WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 16, 2018
Regular Board Meeting
Board’s Meeting Room

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on January 16, 2018 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 Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 6:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE: Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman
Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair
Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
Lauren A. Aceto
Patrick Leigh
James W. Morrissey
Karen Pacelli

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Libero
Rosa Richardson

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Nancy R. Rossi

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: David O’Brien

Chairwoman Russo welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out on such a cold night. Before starting with the public portion Chairwoman Russo asked that board members raise their hand before speaking so everyone gets a turn; just like in school (laughter). Thank you.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Jon Capone, 326 Benham Hill Rd., West Haven, CT the Athletic Director and Coordinator of Physical Education for the City of West Haven. Tonight he is speaking on behalf WHAA and a lot of the members who are here. You have the Winkle Bus Contract in front of you and we would like to say a few words as I speak for WHAA.
Some words to describe working with Craig Winkle and his entire staff are professionalism, flexibility, cooperation, a partner, very approachable, above and beyond the call of duty, his follow-up is tremendous and I could go on and on. Working with him and all the principals and myself as the athletic director in all the extra school activities Craig is on top of everything. At his yard he is constantly in communication with everybody and everyone has his call number. Everyone knows when you call Craig Winkle he will pick up the phone. When you give him a problem he will solve it; he is not going to put it back in your lap. On a personal note with the closing of the gym this year at the high school we had to maneuver some teams around for practices and I asked Craig for cooperation with busses to move students to an elementary school and there was no hesitation whatsoever; it worked smoothly. His drivers are always polite and a lot of the coaches always request certain drivers for their teams; it is like a good luck charm. The principals work with Craig and on the first day of school when everybody is nervous; are the bus routes right, are the bus route busses on time. They constantly work with Craig and he is there the next day trying to fix everything whatever it may be and usually though there are no problems because he has it down pat. On behalf of WHAA tonight we would like you to endorse this contract and send it over to the city council. Craig Winkle has been a great asset to the city of West Haven on a day to day basis and they help our children. Thank you. The board thanked Mr. Capone.

Chairwoman Russo asked three times if anyone would like to address the board this evening. There were no other speakers.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools
Superintendent Cavallaro said he has some reports tonight but wanted to turn this over to Roger LaFleur our project manager for the Carrigan roof project. Tonight you will hear Roger talk about the project. The board’s role tonight is to accept the project as completed. Once this is done we submit to the state for the reimbursement rate so the money will then go back to the city.

Roger LaFleur thanked the board for having him here tonight. He stated he was the project manager for the Carrigan Intermediate School Roof. The original project estimate was 2,508,000.00. The actual project cost came in at 2,165,000.00 about $330,000.00 under budget. The existing previous roof was completely ripped down to the metal deck which is a requirement by the state. The deck was found to be in excellent condition so the roofer just had to put the new roof on. The roof is an 80,000 sq. ft. 2-ply modified Bichman Roof which is a very good quality roof with white stone gravel embedded on top of it. We eliminated the weight from the old roof and probably gained back about 4 pounds per sq. ft. with the new roof. The new roof also included all new flashings and internal roof drains and new secondary drains as well. In terms of moving water off that roof you are in very good shape. The project was completed over the summer and several inspections occurred with the local building official and Fire Marshall. Mr. LaFleur worked closely with Frank Gladwin while he was here and Mike Esposito. The final inspection occurred on November 29th and the last two remaining items were completed. The roof project was accepted as complete by the manufacturer Garland.
Roofing who will provide a 30 year warrantee once the final payment to the contract has been received. The building committee also accepted the project as complete last week. This is what we need the board to do tonight and I am here to answer any questions.

Superintendent Cavallaro said this is part of the large scale project at Carrigan which the board is aware of and during a budget meeting today Mayor Rossi wanted to know about our capital request. Our priority is to complete the door and window project at Carrigan which is the next phase there so would you talk about that. Mr. LaFleur said our grant application was submitted last year and it has been accepted and approved by the state for doors and windows, an upgrade to the electrical system, solar panels on the roof which will greatly reduce the electricity cost to the school and new controls as well. Controls really control the boilers and helps the system run efficiently; you will see significant savings.

Patrick Leigh asked if the new roof is all set to take on the solar panels. Yes. All of that is engineered and has to go through the review process as well.

Jim Morrissey said you said the project was about 2.5 M and you got it done for about $330,000.00 less so did you use that money for other needs. Mr. LaFleur said you can’t. The state sets aside what you say you are going to use and when the invoices come in at less that is what you get. Since you saved $330,000.00 would the state look favorably if we need something else for that school that we can bid something else on down the road. Mr. LaFleur said with the environment the state is in right now he would be highly doubtful. However if there were something that qualified for a state grant then you could put together an EDO-49 Grant Application, submit it and make note that there was additional money saved on previous projects. A further discussion took place.

Bob Guthrie said for the benefit of the board this roof is considered a 30 year roof. Mr. LaFleur said yes that is correct. The board gave thanks.

Superintendent Cavallaro said on Monday, February 5th which is our next regular meeting the project team for the high school will attend and report to you. Enrollment is an issue there is no question it is an issue but what they are waiting for is to look at all of the bids that come in to see where we stand. It is my hope that the team will present some options to you at the next board meeting. The enrollment issue needs to be addressed and we are in the process of doing that.

Patrick Leigh asked if there is a hard date for those bids to be in. Some of them were due last Friday and over the next week or so the remaining bids are coming in. Patrick said so all bids should be in by February 5th. Superintendent Cavallaro said prior to that so we can make some decisions and present them to you.

Chairwoman Russo said when you say the project team is coming is that CREC? Superintendent Cavallaro said that is CREC, Antinozzi, Gilbane and Jim Twitchell who
can talk about the abatement and give you a final report on that phase of the project.
Chairwoman Russo said that is great thank you.

Superintendent Cavallaro said next week we are having a meeting with the state delegation and Chairwoman Russo will attend this with us. We think it is important to inform the entire delegation and have them on our side when we make our presentation. Patrick Leigh asked where the meeting is being held. It is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 AM next Monday in his office. We are meeting with our delegation prior to going to Hartford. If a couple of board members want to attend check with Rosemary first and that will be fine but we can’t have a quorum.

Superintendent Cavallaro said the first meeting in March we will have a meeting by the high school to present to you NEASC’s findings and more importantly where we go from there.

Superintendent Cavallaro is sure everyone saw his letter asking you to support the Winkle waiver of bid and that contract is subject to the Municipal Advisory Review Board MARB and we are in the process of going through CASBO which is the business manager’s organization in trying to get some comparisons so we can make a strong case for ourselves.

Superintendent Cavallaro is the moderator for the Spelling Bee tomorrow at 10:00 AM and hopes everyone will attend.

Midterms are scheduled to start on Thursday at WHHS. Patrick Leigh asked what if there is a snow day. Dana said if there is a snow day tomorrow at the high school midterms will begin on Friday and go through Wednesday rather than Tuesday. The board gave thanks.

C.1.b. Student Representatives’ Report
David O’Brien gave the student report for tonight’s meeting. The report follows.
The WHHS midterms are approaching and students are busy studying. Midterms begin Thursday and continue until Tuesday.
Auditions began today for the spring play “Spelling Bee” and we hope all of you will join us when it’s show time on March 23rd and 24th.
Students were very excited last week to meet Heisman winner Baker Mayfield. He spoke to students about hard work and dedication; he was very inspiring.
Children’s Theatre Show, “The Adventures of Rose Red” Snow White’s younger sister is on February 10th at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM. The board thanked David.

C.1.c. Board
Jim Morrissey said he went to the retirement last week at the high school rink for Robert Fumiatti’s number and it was a well-attended ceremony. He thanked the board again for approving the retirement of his number. It was well deserved and his family was very
excited and happy that this was attended by a great number of West Haven High School former hockey players and his friends and family.

Jim Morrissey asked if the students are in the shop classes. Superintendent Cavallaro said yes they are and asked Dana if everything is up and running. Dana said yes they have been in there a couple of weeks and the last thing they had to do was get another phone line installed and that was done and the students are there and working. Jim is concerned because last week they talked about the shortage of classes at the new high school and his concern is that the shop classes are the first to get cut and as a board member he is totally against that and he wants to make that perfectly clear tonight. He hopes there is no intent that the shops would possibly get the first knife if we have to accommodate some classes. Has this been discussed? Superintendent Cavallaro said his understanding is that if anything we are looking to add some classroom space back and remember that you heard Attorney Dugas remind you guys that as the board you are in charge of the program. No program can be cut from that project without prior approval from the board.

Patrick Leigh asked if MARB has a say on anything we passed regarding things at the high school. Superintendent Cavallaro doesn’t believe so as the money is set aside and the state has been holding it for nine years. Patrick means decision wise if they don’t like our decision can they say we don’t like that decision here is how we want it to work? Superintendent Cavallaro doesn’t know the answer to that but he is going to say no with a lot of qualifications because we are being conservative now and are getting the bids in and a couple came in lower than expected but that doesn’t mean they all will. Ultimately the building committee and the city are going to decide is it worth spending an extra million dollars, and I am just throwing a number out there, to accommodate 300 more kids and we are good for the next 20 years. At some point these decisions will have to be made however none of us are in a position to answer that question right now. Patrick wonders if MARB has any decision ability on the bids that are accepted. Neil doesn’t believe so. With the Antinozzi’s who have built schools and with Gilbane who builds schools around the northeast Superintendent Cavallaro feels confident that they will get a good price and because of who they are multiple bidders where we won’t be subject to one bid.

Karen Pacelli attended the hockey game where they retired Bob Fumiatti’s number and it was a good turnout and she felt honored to be able to attend.

Bob Guthrie attended Bailey’s Winter Choral Concert and they had to break it up into four sections so the students could fit between the three seventh grades and the eighth grade band and also the jazz band. It was nicely done and well supported by the parents and the students.

Susan Walker said last week we lost one of our retired teachers Louise Yeager who taught math at WHHS for a very long time. She was my teacher and I have been out of high school for a very long time. She was a wonderful, very sweet lady. Chairwoman Russo asked for a Moment of Silence for Louise Yeager.
Mayor Rossi attended the Hockey Game and it was a great turnout and such a very nice tribute to family.

Chairwoman Russo also attended the Hockey Game it was great and it was nice to see his kids were so touched. It was wonderful. Chairwoman Russo said on your desk you have a list of committees and the chairperson and members of each committee. She would like the committees to meet regularly and have the Chair of each committee give her a schedule of when you would like to meet and we can figure out definite dates. This has been one of our weak spots and we need to pick up with this. Chairwoman Russo also said the City Council has Portia Bias as a liaison to the BOE and she talked with Mayor Rossi and she invited us to have a BOE member be a liaison to the City Council so if anyone is interested in that please let me know and we also need a board representative to the Building Committee; you won’t have a vote but we do need representation. Please feel free to let me know if you have an interest; you all know how to reach me. Lauren Aceto asked if you want to meet once a month. Chairwoman Russo doesn’t know if all the committees need to meet once a month but the big committees should or maybe every six weeks. We will see how to make it work. With the rising needs of our students we added Pupil Services to our committee listing. She didn’t want to overburden anybody but if you want to join any committee that you are not on that is fine.

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 Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:00 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes D.1.a. Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve the minutes Susan Walker seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)
D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

D.4. New Business

18-03 The West Haven Board of Education accepts State Project No. 156-0140 RR, for the Carrigan Intermediate School Roof Replacement project as complete

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 18-03
Karen Pacelli made the motion to approve item 18-03 The West Haven Board of Education accepts State Project No. 156-0140 RR, for the Carrigan Intermediate School
Roof Replacement project as complete.
Patrick Leigh seconded the motion
Discussion
All board members present were in favor
Item 18-03 is approved

D.4. New Business (Continued)

18-04 The West Haven Board of Education and current Winkle Bus
Agreement to be extended for an additional (5) years

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve item 18-04
Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve the minutes
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion
Discussion: Superintendent Cavallaro would add that a recommendation be made to the
City Council to pass this.
Jim Morrissey thinks the Winkle Bus Company does a great job in transporting our
students and taking care of our students. For the last two years while he was Chairman of
this Board he never received any complaints about Winkle Bus Company. As Mr.
Capone said you can call up Winkle Bus Company and Craig Winkle will answer the
phone directly; he is that type of person. He is a hands on owner and he employs a lot of
people from the City of West Haven and the busses are located in West Haven. He is a
little leery about waiving the bid but honestly believes this is a good contract for the City
of West Haven. They are a small business and they really care about our students. He
would be afraid if we put this out to bid because you never know if you have a big
corporate company come in and you don’t know who you will be talking to and things
like that. Winkle Bus has been with us for a long time and Craig attends a lot of functions
in West Haven and is part of this community. The prior board did pass this last year and
it coming to us again. Jim sees no reason why we don’t act upon it again and refer it to
the City Council for their approval. As Superintendent Cavallaro did say it has to go
before MARB but Jim believes if we explain to them it is a good contract for our city and
will save us money long term and he doesn’t see why MARB wouldn’t approve this
contract. Jim said he is definitely for this contract with Winkle Bus. Thank you.

Mayor Rossi said this never made it to the City Council the last time for a vote. What
should be done next as long as this body approves this is a bid waiver form should be
filled out with Kevin McNabola with the Superintendent signing off on it and giving a
copy of the minutes with it. With the proposal it can go before the City Council we have
three weeks. Even if the City Council approves this it will still have to go before the
MARB and they are asking that we send stuff up as we get it. The sooner we can get this
information there and see what they have as far as feedback, rather than putting it before
the City Council and then sending it up, kind of like what happened with the labor
contract. They are saying we should send stuff up as we get it. Superintendent Cavallaro
interjected the question they want it prior to the City Council? Yes, they want it first and
that is what even happened with the labor agreement that we were able to get some
questions answered where their concerns were. They do have the jurisdiction to preside
over all of the contracts and anything at all like that. This way we can get some answers
to questions and if they need additional information give them whatever it is. Mayor
Rossi’s hope is that this will be approved because she agrees it is a way of saving money
and that is what we are supposed to be doing. We also know how good they have been to
our city and our students and everybody feels comfortable and safe with them. Craig is at
pretty much every event Mayor Rossi has had and he gives back to the community in that
way and they are a community minded business as well. Unfortunately we do have this
MARB review and we have to comply with their rules because they have final say on
everything. Thank you.
All board members present were in favor
Item 18-04 is approved

F. Informational
   F.1. Special Meeting – Student Expulsion Hearing, December 21, 2017
       at 8:20 a.m. (enclosure)
   F.2. Special Meeting – Student Expulsion Hearing, December 21, 2017
       at 8:30 a.m. (enclosure)

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to adjourn
Karen Pacelli made the motion
Jim Morrissey seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary