

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 16, 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 November 16, 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
Mark Palmieri
Rosa Richardson
Rosemary Russo
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Druzolowski
Matt Cavallaro Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Evelyn Fabian
Andrew Gordon

Chairwoman Libero welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone would like to address the board.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Teresa Heaney, West Haven, CT reminded everybody that tomorrow is Decision Day at West Haven High School and it is being held at Savin Rock from nine until two. Forty students signed up for interviews to six different colleges and universities. There will be a total of eighty five interviews going on. There will be coffee and plus lunch. Many thanks to Ron Quagliani who was able to secure a very large donation from UNH for this. We hope you will come and visit tomorrow from nine until two. The kids will get their decisions, their packages from private schools, and depending on their SAT scores they can also get their presidential awards from the state schools.

Board Member Rosemary Russo, West Haven, CT said she wrote this after the last board meeting on October 29th when feelings were really strong. Time has passed and a lot of these issues are now moot but she still wants to speak briefly about the special meeting that was held last Thursday, October 29, 2015. She shared her feelings on the Superintendent's evaluation stating that Neil has done a good job, has always been available, has taken time to meet with her on several occasions and she appreciates his responsiveness. She looks at the extension of the contract as more of a business decision. A good business decisions would have been to wait. Decisions were made on the premise that this is the way we have always done it. If this is the way we plan to continue than I really do not understand why any of us ran for this office or why we will have another election. If it is going to be business as usual than there is no need for elections; the board could just stay the same. To move forward we cannot do things as they were always done. If we continue to operate on past practice why have a new board at all? This board is supposed to serve as a check and balance type board. On that night she did not even know what they were voting on as far as conditions of the Superintendent's contract. She had no idea of benefits, increase of salary, vacation time, hours, sick time and personal time. These are questions she would have liked to have discussed and to have had the answers. She feels it was wrong that there was no public session allowed and feels it was somewhat shady to hold the meeting on a Thursday night and not on a night we always schedule meetings. If it had been a regular meeting then there would have been no question about a public session. This lack of regard for public input is the exact opposite of transparency. There should always be input from the public.

Rosemary was also uncomfortable with the outburst from a person in the audience at the end of the meeting and feels it should have been handled differently; there should not be screaming or use of profanity. She realizes the meeting was already adjourned but believes this should never have happened. She believes the tensions of the night contributed to this. Perhaps if there was time for the public to speak this could have been avoided. She wants her fellow board members to know that she votes for what she believes to be in the best interest of the students, teachers, staff and citizens of West Haven. She does not believe there is anyone in this room that does not put the interest of the children first. She also believes there will be other issues that they will disagree on

and that is a good thing; that is what we should do. We need to debate and discuss things more and be the checks and balances for the BOE. Thank you.

Public Portion closed at 7:08 PM

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro said there are two presentations tonight. We are very excited about the new schedule at Bailey which almost took the entire year last year to plan. Tonight, one marking period into the new schedule we have the Bailey administration here and our coordinators who had a lot of input into the new schedule.

Dr. Anthony Cordone gave some background information on block scheduling and what they put together at Bailey and how it is working. There was a lengthy discussion about the new schedule, how it is working and how it has been tweaked a little throughout the year. There was also a power point shown. The population of Bailey is approximately 840 students and there is basically an even split between the 7th and 8th grade. Block scheduling has been around for a long time. You can have classes as long or as short as you want, you can mix and match and there is a lot of flexibility. The main thing that brought about the decision to change was that it increased the educational time of the students in class. They have gone from a 46 minute period (7) down to (4) 85 minute blocks of time. Because we have fewer classes we have less movement in the hallway so the transition time has been decreased. Resources have been rearranged to help the students that need more support in the classrooms. We had 14 teachers floating at one time and are now down to approximately 6 teachers that are floating on a cart at this time. This adds to more effectiveness of the school. Pat Libero asked what teachers are on carts; what subjects; Language Arts. Dr. Cordone said teachers enjoy teaching in a larger block of time because they can delve into the depth of the content area. It has a lot of advantages. We did make some tweaks to the schedule and at the end of the year we will reassess the entire year and see what needs to be improved upon and make changes at that point in time. Administrators talked about what was being shown on the power point and board members asked questions and received answers. The complete power point is on the website. The board thanked them for an excellent presentation.

Superintendent Cavallaro stated that Eric Rice is the new Chairman of the Tech Ed Department as well as Coordinator of our STEM Program. Eric has worked diligently to try and give the kids a good, meaningful experience. We have worked to reopen the G Wing and in the meantime Eric has reached out to Gateway to develop partnerships and we are asking the board to approve the contracts we have with them. This will not take away from what the kids are experiencing now that they are back in the G Wing; we see it as a way to enhance our program which is already a good one.

Eric Rice presented the Gateway Dual Enrollment Program with WHHS. This program is a big piece to the Career and Technology Education Program (CTE) and Stem Program at WHHS. This Dual Enrollment Program is a big piece to the CTE Puzzle but it is not the only piece. There are a lot of pieces to this puzzle with this being one of them. We are

very proud of our program at WHHS and this is a nice piece to have. Eric explained what dual enrollment is and gave some specifics on the West Haven High School/ Gateway Dual Enrollment Program. Gateway calls their Dual Enrollment Program College Now. This is a partnership program that provides high school students with an opportunity to earn college credits while completing high school requirements in a dual and concurrent enrollment. In essence students are both high school and college students at the same time. Students go through the formal enrollment process and get exposure along with skills from postsecondary training, whether it is a college or certification type program, which are important for a career in technology education. Students have access to Gateway's academic resources and feel better about themselves when they finish and are better prepared for the next step in their lives. The complete power point is on the website. Questions were asked by board members and responded to. The board thanked Eric for a great presentation.

The three board members that were leaving Betsy Davis, Cebi Waterfield and Patrick Egolum were asked to go to the front. Neil said it has become a tradition for outgoing board members to be honored in some way. We usually get them a jacket which we did do and Cebi had suggested a donation to the Dave Cappetta Scholarship Fund. We know that Dave was close to all of you so we contacted one of our vendors Mr. Winkle for a donation so in your honor we are donating \$300 to the Dave Cappetta Scholarship Fund. Applause. Neil thanked Patrick, Betsy and Cebi for their service. Pat Libero said that after the board meeting we have brownies and a cake that Marylou made for us and pies from Food Service. Thanks were given to Marylou and Food Service.

C.1.b. Student Representatives' Report

Evelyn Fabian and Andrew Gordon gave the student rep report which is attached at the end of the minutes.

C.1.c. Board

Patrick Egolum said since this is his last board meeting he wanted to take this opportunity to thank his fellow board members; it has been fun working with all of you. We hope the good work we have been doing will continue. He especially wanted to commend Neil and Anne for what they have achieved. They have been a wonderful Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Patrick is so proud of everyone that constitutes this board. They were void of political expediency everything was simply to help the kids. I hope the board will continue to do things this way; just for the benefit of the children and not simply politics; this is not what we are here for. Lastly Patrick wanted to thank Marylou for all the things she has done. Thank you very, very large. Neil and Marylou thanked Patrick. Applause

Rosemary Russo wished the three board members good luck and thanked them very much for their many years of service and time.

Bob Guthrie visited the All Day Kindergarten at Washington School, he went to Trick or Trunk, attended the Pagels Veteran's Ceremony and stated the feedback from the Carrigan Family Mystery Night was very positive. Bob wanted to take a moment to remember Miss Dwyer, who recently passed away, and was a teacher at Washington School for over 50 years. He said it has been a pleasure to serve with all three board members who are leaving and he wishes them all well.

Betsy Davis said she appreciated the opportunity, had a good time and a great experience and wishes the new board members well. Applause.

Jim Morrissey was with Bob and Neil at the Pagels ceremony and stated Gary and his staff had a very nice and moving ceremony which they have every year. This was also attended by a lot of the parents and was a very nice time. Jim too wants to thank Patrick, Cebi and Betsy; it has been a pleasure to serve with you the last two years. We may not always agree politically but he knows in his heart that you always did what you thought was in the best interest of the students of our community and applauds them for this. Politics aside Jim he considers them all friends of his and wishes them nothing but the best and hopes they stay active and come to the meetings and stay on top of the new board. Jim saw two of the new board members in the audience and wished them well in the next four years also. He agrees and thinks we should keep politics out of the BOE and believes the three new members coming in will do a wonderful job also. He thanked the three outgoing members for their service. It takes a lot of time from your families and you get criticized a lot and you don't get paid and he thanked them for doing a great job.

Cebi Waterfield said the Junior Peewee Girls (9 and 10 years old) are going to compete at Nationals. Pop Warner is the only sport in the nation that has a mandated C rule for participation in order to play or cheer. All these kids do and actually a lot of them are National Scholar Athletes for Pop Warner so you know you will be hearing from me in April when that list comes out. Our Jr. Peewee Boys are playing next Saturday at Veteran's Field against the Edgewood Eagles to continue their trek on to the Regional Championship in Wooster, MA and are hosting a regional football event on Saturday and Sunday. Coach Boshea hosted a future devil night for the Jr. Midget and Midget Football players last Friday and met the coaches and sat with the football players. Coach Angie Alston brought some of her cheerleaders to the last midget cheer practice to speak to the girls about continuing on at the high school. For some kids sports are the reason that they go to a school and is important to encourage all the youth sports. Neil said the alumni association reached out and Dave Reddick emailed Neil and they are planning a meeting the week after Thanksgiving to keep these kinds of things going and to promote the high school. They are considering sponsoring an SAT prep class for the football players. They want to grow and be more active and we certainly want to attract more kids to the high school. Cebi said West Haven Pop Warner has the highest enrollment in the state. Our numbers are going up for football and cheer while they are decreasing nationwide. Cebi thanked all the board members for their kind words tonight. She thinks Anne and Neil do an amazing job and Matt keeps our numbers on track and every year we have a balanced budget. She wished the new board members good luck. Applause.

Rosa Richardson thanked the outgoing board members for their service and dedication to our youth. Everybody appreciates this and she hopes that they find a way to continue to keep us on our toes.

Mark Palmieri thanked the University of New Haven and Associate Vice President of Public Safety Administrative Services and Transportation Ron Quagliani (applause) not only are they donating the money tomorrow for Decision Day they also helped out our Sodexo with equipment. This is important because until the new school is built they need this equipment and the fact that this is donated saves us money. When the school is built we can get new equipment for 76 cents on the dollar but if we did this now we would have to pick up the whole tab. He thanked UNH and Ron Quagliani again and applause followed.

Mark Palmieri let the student reps know that Jason LaGroth has changed the program at UNH like you can't imagine. Mark has been at UNH 11 years and there may have been 25 kids in the band when he first started and now between the band, flag twirlers, dancers and baton twirlers it is phenomenal. He has made this happen and the kids love playing in the band. Please pass this information on to students in the band. It is so exciting to watch them perform.

Mark also thanked the administration at Bailey and Mr. Rice for their presentation; they did a fantastic job. He also needs to commend Superintendent Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent Druzolowski because this type of stuff wouldn't be happening if it wasn't for them leading the way. He feels they extended the superintendent's contract for reasons like this. We are moving forward and with your help and their leadership he sees things moving in the right direction. He thanks everyone for doing what they are doing and hope this continues and we are bringing this to the high school next. We moved forward with the Superintendent's contract because it at least gives us three more years and if in three years it doesn't work we can try something else that is the difference with doing changes but you can't stay stagnant and do what we were doing; it wasn't working. These are great programs. Mark thanked the three outgoing board members and said he has been with them for eight years and they have been fantastic board members and believes that every vote made on this board was for the betterment of the school district and for our kids especially. He thanked them for their years of service and said he thinks they did a fantastic job. Applause

Pat Libero thanked the presenters tonight from Bailey and said they did a great job. Pat is happy it is working at Bailey and thinks the extended time is a good thing for kids. She has spoken with a lot of people and most people are really happy with it.

Pat told Eric Rice that she supervised Tech Ed so it is near and dear to her heart and is glad things are moving on for that and thinks the kids will have more opportunities.

For the three board members who are leaving Pat learned a lot from them and stated the following. Cebi, your enthusiasm and always looking on the bright side of things says a lot and you always want the best for kids. Betsy you are very quiet but very insightful and

when she says something you have to listen because she cuts right to the core of the problem and knows exactly what is going on and Pat appreciates that. She sees things so clearly it is a beautiful thing. Pat appreciates her insight into things. Patrick we go back longer than these other two and you were the biggest supporter of me when I was at Carrigan School. Patrick came to everything and supported Pat and he kept me going because middle school is not easy and sometimes you need someone to give you that pat on the back and say you are doing a good job and she appreciates that. Pat said she will miss all three of the board members and thanked them for their time and effort.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. 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 October 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education as a Whole Special Board Meeting held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on October 29, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.b.
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

15-126 Dave Anquillare, Assistant Baseball Coach – WHHS
Effective: October 26, 2015
Reason: Personal

15-127 Patrick Toole, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach - WHHS
Effective: November 4, 2015
Reason: Personal

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve items 15-126 and 15-127
Patrick Egolum made the motion to approve the items
Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion
There was no discussion

All board members were in favor
Items 15-126 and 15-127 are approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

15-128 James Lafo, 102 Manomet Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473
Assistant Hockey Coach – WHHS
Salary: \$3,350.00
Effective: November 2, 2015

15-129 Jamal Howard, 281 Homeside Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Boys Soccer Coach – Bailey
Salary: \$1,950.00
Effective: November 2, 2015

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve items 15-128 and 15-129
Cebi Waterfield made the motion to approve the items
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
There was no discussion
All board members were in favor
Items 15-128 and 15-129 are approved

D.4. New Business

15-130 Immigrant Children and Youth Education Grant Application 2015 – 2016

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve item 15-130
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the items
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
There was no discussion
All board members were in favor
Item 15-130 is approved

15-131 Approval of four Gateway Contracts:

132 Automotive Specifications
138 Automotive Part II
102 Manufacturing
133 ARC Drafting

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve four Gateway Contracts item 15-131.
Before a vote could be taken Superintendent Cavallaro said there will only be three contracts to vote on. Eric Rice said the ARC 133 is still being processed on the Gateway end. OK
Cebi Waterfield made the motion to approve the items
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

Discussion: Bob Guthrie said we are approving stuff without the financials behind it. In the next couple of weeks can you give us a financial breakdown of the cost whether it is bussing or substitute teachers just so we know where it stands and where it is coming from? Yes Superintendent Cavallaro will do this.

Eight board members were in favor

Rosemary Russo abstained

Motion passes

Item 15-131 for approval of three gateway contracts is approved

**15-132 Approval of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
Federal Grants 2015-2016**

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve item 15-132

Robert Guthrie made the motion to approve the items

Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

There was no discussion

All board members were in favor

Item 15-132 is approved

Before a motion to adjourn took place Mark Palmieri thanked Mr. Winkle for his support of our community. He gave a check in the name of the three board members who are leaving Betsy, Cebi and Patrick to the David Cappetta Scholarship Fund. This is greatly appreciated. Mark also stated he looks forward to working with the new board members.

Cebi Waterfield said it was a privilege to work with the teachers and administrators we have in the West Haven School System. Her kids go to school here and she wouldn't have it any other way. She is proud to have the opportunity to represent West Haven with the teachers and administrators that we have.

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to adjourn.

Cebi Waterfield made the motion

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola

Board Secretary

Student Representatives Report

October 31's Fall Festival, car show, trick-or-treat event, and children's theater performance at West Haven high school turned out to be a great success. There was food, entertainment, and fun. The whole afternoon happen to be in amazing time for adults, students, and children alike. In the cafeteria a breakfast was held for prospective students thinking of attending West Haven high school. They were given a tour of the school by Board of Education representatives Andrew Gordon and Evelyn Fabian.

West Haven High School's Theatre Workshop will be performing Neil Simon's Plaza Suite this Friday, November 20 and Saturday, November 21. Tickets are being sold in advance for \$8 and at the door for \$10.

Today, the West Haven High School Band was visited by University of New Haven band director, Jason L. deGroff. He showed the students videos in life in a college band and had several students in the university speak about their experience.

West Haven High School Senior, Jay Silver, was recently selected at the Daughters of the American revolution good citizen of west haven high school for demonstrating qualities of dependability, leadership, patriotism and Service.

The Powderpuff Girl's Football tournament was rescheduled to Monday, November 24th at 6:00 at Ken Strong Stadium

The Save a life tour made a stop at WHHS on October 28th. The presentation was made to juniors and seniors in the auditorium, followed by simulations. The focus was on distracted driving. Do not text and drive.

Once again, the peer advocates are joining forces with the West Haven Fire Department for the

annual Toys for joy drive to benefit the West Haven community.

Susie Beyl represented the State Board of Education and spoke at the teacher of the year ceremony at the Bushnell last week.

Tomorrow, November 17th is West Haven High School's first annual college decision day to be held at the 7 Rock Conference Center from 9 AM to 2 PM. About 40 students will have interviews with multiple colleges including Albertus Magnus, Central CT State University, SCSU, University of Bridgeport, University of New Haven, and Western CT State University. Seniors will also be given the opportunity for on-the-spot admissions. We wish them luck

