community House Program currently located at Stile and move it out of there to Molloy. She feels that there are a lot of repairs and things that need to be done to Stiles. If they can get the kids over to Molloy it would be beneficial to the City and the kids. We need to know what the City has in mind for Stiles and get some answers on as a board. I'm not sure if any as far as costs if any that the city would do for us if we were to take on that program. The Community House last year was able to come up with about \$23,000.00. I'm sure they don't have that much more money and I don't know what the additional cost to house them in Molloy would be so those are things we need to work out.

Neil thought Rob, Toni and Howie did a great job with the administrator's contract and hopes it is approved tonight. The administrators expect to ratify their end of it on Thursday and we can go to the next step and get it to City Council.

Neil said Pam did a great job of complimenting everyone at WHHS students, faculty, food service, Police Department, and Winkle Bus for the great job they did with Cool Schools it was a tremendous success. We couldn't buy that kind of good publicity. The reporter from Channel 3 said they have never seen a principal work as hard or as though and well organized as Pam Gardner. She did a wonderful job of organizing it and we appreciate everyone who showed up to make it the success it was.

Neil congratulated the Girl's Swim Team who won their first SCC Division II Swimming Title. Given the adversity that that team faced at the beginning of the year they did a tremendous job. Bob Pimer and Erin Reilly the two new coaches probably had such enthusiasm that probable ran off to the girls. It is just a great group of girls and senior leadership with Diane Pimer and Gypsy Garcia who all of you know is our board student rep who is not here tonight because she is swimming. They are a fun team to watch and are excellent students. Bob and Erin did such a great job picking up at the last minute and making that season a successful one and deserve a lot of credit.

Dorinda said she received an email and received questions from a parent at Mackrille and Seth Haley in the last two weeks and she thinks they were told that we don't have the money for recycle bins. Neil responded that is not true at all. Sean Maher asked that question and what we are doing right now is to look at what the city does for recycling and work with them to implement a more thorough program with the BOE. It is my hope that AFB will address this at our next board meeting. It is not an issue of money at all. Dorinda said you might want to talk to the principals because I think they were told they couldn't get the recycle bins and I think they are waiting for them. There is a fund raising program at the elementary level where if they recycle they get the money back. Neil said

there are several programs and let us come up with something definite. AFB heard us loud and clear at our last board meeting. They have been pretty good about getting us information.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

The entire report which Brandon gave is attached to the end of the minutes. (Schedule B)
The board gave thanks.

C.1. c. Board

Eric Murillo had a couple of questions for Dr. Druzolowski. He wanted Dr. Druzolowski to clarify the issue with having more Smart boards at Carrigan than at Bailey. Dr. Druzolowski said they were waiting to see how much money we would get but we haven't received any Federal money yet. Eric asked how many does Bailey have now Anne guessed from five to eight but stated that is certainly not enough.

Dorinda said we had the Early Childhood Development event that Judy ran last week with the resources and vendor and it was a decent turnout. It was a nice event. She said it would be great if we could reach parents electronically we could work with that for a bunch of different programs.

Rob said at our last meeting the Board asked AFB to start a pilot at one of the schools and I'm hoping we can address that at our next meeting. He is looking at a soy cup made of 100% recyclable material that you can actually compost. He stated the other thing was the bonding for the new high school and the city council is waiting to retool the numbers. He would like to lump some things together and have the Mayor, Neil, and facilities committee to discuss plans for Stiles, Blake and Molloy and look at our debt service. I jotted down a couple of numbers and the original numbers were 28 or 30 million dollars which would start in 2012 or 2014 and add another 2.4 million dollars per year. If we were do it at 30 million for 30 years it wouldn't be paid off until 2043 and I want everybody to be apprised of this. If you don't do the new school you have to put in another 20 million dollars into the school; new roof and NEASC Accreditation items so what I would like to do is have an hour meeting prior to our next board meeting to discuss it. The debt service that we are paying now is around 16 million which doesn't include I don't think the clean water fund that we are doing at the waste water facility which will drop off by 2021 if there is no other debt service involved at City Hall or the water front. I would hope to get a better idea of what our debt service is at that meeting.

Neil supports the project and thinks the board does as far as funding and looking into it and the one thing he is concerned about whether we do the project now or 2 to 3 years from not is that those are the issues and we need to be able to answer questions before we Present to the City Council ad make sure the finance director is ready to do what needs to be done on their end. We need to make sure we lock in that rate whether we do the work now or are able to get an extension which we look into. We want to make sure we don't loose out on the 75% funding and we will look into that.

Toni Paine asked if we need to factor into that isn't there a late date for NEASC we had X number of years to get accreditation what was the outset. Neil said at this point we are fully accredited and the issues that need to be addressed all have to do with the facility. We will continue to apprise them to the status of it. I don't think we could lose our accreditation but there could be a probationary period. If the project is in the works I don't see it.

Mark Palmieri agrees with Mr. Saley 100% but what he feels is it has already been passed by the board to move forward and his impression was last Wednesday Mr. Carney was supposed to do a presentation to the council and was cancelled. I think that is where we should go. As Mr. Cavallaro has stated we continue to go without doing this project that school is not getting younger we have replaced windows and doors, the boilers are not getting better along with the roof. The money you will save on lighting, heating etc. will pay for the bonding. Mr. Chairman what I would like to see is for you to get together with the chairman of the council let's get that presentation going and let the council see it and let the people in the city see it. In the long run it is going to be a savings instead of expense. This is economic development for our city too. You start somewhere and 100 million dollars is a nice number to start bringing people into our town. Remember it is a trickle down effect when you start doing work like that people start spending money. He gave an example of the big game on Friday night and Dunkin Donuts was lined with people from Madison for an hour waiting get coffee and donuts on that little corner on Kelsey Avenue. That is what happens when you have big things go on in your city it draws people in and they spend money and everybody wins.

Neil said Mark make some good points and certainly the 75% is crucial and our job is to convince the City Council and Administration of the economic advantages of doing that and what the disadvantages are by putting it off and what we will have to put into that building. That is critical in actually selling the idea not only to the Council and Mayor but also to the people in West Haven who will ultimately pay the price for it.

Rob said his reason for bringing this up was to apprise everybody of where we are. The original numbers were 28 and I do believe we do need to do something with the school but you can't make a decision based on the fact that we need a new school; we have to look at all the facts. For an example if we bond 30 million dollars for 30 years it will cost us almost 69 million dollars. You won't pay that debt off until 2043. I agree we need to do something with it but it is an intelligent decision we all have to make. We have to look at all the facts especially after that meeting the other night listening to Mr. Barron.

Dorinda wanted to clarify that when you say what we have to do to decide the prior board already voted and decided to move forward it is really just that we need to provide information. Rob said right. Dorinda said it is ultimately the decision of the council at this point. We have no role except to give them the information and our support or non support whatever we decide as a group. I guess it's our support. Mark said it has already ended here. Rob said no it hasn't because people are going to talk to the board members and ask them what they think and how much it will cost. I'm trying to disseminate a little

more information. Mark said that is my point with the presentation to the City Council. Dorinda said good idea Mark. Howie asked Rob if he was ready for that presentation. Rob said pardon and Howie asked if he was ready to make that presentation. Rob said he had no problem with that Mr. Chairman.

Mark Palmieri said there was one other thing. Mrs. Rossi brought up. I just want to ask how or why it even started. I don't remember voting on moving the meetings so over the weekend I did receive a few phone calls. Gym time is very valuable. Did anyone ever look and see that we were going to be interfering with planned gym time. Tonight it was basketball and cub scouts and brownies also use these gyms. I don't think we should be cutting in on kid's time. I think we should go back and double check and do not cut out activities for children after school programs for us to have a meeting when we could use City Hall. I think it is still centrally located because that is where everybody wanted the Board of Ed to move to City Hall anyway. Let's have our meetings there and not take away from the children of this time. You know this well gym time is hard you have one hour to practice one night a week and tonight when we were walking into this gym I saw two boys and their parents and they were a little disappointed tonight and I also received calls asking what was going on is this going to be a regular occurrence. You have every single school and you don't use every gym but if you are going to be using gyms please let's make sure we are not taking away from children in our town. I would ask that this be looked into and please take it away. The way we have bopping around going to City Hall is open let's please use City Hall. That is my suggestion.

Patrick Egolum stated he quite agrees with what Mark Palmieri said. I wish we could do this at a central location instead of shuffling from one place to another. It is definitely the best thing to do so the public can know where the meeting will be held and they won't have to be left hanging.

Eric Murillo understands that we all want it at one particular place that is why everybody should get their heads together and get that part of the City Hall built as soon as possible so we can move there. Second of all I like the point that we can go to different schools because it gives the ability to that neighborhood for that area so the parents can go and see the board meeting. I think it is more that whoever is providing the scheduling to the Chairman is not relaying that we have something going on that day and it is a lack of communication of whoever is in charge of the agendas to be honest with you. If there is something already at the school and they have to cancel it that is wrong lets get a school where they have nothing planned. There is stuff going on at City Hall sometimes that we don't want to interfere with too so there is always going to be something. I think it is about communication to the Chairman to see where he is going to be able to put the meeting and what is available. Mark is asking that we do not take anything from the children of West Haven. Eric agrees with him. Mark knows for a fact that those guys go crazy for years and years in advance to get their schedules and shouldn't have to loose their time. Those kids shouldn't have to loose that time. Tonight there were four or five

teams tonight that lost time. Eric said that is lack of communication. Somebody didn't tell someone that there was something going on. That is just irresponsible.

Dorinda said she put the schedule together in the beginning of the year and I know there were different suggestions but we did have a consensus by the board and I did send it out by email and we do plan them well in advance. The only reason I did send an email to Howie asking if we could consider switching from the high school is because we cancelled two meetings and both times I sent out 600 flyers to those families saying that the meeting would be held there and then we cancelled it the last minute. We did that at Forest and we had a meeting scheduled here at Washington that we cancelled and I said in all fairness to Washington why don't we do the next meeting there and I guess there was a communication gap on using the gym so I didn't know there were gym games. I was trying to rotate them and give Washington a fair shot.

Mark stated the winter time of the year is not a time to be going into gyms that is all I'm saying.

Howie said thank you all duly noted. I think that is important. My concern to Mrs. Rossi's point really is more about the attendance because I think when you cancel the meetings that is probably a bigger issue so I would ask all of us to take that into account wherever the meeting is. Certainly if moving into City Hall ensures that everybody will show up then we will take that into consideration.

C.1. d. Committees

Rob Saley said there was a great article in the ASBJ Periodical you get as a board member that talked about Pre-School, Pre-K to 4th Grade and what Bethel, a district in this state has done. They dramatically raised test scores through data analysis and what they have done with ELL's is very good and I think everybody should read it if they haven't already.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held at Mackrille School
806 Jones Hill Road, West Haven, CT on October 4, 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
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Minutes D.1.a are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

10-96 Scott Lee, Science Teacher - WHHS

Effective: October 19, 2010
Reason: Personal

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.2. Resignations: (Certified)
Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.2. – D.6.10-96 – 10-98 inclusive
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in agreement
Items D.2 – D-6. 10-96 – 10-98 inclusive are approved

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

10-97 Michael A. DeVito, 470 Turkey Hill Road, Orange, CT 06477
Assistant Football Coach - WHHS
Effective: October 25, 2010
Salary: \$3,500

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

10-98 Sharon Provitz, 230 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
3 Hour Cashier – Carrigan School
Effective: October 12, 2010
Salary: Elementary Unit AFSME Contract - \$11.17 Hourly

D.7. New Business

10-99 Request from Dr. Anthony Cordone, Principal of Bailey Middle School to have graduating 8th grade students attend a 3 day enrichment excursion to Rhode Island and Massachusetts being held from June 1st to June 3, 2011.

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business Item 10-99
Mark Palmieri made the motion
Rob Saley seconded the motion
Discussion: Howard Horvath stated that this is the trip that I have always asked about for the last four years. Especially now that we have consolidated and we have a much larger number of students at Bailey we have a better feel for just how many are able to attend and participate in that so I would respectfully request as the numbers become clear that we get a report about what percentage of the students were able to attend this event.
All board members present voted in favor.
Dorinda Borer was not present for this vote.
D.7. New Business Item 10-99 is approved.

10-100 Vote on Administrator's Contract

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business Item 10-100

Toni Paine made the motion

Mark Palmieri seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob stated it was a learning experience and wanted to thank the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Toni and Howie for putting up with him.

All board members present voted in favor.

Dorinda Borer was not present for this vote.

D.7. New Business Item 10-100 is approved

F. Informational:

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

Howie asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

The meeting ended at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola,

Board Secretary

Schedule A
1.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to address the Board. I really wanted to just give kudos for the chapters in Larry Ainsworth book. It was wonderful to see West Haven highlighted in such a positive manner. You all should be commended for the hard work that went into re writing the curriculum and for all of your hard work and efforts you give and the teachers in this city give to our children on a daily basis. Unfortunately I cannot just end here.

I am still concerned with the library situation at Bailey Middle School. I spoke on Oct. 4 about children not having access to the library during school classes that require research such as Social Studies, Science and English. I thought that there was one class being taught in the library at one time, but come to find out there are 2-3 classes being taught simultaneously 5 out of 7 periods per day. This is outrageous. How can we expect students to pay attention to their class when there can be up to 2 other classes being taught while they are trying to listen to their own teachers? As I stated in October I also feel it is detrimental to our student population not to have access during the school day. Our children will not be prepared for High School.

High School, my next item of grave concern. This Board is planning to build a new High School. The cost being approximately 100 million dollars. The state has approved and will fund 75% or 75 million dollars which leaves the city with a bill of 25 million dollars. How can you possibly ask the citizens of West Haven to pay for this, when you closed 2 elementary schools last year because the city had no money? A couple of years ago a new façade was put on the High School and money was raised to replace the seats in the auditorium. What kind of planning is this? It seems to me there is always money for everything except keeping our neighborhood schools open. What a slap in the face

Schedule A₂.

for the almost 600 families whose children were displaced for supposedly economic reasons.

The overcrowding at Bailey is a direct result of the closures and restructuring in our district. Teachers who teach core subjects are traveling from room to room on carts. Technology is not being utilized because for one there is no time to set up and take down for power point presentations. Teachers who "travel" cannot leave things set up for the next class. Also another reason for the lack of technology at Bailey is there are no Smart Boards at Bailey. Molloy had 3, they were moved to Carrigan, Thompson had 2 they were moved to Carrigan and Carrigan had 5 to start with. So do the math Carrigan has 10 Bailey has 0. This is not in the least bit fair or equitable.

My next point, we have a data driven curriculum. Where do teachers meet to discuss the data? They cannot meet in the library there are 3 classes being taught there. They cannot meet in a free classroom because there are no free classrooms. The conference room is not available all of the time. Where do they meet? My best guess is the teacher's room; the place where teachers should be able to go for little peace and quiet. Now instead while they try to eat their lunch and unwind they get to listen to data meetings. This is not a good way to treat our teachers. I think this is very disrespectful.

Our administrative building moved to Orange so the superintendent and assistant superintendent would have their staff and personnel easily accessible. Ideas were brought to the table such as utilizing office space in the elementary schools and communicating through email and telephone. This was unacceptable. Well I feel teachers meeting in the teacher's room is unacceptable. I believe 3

Schedule A
3.

classes at a time being taught in the library is unacceptable. I believe that our students having lunch at 9:50 in the morning is unacceptable. I believe children starting school at 7:45 and not having lunch until 1:00 is unacceptable. I find it unbelievable that Middle School students do not have access to the school's media center during the day unacceptable and I find it deplorable that the students do not have access to technology as other schools in the same district. This is all a result of overcrowding. This is the result of closing 2 elementary schools and not taking the much needed time to plan such a drastic move more carefully.

Schedule B

Student Report – Monday, November 01, 2010

On Friday October 22, 2010 West Haven High School was showcased on Channel 3 as a Cool School. 850 students and 103 staff members were in the gym for a 4:30am pep rally that was broadcast live to the Channel 3 viewing audience. Special Thanks to Superintendent Neil Cavallaro for his support of this event, Winkle Bus for running the buses to get students to the high school, the West Haven Police Department for providing safety at school and the bus stops, to Alan Belchak and West Haven Food Services for providing a light breakfast for all who attended, and to the solid team efforts of Mrs. Gardner, Mr. Capone, Mr. Everone, Mr. Siclari, Mrs. Franco, and Mr. Morrell for their coordination of the pep rally. The team from Channel 3 including Cool Schools Host Mark Dixon were completely impressed with the energy, enthusiasm, organization and cooperation from the West Haven High School community. Highlights from the pep rally can be seen on the Channel 3 website.

Congratulations to senior **Martha Jacobs** who is a National Merit Semi-Finalist and to senior **Stacey Matakaetis** who is a National Merit Commended Student.

Gilbert Agyman and **Silverberg Aryee** are finalists for the United States Senate Youth Program. They have finalist interviews on November 11, 2011.

On Saturday, the Children's Theater and Yearbook combined for an exciting opportunity for the children of West Haven - Children's Theater performed Apples, Kisses, and Shoes and the Yearbook hosted "Trick or Trunk" for children to trick or treat. It was a great turnout for all.

The West Haven High School Blue Devil Marching Band was named the Channel 30 Band of the week.

Thirteen juniors have expressed interested in the remaining position on the Board of Education. Their writing sample is due November 5th and then interviews will be held. We hope our new Student Representative will join us in December.

We are excited to report that all Fall Sports Teams are having successful seasons, but would like to highlight the girls swim team who defeated Hamden for the first time in 30 years and are the division II Champs.

The West Haven High School Theater Workshop will be presenting its Fall Play "The Dining Room" on November 18 & 19th - we hope you can make it.

The WHHS Food Drive for WHEAT begins on November 4th and is a coordinated effort through advisory, the National Honor Society, Peer Advocates, Student Government and the WHHS Academy.

Blue & White: Up All Night will hold a planning meeting on Monday, November 8th at 6pm at WHHS.

Blood drive Today students teachers anyone else that would like to participate.