

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**June 9, 2008**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on June 9, 2008. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, President of the Board of Education at 6:30 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gerald A. Calabritto  
Eric Murillo  
T. Sean Maher  
Robert Saley  
M. Toni Paine  
Patrick Egolum  
Howard Horvath  
Andy DePalma

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Palmieri, Chairman

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:**

**A. Call to Order, Jerry Calabritto, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Education**

**A.1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Reports:**

**B.1. Administration**

Gerald A. Calabritto called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and stated that the first item on the agenda would be Budget Transfers.

Dr. Andrees shared information on where we currently are with budget transfers. We looked at expenditures that had exceeded the amount allocated which were mostly in the areas of textbooks, maintenance and also in the area of professional development in preparation of the freshman academy. Tonight the funds that will cover the increase of expenditures mentioned will come out of electricity, heat for buildings, health insurance certified and non-certified, social security and workman's compensation. This comes to about \$800,000 that is being transferred to cover the increased spending in the accounts mentioned previously. Dave Cappetta and Dr. Andrees were available to answer any

questions. There were no questions asked. Jerry Calabritto asked for the appropriate motion to approve the transfers.

M. Toni Paine made a motion to approve the recommended budget transfers.

Howard Horvath seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

No board members abstained

Motion carried.

T. Sean Maher made a motion to add to the agenda the following motion 08-113.

Any uncommitted funds remaining after tonight shall be allocated at the discretion of the Superintendent to the areas of technology, instruction, supplies or maintenance.

Andrew DePalma seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

No board members were opposed

Motion was passed and will be taken up under New Business

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

Dr. Andrees stated that tomorrow is Sandy Oliver Day. Students will be at Savin Rock Center to celebrate the work that Bayer and Sandy Oliver have done for all the students in our schools.

Tomorrow we do plan to hold school. We will have plenty of water in the schools for all our students. We did suspend recess today. Children on the field day trip from Forest had a chance to go to Painter Park and it was nice and breezy down there. The kids had a wonderful time. Tomorrow we will use good judgment and we will plan to hold school all day as opposed to some schools around us. Parents who choose to keep their children home will receive an excused absence for their child.

I would also like to acknowledge the leaving of John Lessandrini. This will be a great loss to us and the technology department. He has done a phenomenal job and it has been great to work with him during the last 2 ½ years; I wish him success in his new endeavors.

Jerry Calabritto introduced David Cappetta the new Business Manager for the Board of Education.

### **B.1.b Student Representatives**

#### **B.1.c Board**

Eric Murillo went to the International Day at Washington School and was very impressed with the tables from different countries. They had arts and crafts and food from various countries. This was the first year and they did a wonderful job. I want to thank the school and all the volunteers who gave of their time. They did a great job.

Howard Horvath had the pleasure of watching his board colleague during an outstanding performance of Love Letters. What was so special about it was that you could sense the true love between him and his wife. It was very well done.

**correction: Rob Saley should read** Toni Paine also was able to attend and stated it was really lovely and heartfelt; you could see it. It was a labor of love. She also went to International Day at Washington School. The little tables were set up with each one having their own country and this was very well thought out. There was great parent involvement and they took great pride in this.

The Top 20 Luncheon was also wonderful.

Sean Maher also attended the Top 20 Luncheon and it was really incredible to see the accomplishments of the students at the high school as well as the number of students and the amount of money that was given at awards night. It is incredible to see how many people come out to donate to support the students.

I also saw the production of High School Musical and the amount of energy put forth by the student and the amount of work they put into it was just outstanding.

Jerry Calabritto attended the Senior Concert and the children put on an excellent show as always and when they do their last number it is always a tear jerker. They put on an excellent performance and it was a pleasure to be there. The band director, who happens to be here, Cassie Marcella, had some wonderful kind words for the board and administration. She acknowledged their contribution to the arts in this city.

Toni Paine went to a lovely concert today over at Thompson (band and chorus) and Ms. Marcella is always there and ready to help. This is greatly appreciated.

#### **B.1.d Committee**

Nothing to report

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

**D.1.a West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting,**  
June 2, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Blake Bldg. (enclosure)

**D.1.b West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting,**  
June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Bldg. (enclosure)

#### **D.2. New Hires (Certified)**

**08-104 Michelle Acker,** 133 Highland Street, West Haven, CT 06516  
.5 Physical Education – Elementary Schools  
Effective: August 26, 2008  
Salary: \$18,421.38 (Step 3 B.S.)

#### **D.3. Resignations: (Certified)**

**08-105 David A. Wendelowski,** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher - Bailey  
Effective: June 30, 2008  
Reason: Retirement

**08-106 Sara MacLeman,** Elementary Teacher Grade 5 – Forest School  
Effective: June 30, 2008  
Reason: Personal

**08-107**      **Darcy DeMaio**, Elementary Teacher  
Effective: June 30, 2008  
Reason: Personal

**08-108**      **Jennifer Caso**, Elementary Teacher  
Effective: June 30, 2008  
Reason: Resignation

**08-109**      **Karen Grether**, Social Studies Teacher – Bailey  
Effective: June 30, 2008  
Reason: Personal

**D.4. Resignations: (Non-Certified)**

**08-110**      **John Lessandrini**, Technology Support Specialist  
Effective: July 6, 2008  
Reason: Personal

**D.5. Leave of Absence: (Certified)**

Jerry Calabritto stated he would accept the appropriate motion to approve D.1. through D.5. inclusive  
Toni Paine made the motion  
Rob Saley seconded the motion  
All board members were in favor  
No one was opposed  
No one abstained  
Motion carried

**E. New Business:**

**08-111**      **Request from Nicholas A. Pascale, Washington School PTA to place a bench in honor of Ralph Russo on the grounds of Washington School.**

Toni Paine made a motion to approve 08-111  
Andy DePalma seconded the motion  
Discussion: None  
All in favor  
No one was opposed  
No one abstained  
Item 08-111 was approved

**08-112**      **Approval of Field Trip for Band students from WHHS to visit Universal Studios July 2, 2008 – July 8, 2008**

T. Sean Maher made a motion to approve 08-112  
Eric Murillo seconded the motion  
Discussion: Howard Horvath if Universal Studios had burned down. No the one in California did.  
All Board members were in favor  
No one was opposed

No one abstained  
Item 08-112 was approved

**08-113      Any uncommitted funds remaining after tonight shall be allocated at the discretion of the Superintendent to the areas of technology, instruction, supplies or maintenance.**

Patrick Egolum mad a motion to approve motion 08-113

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

Discussion: Motion was read again for Rob Saley as he was not present earlier. Jerry said any monies left would be allocated by the discretion of the superintendent in any of the three categories.

All Board members were in favor

No one was opposed

No one abstained

Item 08-113 was approved

**F.      Informational:**

Rob Saley asked about the pump at Seth Haley and the dust collector bid. Joe Yacano will call Rob Saley on this tomorrow.

Toni Paine asked if the release slip for Blue and White Up All night would also be written in Spanish and if a parent can't read it can we put a blurb on it stating if you want someone to explain it to you. If someone can't understand it and puts their signature on it this won't hold water.

Jerry Calabritto said that since he wasn't at the last board meeting and technically this is your last board meeting I simply would like to say is that you leave this district a better place than it was when you came. When you came I asked you to do one thing for me and you did it admirably. The mark of a true leader is to prepare their successor and you leave this district in good hands with Mr. Cavallaro and I wish you well in your future endeavors.

**G.      Public Portion of Meeting**

There were no speakers.

Andy DePalma made a motion to adjourn

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

All members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marylou Amendola  
Board Secretary