

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
May 21, 2007
Regular Board Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education 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.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Toni Paine, Chairman
Ray Collins
George Monahan
Robert J. Guthrie
Howard Horvath Jr.
Mark Palmieri
Gerald E. Calabritto

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Krista Pickering
Eric Murillo

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor John M. Picard

Chairman Paine opened the meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

Before beginning the meeting Chairman Paine asked Dr. Andrees if she would like to speak.

Dr. Andrees stated that it is a delight to bring such very talented and gifted students before the Board of Education. We have the opportunity to see what happens to students after they have been with us and then continue with their education. We have a student that has been with us for three years and will graduate from West Haven High School this year. We will introduce the students this evening and hear just a little bit about them and where they are going after they leave us at West Haven High School.

The first two students who received the Connecticut High School Arts Award are Christina Kalafut and Michael Modina. These are two outstanding Art students that have been recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools and they must possess the qualities of scholarship and leadership while excelling in the visual and performing arts.

There was applause from the audience for Christina and Michael.

Christina states she will be going to Western Connecticut State University and will be majoring in Theatre Arts.

Michael states he will be going to Quinnipiac University and will be majoring in Communications, Video Productions and Media Graphics.

Dr. Andrees thanked both Christina and Michael and wishes them the very best.

We have two Merit Scholars. The Merit Scholarship Program is one of the top honors for Juniors who excel on the PSAT's. West Haven is honored to have a National Merit Scholar winner of a \$2,500 scholarship award - Steelson Smith. Dr. Andrees invited Steelson Smith who ranks among the top two percent of students in the country for 2007 to come before the board. Steelson will be attending Yale University and studying English and Bio Chemistry. Photographs were taken with Steelson and the plaque he was awarded.

Maria Ozone has been chosen to enter the Merit Scholarship Program for the 2008 school year with some really nice statistics.

Maria approaches stating that she will be graduating from West Haven High School this year despite the fact that she has only been here 3 years. (applause) She thanks Mr. Stancil and Dr. Andrees for their help and support while allowing her to do this and without them it would not have been possible. (applause) She states next year she will attend the University of Vermont and will study Environmental Science before she actually decides where she wants to go to college. She is looking at the University of Cambridge in England to study Marine Biology. (applause) During the summer, Maria will be going to the University of Cambridge in England for the summer program. Dr. Andrees congratulated Maria again with applause following from everyone.

Dr. Andrees states before we move on please let us acknowledge the parents/guardians of the students and ask them to stand. The Board applauds.

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Toni Paine asked if anyone would like to approach the Board for the Public portion of the meeting.

Patti Fusco – Shingle Hill Road, West Haven –Patti issued an invitation to the city wide retirement function. All the unions get together and celebrate retirement of administrators, paraprofessionals, custodians, food service workers and all unions will be together.

The date is June 6, 2007. Tickets are \$35.00. Flyers will be coming out soon. Patti gave the food choices. Tickets can be purchased from Patti. It is being held at Anthony's from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Traci Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive. She states as a parent she is extremely happy with the accomplishments of this Board. She was told by a few of the members that no teachers will be laid off this year and that they will be reinstating the Middle School sports. But most importantly they will not be cutting any of the Nurses. She is grateful that we are putting our children first and working together within our budget and she realizes how difficult this was. She also takes the opportunity to thank Dr. Andrees and Neil Cavallaro for all their efforts.

Jackie Grady – West Haven High School – She would like to thank the Task Force, Dr. Andrees, and the Mayor who gave the elementary children certificates for not smoking. These certificates are worth \$25.00 and they had beautiful shirts made. All classes will be given the same shirts.

Lorraine Shelton – 155 Delbrum Road- Her daughter Jerry goes to West Haven High. They moved to West Haven in 2004. She wanted to go to West Haven High School. Ms. Shelton states in 2005, she came down with Cancer and now more surgery is scheduled for the summer. Her daughter's guidance counselor gave her a very hard curriculum with no lunch break so that she would be able to keep up with her education and grades. She went to summer school. The following year they were told she didn't have to go to summer school because they worked out a plan for her grades and classes so that she will be able to be a Junior/Senior. She has been allowed to go through all her Senior classes and courses but will not be graduating this year in June. She has to go to summer school and she cannot go to prom because she is not a full Senior. She states she is here today because she wants her daughter to be able to attend the prom.

Chairman Paine tells her that they will talk to her after the meeting.

Donna Kosiorwski - lives in Shelton but uses the Blake Building as her address. She states this is the first year that Dr. Andrees challenged the school district to join the city in the American Heart Association Walk yesterday. They went in the cold and the rain and as soon as they started walking the sun broke out. She states Mayor Picard was right there walking with them and she wanted to thank publicly all of the elementary, middle and high school participants in West Haven that helped to raise a significant amount of money. They don't have the full tally and don't know if the Mayor wants to comment on where he thinks the city stands. She states it was an honor to do this walk with Jolene Barnes and John Capone. She thanks Dr. Andrees for giving them that chance.

Toni Paine asks if anyone else would like to address the Board

There were no further speakers. The public portion closed at 7:15 p.m.

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration

Dr. Andrees states there are 3 presentations this evening in addition to administrative comments. Dr. Andrees begins with summer elementary school registration and the challenge that we wanted to look at. She states that they sometimes we get students that are not our students that try and enroll into our schools. Dr. Andrees believes that we would be able to do a better job if we offer enrollment throughout the summer. She states Neil Cavallaro, Steve Lopes and Myrtle Stallings have worked together and have come up with a presentation that they would like to share this evening. She feels if we can do some of the enrollment during the summer it may take some pressure off of the first few days of school.

Neil Cavallaro states that Myrtle and Steve really worked out all of the details and did a great job. He states that he and Myrtle have worked together the last 6 years and even before then. They get an influx of students every summer that are new to the school district. Neil is hoping this program will allow children to be signed up and ready by the first day of school. Neil states that we get children that come a week before school starts and it is nearly impossible to get them a physical and get all the proper paperwork that is necessary for them to start. Neil feels allowing to periodically register children throughout the summer will give more of advantage in getting them ready on the first day of school.

Steven Lopes feels it will basically take the burden off the schools especially the first couple of days when it is very hectic. Involved in the summer registration is an administrator, secretary, English Language teacher, a nurse and Mrs. Stallings. If we do have students that are out of our district that need to be placed then Mrs. Stallings can initiate that. It is very important that we provide the community with advertisement by utilizing our voice through the Register. He states that everyone from the Board should have a two sided document. The second side is the poster that will be displayed at all the schools and community agencies and preschool programs. The opposite side is some of the material that the parents will need in order to register their children during the school year. At the beginning of this process we visited a couple of districts that utilizes central registration. We believe it would be easier to have a central location and that will be Molloy school. The dates will be July 31, August 7, and August 14, 2007. The hours will be from 9:30 – 11:30. Dr. Andrees states that she would like to arrange to have a medical unit there as well. Steve Lopes states that the mobile unit will be available there for any immunizations if needed. Dr. Andrees states that we are moving in that direction and looking forward to getting this started this year.

Dr. Andrees thanks everyone for all the hard work that was put into this and states that Mr. Ronald Stancil is here tonight to talk about final grade rounding.

Mr. Stancil states there is a hand out in the back of the agenda books that explain the process. He states what Mr. Shoosham has done is he has taken our policy and changed

the interpretation in a slight way. Right now if a student gets an A, A, A in mid-term A- in the third marking period and an A in the fourth and final the students final grade will be an A-. What Mr. Stancil is saying is that this is just not fair because it takes the GPA from a 4.0 down to a 3.67 which overall is not fair. So at this time, Mr. Stancil is asking to interpret the policy to take it to the nearest grade whether that grade is up or down - not always down as it is done now. For the Senior class it would mean 3 more students would graduate with high honors and 13 additional students would graduate with honors.

Dr. Andrees states this is a way for us to look at our policy and make it fair to all children and open up all possibilities. She now asks if there are any questions.

Mr. Stancil is asked how long it has been interpreted this way. He believes a very long time and states that children are more aware of their grades now and it is time for a change. Bob Guthrie asks Ron if the change of interpretation will be in effect today. Ron states most everyone's GPA rose. Bob states how some of the GPA's also went down. Ron states some of the grades that went down were by mistake. Bob states if these changes should become permanent it should probably be referred to a policy committee for actual language to change any interpretations so it is not to be confused from one year to the other. He feels whatever Board action is taken tonight may just be done for this school year and then during the course of the summer the policy committee will further evaluate this.

Dr. Andrees states that it sounds like the thing to do this year and then have the policy committee handle it further.

Dr. Andrees gave thanks to Donna Kosiorowski, Jolene Barnes, and Jon Capone for getting all the schools in the district involved in the process of the Heart Walk. This includes both the band and the cheerleaders at the high school. She states how very grateful she is for everyone taking the time to participate. She reminds the Board that on June 4th there will be a meeting and Dr. Kaplan from UNH and Mr. Ed Linehan from the New Haven School District will come before you to present the information regarding the Math Engineering and Science Magnet School.

Dr. Andrees states she is pleased to announce that due to the retirements and the few staff members that will leave us, we are pleased to be able to call back all of the staff that we have laid off a few months ago. We have the opportunity also to recall some of the laid off teachers from last year who have worked with us and subbed in our district and again we are very thrilled about this. She states many of the teachers from this process were middle school teachers who moved to elementary positions and gave us the opportunity to consolidate. We are pleased that during the first week of June, Mr. Cavallaro and Ms. Barnes will both be looking to see that the teachers get their assignments for next year. The goal in terms of these moves was to minimize lay-offs. Some people may not be that pleased on where they are going but the bottom line is that there will be others that will not be laid off. Dr. Andrees hopes they will be able to adapt and find comfort where they have been assigned.

Dr. Andrees states, our pledge to you during the budget season was that if all teachers were called back and we did not have any lay-offs we would be bringing back the middle school sports program. She thanks Mr. Bill Slater and the members of the Park and Recreation Dept. who did a phenomenal job with the middle school activities this year. She hopes that he will continue to work with us so that we can realize the same kinds of opportunities for all children in the middle schools again next year. In terms of spirited cooperation it could not have been better than Bill Slater and his staff. So he and Mr. Capone will continue to work together. Mr. Capone will work on the middle school athletic component of it. This opens up many opportunities for all the children at the middle school level.

Dr. Andrees states that we have elected not to lay off nurses. During the time of enrollment we will consolidate at the secondary level where we have six nurses and make it five and one nurse now will become our floater which will create an opportunity to fill the void.

Dr. Andrees states that after tonight we will have openings for two assistant principals. In the next week, a time line will be presented to you in terms of how the process will look and be handled. Lastly, she reminds everyone that tomorrow night is Adult Ed Graduation at 7:00 p.m. She then thanks the Board of Education and Neil Cavallaro for helping with the budget process. She is pleased to work with such a professional Board.

Neil states he echoes the sentiments of Dr. Andrees. He is very pleased that we are calling back all of the teachers and if all goes well, he and Jolene will have everyone in their jobs by next week. He also thanks the Union and Patti Fusco for their help while going through this process. He thanks the Union for all their cooperation in the process of allowing us to move and call back teachers. He stated that we are hopeful that we will have enough positions to call back teachers that we actually laid off last year. Neil states he will keep everyone posted.

He mentions that 2 weeks ago it was said that there will be a curriculum meeting but unfortunately the meeting needed to be postponed due to not receiving documents in time. However, we are going to set up a link as we will be able to email on our website in the future. These documents can get to you in a more timely fashion. He states he also said at that meeting he would give the highlights of our science program. In order to prepare you for that presentation he gave a document that spells out the program. The document states on Top FOSS introduction. FOSS is the name of the company that we will be purchasing material and kits from. We went into this with the idea that everything in education tells us that students learn science best by doing it hands on. So it is a hands on approach that includes connections to literacy experiments as well as assessments. He asks everyone in their spare time to please read it over. He hopes to bring a sample kit to show examples of how the program is going to be introduced. He states that with the cooperation of the elementary principals we have scheduled the professional development first which needs to happen before the first day of school so that the teachers can start from day 1 to be ready to present the material.

Again, with the cooperation of the principals we planned a series of staff development workshops which will take place in June and then we will piggyback on that on our first day in August when the teachers return and we will do a follow up.

He states that part of the staff development is that the teachers are actually doing the experiment. He will get everyone a schedule. It is going to take place at Forest School.

C.1.b. BOARD

Mr. Guthrie states he had the opportunity to attend the Molloy School Multi-Cultural Night Mr. Murillo and Mayor Picard had also attended. Mr. Guthrie also states that Dr. Andrees and Mr. Monahan had the opportunity to attend the Savin Rock School Young Author's day. Another event that he feels was very well done.

George Monahan states he also had a chance to visit Young Author's Day at Savin Rock School. There was great parent participation. It was very exciting to see this. Most important was Miss Molloy's class. The students were learning about the 50 States and after learning a little bit about each State, each student selected one of the States and they prepared a Power Point presentation using the new computer lab. The Power Point was basically a quiz where they would give some information about the State which they had learned and then it would ask you, "What State am I"? The children were so proud of their accomplishments. The way they utilized Power Point as young as they were was absolutely phenomenal. They were able to use animated graphics and watching these children was completely amazing. He applauds Miss Molloy and the staff at Savin Rock School, and the para's as well for helping out.

Mr. Monahan also stated he had the opportunity to chaperone a field trip to Mystic Seaport. This was for the two oceanography teachers who made it available to their six classrooms. He comments how wonderful our children behaved and understood and respected all the rules. There were no incidents that day and they enjoyed themselves and learned the entire day. He states it was really rewarding to have such wonderful students. This Board really works very hard so that our students will have the opportunity to achieve.

Mayor Picard spoke and stated he was able to attend the Multi-Cultural night at Molloy School and that was a great event. He thanks the Board, Union and the City for magically working together in the communication process so all the teachers that were given the layoff notice were able to be brought back and we were also able to bring back middle school sports. Mayor Picard states how proud he is of everyone.

Mayor Picard thanked the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools for allowing us to use Carrigan and Thompson schools. He states there was a car show at Carrigan on Sunday that raised a significant amount of money. There was a fantastic play at West Haven High School and he said our future is in good hands with the type of children we have. He has visited a number of schools with Dr. Andrees including

Mackrille and Thompson. He commented about the flower sale they had at Forest School and how excellently this had been handled. He states that it just shows that West Haven has so many positive things that he is very proud about. He thanks Dr. Andrees, Neil Cavallaro, Captain Coleen Smullen from the Police Department, Donna Kosiorowski, Jon Capone, Jolene Barnes and the Board for the Heart Walk. Everyone did such a great job including the band and cheerleaders.

Mayor Picard stated that West Haven did everything in a positive manner. He feels he is almost certain that we won the Municipal Cup Challenge and that the next closest town to us for the amount of money raised was New Haven.

Mayor Picard said that the amount of money we raised was over \$12,000. He thinks we not only lead all the other towns at the Municipal Cup Challenge but we also lead every business. This shows what we can do by working together. Mayor Picard stated that Anthem started with \$10,000 and he is pretty sure we also beat Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He thanked everyone again for their hard work. Mayor Picard talked about having this event again next year but having it in West Haven. He would like to start it on the Boardwalk by the Conference Center.

C.1.c. COMMITTEE

D.1. Approval of Minutes

- D.1.a.** **West Haven Board of Education Meeting, May 9, 2007**
7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building (enclosure)

- D.1.b.** **West Haven Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting,**
May 9, 2007 6:30 p.m. at the Blake Building (enclosure)

- D.1.c.** **West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting of the Board**
as a whole for the purpose of Finance, May 14, 2007 5:30 p.m.
at the Blake Building (enclosure)

George Monahan requested that the Minutes from May 14th be corrected to show the correct wording should be forum not forearm and the other correction should be appropriate not inappropriate. The minutes will be corrected and resent to the City Clerk.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above minutes inclusive with the corrections mentioned by George Monahan.

George Monahan seconded the motion

No Discussion

All were in favor

Motion carries

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

07-60 Edward Makuck, Technology Education Teacher, Carrigan
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Retirement

George Monahan made a motion to approve the above certified resignation
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No Discussion
All were in favor
Motion carries

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

07-61 Edmond Searles, Head Custodian, SRCS
Effective: May 13, 2007
Reason: Retirement

07-62 Ann McDaniel, 5 Hr. Production Worker, Bailey
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Retirement

Ray Collins made a motion to approve the above non-certified resignation
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
Bob Guthrie was Opposed
No Discussion
Motion carries

D.4. New Hires: (Certified)

07-63 Gina Prisco, 91 Honeypot Road, West Haven, CT
Principal, Pagels School
Effective: July 1, 2007
Salary: Per West Haven Administrators Contract

Ray Collins made a motion to approve 07-63 the above certified new hire
Jerry seconded the motion
No Discussion
All were in favor
Motion carries

07-64 Frank J. Paolino, 53 Strathmore Road, West Haven, CT
Principal, Thompson School
Effective: July 1, 2007
Salary: Per West Haven Administrators Contract

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 07-64 the above certified new hire
George Monahan seconded the motion
No Discussion
All were in favor
Motion carries

E. New Business:

07-65 Letter from Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools to the West Haven Board of Education requesting to rescind the non-renewals of the non-tenured teachers on attached list.

Move To Approve

Toni Paine read the names of the non-tenured teachers who were being called back.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 07-65 above
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No Discussion
All were in favor
Motion carries

A motion was made to go into executive session by Jerry Calabritto at 7:45 p.m.
George Monahan seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

Executive Session

Closed Session

Recommendation For Termination – Linda Rallies

07-66 Employee Termination

Board members returned from executive session at 7:55 p.m.

Ray Collins made a motion to approve the termination of Linda Rallies
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion Carries

F. Informational:

Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion carries

Meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola