

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 26, 2008

Special Board Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on March 26, 2008. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 6:30 PM. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:**

Robert Saley  
Andrew DePalma

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor John M. Picard

Chairman Palmieri stated he had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Picard yesterday for over an hour and based on our preliminary discussion Mayor Picard has a better understanding of where we are and we have a better understanding for his concerns. Therefore, it is with great pleasure and optimism that we will not vote to issue layoff notices this evening.

I am asking the Board's permission to direct the Superintendent, Dr. Andrees and Mr. Cavallaro and their administrative team to come up with a plan that will save the teaching jobs. In the meantime the Mayor has agreed to scrutinize his budget to make a recommendation to the council that will provide the school district with more funding. I am grateful to everyone who is here this evening for communicating their concerns. We will continue to talk throughout the budget process because in the end we want to provide our children with the best education possible because as our education system goes so goes the future of our community. Thank you very much.

He asked if anyone on the board disagrees with giving Dr. Andrees and Mr. Cavallaro permission to move forward. The Board was in agreement.

Jerry Calabritto wanted to express his gratitude to the City administration for being willing to work with the Board of Education during these difficult times.

Mayor Picard stated we are going to work together with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Administrators, Board of Ed and the Council and do the best we can. This is not going to be easy; we are all optimistic that we can work this through.

Chairman Palmieri asked the board if there were any other questions or concerns. Howard Horvath stated he was thinking of the practical steps; from here what will be done.

Dr. Andrees stated the process will begin tomorrow morning by meeting with each of the departments. We will be looking to see where each unit can assist us in giving back, making reductions and reorganize. We then will go back and look and see how much we can come up with and with that we are hoping to reduce the number of letters we have to send out. We are cognizant that we will probably have to send out some letters but we hopefully will not have to send out the fifty letters that we were planning on doing tonight. Our goal and our timeline is to have this done by Monday and have it ready for the chair to be able to share.

There were no other questions.

Dr. Andrees stated on behalf of Mr. Neil Cavallaro and me we thank you for entrusting us with this opportunity. We believe that this will really make a difference. I applaud the gentlemen sitting at this table and the members of City Council that are here tonight to support education in our community. I think when we look at all the actions we have taken this is one I am very proud of. We are sitting down working together for the betterment of this fine community. Thank you all very much I appreciate your support.

There were no further questions or comments.

Chairman Palmieri thanked everyone and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to adjourn.

Eric Murillo seconded the motion.

All board members were in favor

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola  
Board Secretary