

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 1, 2023

Regular Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on May 1, 2023, at West Haven High School Cafe, McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT. Cebi Waterfield, Chairwoman of the Board of Education called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT: Morgan Watts

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Senior Ayannah Koralie Obas
Senior Ivanna Baez
Senior Diego Arturo Soto
Junior Allison Rose Pastore
Junior Jenna Caro Teshoney

B. Public Portion of Meeting: Eric Chester-Attorney for Michael Quoka informed the board of all the years Mr. Quoka worked for the West Haven Board of Education. Rebecca-West Haven Board of Education Attorney advised the board they are welcome to an executive session.

C. REPORTS

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C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro informed the board of the 6 students that won the lunch in. Additionally, he briefly discussed his goals for the upcoming school year and extending his contract. Lastly, he discussed the concerns with filling coordinator jobs.

Assistant Superintendent Drenzek introduced Donna Pitts from Carrigan regarding her coding class presentation.

Donna Pitts provided the board with a coding class presentation. Explaining to the board what the students do in the class and how well the students are doing with the program.

Questions from the board ensued.

C.1.b Student Representatives- The student representatives gave updates on school events like Mr. Westie, prom, and what schools they committed to.

C.1.c. Board

Jennifer- Mentioned the recycling program in the school district and her concerns with the Washington School budget shortage.

Cebi- Mentioned she gave a speech at the Founder's Day dinner. Very proud. Thanked the PTA and council.

Kim- Thanks the staff for attending the school play and mentioned the internet safety for parents at the high school on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Robert- Spoke about Washington School, brick fundraiser and requested a policy committee meeting for May 15th at 5pm.

D.1 Approval of Minutes

D.1. The West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was held at West Haven High School Cafe, 1 McDonough Plaza West Haven, CT 06516 on April 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Move to Approve.

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

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Kim Kenny seconded the motion

Abstain-Patricia Libero & Jennifer Frost

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Minutes **D.1.** Approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

23-22 Maryellen Lafo

Master Teacher (Department of Mathematics)

Retirement

Effective: 6/30/23

23-23 Margaret Williams

Math Facilitator

Retirement

Effective: 6/30/23

23-24 Paige Rifino

Resignation

1st Grade Teacher (Seth Haley)

Effective: 6/13/23

Move to Approve.

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.2

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Kim Kenny seconded the motion

Discussion: Thanked all for their time with the distract and we wish you well.

All board members present were in favor

New Hire **D.2.** Approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

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D.4 New Business:

23-25 Personnel: Acceptance of the Hearing Officer Findings and Recommendations regarding Michael Quoka. (Possible Executive Session)

Move to Approve.

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

Robert Guthrie made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

23-25 That the Findings and Conclusions of the Hearing Officer, Susan Meredith, regarding Michael Quoka, be and hereby are adopted in toto by the Board.

Move to Approve.

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

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Opposed-Anne Heffernan

Abstain-Jennifer Frost

All board members present were in favor

23-25 That the recommendation and rationale of the Hearing Officer, Susan Meredith, regarding Michael Quoka be and hereby are adopted by the Board and that the employment of Michael Quoka be and is hereby terminated effective immediately.

Move to Approve.

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

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: None

Abstain-Anne Heffernan

All board members present were in favor

23-25 That the Board Attorney and the Board Chairwomen shall prepare a written decision on behalf of the Board incorporation the Board's Motions to Adopt the Findings, Conclusions, Recommendation and Rationale of the Hearing Officer.

Move to Approve.

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

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Patricia Libero seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Informational

Chairwoman Waterfield asked for a motion to adjourn

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Andrea Talamelli seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Foster