The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on June 5, 2017 in the Board’s Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by James Morrissey, Chairman of the Board of Education at 6:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**
- James W. Morrissey, Chairman
- Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair
- Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
- Patrick Leigh
- Patricia Libero
- Karen Pacelli
- Rosa Richardson
- Rosemary Russo

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**
- Mark Palmieri

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**
- Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
- Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
- Matt Cavallaro, Director of Finance

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**
- Evelyn Fabian
- Andrew Gordon
- David O’Brien

**B. Public Portion of Meeting**
Chairman Morrissey asked if anyone would like to address the board this evening. Chris Suggs, Terrace Avenue, West Haven. Mr. Suggs congratulated everyone involved in the special event tonight. Mr. Suggs attended a meeting two weeks ago and in follow up he said it was stated that food service at the field and rink were running at a deficit for some time and the BOE was working on a plan to eliminate that in the next two or three years and that some management changes were made with the food service to get it under control but now it was being rolled into the debt or refinancing plan along with the City of West Haven. His question is how this is beneficial for the City or the BOE and why this decision was made. Thank you.
Matt Cavallaro stated that the Food Service along with the Field is set up as a special revenue fund so the debt in those funds doesn’t affect the year to year deficit but it affects
the cumulative deficit. In order to deficit bond the city had to bond for the entire cumulative deficit. The deficit of those funds had to be incorporated into the bond and it benefits the city by being able to bond the entire deficit. With the changes we made for the BOE food service is turning a profit that will be able to go back into the program. The board gave thanks.

Chairman Morrissey asked if anyone else would like to address the board this evening. There were no other speakers. Public Session closed at 6:05 PM.

REPORTS
C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools
Superintendent Cavallaro said tonight is the last board meeting for Andrew and Evelyn and we want to thank them for serving for two years. (Applause) We appreciate all your reports, the information you provided us from the high school and the input you have given the board. Some of our private conversations have really made a difference because it gives me a better understanding of the kind of things that are going on at the high school and what you and students are feeling. We will miss most of all the way you gave back to our community and made our school a better place. If there is one thing that the class of 2017 will leave its mark on it is that you guys gave back and showed so much pride in West Haven and West Haven High School and there is a lot of spirit and caring among you so thank you. We have a cake for you and appreciate you and wish you well at Penn and Cornell two of the most prestigious universities in the country. Pictures were taken of the two student representatives. (Applause)

Dr. Druzolowski said we have several guests tonight and it is always exciting to have students do presentations for you. There will be many exhibits of writing, we will discuss the project in grade 8 at Bailey, we will move onto mentoring and how they support each other in the classrooms, we have the social studies books that students have written and we also have the PACE Program. Individuals who are in the PACE Program will let you know how successful it has been for them. Dr. Druzolowski introduced Dana Paredes and students from the PACE Program.

Dana said the students are really the ones who can tell you how successful the PACE Program is so rather than data, charts and power points we have our kids here. The PACE Program is an outside of the box approach to education and we take in students who have been unsuccessful in school and try to make them successful and if we can’t do this we try to find another path for them whether it is an adult education program, GED, Job Core or something that makes them find success with schooling. Four of our top students are here tonight and we will begin with Keila. Keila said since the beginning of high school she has struggled most with the workload and other students. She struggled with finding the motivation to get to school. Many of her teachers thought she was being stubborn but she just needed someone to give her more time. She needed more help and if she didn’t understand the homework she would become frustrated and quit. Keila said the teachers in the PACE Program really care about you and want to help you. Some days it is difficult being around other students but the teachers are always ready to help her overcome the struggles. Her teachers push her to work to the best of her ability and she always has the support to be confident in herself and the work she is doing. She is very
thankful for all her teachers and the PACE Program. (Applause) Alexis said her biggest obstacle at WHHS was dealing with her mental health. School is really difficult because of that and this made it difficult to go to school daily and succeed. In regular school she felt really out of place and was not comfortable enough to talk to her teachers about anything. She never felt like she was succeeding at anything. She was hesitant when she started the PACE Program but is really happy with the decision to go in it because it has benefited her in numerous ways. Her teachers are always there for her whether she has academic or social problems. She didn’t think she could have such a successful year but she did and the PACE Program has gotten her back on track and she is now excited and confident for what lies ahead for her in school. (Applause) Gabriella said when she came to WHHS for the first time she felt bad because she had no friends and the numbers for the classrooms were confusing for her. She struggled with her schoolwork because sometimes she had a hard time understanding it and paying attention. She struggled a lot the first year with her assignments and her guidance counselor showed her a room called homework center where she could go during her free period and get help from her teacher. Even with this help and staying after for extra help she was still struggling with her schoolwork. She was scared when she came to PACE because everyone said that PACE was full of bad students but they were completely wrong. PACE was very different from what she was told. PACE really worked for her and she thinks it is a great program for nearly everybody. She thinks everyone is smart but everybody is developed in a different way. PACE has helped her and has helped a lot of people who need it and want it. (Applause) Isiah said the last school year was difficult. His family was in the process of moving and was the cause of a lot of obstacles for him. He was getting used to being in a new home. He missed many days because of the move and he didn’t have time to stay after for extra help or makeup work. His grades began to fall drastically and at the end of year 1 a teacher mentioned the PACE Program. They said Pace would be a good way for him to recover credits that he missed because of everything he was going through. PACE really helped Isiah get back on track. The PACE teachers made learning easier because they could relate to him and always had time for him. The teachers at PACE really care about the kids and they make learning fun. PACE has a flex period that he uses as a study hall where he can make up work and get extra help. The teachers actually help you understand the work and they inspired him to do his best and made him want to work harder. He was able to set goals for his future and that has changed his outlook of school. He wanted to thank all his PACE teachers and Ms. Ronan and Ms. Parades for believing in him. (Applause)

Pat Libero gave the students a lot of credit for what they did and being brave enough to say I’m not going to be in the mainstream I’m going to try something new and it worked for you. It is great to have you here and it is a great program.

Chairman Morrissey thanked the teaching staff, Dana and the paras; you all do a wonderful job. He thanked the students and he sees in front of him four success stories and you should all be really proud of yourselves for what you have accomplished over the year. It is not easy to come before a boardroom of adults and tell your story. These were great stories we heard tonight and we are all so proud of you. (Applause) Pictures were taken.
Collette Bennett the English Language Arts Coordinator introduced Jen Raba, Literacy Coach at Bailey, Jen said 8th grade students at Bailey were learning about the Holocaust and a month into the unit International Holocaust Remembrance Day occurred. We asked students what they would remember and the reactions were fantastic and this is all on the video that was playing. They revised the Holocaust Unit and students learned about Nazi propaganda, they read the holocaust survivor’s journals as well as poetry, artwork and viewed testimony from holocaust survivors. This turned out to be a really great unit. (Applause) The board gave thanks and said they did a great job.

The American Revolution Study is the last thing students learn in the fifth grade. They read about explorers through America’s development into the events leading up to the American Revolution. The 8th grade is where they pick up at the road to the Revolution and continue on. Books that students in the 8th grade made to review the events were created for 5th grade students. These books were passed around to the board members and students were graded on their accuracy and whether pictures supported the text. Fifth grade students read three of these books on line and would rate them and make a recommendation on who they would share this book with. This really ties the 5th and 8th grades together with one just learning it and one doing it as a review.

Roberta Penna and Sean Griffin (who was not able to attend because he became a new Dad and is home with the baby; congratulations Sean) Language Arts Teachers run the writing lab at Bailey Middle School and have the Peer Tutors here tonight. The Peer Tutors received training from the University of New Haven’s Peer Tutoring Center. They started by working with students to help them edit papers and it just snowballed. They did anything we asked them to do and Dr. Cordone arranged their schedule so there were tutors available every day during a certain block and teachers were calling requesting them. They are amazing kids who went to any classroom we asked them to and we appreciate all the support we received from administrators because we couldn’t have done it without you allowing us to. This Friday they will do a training session for the tutors coming in for next year. Five tutors are here tonight and will talk about their experience as a tutor.

Laci Lewis said one thing she learned from peer tutoring that will help her in the future is that everyone understands things differently. Some people hear things once and pick it up while others need to have it explained a few times and some are just visual learners. Many have an idea and just can’t get it down on paper and this made me realize everyone has their own unique style of learning. When she was working with a student who understood well but wasn’t able to keep up with his thoughts as he typed, she took the computer and typed for him. We then moved very quickly through his work and he began to understand much better. (Applause) Riley Collins said that tutoring gave her the chance to meet new people. Not only did she get to know each and every one of the students they learned a lot about each other. Without Peer Tutoring she may not have gotten as close as she is to her fellow tutors. Working with different kids expanded her relationships greatly. Walking through the hallways she sees some of the kids she tutored and they will run up and start conversations. These are kids she would not have normally had conversations or relationships with. Tutoring them for one period helped us develop
friendships with them. Tutoring has made us more personable, and we know how to ask someone if they need help without making it awkward. This has been a really great experience that has taught us a lot. (Applause) Nicole McKinney learned while tutoring how to put someone else’s thoughts into words when they struggled to do it themselves. You have to treat every student as a unique individual with different thoughts; whether you agree with them or not. (Applause) Carson Kershner learned how to be flexible while in peer tutoring. While at peer tutoring sometimes we wouldn’t have something to do so we would have to go to math or we would have to go to social studies class and help out and we would also do NJHS work and help out in the library. (Applause) Gabrielle Cunha said she will never forget the whole experience of Peer Tutoring itself. Tutoring has molded her into the student she is today. She went into the program thinking she was lacking in people skills and patience. When I started to work with my peers I opened up and felt comfortable to progress as a team. This program is a great opportunity to assist those in need of an extra push or guidance. It not only benefits the students receiving our help but it benefits us in our ability to bond with everyone we meet. This experience has shown her not to stress over the little things and just keep smiling. She has gained so much respect for the teachers and how they handle so many difficult situations. She loves this program dearly and thanked everyone for letting her take the time to express her gratitude for all this program has taught her. (Applause). Pictures were taken and the board gave thanks.

Jen Raba said the block scheduling allows them so much flexibility especially in working with Roberta and Sean and trying to step up the writing in our curriculum. The writing is what takes so much time. In a 45 minute class you get started and the kids hit their writing groove and it is time to go and it is not always easy to get them in that writing groove. This allows us so much flexibility. Because of the extended time we get a lot more in depth with some of our lessons. The board gave thanks (Applause).

Superintendent Cavallaro said we did pretty well with the early retirement incentive seven took it in addition to a couple of other names and we believe this saves us almost half a million dollars. We feel we will make our number and will present something to the board possibly by the next meeting. The state budget is still the unknown factor and if they do something with the Special Ed formulae that could help us. We are still negotiating with the para union and they have accepted the high deductible health plan. We hope to finish our negotiations tomorrow with some luck. The new plan is taking effect July 1st. We will be putting out a newsletter on the high school construction project. There will be a public meeting at the beginning of the school year with the contractors, administrators and people from CREC. Phase 2 is being advertised and this is the work that will take place this summer and the retrofitting of the small gymnasium into the shop classes. Once school is out we will not be using the main building of WHHS for any activities but we have received permission from the state to use the pool, stadium and skating rink for summer activities. Abatement will start in the G Wing and equipment will be moved from the gym. There will be no interruption of the shop classes; they will start in the G Wing when the school year begins and around December 1st equipment will be moved to the G Wing because everything will be ready.
Dr. Druzolowski said we are wrapping up everything and a lot of entertainment is going on for the kids around the buildings, graduation is next week and we will see everybody there and it has been a very good year. Neil agreed.

Matt said the switch in health care signups started Thursday of last week and will continue to Wednesday of this week. We do two schools a day and it has been going very smoothly. The one thing we are hearing from Lockton and our employees is that there might be a rush to get things done before the plan changes on July 1. This might cause a spike in our June healthcare claims. Matt will keep the board updated.

Chairman Morrissey said you are saying there might be a spike in our claims? Matt said a lot of people might not fully understand the switch and if people are in a rush to get some of the more costly procedures done before the plan changes this may make our June benefit numbers to go up. This is something I wanted to make the board aware of as soon as I learned about. Chairman Morrissey said this is something they are hearing but not seeing right now. Matt said yes and when Lockton fully explained the plans and the mechanics of it a lot of the fear and in trepidation is starting to ease. Chairman Morrissey thanked Matt.

C.1.b. Student Representatives’ Report
The report is located at the end of the minutes. Student representative Evelyn Fabian thanked the board for their support and Andrew Gordon thanked the board for the opportunity. It was a really insightful experience and he appreciates it so much. (Applause)

C.1.c. Board
Rosa Richardson attended the luncheon at Mackrille on May 24th for families and also their 4th grade Spring Concert.

Rosemary Russo congratulated all the kids who received awards at the scholarship ceremony and the adult education graduates. It was a very nice ceremony.

Sue Walker attended and spoke at the adult education graduation. It was a lovely ceremony. Sue also attended the high school seniors Honors Ceremony. Students received, depending on how many honors courses they took, a certificate, a pin, a sweatshirt or the cord you wear at graduation. She also attended the Senior Scholarship which was wonderful and today she attended the Top Twenty Breakfast. This senior class appears to be an absolutely wonderful group of students and she is very proud that they will go out and represent West Haven and all the schools that they attend.

Bob Guthrie attended the Bailey’s Perfect Attendance Breakfast for the students, home room and the teacher and also the Pagels Spring Concert.

Chairman Morrissey thanked the board for attending as many activities as possible. Jim also attended the Bailey’s Perfect Attendance Ceremony for the kids and Sodexo did a nice job with the breakfast that was given to the students. The food was outstanding and
the kids were really happy. Chairman Morrissey also attended the Award Ceremony at the high school last week and also attended the Scholarship Ceremony last week and $160,000.00 worth of scholarships were given out to our senior class; that was quite a night. He is very proud of the 166 students who received the multi scholarship awards. Jim wanted to thank Pam Gardner who knocked the time down to 2 hours this year rather than the 3 hours last year; she kept everything moving right along and she did a great job. Jim also attended the Top Twenty Award Breakfast for the high school seniors today. This is a special group of students and we have great kids every year and he met many of them today. We are very proud of our students. This was a good school year and he thanked the administrators, teachers, and paras who do a great job. We try to work together as best as we can. He thanked the board for their hard work and for showing up at different activities throughout the school year.

Chairman Morrissey said before ending the meeting is there any input from the teachers or anyone about the leveling at the high school. Superintendent Cavallaro said we can schedule a couple of teachers to come to a meeting and report on this. Jim said that he would like to see how that worked out this year. We have a great staff and tonight we saw teachers from the PACE Program and we heard students get up and tell their stories of success. He thanked the staff for what they do for our students.

Superintendent Cavallaro said it is all worthwhile when you see these really nice events at the end of the year. Some things we may not always agree on but when you see the kids and their accomplishments at the end of the year it really is something special and we thank you for your support as well.

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 Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes D.1.a. Patrick Leigh made the motion to approve the minutes Karen Pacelli seconded the motion Discussion: Rosa Richardson and Pat Libero abstained as they were not present at this meeting. All remaining board members were in favor Minutes are approved

**D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Special Board Meeting** held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 6:24 PM.

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve the Special Board Meeting minutes D.1.b.
Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve the minutes
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

17-27 David G. Russell, Sr., Director of Grants – Central Office
   Effective: August 31, 2017
   Reason: Retirement

17-28 Claudette Glassman RN, School Nurse – Savin Rock Community School
   Effective: The end of this school year
   Reason: Retirement

17-29 Joyce-Diane D. Northam, Special Education Inclusion Teacher – Forest School
   Effective: June 30, 2017
   Reason: Retirement

17-30 Mindy Horwitz, Social Worker – Savin Rock Community School
   Effective: June 30, 2017
   Reason: Retirement

17-31 Irene D’Angelo, Reading Specialist – Forest School
   Effective: June 30, 2017
   Reason: Retirement

17-32 Marguaret Cahill, Math Teacher – West Haven High School
   Effective: June 30, 2017
   Reason: Retirement

17-33 Barbara Kader, ESL Teacher – Mackrille
   Effective: June 30, 2017
   Reason: Retirement

17-34 Heather K. Maresca, School Psychologist – West Haven High School
   Effective: June 30, 2017
   Reason: Retirement

17 35 Karen P. Naples, Reading Teacher Grade 10 – West Haven High School
   Effective: June 30, 2017
   Reason: Retirement
D.2.  Resignations: (Certified) Continued

17-36 Valerie Bruneau, Assistant Principal – Bailey Middle School
   Effective: August 1, 2017
   Reason: Personal

Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to approve item 17-27 to item 17-36 inclusive.
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve,
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion.
Discussion: Superintendent Cavallaro said everyone with the exception of Valerie
Bruneau is a retirement so there are a lot of dedicated years of service here. Dave Russell
has 49½ years of service and has been a longtime friend, mentor and colleague of mine.
The other teachers are all very good teachers who dedicated their time and life to this
school system in benefitting kids. Val Bruneau will be a loss to the school district and we
wish her well. She has accepted a principal ship in Torrington and we are very happy for
her and wish her well in her new adventure.

Patrick Leigh also commended Dave Russell on his 49½ years of service in the school
system. Patrick was a student at Washington School nearly 25 years ago and he was the
principal there. He had a big impact on Patrick’s life and his family’s. He has been a
huge presence within the community serving as an elected official. He wishes Dave the
best and hopes everything works out for him.

Chairman Morrissey thanked student reps Andrew Gordon and Evelyn Fabian and
wished them the best in their next four years as Andrew is off to Cornell University and
Evelyn to Penn University. He thanked them for sharing their insight and giving reports
and this board greatly appreciates this. The both of you are shinning stars in the City of
West Haven and he thanked them for all they have done while on this board.
All board members were in favor
Motion Carries
Items 17-27 – 17-36 inclusive are approved

D.3.  New Hire: (Certified)
D.4.  New Business

F.  Informational
Chairman Morrissey asked for a motion to adjourn
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
All board members present were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary
Board of Education Student Report
June 5, 2017

The WHHS Honors Award Ceremony was held on May 21st in the WHHS Auditorium. The Guest Speaker was Carly Lindgren.

On May 24th, our junior Student-Athletes were honored at a luncheon sponsored by the West Haven Rotary at the University of New Haven.

The Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 25th with approximately 425 students being honored.

The Senior Prom was held at Cascade on May 25th. Tevar Dixon and Olivia Vining were King and Queen.

Senior Awards Night was held on Wednesday, May 31st. 165 students were awarded approximately $160, 000. The Guest Speaker was Class of 2007 Valedictorian Steevesen Smith.

Congratulations to the Second Place winners in the 2017 eeSmarts Student Contest sponsored by Eversource UI SGC CHG: Natalia Lecce, Ashlynn O’Keefe, Amanda Hill and KC Marron

The Solar Cooker Contest was held last week and the team of Alyssa Zappe, Faythe Thibodeau, and Nia Belcher won, with an increased temperature of 38.5 degrees Celsius.

Today, the Top Twenty seniors were honored with a Breakfast in the board room. The Valedictorian for the Class of 2017 is Alice Li and the Salutatorian for the Class of 2017 is Rose Silver.

Senior Final Exams begin on Wednesday, June 7th and Underclass Final Exams start on Thursday, June 8th.

The city of West Haven is planning a concert for veterans on the West Haven Green for Friday, June 9th. A short parade procession will take place prior to the concert with the WHHS Band and Bel Canto performing.

Graduation for the Class of 2017 will be held on Thursday, June 15th at Ken Strong Stadium at 6:00pm. Project Graduation will be held, this year, at the Sports Center of Connecticut in Shelton. Please consider volunteering.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will be conducting a site visit at WHHS from September 24 – 27, 2017. The high school staff has recently
completed its self-study reports and approved all seven standards reports at the faculty meeting on May 24th. Parents and students will be asked to participate in the visit and Mrs. Gardner will be looking for volunteers over the summer. BOE members - please note Sunday, September 24th on your calendar. Board of Education members are asked to be part of the opening assembly and panel presentation.