

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 6, 2023

Regular Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on March 6, 2023, at West Haven High School Cafe, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT. Cebi Waterfield, Chair of the Board of Education called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cebi Waterfield
Patrick Egolum
Andrea Talamelli
Patricia Libero
Robert Guthrie
Kim Kenny
Jennifer Frost

ABSENT:

Anne Heffernan
Morgan Watts

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Matthew Cavallaro, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Ivanna Baez	Allison Pastore
Diego Soto	Ayannah Obas
Jenna Teshoney	

B. Public Portion of Meeting: none, closed 6:04 p.m.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro stated that Assistant Superintendent Drenzek is at a Spring Northeast Innovation Forum conference in Boston with Raffaella Fronc. The UPSEU contracted was approved by MARB. Our budget was presented to MARB, I don't anticipate any issues. My concern is down the road, losing teachers if we don't raise salaries. MARB and the City Officials need to hear it. We are scheduled to get an increase from the city next year. Tom Hamilton from MARB asked about the free lunch

program ending. We are not part of that, we are federal and will continue to receive free lunch. Next meeting, we will have a presentation on reading. The Registrar of Voters asked to cancel school on the primary day. It is the first week of school and we are not guaranteed that there will be one. We always work around it.

Questions ensued from the board.

C.1.b Student Representatives

Ayannah Obas, Student Representative update on Parent Visiting night, senior Volleyball team vs senior Football team. The Volleyball team won. Student of the week. The EMT class accepted students. The Special Education student will be bringing their teacher coffee cart through the district. The teacher spelling bee winner was Lucille Portley from Pagels. It was a lot of fun. Sat's March 22, Grease Play at the end of March.

C.1.c. Board

Robert Guthrie – thank you for all the help with the Legislative Breakfast. I attended the Black Coalition Dinner.

Patrick Egolum – asked about the teacher shortage and coverage.

Jennifer Frost– appreciates all the work be done letting the WH Youth Hockey advertise at the rink. Would like a technology committee meeting at 5:15 pm on March 20, 2023.

Patricia Libero – I have a problem with the state requiring us to buy a reading program. I would like to do more investigating into it, we might not have the money. We should write to our legislators. We are first in our DRG. What about bringing retired teachers back with the option of insurance.

Kim Kenny – thank you for mentioning that are need is not going away. I appreciate the communication. We are a diverse population. I hope the waiver is accepted. Thank you for inviting us to read, it was fun.

Chairwoman Waterfield – complimented Lucille Portley, teacher spelling bee winner. She was spectacular. It was a great time, thank you for inviting us. Thank you for our Board Appreciation reception and all the treats.

D.1 Approval of Minutes

D.1.a The West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was held at West Haven High School, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT 06516 on February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Move to Approve.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Abstain: Jennifer Frost

Discussion: none

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.** Approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

23-13 Nicole Byrnes

Science Teacher – Bailey

Resignation

Effective Date: 02/22/2023

Move to Approve

Cebi Waterfield asked for a motion to approve D.2. 23-13

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Kim Kenny seconded the motion

All board members present were in favor

Resignation **D.2** Approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

23-14 Melissa Tsiamas-Johnson, 55 Andrasko Road, Beacon Falls, CT 06403

Special Education Teacher - WHHS

Salary: \$70,411 Step 6 BS +60

Effective: 03/06/2023

Move to Approve

Cebi Waterfield asked for a motion to approve D.3. 2-14

Andrea Talamelli made the motion

Jennifer Frost seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

New Hire **D.3** Approved

D.4. New Business:

23-15 Approval of the West Haven Board of Education 2023-2024 School Calendar

Move to Approve

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve D.4.

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

New Business **D.4.** Approved

Informational

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Patricia Libero made the motion

Robert Guthrie seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

Respectfully submitted, Tamara Mursko