

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 17, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

Board's Meeting Room

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board's Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut on August 17, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Patricia Libero, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Patricia Libero, Chairwoman
James W. Morrissey, Vice Chair
Betsy Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Egolum
Robert Guthrie
Rosemary Russo
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Palmieri
Rosa Richardson

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairwoman Libero welcomed everyone to the August 17, 2015 board meeting and before starting public session said that this has been a great West Haven weekend. WimBash was fun it was great with lots of people attending with lots of activities. Our Westie people went out into the community today and did a great job with everything. What a great thing two days in a row. (The 1st Annual WimBash Beach Festival took place on Sunday, August 16, 2015 from 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Old Grove Park at Savin Rock Beach in West Haven, CT. This event was a fundraiser for the West Haven Public Schools music department.)

Public session is now open and asked if anyone would like to speak.

Dana Paredes, 54 Barbara Lane, WH, Melanie Deninger, Lauren Kozlowski and Kevin Dickson spoke on behalf of Westies on Wheels and wanted to thank the people who came out today. Board Member Bob Guthrie was there and Superintendent Cavallaro along with a number of teachers that assisted them. They decorated a school bus and loaded it up with school supplies that were donated from people in the community, Staples, Walgreens, McDonalds, Sodexo, Costco, Family Resource Center and a number of other organizations. They serviced over 400 families and handed out 250 book bags along with thousands of dollars in school supplies. Dana said everyone left feeling pretty happy. A further discussion took place. The Board gave thanks.

Robert Saley, 50 Bluff Avenue, WH. Rob is a member of the Energy Commission and they have been trying to do some benchmarking on most of our municipal buildings. They are trying to save the city some money and he and members of the Energy Commission would like to measure the six elementary schools and get the actual square footage on them. Without getting those benchmarks they can't do anything to help the city save money. Neil said we may already have some of that information for you. Rob said they would like to do this on Saturdays and his truck would be at the various schools. Rob said that we were going to do this district wide but thought we would start out with just the elementary schools. They want to get a very exact square footage and tie it to the actual bills so they have a baseline where they can start. Rob wanted permission to go on the properties on Saturdays and Sundays and hopefully by the end of fall they will touch base again with square footages and correlate the bills that finance has and start saving some money. It was decided that Rob would send Superintendent Cavallaro a letter requesting this. The board gave thanks.

There were no other speakers. Public Portion closed at 7:10 PM.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro discussed what has been done over the summer in preparation of the school year and some of the things that will occur during the next couple of weeks. There are a few items that need to be added to tonight's agenda. Neil thanked Bob and Marylou because for the last couple of weeks everyone has been on vacation and to try and pull all the information together in time to vote was challenging. We didn't receive the interpretation of the policies until Thursday afternoon and the agenda had already been sent out so these policy items need to be added to the agenda tonight if possible. We also need to add a librarian which has been a challenge to find and I want to thank Colette Bennett our Language Arts Coordinator who just conducted the interview today and we would like to get this on tonight's agenda. Thursday, August 27th is a full day of school which is important to get the kids into their routines. Thursday, August 20th is the new teacher orientation and board members are invited to meet all the new teachers at SRCS. Tuesday, August 25th is full day professional development. Some of the projects conducted at the schools over the summer follows: Seth Haley – some paving, a turn around which will make it easier for our special ed students who need assistance to get to their classrooms, installation of some handicapped ramps which is nice for the kids there. Pagels – we are clearing out some room in the front and in the future we hope to add about 10 parking spaces. We have completed some of the LED lighting projects in the

gymnasiums in conjunction with the UI company at the schools. We actually save money right off the bat with this. We will be doing some testing on Smarter Balance Assessments. This is the first year of the testing and it will be a baseline to start with. More information will follow. Open positions - we are looking for two special ed teachers and are offering the position of music teacher at Bailey to the person who had helped fill in. The Alliance Grant Award has been approved and that does include the extra \$500,000.00 for the All Day Kindergarten. Anne and her team really did a tremendous job. The state is pleased with the work we are doing. We are ready to go next week.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

C.1.c. Board

Bob Guthrie attended the end of the year 4th grade ceremonies from Mackrille and Forest which were well attended by parents, grandparents and guardians. The Ward Heitman House Flag Day Ceremony was another job well done. He thanked the Wild Westie staff; it was an incredible turnout and an impressive line waiting to be serviced. During the WHHS Graduation the presentation of the diploma to the parents of the student that passed away was a touching moment and a respectful gesture.

Cebi Waterfield gave kudos to the kids in the high school who are spending an awful lot of time with the teachers at the high school volunteering, band practice, captain's practices, band trips and she thinks it is amazing that the kids are so engaged with their teachers that they spend their own personal time. Cebi is very happy with the choices that her children have made to go to WHHS.

Neil stated that we will give you an introduction to the new block scheduling at the next meeting. Pat asked if this eventually would be at the high school too. Neil said we have talked about that and that is where we are going. We want to increase the amount of instructional time and limit the amount of unstructured time that kids have and give more support to the kids at the school which is nice. A further discussion took place.

Chairwoman Libero asked if Bob Guthrie wanted to add the policies now.

Bob Guthrie made the motion to add #15-106 to the agenda tonight which would be Policy 5141.21 Administering Medication and also to add #15-107 which would be Policy 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

Items #15-106 and #15-107 are added to tonight's agenda.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to add Ariel Wander, Library Media Specialist to tonight's agenda.

Bob Guthrie made the motion to add #15-108 the new hire Library Media Specialist to tonight's agenda

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
Item #15-108 is added to tonight's agenda

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Special Board Meeting held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on July 29, 2015 at 9:00 AM.

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on July 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

D.1.c. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on June 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a through D.1.c.
Rosemary Russo made the motion to approve the minutes
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

15-88 Kim Felton-Patnaude, Science Teacher – WHHS
Effective: July 27, 2015
Reason: Personal

15-89 Sandra Dickens, Social Worker – Bailey Middle School
Effective: July 28, 2015
Reason: Personal

15-90 Kaili Rehm, Speech Pathologist – Pagels School
Effective: July 23, 2015
Reason: Personal

15-91 JoAnn Montz RN, School Nurse – Floater
Effective: August 24, 2015
Reason: Personal

15-92 Amy Gaetano, Elementary Teacher – Savin Rock
Effective: December 31, 2015
Reason: Personal

D.2. Resignations: (Certified Continued)

15-93 Emily Margaret Suits, Special Ed Teacher – Seth Haley

Effective: August 24, 2015

Reason: Personal

15-94 Kathryn Williams, Special Ed Teacher – Pagels

Effective: August 24, 2015

Reason: Personal

15-95 Samantha Ross, Music Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: August 11, 2015

Reason: Personal

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve resignations 15-88 through 15-95

Cebi Waterfield made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor

Items 15-88 through 15-95 are approved

D.4. New Hire: (Certified)

15-96 Cynthia K. Musante, 107 Parker Farms Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

Science Teacher – WHHS

Effective: August 25, 2015

Salary: \$62,500 Step 5 BS + 60

15-97 Lauren St.Onge, 306 Mapleridge Dr., Waterbury, CT 06705

Speech and Language Pathologist – Bailey Middle School

Effective: August 25, 2015

Salary: \$56,500 Step 4 BS + 60 Plus Stipend \$1,876.94

15-98 Mary C. Moran, 483 Marble Road, Orange, CT 06477

ELL Support Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: August 25, 2015

Salary: \$62,500 Step 5 BS + 60

15-99 Leonard J. Fredericks, 129 Redwood Lane, East Berlin, CT 06023

Science Teacher – Bailey Middle School

Effective: August 25, 2015

Salary: \$50,000 Step 4 BS + 30

D.4. New Hire: (Certified Continued)

*Corrected last name to Williams not Young

15-100 James Williams, 113 Spring Street, West Haven CT 06516
Assistant Football Coach – West Haven High School
Effective Immediately
Salary: \$3,500

15-101 Thomas M. Unger, 34 Roberta Road, North Haven, CT 06473
Assistant Football Coach – West Haven High School
Effective Immediately
Salary: \$3,500

15-102 Martin W. Dunne, 76 Horse Pond Rd., Madison, CT 06443
Assistant Football Coach – West Haven High School
Effective Immediately
Salary: \$3,500

*Added **15-108 Ariel Wander**, 441 Boston Street, Guilford, CT 06437
Library Media Specialist – Washington and Haley
Effective: August 25, 2015
Salary: \$47,000 Step 1 BSD + 60

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve items 15-96 through 15-102 and 15-108

Cebi Waterfield made the motion to approve the items

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: Neil also mentioned that there was a correction on 15-101. The last name should read Williams not Young.

All board members present were in favor

Items 15-96 through 15-102 and 15-108 are approved

D.5. New Business

15-103 Approval of the attached listing of teachers from WHHS as 9 -12
Department Head Recommendations and the 6 – 12 Department Head
Recommendation for 2015/16

Cebi Waterfield made the motion to approve item 15-103

Rosemary Russo seconded the motion

Discussion: Pat Libero said the list was really comprehensive and we have good department heads.

All board members present were in favor

Item 15-103 is approved

15-104 Approval of the attached listing of teachers from WHHS as Team Leaders
for 2015 – 2016

Cebi Waterfield made the motion to approve item 15-103
Rosemary Russo seconded the motion
Discussion: Pat Libero said it looks like we have a good group of people.
All board members present were in favor
Item 15-103 is approved

15-105 The BOE accepts the City Hall Project #156-0137BE/A as complete

Bob Guthrie made a motion to table item 15-105 Chairwoman Libero asked for a second to this motion. Chairwoman Libero seconded the motion only because she felt they have a lot of questions. Mr. Carney is here and he can speak to us about this. We didn't have any paperwork on this so I guess we aren't sure what we are approving.

Discussion: Mr. Carney stated that every job that is reimbursed by the state requires certain conditions to close the job out. In the case of the City Hall Project on all of the reimbursable jobs the building committee has to pass the project and accept it. The BOE then has to accept the project. By doing so it allows him to fill out the EDO49F which in this case releases about \$420,000.00 from the State into the city coffers. It is a simple motion you have done this before with Washington School, the handicap ramp, you will be doing it with the high school and this time it is city hall. It says the BOE accepts the City Hall Project #156-0137BE/A as complete that's it.

Bob Guthrie said in the past we have had accepted these types of things but there has been background information provided telling us what the cost was and we didn't have it walking in here tonight until you provided it just now. If you can just refresh us, when did the scope of this project start? We applied for funding in 2009; it's a two year wait, so we didn't get approved until 2011. The BOE moved in August 2013 and most of the construction stopped about a year in a half ago and was completed. We have been in a fight with the contractor for about a year in a half for about \$100,000.00 in invoices that we didn't feel should be paid. He has now accepted those as jobs or invoices that will not be paid. We also received about \$42,000.00 of credit back from the contractor. He reminded the board that this project is unique in that the total soft cost was just under 4% that included engineering, architectural and project management and on a 5.5M job that is incredible. That means that money went back into the building. We ended up with a \$200,000.00 KW generator, if the power goes down your server stays up. We ended up with three new elevators; one exclusively for you guys, two super-efficient gas boilers. One boiler didn't work and one was on the way out and we couldn't get parts for it. You now have 98% efficient gas boilers, new AC for the entire building, 5 ADA compliant bathrooms when none existed before and every floor now has an ADA compliant bathroom, 5 new conference rooms, 2 in your facility, and modern AV equipment for all the meeting rooms including the ones that were existing. (The list continued). Mr. Carney also pointed out that when the BOE left the Blake Building in the last survey he saw the board saved just under \$300,000.00 a year by coming to this building. This money now goes into the courses and curriculum. Like most projects it is the goal of the vendor to take advantage of the city and get as much as they can and that is what happened here. We would get bills constantly that we rejected and it turned into a year in a half fight but in that year in a half the city held on to the \$280,000.00 which it is still holding on to.

The BOE was using the facility and we got credits out of the vendors and we got rid of the \$100,000.00 in extra bills. At this point the city would like to get its \$440,000.00 back to their coffers and it requires a simple motion from you guys. We think we spent about 5.6 M total on the project; there is a little dispute on a \$125,000.00 energy grant that we had received back in 2010. We had a little trouble finding that and it was supposed to be applied towards the project but no one has found the paperwork on that. Once the EDO49F is filled out we go in with our EDO49R and go back to the state and reclaim the \$100 or \$125,000.00 that is over budget right now. We get a second bite at the apple but we can't do that until we get a motion from you guys.

Bob Guthrie said you mean the whole building not just the BOE portion. Correct the entire building. You gave the original number of 5.6 M and you are telling us potentially there is \$225,000.00 in question with the energy grant. No, in 2010 we put the new boilers in and the DOE on a federal level gave us \$125,000.00 grant. He expected that grant to be applied toward this project but it wasn't. That makes us about \$125,000.00 short. The city got the money but he doesn't know where they applied it but the bottom line is we have the opportunity to go back to the state and reclaim additional funds as the state allows through the EDO49R. Pat Libero said then would we come out on budget. Yes, listen when you spend 5.5 M and you are \$125,000.00 in the whole on 5.5M it is a drop in the bucket you can reclaim that. Don't forget the façade of this building is part of this project but he hadn't mentioned it.

Neil said if this were a school project we are eligible for 75 – 76% reimbursable but because there are administrative offices that is cut in half. Because we are not the whole amount of the project (the BOE) it is just reimbursed for the section for the BOE administrative offices. Mr. Carney said the total reimbursement available to us right now is \$900,000.00. We received about \$450,000.00 of that and we are looking for the second half with your motion.

Bob Guthrie said you mentioned with one vendor there was a question of \$100,000.00. Do we have that in writing that they are not continuing with this? Yes we have the attorneys involved. Bob said most of us were not on this board when this project was accepted. If we can get this as a written document; I'm uncomfortable approving this without something to back it up in writing. Although you said the \$125,000.00 is a drop in the bucket you know to the city \$225,000.00 is not a drop in the bucket. Mr. Carney stated he handed out a close out report on June 10, 2014 and made 30 copies. Again this is a motion to grab \$440,000.00 from the state, there is no BOE money involved and there are no bills coming to the BOE. It is a facility that you are using and by giving us this motion the city can go ahead and collect those funds. Bob said he appreciates the copies but we don't have them as we sit here tonight.

Pat asked if there were any questions. Jim Morrissey said he is comfortable now with the explanation so he opposes the motion to table and Cebi also opposed the motion. Pat went back to Bob Guthrie's motion to table and her second and asked all in favor. A roll call vote was requested by Pat. The motion on the floor is to table this. We need to know who is in favor of tabling it and who is opposed so I need a yes to table it or a no to not table it. Patrick asked for an explanation of what they meant by to table it. Pat said to wait until we get paperwork from Ken and then to put it on the next agenda.

Patrick said he is opposed to that. Rosemary is opposed. Bob is in favor. Betsy is opposed. Pat is opposed. Jim is opposed. Cebi is opposed. Motion to table does not carry.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve Item 15-105 The BOE accepts the City Hall Project #156-0137BE/A as complete

Jim Morrissey made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor except for Bob Guthrie who was opposed
Motion passes. Item 15-105 is approved.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve Item 15-106 Policy 5141.21
Administering Medication

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor
Motion passes. Item 15-106 is approved.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve Item 15-107 Policy 5141.3
Health Assessments and Immunizations

Cebi Waterfield made the motion

Bob Guthrie seconded the motion

Discussion: Neil wanted to thank Bob Guthrie for all his work on this and Marylou and Donna Kosiorowski who doesn't normally work in the summer but spent a lot of time on this as well.

All board members present were in favor
Motion passes. Item 15-106 is approved.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to adjourn.

Cebi Waterfield made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Marylou C. Amendola
Board Secretary