A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on November 5, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education. 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 Aceto
Patrick Leigh
James W. Morrissey
Patricia Libero
Karen Pacelli
Rosa Richardson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:
Brendan Carew
Sumedha Chowdhury
Julia Walker

Chairwoman Rosemary Russo said we are very lucky tonight to have Bailey Middle School students presenting to us. Robert Bohan, Principal of Bailey School thanked the board for allowing them to come tonight. This is a great way to show off the wonderful staff we have and the great students. This is a great thing. He knows he speaks for a lot of his administrative colleagues because we don’t always get the opportunity to do this and we don’t take it for granted. We are honored to be in front of you tonight to show you what is going on. Tonight we are going to spotlight one of our many amazing teachers at Bailey Middle School Caitlin Ripa. We also have several of our wonderful students here tonight who are several of hundreds of wonderful students we have at Bailey. We are a pretty close knit family at Bailey but you guys are an extension of that. We can’t do some of the things that we do and we can’t produce some
of the success that we have been doing over the last few years without you and we don’t take that for granted and we certainly thank you for that.

Stacy Sutton said it is an honor to be able to highlight our teacher Caitlin Ripa. Caitlin is an extremely dedicated teacher who works diligently to create innovative lessons that engage and meet the needs of all her learners. She makes sure that every person in her class is learning. One of the many reasons Caitlin is an outstanding educator is because she is so caring and kind and creates connections with every single one of her students. These connections enable her to understand all her students making it easier to address all their individual needs. During the past six years she has shown a passion for education through her many efforts at Bailey such as taking on a leadership role of Bailey Sunshine, running the school’s drama club which takes a lot of hours and taking on a leadership role in the National Junior Honor Society. Caitlin has earned the respect of our school staff by working collaboratively with her colleagues and demonstrates that she is always a team player. Stacy thanked Caitlin for her commitment and dedication to the Bailey family and to also wish her a Happy Birthday! Applause ensued.

Robert Bohan said tonight you will see a sneak production of Elf which takes place on Friday and Saturday December 14th and 15th at 7:00 PM in the Bailey Middle School Auditorium. Caitlin Ripa said Buddy the Elf has just managed to ask Jovie out on a date. The sneak preview of the production continued from there and applause followed. Buddy the Elf was played by Daniel Brown Patricelli and Jovie was played by Katherine Greenwood. Invitations to Elf were passed out to board members.

Caitlin Ripa said they do The ELA Café in her classroom which they refer to as a text tasting. The kids are served literature and water. They have just finished working with memoirs and narrative writing. While reading a series of memoirs students had to work in small groups, they had reservations, they had tables and in the small groups they had to work to complete three different courses; their appetizer, dinner and dessert. They then had to answer a series of comprehension questions using textural evidence and they worked collaboratively to complete this. Pictures of the ELA Café were shown throughout the room along with some student work. Other things completed in regard to our memoir unit are six word memoirs which sounds simple but it really is not. Kids had to create a story using just six words. An example of this would be Got a puppy never slept again. Examples of this and full length memoirs were shown throughout the room. Caitlin had two of her ELA students read their memoirs. Muhammad Hamed read his memoir entitled The Long Journey and Sophia Basaen read her memoir entitled An Adventure of a Lifetime. Both memoirs were about summer vacations. Applause followed after each student finished reading their memoirs.

Caitlin Ripa thanked the board for giving her the opportunity to share what her students have been working on she really appreciates this. All of Caitlin’s ELA and Drama Students stood and received a round of applause.

Rob Bohan had all the students do the WE ARE BAILEY yell. He thanked the board for the opportunity to do this tonight. Applause followed. The board gave thanks.
Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to adjourn.
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Karen Pacelli seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Secretary