

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 17, 2008

Regular Board Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:40 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Palmieri, Chairman
Gerald Calabritto, Vice Chairman
Patrick O. Egolum
T. Sean Maher
Eric Murillo
Robert Saley
Howard Horvath Jr.
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT:

M. Toni Paine

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Lauren Aceto

Neil Cavallaro stated that before beginning tonight Dr. Andrees sends her regrets that she can not be here tonight but was called to Michigan relative to her new position. She asked to pass along to everyone here tonight that she is proud of their work and their accomplishments. She is proud of all of the initiatives that are going to be shared with the board this evening. We expect her back in town tomorrow afternoon.

Neil asked that the Chairman move the presentation session before the public information section if there are no objections to this. There were no objections

C.1. Administration

Ken Carney, Building Oversight Committee, (BOC) gave a presentation on the status of the generator at Carrigan. He thanked Rob Saley and Chairman Mark Palmieri for

working closely with the BOC. Work is being performed on the generator at Carrigan. At this time the project is 40% complete. The necessary conduits have been run underground and the necessary ground rods have been installed. New electric heaters have also been installed. By the end of April the concrete pads that support the generator will be poured and the actual generator will be set in place with a valid protection system and the project will be complete. This means that Carrigan will be the only option for a fully powered emergency shelter for our residents in the event of a nuclear emergency.

The original estimate for the generator fully installed was \$65,000.00. Mayor Picard tapped into Homeland Security Funds which were available for a diversity of projects and he chose the generator to bring an emergency shelter to the residents of West Haven.

The BOC put the generator equipment and labor costs out to bid in three major newspapers. The combined bid total for the generator and installation came to \$84,391.42. This created a shortfall of \$19,391.42.

The BOC contacted the U.I. about any potential rebate program. There was only one eligible program at the time. Through this program the Board of Ed will receive an annual payment for use of the generator. If they had participated last year they would have received \$8,000.00 from the U.I. Copies of the Agreement were given to board members.

Mr. Carney requested that this Board consider and pass a motion to fund the balance of the generator project for a total of \$19,391.42.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to add the motion to fund the balance of the generator project in the amount of \$19,391.42 and add it to tonight's agenda Motion 08-56.

Rob Saley seconded the motion.

Howie Horvath asked if this were the current budget or next year's budget and wanted to make sure funds were available.

Gary Miller stated that funds were available.

All were in favor

The board thanked Mr. Carney.

Jason Stacoffe came before the board for some special funding for SADD. They want to bring Dale "MAD DOG" Messmer to WHHS for a day to talk to the kids about drugs. Dale was a marine and a successful businessman who became involved in drugs and spent ten years of his life in a penitentiary.

He straightened out his life and now talks at high schools, colleges and juvenile detention centers to have students learn from his mistake. We were able to bring him to the high school in 2006 and students were really listening and being attentive to his story.

A packet was passed out to Board Members.

The normal cost is \$2,000.00. Trantolo and Trantolo a law firm from Hartford have sponsored him to come every spring for two weeks and cover the air fare and rooming expense and will pay half of the cost. For \$1,000.00 you can have him here from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. He will make three presentations for all the high school students. He will do an after school program for the Alternate II students as well as an evening portion for parents and community members. A video was then presented.

Mark Palmieri asked if it was possible to have a pro-active approach to what is going on with the number of car accidents and children killed due to auto accidents and get the message out with this program. Jason said there will be a speaker coming in the first week of April who was in a drunk driving accident and was burned over 65% of his body. We also have our Mock Crash that we run with the Police Department. The State Police have a Roll Over Simulator and Head On Collision Simulator. We are also trying to bring in drugs, alcohol and strictly driving in this whole gamut. The board thanked him.

Amy Jo Palermo, Math/Fine Arts Coordinator and Mary Janeczek, Department Chair Math discussed 9th Grade options for Math and Freshman Academy concerns. They came up with a plan to present to the board.

Amy Jo stated that there will be Pre-Algebra and Algebra offered within the Academy. This will encompass most of our 8th graders. Those 8th graders presently enrolled in Algebra Honors will take Geometry Honors (as with all honors sections this will be outside of the Academy) The majority of our middle school students are ready to be very successful in this course and in order to meet the needs of all students which is our ultimate goal Geometry Academic will also be a consideration for next year. We encourage teachers and parents to communicate about proper placement and for students to perform at their highest level.

Mary Janeczek stated that the goal of the Freshman Academy was to have students reach their maximum potential. Traditionally students who went into geometry academic as opposed to geometry honors often have some difficulty with algebra skills once they were at Algebra II. Students who did well in Algebra I in grade 8 and went into geometry honors then had the option of reaching calculus as seniors. We are hoping to see the students do the best they can and if recommended for an honors class by their teachers the parents would agree and have them try the course and be challenged and not do just the minimum. At this point in time only Pre-Algebra and Algebra I are considered for Freshman Academy everything else is outside the Academy. Numbers have not yet been determined and once we have numbers we don't have a problem coming back to you again in this has to be adjusted.

Neil stated that AJ and Mary developed a recommendation permission slip that needs to be signed by both the 8th grade teacher as well as the parent. Comment space is also available. This form is going out to 8th grade teachers tomorrow.

Discussion

Rob Saley said that at Freshman Academy kids are only allowed to take Pre-Algebra and Algebra I is this correct. Yes, currently this is what will be offered. All honors classes are outside the Academy. Rob asked how many kids will be taking Geometry Honors Class. This year about 45 students total will take this class.

Eric Murillo asked how Geometry Academic is being offered to ninth graders at the 10th grade level. Neil said that next year the book will say 9, 10, 11 and 12 but again it is based on recommendation and the student's academic ability. AJ stated the grade that a student is in doesn't matter it is the curriculum that is followed. Many of the students enrolled in Geometry Academic as 9th graders are coming from outside the district or are repeating 9th graders. They were not in Carrigan or Bailey last year.

The board gave thanks.

Neil Cavallaro had Scott Schevling a math teacher at WHHS come before the board. Scott Schevling talked about the competition and introduced the members who were present from the West Haven High School Renegade Knights Chess Team. The team has been awarded the 2008 Connecticut State Chess Championship. This is their 10th consecutive win. Seniors and Co-Captains BJ (William) Turpin and Mike Mauriello have mastered the game and as seniors take their freshman teammates and continue to control the game. This has a dominating effect in the tournaments that we compete in. They feared us as we walked in with the Blue Jackets and the phrase, "Here we come, let's go Westies".

Hopkins went down in an academic event called Chess to you West Haven. (Applause) They needed 2 ½ points in the final round and scored 3 points. Great win in the final round by Co-captain Mike Mauriello. Ten of us came in and played phenomenal chess! Cameron Bishop, who graduated four years ago, comes back and continues to coach the team in improving their game. Scott Schevling, who calls himself the interim coach, complemented the team stating that the competition is solid.

He was sad as a faculty team member and coach of this team to hear of Dr. Andrees' resignation. He hopes this board continues to be as enthusiastic as she was for our team in years to come because we love to perform and bring some more championships. (Applause)

Chairman Palmieri presented the team members present Co-Captain BJ (William) Turpin, Co-Captain Mike Mauriello, freshman Jeffrey McDonald, junior Wael Naamani, sophomore Rached Ramadan, junior Mary Joy Antonio, junior Sunil Kurnmar, a pin and Patti Fusco took a picture of the group with Coach Schevling.

The board gave thanks.

Ron Stancil, Principal WHHS, spoke about the Freshman Seminar which has been offered to students for the past three years. He discussed concerns, answered questions, and proposed the following exemption guidelines for the freshman seminar classes that

are currently mandatory for all ninth grade students. He handed out a sheet with the guidelines to board members.

- Any student who achieves state goal on all three sections of the seventh grade CMT will have the option to be exempt from the ninth grade freshman seminar classes.
- By the beginning of the school year, a student who passed all three sections of the eighth grade CMT will be exempt from the ninth grade freshman seminar classes.
- Passing at state goal would mean attaining level four in all tested sections.
- The purpose of the exemption proposal would be to **create smaller classes not necessarily fewer sections.**
- A student may opt to take the freshman seminar classes if he/she attains state goal on the CMT, if he/she would like to.

Neil stated another concern from the staff is that if enough kids were exempt we would be lowering the number of sections. No, the whole idea of the exemption is to reduce the number in the sections not to reduce the sections. A further discussion ensued.

Neil thanked the high school staff for making these suggestions as adjustments have to be made and they came back with very good responses.

Tech Team member Patti Fusco gave a presentation on why we need Fiber. Patti passed out a paper with the following information:

Why We Need Fiber:

- Move toward centralized Administration and de-centralizing Business office operations
- School to school live videos (student projects)
- Everyone is now accessing Power School from WHHS—elementary, middle and high school staff and parents
- Compass learning
- Blue Ribbon Learning
- CMT test partially given on line (Special Education students are currently taking portions online)

- NAEP testing on line
- Amount of technology added to schools has added to demands on the fractional T1
- Reaching limits on certain applications—significant bottlenecks
- Report cards printing, for example, slow everything down
- It will level the playing field for all schools—equality
- Will help Active Directory—right now speed is VERY slow
- Help virus server push out updates more efficiently
- Will be the first step for Voice Over IP

There were no questions. The Board gave thanks.

Neil stated there would be one more report. Mr. John Mc Kee from DECCA sent up a request for their annual trip to the DECCA Convention and he is here tonight to request approval as it inadvertently did not get on the Agenda.

Mr. McKee thanked the board for putting him on the agenda tonight. Eight students have qualified to be at the National Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on April 26 – 30th. We have to make the reservations and register by this Thursday. There will be about 50,000 students from around the world there competing for scholarship money.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion 08-57 to add approval for eight – 10 students and Mr. Mc Kee to attend the National DECCA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from April 26th – April 30th, 2008.

Sean Maher seconded the motion.
All members were in favor
Motion 08-57 added to the agenda

A two minute recess took place before the beginning of Public Session.

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Carroll E. Brown, 56 Highview Avenue addressed the board. Carroll stated she stands here tonight with sadness in her heart for our city and for our children. About a month in a half ago she was here discussing the comments from the community that she had heard about Dr. Andrees being the best thing that could have happened for our children and the city. Despite of all the folks who got up and spoke after she did you all still did everything the Voice said you were going to do; everything that was rumored since December.

When we say to you that a national search is absolutely necessary it is! If the people that you are talking about within our city, that you think are qualified to run our school system, they are probably still in our city. If they went through the search committee two years ago and did not make the final cut why would they make the final cut now; especially after Dr. JoAnn Andrees has brought so much to our City. We as citizens of West Haven, and I am a 45 year resident of West Haven, all three of my children went through the West Haven School System, I was President of three PTA's and President of PTA Council, Vice Chair of this board. In case new board members didn't know that I thought I would tell you that. I am not just anybody standing here I have a strong interest in the education of the children in WH as an active board member we did not do the backroom dealing and dirty politics that I see happening. For anybody here to say that there is not politics in West Haven in our school system; do you guys think we are stupid. We have lived it. You are supposed to be representative of us we the community. You have the opportunity to make clear, strong, protective decisions for our children; we don't see that happening without a body like Dr. JoAnn Andrees. She has developed a relationship with the teachers, with those board members before you, some of whom are still sitting here that were on that search committee who developed a relationship. You would not be able to work in any job with the kind of pressure you put on her; you did not allow her to do the job that she was hired to do here. She did a lot but could have done more. We all knew what your plan was; to get rid of her, to force her out. No you weren't going to fire her, no you weren't going to wait until her contract ended. You put enough pressure on her she is an intelligent woman; she did what she had to do. She loved the kids everyday she was in a different school and attended every council. She loved the City and had found a place. How many of our superintendents had been able to go in any school or walk in any store and people know who they are. She left that kind of impact. It is disgusting when I read that there is no politics in West Haven. Most of you have gotten your jobs through politics and I know that because I have been here 45 years. You have to stop doing the backdoor dealings. If you can bring on a second deputy superintendent you can do a national search. We need someone who has worked in an urban environment; we don't care whether they are black, white or Hispanic but they must have that ability to work in an urban environment you are not West Haven 1962 this is an urban city. Dr. Andrees brought forth positive changes for our children.

I want to thank Sean Maher and his wife Margi for inviting me to the play. I saw several board members on Saturday night. That play reflected our city and that is the way our school system should look. There were children in that play who were black, white, Hispanic, Laotian, fat, tall and skinny and that is the way West Haven is now and this

board is not reflective of that city as it is today. The backroom politics needs to stop kids need to be made first and as I see it kids are not first. When you start to look for a superintendent it is very important that you look outside West Haven or we will never grow. We can not go back to where we were because she did too much to get us to where we are now. I encourage you to do the right thing for the City and for the children.

The board gave thanks.

Robert Wikowski, 93 Dalton Street, Ms. Brown you are awesome I love to hear you speak. I feel the same way. It is disgraceful what this board has done to Dr. Andrees. Her hands were tied but she was still making some changes that she wanted to make. She had a lot more to offer this city but politics stood in the way and you can't say it is not politics because everybody has seen it. You can hide behind all this and pretend it isn't but out there on the street everybody knows. There is not one republican on this board all democrats; not one minority party at all, not an independent thinker in here at all. All just Morrissey thinkers it is disgraceful, hiring family members that aren't qualified. Why are the good teachers leaving its not because of money; they leave because they want to teach. They believe in what they are doing they don't care about money; they care about what they to be able to teach and what they are able to do and we keep them so tied up here that they have to run. You need to step down as a chairman you need to step down to let this board do what it does is disgraceful. Mr. Saley you are a far better man to let this go on I have seen you in action. You need to stand up like you used to do. You need to hire outside not inside; no more family members; this board is disgraceful.

The board gave thanks.

Curtis Jordan, 249 Malcolm Rd. Three cheers for Ms. Brown you stole my thunder and of course Mr. Wikowski took the rest of it. I asked for the Chairman's resignation and he said he wasn't going to resign. People asked why, because of a situation involving his mother and he said he was not aware of policies and procedures of the board. Two to three weeks after that he called a special meeting on the second Monday knowing that the City Council meets every 2nd and 4th Monday. At that meeting the wife of the councilman who gave the deciding vote received a job from the Board of Education. A couple of weeks after that they called another special meeting when the council was meeting and of course that was for hiring several people and I see we have a lot of new hires tonight too. It has been written in stone that the Board would meet on the first and third Monday and the Council on the second and fourth. We all know there is politics and I have been tracking it for two decades. A further discussion ensued about politics, former mayors and deficits.

We should have a nationwide search and I wish the politicians would get the Sam Hill out of the way and let the professionals do their job; people not connected with politics.

The board gave thanks.

Sandra Burn, a West Haven resident for some 40 years and I work for the Board of Ed. I came here to tell you about a Dr. Andrees that I know. I would come over here some time and have conversations and sometimes we would pray; as a matter of fact most of the time we would so I know that Dr. Andrees is a praying woman. How I really know that God is in her corner and any Christian will tell you that when the devil is on your heels God has a habit of pulling you up sometimes so he can't get a hold of you. Sometimes when you think the whole world is after you he delivers you. So she got a job offering and that is a good thing for her. What she also did is that she raised the bar in this city; in the professionalism and in the way that she carried herself. No amount of politicking or undermining could knock her off her game because she knew from whence cometh her hell. If you have somebody who is really caring about your children you don't allow that person to be snatched away. If you don't protect the treasurers in your community then you don't deserve them. It is amazing that the women in this community have stood back and not said much at all because I know that sexism has a lot to do with it. I work in this system and I know racism has a lot to do with it because some people never could get over the idea that a black woman was their boss. I know that for a fact. Let me tell you how I feel about the way I understood she was undermined at meetings by trying to make her look like she didn't know anybody that she was stupid. She is not stupid and I don't know of anyone on this board who could stand in her shoes. She took it quietly. Believe me everything comes home to roost. She is gone and I don't like the way you treated her and a lot of others don't either. While you may think you can run things when you took your oath and said so help me God you brought Him into the mix. Ask yourselves did you do the right thing because one day everybody is going to find themselves in the same position that they put other people in. I'm not accusing anybody but I'm telling you how I feel and I thank you for listening.

The board gave thanks.

Tracy Morrissey, 311 Country Hill Drive wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and stated she attended all four performances of God Spell this weekend. Margi and Sean you were unbelievable and I want to thank you for all the time and effort you put in to making these plays such an important part of our children's lives and such a wonderful event for the community.

The board gave thanks.

Robert Guthrie, 11 Spruce Peak Lane addressed the board. He comes before the board some 90 days after this board was sworn in and reorganized. He must applaud the student excellence in achievement in both theatre workshop and ten time champion chess team. Both groups continue to excel and make West Haven High School and West Haven proud. Now to not so positive.

You try to give any new official board the opportunity to learn and grow. Unfortunately the direction the majority of this board seems to be taking concerns me. Reorganizing the board you dumped a successful chairman from your own political affiliation and then proceeded to make committee assignments and you no longer allow each equal member

to be chairman of a committee. You have removed a board member who previously served on the technology committee to which his background was a great asset and that is the way you conduct your meetings. In early December you held a special meeting for the purpose of hiring. This meeting by sheer luck was the same night as the City Council Meeting. At this meeting you started by adding an item to your agenda before you called your meeting to order. That is problematic in two regards: first you can not do anything before you call your meeting to order and you can take no action unless you are aptly duly noted and posted the meeting of the board of education. In reality if this item was challenged your actions would not stand up. The second problem was you can not add meetings to a special meeting as you recently found out by trying to do the same thing again regarding your insurance. If the December meeting was so urgent to hold to fill positions why did you not hold a special meeting to hire an Assistant Hockey Coach. This position was just recently approved although the season ended ten days later.

Mr. Chairman you go on the record as not wanting criticism unfortunately the actions of this board raise several areas of concern for the public; hence the criticism. I wish you would take action on the vacant finance position as quickly as you took action on your concern about the insurance matter.

Now I come to the most upsetting. We in West Haven are losing an outstanding leader in Dr. JoAnn Andrees. This is a huge loss to the students, parents and staff. This board will now be responsible for a Superintendent search. I really do not feel this community is looking to have an American Idol or West Haven Idol type event to select the next superintendent. Jerry you could play the role of Simon and the party boss could be Bob and I'm pretty sure you would play the role of Paula Abdul the final judge; however this decision impacts many people; students, parents, staff, business community and other social and civic organizations. This affects far more people than nine board members. Remember you were elected to represent the people. Your decision should be the will of the people and the choice of the many although decided by the few the 9 board of education members. I urge you to find the best candidate for the finance position and remember that the nine of you are legally responsible for this budget and the superintendent of schools. The tenure of Dr. Andrees although short in time was rich in leadership, commitment and energy. I for one will miss Dr. Andrees and I know many others in this community feel the same way. Dr. Andrees thanks for immersing yourself in the West Haven schools and community you have truly made a difference in the public education in West Haven.

One final comment, tonight before you came the issue on the generator I certainly hope you will table that and get the supporting documentation on the \$20,000 expenditure that was added on. Again this is the generator that benefits the city more than the board of education so is the \$20,000 coming from the right place. As Mr. Calabritto sat here before there is no guarantee that the \$8,000 check is coming to you so if you think the check is in the mail get the guarantee.

The board gave thanks.

Julie Braziel, 72 Nashawena Avenue thanked the board for following through with the para positions. I know some of the schools had them when I was here for awhile and as a parent I am glad to see that some of them have them.

The board gave thanks.

Board Member Eric Murillo stated that as a board member and citizen of West Haven I have an issue with the point that we are being blamed for the Superintendent leaving. I personally take offense. I am a minority, I believe it what was her cause, she was definitely a people person, a cheer leader for our kids but I don't think any of these board members wanted to get her out of here. The audience mumbled something inaudible. To be accused of these things is not right. He asked Sean Maher if he wanted to get her out his response was not on your life. Eric stated no other board members were involved in trying to get her out. You don't force somebody out just like that. You came into a town which is diverse number 1. Number 2 is you have issues with problems that go on in the whole system: people, race, politics, convincing people etc. I think she did a great job but working 12 to 15 hours a day that takes a toll on anybody. How long can you do that. She was here with no husband, no family how long can you work like that whether it is good or not. When she was out there visiting all those kids and connecting with parents who was watching the store? There were a lot of staff members that were here watching the store while she was making all these appointment and she had tons of them. To say that we just wanted to get her out that is wrong. Someone from the audience didn't agree and Eric stated well maybe in your eyes it is but in my eyes as a minority I have a right to judge also. Eric was told to address the board and he continued with I'm sorry that was just my comment I take offense I in no way knew or found out that anybody was trying to get her out of here. I spoke with several of the board members none of them said anything. It is an unfortunate situation and I regret it because I was very fond of her and I still am but to accuse me or anyone else on this board I take offense to it.

Public portion closed.

C.1.a. Status of Schools

Neil stated most of his comments were covered under the administration portion. He again thanked the staff at the high school for working on the Freshman Academy for making the adjustments. He thanked the teachers who wrote the curricula that was presented tonight.

He enjoyed the performance of God Spell and his son won a basketball hoop so we are very happy. Hats off to Sean and Margi. So many of the kids he saw he remembered from when he was a young principal at Thompson School and he would have never imagined them to be up on the stage with the poise and confidence and other attributes developed because of your program at the high school it is just terrific. You guys do a great job.

C.1.C. Board

Andy DePalma went to see God Spell Saturday night and was totally amazed at how organized it was and how well the kids did it was phenomenal congratulations.

Sean Maher said he has nothing to report he was there all four nights.

Eric Murillo attended and congratulated Sean, his wife and the rest of the staff that participated. The diversity of kids has been on-going for many years and will continue. I like the way the staff continues to work with the kids they do a great job.

I hope that this board can consider doing something with the speaker system because when you are in the back of the theatre you can't really hear what is going on. Maybe we can put our heads together and maybe Mr. Maher can help us to improve on the sound system.

Patrick Egolum said from all the wonderful comments he is very sorry he missed the performance of God Spell. He had a double tragedy so he was unable to attend but would like to commend the performers.

Howie Horvath attended on Saturday and hats off to Margi, Sean and Ms. Silver. The diversity and talent the 15 kids displayed was wonderful. The love they have for your guys certainly showed. The fundamental message of that play is the importance of doing the right thing and truth and how you treat one another. Thank you for having picked it and having done a wonderful job.

Rob Saley went to the play on Thursday night and his wife reminded him that since he has three kids that went through the system he has never been to more functions than he has in the last three months than in the last 15 years. He had a phenomenal time. The kids did a great job.

Rob thanked Mr. Schevling on the great job he has done with the chess team. He thanked Mr. Stancil and all the teachers for reconfiguring the Freshman Seminar and he thanks the chairman for making this happen.

Jerry Calabritto wanted to let the Board know that the WHHS Marching Band took second place at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Board congratulated Cassie Marcella Band Director.

Mark Palmieri congratulated Ms. Layerzak and the PTA Council on the wonderful job they did on the Founders Day Dinner. They deserve a round of applause. He attended the play and complimented Mr. Maher the next day on the phenomenal job the students did. He knows that Mrs. Ronan did an excellent job in teaching the kids to sign Day by Day.

C.1.d Committee

Eric Murillo said they had a technology committee meeting today and spoke about technology areas that went from March of 2007 to 2008. We spoke about the future goals and everything is going well.

Sean Maher said they had a curriculum committee meeting involving six curricula this evening and asked for a motion to add the six curricula to the agenda.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to add item 08-58 to the agenda

Mark Palmieri seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion 08-58 added to the agenda.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting, March 3, 2008

at 6:00 p.m. at the Blake Bldg. (enclosure)

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve D.1.a.

Sean Maher seconded the motion

Howie Horvath abstained as was not in attendance

All others in favor

Minutes approved

D.1.b Regular Meeting West Haven Board of Education, March 3, 2008

at 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Bldg. (enclosure)

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve D.1.b

Sean Maher seconded the motion

All members in favor

Minutes approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. Leave of Absence (Certified)

D.4. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

08-43 Patrick Reed, 859 Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06415

Asst. Boys Lacrosse Coach WHHS

Effective: March 24, 2008

Salary: \$1,800.00

D.6. New Hires: (Non-Certified)

08-44 KathyAnn Scott-Gloster, 91 Dogwood Road, West Haven, CT 06516

Full Time Medical Paraprofessional at Forest Pre-School

Effective: March 18, 2008

Salary: \$16,479.01 + Stipend – Step 1

D.6. New Hires: (Non-Certified) Continued

- 08-45 Mary Zwack**, 14 Contact Drive, West Haven, CT 06516
Full Time Medical Paraprofessional at Forest Pre-School
Effective: March 18, 2008
Salary: \$16,479.01 + Stipend – Step 1
- 08-46 Jennice DePino**, 22 Barbara Lane, West Haven, CT 06516
Full Time Medical Paraprofessional at Multi Sites
Effective: March 31, 2008
Salary: \$16,479.01 + Stipend – Step 1
- 08-47 Marion Sacco**, 11 Batt Lane, West Haven, CT 06516
Literacy Aide at Seth Haley School
Effective: March 18, 2008
Salary: \$15.09 per hour for 17.5 hours per week
- 08-48 Suzanne Collins**, 191 Milton Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Literacy Aide at Molloy School
Effective: March 18, 2008
Salary: \$15.09 per hour for 17.5 hours per week
- 08-49 Barbara Repetsky**, 67 Central Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Literacy Aide at Molloy School
Effective: March 18, 2008
Salary: \$15.09 per hour for 17.5 hours per week
- 08-50 Billijo Brown**, 259 York Street, West Haven, CT 06516
3 Hour Cashier at Molloy
Effective: April 7, 2008
Salary: AFSME ELM. Contract Step 1
- 08-51 Sandra Perez**, 90 Fourth Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Title I Math Aide at Thompson School
Effective: March 18, 2008
Salary: \$15.09 per hour for 17.5 hours per week
- 08-52 Lisa Raucci**, 511 Pine Tree Drive, Orange, CT 06477
Title I Math Aide at Molloy School
Effective: March 18, 2008
Salary: \$15.09 per hour for 17.5 hours per week
- 08-53 Cynthia Russello**, 65 California Street #6, West Haven, CT 06516
Full Time Medical Paraprofessional at Forest Pre-School
Effective: March 24, 2008
Salary: \$16,479.01 Step 1 + Stipend

D.6. New Hires: (Non-Certified) Continued

Jerry Calabritto made a motion for D.2. through D.6. inclusive

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

Discussion: Sean Maher questioned why the literacy aide position at Molloy School was hired as two part time people rather than one part time person. Neil said it was taken out of Title money and it benefits us as they are non-union hourly positions and work more flexible hours.

Rob Saley asked how many of the people are currently in our system. Neil said most of the literacy aids have been subbing for some time some of the paras that are being hired have been literacy aids that are moving to full time positions.

Jerry Calabritto said that a number of these people are replacing positions that have been empty. We moved the pre-school over to Forest and the first two positions are for that.

All board members were in favor

Items D.2. through D.6. #08-43 through #08-53 were approved.

D.7. New Business:

08-54 Jason Stacoffe, SADD Advisor - Special funding request to Board for contribution of \$1,000.00 to bring guest speaker, Dale “Mad Dog” Messmer back to West Haven High School this spring.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve item 08-54

Andy DePalma seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob Saley asked where this would come from. Neil stated it would be taken out of staff development or educational supplies but will check with the finance director and we will let you know where it came from.

All in favor

Item 08-54 approved

08-55 Correspondence from Francine A. Coppola, Director, Adult Education ESL/Bilingual Education to Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools requesting approval of the Adult Education ED 245 Grant.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve item 08-55

Rob Saley seconded the motion

No Discussion

All in favor

Item 08-55 approved

08-56 Approval to fund the balance of the generator project for Carrigan School in the amount of \$19,391.42.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the motion to fund the balance of the generator project in the amount of \$19,391.42.

Rob Saley seconded the motion

Discussion: Jerry stated that the Chairman of the BOC assured him that the contract between U.I. which would generate the \$8,000.00 would be between the Board of Ed and the U.I. which means the money will come directly to the Board of Ed. and Dr. Andrees will sign the contract.

Rob Saley complimented Mr. Carney for his work and asked where the \$19,391.42 would come from. Neil said it was coming out of the maintenance supply account.

Howie asked where the whole \$84,391.42 came from. Jerry said from Homeland Security.

All members in favor

Item 08-56 approved

08-57 Approval for eight – 10 students and Mr. Mc Kee to attend the National DECCA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from April 26th – April 30th, 2008.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 08-57

Sean Maher seconded the motion

All in favor

None opposed

Item 08-57 approved

08-58 Approval of the 6 curricula presented tonight

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 08-58

Andy DePalma seconded the motion

Discussion: Jerry Calabritto wanted to commend the staff who worked hard on the preparation of the curriculum and Mr. Cavallaro.

All in favor

None opposed

Item 08-58 approved

F. Informational:

Nothing to add

Jerry made a motion to go into executive session at 8:50 for the purpose of the Ashley Franklin Litigation

Andy DePalma seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion to enter executive session approved

Executive Session

The West Haven Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

Robert Saley made a motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Andrew DePalma. There was no discussion. The Board voted unanimously to come out of Executive session at 9:16 p.m.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sean Maher. The regular meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary