

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**August 18, 2008**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on August 18, 2008. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS  
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Palmieri, Chairman  
Gerald A. Calabritto  
Eric Murillo  
T. Sean Maher  
Robert Saley  
M. Toni Paine  
Patrick Egolum  
Howard Horvath Jr.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andrew R. DePalma

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:**

Chairman Palmieri stated that if there were no objections we would have tonight's speakers give their reports before public session begins. There was no objection.

**C. REPORTS**

**C.1. Administration**

Neil Cavallaro said we would have reports on CMT & CAPT and thanked Jolene for her help in the interviewing process. He thanked everyone for their help as currently there is no Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. Ken Carney, from the West Haven Building Oversight Committee gave a progress update on the building projects and passed out binders to board members.

**WHHS Gym Floors Refinishing Bid #8-24**

**Original Budget \$24,000.00**

Game lines were redesigned for cost savings

Bid Awarded to Rainbow Floors for \$21,700.00  
Total Savings \$2,300.00  
Completion by Friday, 8/22/08

**Carrigan Middle School – Generator Replacement Bid #07-31**  
**Original Budget \$64,085.00**

The Board of Education previously approved a motion to pay \$19,391.42 to cover the budget shortfall. The Board was signed up for the Uniting Illuminating Load Response Program and will receive a rebate check. The BOC negotiated with the United Illuminating to cover the \$8,3500 cost for new metering for the Load Response Program. The U.I. will pay the Board directly the rebate check.

Bid Awarded to: High Tech Electrician	\$44,891.42
Generator Cost	39,500.00
Total Cost	\$84,391.42

Total Savings \$8,500.00  
Original Job complete  
Meter installation awarded to High Tech Electrician – Pending

**WHHS – Gym Doors Replacement – Bid #8-19**

Replace 20 original existing wood doors with wood fire rated doors  
Includes sills & “Panic Hardware” and doors to be pre-sealed.

**Original Budget \$40,000.00**

Joe Yacono redesigned doors in hallway to eliminate panic hardware with Fire Marshall’s approval.

Bid Award: Steel Tech for \$36,398.00

Total Savings \$3,602.00

Job begins second week of school.

**WHHS - Concession Stand at Football Field**

Multi Areas of Work i.e., ceiling lighting, sheetrock, jack up corner of building, relocate and install new propane tank etc.

**Original Budget \$18,800.00**

**Notes:** This will be done in Phase I and II. Phase I above will be complete by 8/22/08

Phase II will include the hiring of an architect for roof replacement , new hood etc.

The BOC negotiated architectural plans for Phase II down from \$7,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

Total Savings: \$2,000.00

Bid Award: Work done in house Equipment by Paradise

Job to be complete 8/22/08

Neil said if we expect the Stadium to make money we need this concession stand.

**WHHS – Auditorium Renovations**

Multi Areas of Work i.e., seating reconditioning, epoxy floors, paint, new carpet

Original budget	\$110,544.00
Removal of 42 seats	- 5,922.00
Discount \$3.00 per chair	- 2,226.00
Total for 72 chairs	\$102,896.00
Anonymous purchase	<u>- 2,484.00</u>
Total Needed	99,912.00
Donations	- 91,000.00

Balance \$ 8,912.00

The BOC negotiated various areas bringing a total savings to \$4,026.00

Painting is complete  
 Carpet starts 8/20/08  
 Seating installation schedule to be announced tomorrow.

**Carrigan Middle School – Intercom System Replacement Bid #07-21**

Original Budget \$185,000.00

Work Scope: Replace phone system and clocks with upgraded equipment  
 Install new support equipment

Job Notes: Various savings due to donations and price reductions & alternate budget  
 Total Savings: \$16,000.00

Bid Award: All-Brite Electric Inc. for \$166,300.00

Job complete except punch list.

**Project Security Grant Program for Bailey, Carrigan and WHHS**

State Grant	\$138,992
WH BOE Commitment	48,102

Total Budget \$187,094

Total proposed fee was \$18,000. BOC negotiated fees to \$14,000.  
 Security cameras package is going out to bid with an opening date of 9/10/08.  
 Mandatory walk thru is 9/2/08

Consulting Engineering Service was hired.

**New Main Entry and Door Replacement Project**

Total Budget \$1,500,000.00

Total Costs including all design, engineering, management fees, contract and contingency costs. \$1,412,410.41

Total Savings	\$ 87,589.59
State Reimbursement	\$1,059,307.81
Total Cost to City	\$ 353,102.60

Mr. Carney discussed all of the above areas in detail.

Chairman Palmieri stated that Mr. Carney is on the Building Oversight Committee and has saved this town approximately 6 million if not more. They are doing a great job. Applause from the audience followed.

The Board gave thanks.

Neil Cavallaro stated that the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer School Program was a great success and complimented Dana Clifford for managing it and making sure the kids were able to receive their credits from summer school and move on to their sophomore year. This allows the Freshman Academy to become a success.

Dana gave a report on the 9<sup>th</sup> grade summer school and passed out a work sheet showing the number of subject failures in math, science, SS and English for 2006 - 2007 and 2007 - 2008. The comparative attendance in summer school for 2006 - 2007 and 2007 - 2008 was shown as a % and in whole numbers. This also showed the percent of students with subject area failures who passed in summer school 2006 - 2007 and 2007 - 2008.  
(enclosure)

Many of the students who were not able to attend summer school in prior years due to lack of transportation were able to attend this year as Winkle Bus provided transportation. Tuition was also provided for along with a free lunch. We had one teacher available to help students who were having difficulty and were struggling. This teacher could would with any number of students who was struggling outside of the classroom and give more undivided attention. There was also an extra person to make calls home to talk with the parents of students. This concept will be applied throughout the school year. Each teacher can call 24 parents to update them and discuss various areas of their child's education with them. Math and English were the mandatory subjects you could only take the science courses if you passed both Math and English. Howie Horvath asked if there was a plan to track these students. Yes, these students will be tracked. More than 70% of students who drop out do so in their freshman year. More than 100 students were able to become sophomores due to this program. Out of 500 freshman students 212 had one subject failure. Out of the 212 all but 50 passed. The rationale is to move these kids along and monitor them. Howie Horvath asked if there is anything in place for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Neil stated that we offer an 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer school which is paid for.

The Board gave thanks.

Raffaella Fronc, Kurt Ogren, Ann Valanzuolo and AJ Palermo gave a combined presentation on CAPT, CMT and Discipline which is attached.

Neil Cavallaro stated that we need more time for teachers to get together for professional development on instructional strategies and data analysis. We need to find out what areas the kids need to work on and make these assessments. The programs we have implemented will help CAPT scores go up. A further discussion ensued. Our scores have gone up but the bar is always being raised. AJ Palermo stated we are incorporating areas of the CAPT Test into our everyday curriculum and continue to actively engage the parents.

The Board gave thanks.

Mike McGrath gave the board an update on the status of the custodial sub list; how it is used and the problems associated with it and its effectiveness. He went on to explain that this is an informal list. We have not been doing any hiring but we do keep it for any sub work that we may have. This is the first time we have done any hiring and it so happens the candidate tonight is from the top of the sub list.

Toni Paine stated that in 2004 we voted on using the list and having a monthly evaluation. Mike agreed that this should be part of the formula. However due to the varied hours that candidates would have to work not all people can afford to take a job for one day and not be called on again for quite some time. If people have a bad evaluation this should be taken into consideration not just seniority. Jerry Calabritto stated that the intent is good but people can't work just one day a week and not be called again for some time. Mike said many times we can go through the entire list and not be able to get a sub. Mike will work with the board and get a committee together. We have many worthwhile people on our list.

The board gave thanks.

## **B. Public Portion**

### **Public Portion began at 8:20 PM.**

Theresa Nerkowski, 31 George Street and Deborah Donovan came before the board to request that the assailants of both of their sons not be allowed back into WHHS. They had pictures documenting the injuries to their sons with them. They requested that they (the assailants) be allowed to attend Stiles instead of returning to the high school where their sons will be attending. Both of their sons were hospitalized due to the attack. They are concerned of what may happen while their sons are passing from class to class. Neil will meet with them.

The board gave thanks.

Michael Galbicsek Jr., 14 Ridge Hill Rd., West Haven, CT He is a West Haven High School graduate and an assistant coach and referee of the West Haven Youth Soccer League. As a representative of the West Haven Youth Soccer League I am here to say a

few words about all that John Vinci and Michael Galbicsek have done for the children of West Haven. In 1986 John Vinci and Michael Galbicsek joined the West Haven Youth Soccer League as coaches and to this day John and Michael are still devoting countless hours every week as members of the West Haven Youth Soccer League. The West Haven Youth Soccer League is in its 30<sup>th</sup> year and John and Mike have been members for the majority of its existence. They have made it possible to have the children of West Haven have a safe and healthy environment to be with their friends. Even when not in season they make numerous phone calls, set up games, put the teams together, all in addition to the work they do of maintaining the fields. This adds up to thousands of extra hours that have never been reported. They love what they do and relish the satisfaction they receive when they see players celebrating and cheering each other on.

Under John and Mike's leadership several WHHS and Notre Dame students have been awarded small scholarships from the West Haven Youth Soccer League. They have also been responsible in building our soccer program for players with physical or mental disabilities. Over and above their work as coaches and administrators John and Mike continue to give back to the community by seeking young men and women who would be willing to learn the position of referee or lines person and to give them a chance to make money by officiating our games over the weekend. This not only teaches our children financial responsibility but provides them the opportunity to have their first job as members of a safe, secure organization. A further discussion of John and Mike's accomplishments continued.

He asked the Board's support in naming the field at Pagels School the John Vinci and Michael Galbicsek Field. By doing this we would give back to two West Haven residents who would do anything for their community and never expect anything in return.  
(Applause)

The Board gave thanks.

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven would be remiss if she did not report on the WHHS trip to Italy that she took part in along with 8 other adults and three chaperones and 8 students. She stated we should be very proud of our students as they were outstanding. They were well behaved, very polite and respectful. We were paired up with a group from Ohio who were not as respectful as our students.

On the airplane there was another group that had to be quieted down several times while our group was very well behaved and outstanding. Chrystal Fanelli, an English teacher at WHHS and Kim Boyke who was a teacher at WHHS who taught World Languages were the group leaders. Patti was at new teacher orientation and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and energy that was exhibited. Her concern is what are we doing to retain teachers. I love that you are hiring people at high salaries but it really worries me that a lot of these people are being hired at higher salaries than teachers who have been in the district 11 years. One teacher emailed her stating that they hired someone at the same salary and wanted to know what their experience was. You are not going to retain teachers this way.

I'm not saying to lower the salaries I'm saying that when we come to contract negotiations next time you really should look at what you are doing. If I wasn't able to reach an agreement with Mr. Cavallaro and Dr. Andrees our teachers from Step 2 to Step 11 would be making less money than they did last year – how many of them would stay do you think. This is something you really have to think about. It looks like you have a good crop of teachers coming in but will they be here next year. I'm going to count how many left over the last couple of years - her own daughter left because another district offered her \$16,000 more and that is a lot of money. She is in a field that we have an opening for but she can't afford to come back. She was sorry to end on a negative note because the kids were outstanding on the trip and Chrystal was outstanding and we need to keep people like this.

The Board gave thanks.

Public Session ended at 8:35 PM

### **C.1.a Status of Schools**

Neil thanked everyone here tonight and is very proud to be the Superintendent of Schools. He is looking forward to the opening and a good year. There are a lot of good programs in place and welcomes the board members to come to our schools and take a tour to see many of the things we spoke about tonight taking place.

### **C.1.b Board**

T. Sean Maher made a few trips to WHHS and the status of the auditorium is amazing. The area is spray painted and clean and the seats should be going in soon so if you have an opportunity take a look.

Jerry Calabritto thanked the coordinators and Mr. Ogren for their presentation. He was a little depressed when he saw the numbers but thanked them for the presentation and knows they will get the job done this year.

Howie Horvath thanks everyone for the presentation. Unfortunately he can't make the Thursday morning Freshman Academy Presentation but encourages anyone available to do so. He was really impressed with the summer school gains. It was a phenomenal gain from the past. He is very excited it is related to a bigger strategy – the freshman moving on through school.

Toni Paine thanked the presenters and gave a special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Maher; Margi and Sean who work so hard. The seats in the auditorium mean so much.  
(applause)

Mark Palmieri said we are starting off on the right step. He thanked Mr. Cavallaro and all the administrators. There were excellent presentations tonight by everyone. Mr.

Saley's daughter was on the Italy trip and represented us very well and his son just graduated from college. He should be very proud of his children.

### **C.1.c. Committee**

Eric Murillo thanked the board members for being so patient with the technology issues that are on-going now. Mr. Horvath's questions make a lot of sense and I know that you will continue to help us out. I hope we continue to receive the support of everyone involved.

Mark Palmieri said we are definitely headed in the right direction and hope we keep the collaboration between the tech team and Mr. Grande and his group. This will be a major benefit to this district.

### **D.1. Approval of Minutes**

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the minutes

T. Sean Maher seconded the motion

Discussion: Howie Horvath said there was a minor change which was pointed out to Marylou – time and materials.

No further discussion

Minutes approved

### **D.2 – D.5 inclusive**

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve

T. Sean seconded the motion

No discussion

All in favor

D.2 – D.5 inclusive is approved

### **E. New Business**

#### **08-188 Correspondence from the West Haven Youth Soccer League Parents and Coaches to name the Pagels School Soccer Field “The John A. Vinci and Michael J. Galbicsek Field”**

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve

M. Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: Mark Palmieri stated that he has been involved in the West Haven Youth Soccer League for 12 years as a coach sometimes having two teams myself and these gentlemen have done an outstanding job; it is a very well organized league. When he first started there were over 2,500 children in that league. Opening night is so organized there are no complaints. The coaches and referees that are here tonight deserve a lot of credit for what they do. I hope this motion passes this evening.

All in favor

No one abstains

Motion to name the Pagels School Soccer Field “The John A.Vinci and Michael J. Galbicsek Field” is approved.

#### **F. Informational**

Howard Horvath wanted to say congratulations to the team led by Mr. Frattini for receiving the award of \$1,635,906.00 from the State Department of Education for the School Readiness Grant for 2008 – 2009. Howie thought that it was decided to do this program somewhat different if he remembers. Neil said that the only thing that has changed is the slots that we are no longer purchasing from Mackrille or Haley. We received an increase for readiness money that we didn't take because we didn't feel we would pass the Nyack Accreditation. We are no longer purchasing the slots but we have not changed anything in regard to how kids are enrolled or entered into the program everything still goes through that office. Howie asked if we will still be able to support the same number of kids. Yes was the response. Is the funding coming out of a different bucket as it is not coming out of the state bucket? Neil believes this was addressed when they did the operating budget and will check on this for him. Howie would like this checked and thanked him. He also asked if Mr. Frattini was overseeing this and running the admittance program. Yes, he works with Rita Pepe as her building has two of the classes.

Howie also asked for the report from Mr. Grande relative to technology. Mark said he will send it to all board members.

The board waited for Mr. Vinci and Mr. Galbicsek to arrive and Mark Palmieri said it is our pleasure as a board, under new business this evening, to name the Pagels School Soccer Field “The John A.Vinci and Michael J. Galbicsek Field.” (Applause)

Mark Palmieri said as you can see from the great turnout everyone here appreciates the great job that you do for our children and our community.

They were very surprised and stated it is great to work with everybody.

The board gave thanks.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to adjourn

M. Toni Paine seconded the motion

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola  
Board Secretary

