

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
November 19, 2007
Regular Board Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Carrigan Middle School, 2 Tetlow Street, West Haven on November 19, 2007. The meeting was called to order by M. Toni Paine, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Toni Paine, Chairman
Raymond Collins, Vice Chairman
Mark Palmieri
Howard Horvath
George Monahan
Gerald Calabritto
Robert Guthrie
Eric Murillo
Krista Pickering

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools
Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Shamsi Aysha
Lauren Aceto
Faraz Sabir

Board Chairman Toni Paine stated that we would reverse the order and do the public portion after the presentation of the Superintendent's Awards.

Dr. Andrees stated that this is a special board meeting but also bittersweet. We will be giving out awards to students we are very proud of and we will be losing four board members who should be very proud of the work they have done in educating children in West Haven.

The many posters surrounding you were made by the students in our school district in recognition of Board Appreciation Month. Our board members give their time and talent to the children of our community. We want to thank the following board members for their service to the children of West Haven:

Robert Guthrie has served for 12 years
Raymond Collin, Vice-Chair, has served for 8 years
Krista Pickering, Secretary, has served for 4 years
George Monahan, has served for 4 years

Some of the many attributes of these board members that were mentioned are:

- budget process was always balanced through their hard work and diligence
- building projects at Bailey, Mackrille and Forest were completed
- spirited discussion but never any hostility
- this board took on redistricting
- strengthened the guidance department at the high school
- WHHS received their 1st accreditation under this board
- WHHS won 7 Chess Championships
- WHHS won the Mock Trial
- WHHS Football Team were state champions
- Lacrosse and Field Hockey were added due to this board

Neil Cavallaro stated he looks forward to working with the new board members and will miss the departing board members who always allowed us to do our job and shared their many talents with us.

Compliments from current board members and administration describing our departing members follow:

Ray Collins worked closely with our Food Service Department making many improvements and led the board in Chairman Paine's absence while she recuperated. He also led the board in the search for our current Superintendent. His personality was key in our many discussions. He was always able to come to a friendly conclusion without hostility due to his great sense of humor.

Krista Pickering worked tirelessly making our curriculum what it is today. She started the accreditation process and took the lead with our curriculum by making our language arts and math textbooks and supplies a reality; she was a key player in all aspects of our curriculum. She also was on the team that picked our current Superintendent from Michigan. One of the many highlights Krista has helped to make possible is that there are defibrillators in every classroom.

George Monahan greatly enriched our Special Ed Department through his tireless efforts. He has ensured that we provide the best possible opportunities for our Special Ed students. He was also on the team that brought Dr. Andrees here as our Superintendent. He has worked with the Policy Committee and has contributed to our current Policy Book. He was a member of the negotiation team during the summer months and gave of his time helping to have negotiations come to a peaceful resolution.

Bob Guthrie was a key CABA board member and kept the board closely informed. He should be congratulated as he is at the Master Board of Education Member Level and only three board members in the State of Connecticut have made this honor. You need 20 credits of Board Relations Policy Curriculum and Board Operation Labor Law. West Haven is among the top in the state due to Bob. He is the historian on this board. If you are looking for some past information Bob will have it or locate it for you. He started being a board member 12 years ago when he was single. He is now married and the father of three. He began giving jackets to departing board members and he has served tirelessly on the board's negotiating team.

Jerry Calabritto stated that the four departing board members have certainly made a difference in the lives of the school children in West Haven and presented each board member with a framed plaque.

The board member all gave thanks.

Dr. Andrees came forward to honor many of the students from the West Haven School District who have overcome obstacles, special events and extenuating circumstances to stand before us tonight.

The following students received plaques and special recognition from the board of education:

Adult Ed	Shannon Gorman
Bailey	Lauren Padula
Carrigan	Kseniya Rogulina
Forest	Kendra Watkins
Mackrille	Jolie Morrell
Molloy	Angela Daniels
Pagels	Theodore Lloyd
Savin Rock	Christopher Arida
Seth Haley	Alexis Severino
Stiles	Corey Johnson
Thompson	Taylor McCray
Washington	Qayla Crawley
WHHS	Matthew E. Charles

Dr. Andrees stated that the hard work of parents, grandparents, family members and teachers helped these students to overcome obstacles and stand here before us. Pictures were taken with individual students and their families. A separate picture of all students together was also taken. A reception for students and their families followed. The board took a short intermission and then the meeting resumed with Public Session.

C.1. Administration

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Public Portion began at 8:20 p.m.

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven thanked the four outgoing board members of the board of education for being there for so many years and giving of their time to the students and community of West Haven.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, West Haven stated that she would like to see with the new board going forward with a fair and equitable policy brought about for indigence. She and Debbie Collins became certified as the FOI liaisons. The importance and how strongly the Freedom of Information tells districts that they need to have a fair and equitable indigence policy so that everyone is treated fairly and not on a case by case basis. She also stated that there was a nice article in Sunday's paper and it was a very positive article and wanted to thank Howie Horvath and anyone else who supported this endeavor. She also gave thanks to the four outgoing board members for all their time and effort. She also wanted to thank them for bringing the greatest gift of all to our children and that is our superintendent. Mrs. Rossi has heard wonderful things and stated she would be the first to complain if there were problems. Her compliance with FOI has been great. There have been no complaints to Hartford. Lastly she thanked outgoing board member Ray Collins for bringing Tom Henneck here to give a presentation to everyone on FOI. This told her that he was looking out for the best interest of this city in that he too wanted open and honest government. For that she will always remember Ray and that he does have a good sense of humor.

The board gave thanks.

There were no further speakers

Public Portion closed at 8:30 p.m.

C. Reports:

C.1. Administration

Neil reiterated what was stated earlier about the board members and stated he would miss them. If they ever have any concerns the door is always open. Dr. Andrees echoed his sentiments and said she too will miss them and thanked them for all their help.

C.1.a Status of Schools

C.1.b Student Representatives

The student representatives had nothing to report.

C.1.c Board

Howie stated he has the greatest appreciation for each of the department members and each of the board members have grown.

Board Member Eric Murillo thanked all the students for the posters they made for Board Appreciation Month. He also said goodbye to the outgoing members and thanked them for their hard work.

Jerry Calabritto stated the Board and school system are better because of them and the children thank you.

Bob Guthrie stated that he read a book at Thompson School and hope that the new board members get involved in this opportunity. The Theatre Workshop Group received positive statements from everyone at CABE.

Mark Palmieri attended the Thompson School Reading Program and stated that the students were happy to learn that the author of the book that he read to students was Lou Bertucci from West Haven. He thanked the outgoing members for all their efforts and the time they gave. He welcomes the new board members.

Toni Paine thanked the outgoing board members for their dedication. They were really a big part of helping thousands of children in West Haven. Toni attended the CABE Convention and stated that WHHS students overwhelmed everyone they were so talented. They were overwhelmed by what our students are capable of. We walked around like celebrities the rest of the day because they were our children. One student was approached about a scholarship from Julliard. We were so proud of them.

C.1.d Committee

Howie wanted to take the opportunity to welcome the new board members and he looks forward to them joining us.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting, November 5, 2007
at 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above minutes inclusive

George Monahan seconded the motion

All members in favor

Motion Carries

Minutes were approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

07-195 Earl Mathewson, Physical Education Teacher, Thompson School
Effective: November 26, 2007
Reason: Personal

Howie Horvath made a motion to approve the above resignation **07-195**

Krista Pickering seconded the motion

All members in favor

Motion Carries

Resignation 07-195 was approved

E. New Business:

07-196 Field Trip Permission Form from Betsy Bruneau, Social Studies Teacher at WHHS to Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent of Schools requesting field trip to England and Ireland April 17th to April 26th, 2009.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above New Business **07-196** above

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: Neil Cavallaro wanted to state that the date is correct it is a year form April and they want to start fund raising.

All members in favor

Motion Carries

New Business **07-196** was approved

07-197 Correspondence from Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent of Schools to Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools requesting permission from the Board of Education to enter into an agreement with Protraxx.

Bob Guthrie made a motion to approve (**07-197**) New Business

Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion

Discussion: Howie Horvath questioned the cost. Neil Cavallaro stated about \$20,000 and stated the money is available but before they receive a final contract they will bring it before the board. No further discussion

All members were in favor

Motion carries

F. Informational:

Ray Collins stated it has been his honor to sit on the board the past 8 years and that what matters most is touching the life of a child and this has been his goal both for his child and those in this district. He would like to think that he left the board a little better than he found it thanks to the entire board working together. This board worked together and set aside political difference and became united and Dr. Andrees is one of the proudest achievements of this board. He asked the remaining board members to give the new members the support they need and deserve. With that he will take his own advice and Skip To The Chase. Thank you for the opportunity and God Bless.

George Monahan thanked the citizens of West Haven for giving him this opportunity by electing him four years ago to this board. As a parent and PTA Member he has been involved in going to Board Meetings for many years. It has been an honor and learning experience and wants to tremendously thank from the bottom of my heart all the people who guided me along the way during these four years. As any board member learns when a new board member comes to the table there are always some differences and there is a learning curve that will be involved. One of the reasons why the West Haven Board of Ed has been successful for many years is that the people on the board do tend to learn that it is all about the children.

Bob Guthrie thanked his colleagues and it has been a pleasure to serve for 12 years. The leadership shown by Dr. Andrees and Neil Cavallaro has been most helpful. He hopes the new Board will continue to work with them and support them. Nine people will now need to come together as one unit. The remaining board members must bring them into the fold and share information with them. The continuity of the administrative team and the board chair is important. I hope we will be reading that Toni Paine is the board chair for the next two years to keep that continuity going because she knows what must be delivered to the administration from the board to keep communications going.

Toni Paine thanked the outgoing board members for their guidance and wonderful dialog.

Jerry again said it has been a pleasure to serve with the four of you who are leaving and he wishes them God Speed.

Howie Horvath wished the departing board members all the best.

The remaining board members again gave their thanks.

Dr. Andrees then gave a power point demonstration of the Strategic School Profile which is attached.

Ray Collins made a motion to adjourn
George Monahan seconded the motion
All in favor
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary