

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
October 1, 2007
Regular Board Meeting

The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on October 1, 2007. The meeting was called to order by M. Toni Paine, President 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
Eric Murillo
Robert Guthrie
Howard Horvath
Gerald Calabritto
Krista Pickering

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: George Monahan

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Lauren Aceto and Shamsi Aysha

The Meeting of the Board of Education as a whole was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. 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 President M. Toni Paine stated that we would reverse the order of the agenda and do the awards first.

Dr. Andrees welcomed everyone and stated that a few years ago we had just a handful of students who might have scored 5 on all four subsets of the CAPT Test. The CAPT Test is a State Test which 10th graders take. Tonight we are honored with 12 students from West Haven High School who scored 5 on all four categories: reading, writing, math and science. 5 is the highest score you can achieve. We also have many students who are scoring four on this test so we are moving in the right direction. Dr. Andrees introduced the following students who performed at the advanced level on all four CAPT Subtests for 2007:

Shamsi Aysha, Calleigh Esposito, Matthew King, Daryl Klakouski, Peter Miner, Helen Nelson, Taylor Norton, Joseph Olenick, Sarah Parmelee, Rebecca Rakoczy, William Serio and Corey Yarochowicz.

Students and their family members who were present were congratulated by the Board and received Certificate Awards. Chairman Paine passed out pins to individual students and pictures were taken of each student along with a group picture.

Dr. Andrees stated that we are very fortunate to have very high caliber teachers who work for the West Haven School System. One of the processes they must go through is the BEST Program. Frank Paolino is the BEST Program Coordinator and Francine Lucibello is the BEST District Master Mentor, both assist our teachers to achieve BEST status. Frank Paolino then gave a brief explanation of the BEST Program.

Frank Paolino stated that when the teachers are first hired in year one they have to assimilate to the curriculum and the entire system. In year two teachers must go through a rigorous performance in the BEST Portfolio and video tape segments which the state reviews. If they do the job that the state requires they stay with us. If they do not achieve what the State requires they go through the process again.

Dr. Andrees introduced teachers from the West Haven School System who had completed the BEST Portfolio Process. The following teachers or their mentors received Certificates for completing this program if they were in attendance: Carl Amato, Sueanne Curley, Maimuna Farooqi, Andrea Fusco, Abby Goodwin, Stefania Izzo and Lauren Plumey. Board President, M. Toni Paine passed out pins and pictures were taken. The Board offered their congratulations to all teachers.

Dr. Andrees introduced Mr. Ed Arum, Arum & Associates LLC who spoke to the Board and audience about the completed building projects at Seth Haley and Mackrille Schools. Mr. Arum requested the Board's support in closing out the two construction projects which the Building Oversight Committee has accepted as complete. All the bills are in and now it is up to the Board to accept them. We then need to send in the 046 and 049 form in order to have the State come in and audit these two projects.

Board Member Robert Guthrie asked if both Mr. Joe Yacano and the Building Oversight Committee were satisfied that all the punch list items are in order. Mr. Arum stated yes and they approved it August 24, 2007.

This item is on tonight's agenda and requires a vote by the board.

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven wanted to invite everyone to the teacher of the year dinner on October 24th at Anthony's Ocean View at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$35.00 and there is a choice of prime rib, chicken or scrod. We are honoring teachers from every school and Leila Mustakos is being honored as West Haven's Teacher of the Year. Patti has tickets.

Susan Walker, 145 Winslow Dr., West Haven appeared on behalf of the West Haven Historical Society. The Savin Rock Conference Center will host a show involving a murder will take place and proceeds will benefit the Poli House on October 19th at 8:00

PM. Tickets are \$20.00 and you may purchase them from Susan at Bailey Middle School.

In 1881 a young woman's body washed up on shore in West Haven. This became the trial of the century because the two people on trial for this murder were the Malley boys; the son and nephew of Edward J. Malley of the Edward J. Malley Company. This was the major scandal of the era. The play will involve several members of the school system and both Susan Walker and Sandy McCauley have been planning this event for some time. The program features Phyllis Silver, Leila Mustakos, Jason Stacoffe, Art Bellucci and students from the high school.

Sandy McCauley stated that there will be an Angel Party before the show where you will be picked up at the Savin Rock Conference Center and taken to the Poli House for a light supper and beverages and then return to the Conference Center for the show at 8:00 PM. There were only 50 spaces and right now there are only 15 remaining. The cost for this is \$100. These people will be among the first to see what has been done with the house thus far.

Todd Tomkins, 77 Savin Avenue, West Haven stated he was on a fact finding mission. He is looking for criteria. If a child transfers into the West Haven School System in his or her junior year how are they placed as far as grades and who places them? Is it a counselor who places them? Why do they place them in a certain level? For example, if a child has high honors from a different school system would they be placed in academic?

He relates a lot of things he does to baseball; play up your competition and move down if you have to don't play down and move up. He had a meeting with a counselor at the high school and it was indicated to him that they place down and promote up. This doesn't work for him but he is interested in how it works and why children are placed where they are placed and do we challenge them enough.

The Board gave thanks.
Public Session closed at 7:22 p.m.

C. REPORTS:

C.1. Administration

Dr. Andrees and Joe Yacono attended the Building Oversight Committee Meeting last week and were asked to attend the dedication of the high school façade on October 11th at 4:00 PM on the steps of West Haven High School. Refreshments will be provided by the Building Oversight Committee. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On Thursday every building in our school system had an opportunity to participate in "Tools for Schools." Parents, teachers, administrators, custodians, nurses and different people on the staff were on this committee. The whole idea is to encourage us to continue to improve the quality of air throughout our building. The gentleman who ran the workshop was pleased that West Haven continues to move forward to insure that we

have a clean environment. We have a number of students with respiratory issues and/or asthma. We clean the air ducts in our building on a set cycle to insure a healthier environment for our children.

We are proud of this school district. Wonderful comments have been heard from the NEASC Team. The NEASC Team is an accredited agency for the New England area and they made wonderful comments about the West Haven High School, the staff, the student body and the programs. Recommendations will be forthcoming and we know that we will have to make some adjustments and we will be prepared to do this. The high school staff is already looking at issues to address as they went through this process. It appears that we won't receive a recommendation for another three months. We are anxiously awaiting these results.

During this process there was a bomb threat at West Haven High School and I have never seen a student body behave as well as they did. They were the most orderly group I have seen in my career; they were phenomenal. The NEASC team said they learned a lot about our school by the way our students behaved in situations such as this.

The high school held an assembly on Friday to discuss emergencies and evacuations with the freshmen.

The police department was exceptional. They not only checked the building inside but also outside; the grounds were thoroughly checked along with areas that students may be evacuated to. I can not thank them enough for their support. They made it very clear that when they come in and take control of the situation parents may not come onto the grounds until the area has been rendered safe. At that time parents may come and pick up students. During the last incident only 20 parents picked up students compared to 75 during the previous threat.

We will test the new Connect CTY system this week at the high school. A test will call all high school parents. I want to thank Alan Olenick for working with John and Fran from our tech team to get the system up and running. After October 3rd we will test the homes of the elementary and middle school students. Principals will communicate with parents about the dates through their newsletters.

Our theme this year is RECAP; reaching every child and parent. A lot of initiatives are going on in this area. In keeping with this many schools have called parents and received positive comments. Carrigan School personnel have made calls and sent postcards.

On October 3rd more than 60 families and 70 students will be at Molloy for the first Family night. The topic for this evening is how to help your child succeed in school. Many of our parents have used the Parent Portal.

Cathy Biagetti, Principal from Mackrille, has formed a Parent Advisory Committee which include groups represented from all every school district across the community.

The grant for the Math, Science and Engineering Magnet School was approved for funding. We will begin meeting soon to start planning.

We have begun visitations to the schools. Board members and Central Office staff will visit all 12 schools in the district this fall. We will visit Molloy tomorrow, Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m.

I would like an item added to tonight's agenda. Mr. Alan Belchak had Garth Sawyer authorize the nutrition programs and sign the ED-099. Garth is no longer here and we are requesting tonight that I be allowed to sign and in my absence Neil Cavallaro will be the signer. I would like to put this on tonight's agenda because it is timely.

Ray Collins made a motion to add to tonight's agenda **Item 07-184** – Approval of the Revised Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion

No Discussion

All in favor

Motion carries

Item 07-184 Approval of the Revised Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program is added to tonight's agenda.

C.1.a. Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro wanted to congratulate Ron Stancil and all the teachers at WHHS for making it through the NEASC visit. Raffaella Fronc and Trish Robles deserve a lot of credit for putting together the entire program. The initial feedback was very positive. The West Haven pride came through when teachers and students spoke about their school. Many parents who went to WHHS made it a point to go out of their way to speak about the pride they feel for our schools. By all accounts the initial reports were more positive than negative.

On tonight's agenda I am asking for the approval of a 17 ½ hour medical paraprofessional aide to assist one of our librarians at WHHS. Because of the nature of the request I have the documentation and I can assure all the board members that Jolene and I worked through the teacher's union and kept our attorney in the loop.

As far as the busload and over-crowding we are in pretty good shape. Due to the number of students going to the Career High School in New Haven we had one bus that was over crowded and therefore had to add another bus. We were able to take a bus away from another area to defray the cost. There were 60 kids on the bus and not only was it over-crowded it was also making the bus late in arriving at Mackrille School. We pay for the participation for the West Haven Students and the money is reimbursed to us.

We hope to use the 911 Connect in the case of an emergency and for calling off school for a snow emergency. This will also help with the early dismissal which is a nightmare

with so many working parents. We will be able to contact parents on their cell or work numbers.

Last year as a result of our Hot Line for residency 8 students were removed from school. Before I contacted the schools most were in the process of removing those students. People do use the Hot Line and we are removing students as a result.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Lauren Aceto shared some information on activities:

- Homecoming Festival will be held tomorrow from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Old Grove Park
- Wednesday there is a college and career fair. Over 60 colleges will be there for Junior and Seniors
- Thursday night is the Pep Rally and Homecoming Dance

Shamsi Aysha shared some information:

- Thursday the Math Team will enter their first competition at Wilbur Cross High School at 3:30 PM
- The AP Government class will attend the First Amendment Conference this Friday at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford during school hours.

C.1.c. Board

Bob Guthrie asked if the donation of the voting machines was approved by the City Council the other night. Tracy Morrissey from the City Council said this was not approved it was held due to the fact they needed the number of how many machines were being donated and where they were to be used.

Tracy said according to the cover letter they received some machines were also supposed to go to Carrigan and Bailey. It was requested that Donna Nally from City Council be contacted with the number of machines and where they are to be used.

Dr. Andrees would make this information available to Donna Nally and thanked Tracy.

Bob Guthrie asked that a thank you letter be sent to Mr. Marino who was very open to the conversation about the donation of equipment. Obviously this had to go through the Council for the disposition of City Assets.

Last year Bob stated he had asked a question about a listing of subs paras and custodial. The one thing that we found out at the time was that there was no record keeping of how the clerks were used for subs. He doesn't know if this has been resolved with the personnel department. This is not to change the procedure in how we use them but similar to the way they divide the record of how the paras and subs are used daily. A similar document can be created for the clerks for record keeping. It applies for two job

classifications and hopefully it can just be carried over. I am asking now because it is October 1st and not that late in the school year to keep track of it.

Neil said there is more of a need for subs than subs on the list at this point.

Bob said this would also allow the board to know the need for subs whether it is custodial, clerical or para.

Ray Collins attended the Carrigan Fund Raiser at Rita's Ice Cream Parlor a few weeks ago and stated that Dr. Andrees did a fine job in dishing out ice cream and will always have a backup career! Laughter ensued.

Toni Paine attended the Stiles Walk Through last week and was very impressed. The kids were wonderful. The curriculum there is just outstanding. They did a beautiful job!

Jerry Calabritto wanted to commend the staff at Washington School. The behavior of the children was just phenomenal. The most impressive thing was that it was pouring rain and they had a fire alarm. Those children were out in that parking lot and they looked like drowned little rats when they came in but they had a plan. The school has these tee-shirts students use for when they go on field trips. The teachers keep them. The whole school changed into their tee-shirts and let their wet clothes dry. The behavior of the students during the fire drill and the changing of clothes was very impressive. Tim Van Winkle runs an excellent school.

I had the pleasure to speak at NEASC on Sunday. I want to commend Ms. Fronc and Ms. Robles on the outstanding job they did. I would also like to thank Mr. Horvath and Mr. Monahan for coming and being there with me for moral support.

Mark Palmieri received the test call this evening and wondered if we can get this information in a newsletter letting parents know they can change the number and use their cell # if they like. Each person can have two or three numbers and I would like to circulate this information in the monthly newsletter. Mark was told that this information will be in the newsletter which should be received this week.

The Homecoming Game is Friday evening and I know letters went out to the middle schools. Are we enforcing our requests Friday evening? Dr. Andrees stated we are hoping that parents will be responsible and will come with their children. It is hoped that parents will respect this request and not drop children off.

The resource officers from the schools have been hired for the night to be on the site.

Mark knows the kids have a good time playing football and chasing each other in the stadium and hopes that this wonderful tradition continues for our students. The other alternative would be to go back to Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM. You are inside the stadium and it is a fun area and I would like to see this continue.

Toni Paine stated we have asked our student's parents to attend but we have no control over whether a parent from the opposing team will attend with their children.

Howard Horvath had the pleasure of being at the NEASC review and it was rigorous. I thought they were very serious about it as I expected. He was impressed with the way we responded as a school system. The work that was done and the event they had at the very end was exceptional. Howie felt the NEASC Committee was impressed. We certainly deserve accreditation; this is a high quality school.

Howie had the opportunity to come down to the high school the day of the bomb threat and was impressed with the handling of the situation. Afterwards he stopped into the high school and talked to teachers who were very impressed with the way students conducted themselves. He wanted to thank Ron Stancil for sitting with him and for explaining what took place.

Howie also went to the police station to see if the investigative detective was available. The detective was very impressed with the way the students operated and the way the faculty and administration handled everything. He was very impressed with the way the police were investigating this incident. They took this very seriously and were doing many things to investigate where this might have come from and who might have been the perpetrator.

We have a lot to be proud of given the circumstances.

Eric Murillo wanted to mention he did the walkthrough at Mackrille School with Dr. Andrees and Neil and he can't say enough about it. It is a wonderful school. The staff, teachers and students work beautifully together. I am very happy with the walkthrough.

Eric had another comment to make about a piece of information that was handed out to the board last week. I think we should monitor things that are political. I really don't appreciate comments from individuals from an opposing political party. This has no bearing on education and should not be distributed through the board. In the future I would appreciate Dr. Andrees monitoring more what is being distributed to our board.

C.1.d. Committee

There were no committee reports.

D.1. Approval of Minutes Inclusive:

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Meeting, September 4, 2007,
7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building (enclosure)

Ray Collins made a motion to approve the above minutes

Mark Palmieri seconded the motion

No discussion

All in favor

Motion carries

D.2. Resignations: (Certified) Inclusive:

07-171 Margaret Bernegger, School Psychologist, Stiles School
Effective: October 8, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-172 Rosa Richardson, Girls Basketball Coach, Bailey Middle School
Effective: August 29, 2007
Reason: Personal

Ray Collins made a motion to approve the above certified resignations
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified) Inclusive:

07-173 Deanna Barszczewski, Title 1 Math Aide, Thompson School
Effective: September 21, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-174 Gaye Calabrese Hughes, Para Special Ed., Pagels School
Effective: August 23, 2007
Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve the above non-certified resignations
Howie Horvath seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.4. New Hires: (Non-Certified)

07-175 Rose DeCicco, 109 Court Street, West Haven, CT 06516
6 Hour Production Worker – West Haven High School
Effective: September 18, 2007
Salary: \$10,946.88 Step 1 (Per AFSME Contract)

Ray Collins made a motion to approve the above non-certified resignations
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.5. New Hires: (Certified) Inclusive

07-180 Sandra Mackowski, 137 Third Ave., Stratford, CT 06515
Library Media Specialist – Carrigan Middle School
Effective: To Be Determined

Salary: \$49,898.40 (Step 7 B.S. + 60)

07-181 Kyle Bowerman, 84 Noble Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Asst. Volleyball – WHHS
Effective: August 30, 2007
Salary: \$1,800.00

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above certified new hires inclusive
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.4. New Hires: (Non-Certified) Inclusive

07-182 Dolores Daniele, 22 Hubert Street, West Haven, CT 06516
3 Hour Cashier – Mackrille School
Effective: October 2, 2007
Salary: \$10.32 per Hour AFSME EPT CONTRACT
STEP 1

07-183 Janis Kavanagh, 45 Chew Street, West Haven, CT 06516
3 Hour Cashier – Savin Rock School
Effective: October 2, 2007
Salary: \$10.32 per Hour AFSME EPT CONTRACT
STEP 1

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above non-certified new hires inclusive
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion carries

E. New Business:

07- 176 **Request for approval from David Russell, Director of Grant Administration to Dr. JoAnn Andrees,** Superintendent of Schools, requesting approval of the Family Resource Center Grant Request for 2007 – 2009. (enclosure)

07-177 **Request for approval from Pat Libero, Robert Mikenis, Tom Klein and Stacy Blanco** for a field trip to Washington DC from May 5th – May 8th for 50 students from Carrigan School. (enclosure)

07-178 **Building Projects**
Request for the Board to accept as completed:

Project# 156-0131EA/RR Mackrille School
Project# 156-9132EA/RR Seth Haley School

**07-179 Request from Neil Cavallaro to Dr. JoAnn Andrees for a
Library Aide**

Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve the above New Business Requests inclusive
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion carries

E. New Business: (Item added to tonight's agenda)

**07-184 Approval of the Revised Authorized Signers of
the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program.**

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above request to revise the authorized
signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program.
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion carries

F. Informational

Nothing under informational.
There was no further discussion.
Ray Collins made a motion to adjourn
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion.
All in favor
Meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary