A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on November 19, 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 6:00 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
Lauren Aceto
Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair
Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Leigh
Patricia Libero
Karen Pacelli
Rosa Richardson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: James W. Morrissey

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Brendan Carew
Sumedha Chowdhury
Julia Walker

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairwoman Russo asked if anyone would like to address the board three times. There were no speakers. Public Session closed at 6:04 PM.

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools
Superintendent Cavallaro said Tom Hunt, Principal of Forest School, went to Washington two weeks ago to receive the award for Forest becoming a Blue Ribbon School. He
received a plaque and brought it to the board meeting to and will tell us a little bit about the ceremony. Tom Hunt said he went to Washington to retrieve the hardware (laughter) and he asked everyone to take a look at the plaque and pass it around. He went to Washington DC on Thursday, November 8\textsuperscript{th} with Eleanor Butler who is a retired teacher that is now one of our math aides. To cap off a 50 plus year career to end it like this so Eleanor made the trip down on Thursday morning and returned at 9:00 PM that night. They attended the luncheon and award ceremony and met some administrators and teachers from as far away as Alaska and 47 of the 50 states were represented. It was a very well run event held in the grand ballroom of the Omni Shoreham Hotel. There were easily 1,200 people in attendance and everyone was fed in about an hour which was pretty incredible. There were opening statements from Betsy DeVos, United States Secretary of Education and the awards were handed out by Aba S. Kumi, Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. A photograph will be put up on the website of Mr. Kumi, Mrs. Butler and Mr. Hunt which will be put on the website. This was a truly interesting and exciting day. Mr. Hunt thanked everyone who had a part in this. Applause ensued. Superintendent Cavallaro thanked him and said he did a great job representing us. Chairwoman Russo thanked Mr. Hunt for making the trip and taking Mrs. Butler.

Superintendent Cavallaro said he knows the board is interested in where we are with the state of technology and what our district needs are. Since this is a year when we are not giving out a lot in the way of raises it might be the year we are able to start some type of a program to enhance our technology needs within the district. Jeff Grande and Jeff Tagliatela from the Business Network Group, which is under contract, will update the board on technology. There is a 24 hour help line in place and they are very attentive to our needs. During the testing time of year there are five or six people assigned to work specifically with our district who trouble shoot and do a lot of other things. They have also been very helpful to the city during the last cyborg attack. They are very knowledgeable and both are graduates from our school district. Superintendent Cavallaro introduced them to the board.

Jeff Grande said we have been working with this school district for all most ten years now. Both Jeff Grande and Jeff Tag, who is the lead in West Haven, are always part of the discussion and certain strategic planning for the district. One of the challenges with technology that we currently see in West Haven is basically driving equipment and resources down to the primary grades. With respect to the challenges that our team faces we do a review every year to see what we can do better to keep West Haven Public Schools competitive. The competition with the magnet schools is about technology. We came up with a two point plan as sort of a discussion. Some of the other challenges that we face are constantly trying to maintain computer labs and equipment that on average is three plus years old, maintaining structured lab tops for optimal mobility, flexibility and reliability and maintaining the entire backbone of the infrastructure which is really challenging in these schools. These are old schools with a lot of environmental issues so we have to be very careful about that. We also have to maintain device management across the enterprise and last year with Donor Choose which made national headlines it was a big year. We had all new gear being brought into the mix and we had to figure out
how to manage it. Lastly we have a static budget that we always work with respect to math and the district to support this infrastructure and it is not a large number it is only $320,000.00 a year and the flow of the district really put a lot of stress on that number. There are over 5,800 students, over 800 employees and with the consolidations through the years you still have eleven locations around the city. Traditionally we have always worked with the district to help with their ERATE Consultants to maximize funding but it is very specific with respect to what you can use the money for. You really can only use it for network infrastructure such as switching and wireless and firewalls which is handy because this tends to be expensive. We are trying to push the end devices down to students and that is what we are here to focus on. On top of this we have State Department of Education Testing Mandates. Some grants that have been available were one time grants and there were supposed to be follow-up grants to bolster that infrastructure so we were able to do a fair amount of upgrading but now we are four and five years into the cycle and the hinges and equipment really get used and that is a big challenge. In the last few years we also have E Books and Google Classroom which is contributing to why we need this kind of proliferation of wireless and gear in these kids’ hands. We have done our best with the allotment of money to get new laptops and instructors. We make sure that they have the latest and greatest stuff and we have done some classroom workstation upgrades which tend to last a little longer. We have done some wireless infrastructure which is critical and a new telephone system for the district so you can call school to school and use the phones as an intercom system. There are a lot of really cool things that the district is doing now. Back up is our key so we made sure we have additional backup in place because at the end of the day that is the only way we can restore so we have been busy. There are over 3,000 pieces of gear in the network divided by the major schools, central office, Molloy and we also do the laptops because it is easier to do inventory control on. These items are about 3 ½ years old already and the mean times for a lot of this equipment is closer to four rather than five years now particularly when you have laptop carts and the kids are constantly pulling them in and out and they are using them which is great but we have an aging infrastructure.

If we were going to have an upgrade with other than funds available we would have a 20% upgrade projected cost so we have 20% we would turn over year after year so in a five year period the stuff that is five years old would be new again and if we had money we would look to almost $500,000.00 to get workstations and laptops in place. If we had to do this over that 5 year period the district would be looking at about 2 ½ M. It is a big number but in the context of other school districts it is pretty average around here. We looked at the City of Meriden that is almost equal in size with more elementary schools but the student population is similar and also the socio economics etc. This is a static figure so it is about 490 devices we would turn over in a given year.

Another option we are looking to do is basically to deploy chrome books in each school. The overhead was used throughout the meeting and the total projected cost for all schools except the high school if money were available would be about 2.2M and he doesn’t take this very lightly. Included in this are not only the replacements, carts and deployment but also the overhead for spares, break fix and the actual management of that. With the upgrade path for chrome books one of the talking points we are looking to do is consider
a four year lease vs. a capital purchase. Four years in typically the max you can get on a warrantee for a chrome book and we are looking to initially start off with somewhere between a 25 – 50% deployment of the total amount that is needed; again these are some assumptions based on the facts that we have to arm Anne, Neil and Matt with some tools to figure out where can we go with this. If we get the technology down to the primary grades we can start to deploy the googles classroom down the hall levels and start to manage that better. We will have a better handle on how to upgrade as we go year to year.

The overall network infrastructure was worked on several times over the past five years as we increased band width and access points out to end users and we try to plan two to three years in advance what that band width requirement would be. Internally we are doing very well and with respect to some of their private school clients we are well ahead. Our wide area network was bid out last year and is very solid and we have a great relationship with them and this allows everyone to talk back to the high school and Carrigan will be a hot stand by. The focus where we stand with technology now is really driving devices down to younger kids and making that a reality.

Superintendent Cavallaro said every time we meet we talk about what is the feasibility or how realistic is it to give every child some kind of device. Neil doesn’t see this being realistic because kids lose things, kids register and leave, if they lose it they break it and our obligation is to make sure we replace it. We talked about trying to look at a set of chrome books for every classroom in the elementary schools and that is the goal right now. A further discussion continued and questions were asked by the board and responded to. The board gave thanks.

C.1.b. Student Representatives’ Report
The report will be found at the end of the minutes.

C.1.c. Board
Bob Guthrie went to the Veteran’s Day Ceremony at Pagels which was a very nice time. The Carrigan Murder Mystery Night in October had 400 people attend. Bob thanked the staff and administration for a fun night. Bob thanked Vertical Church for our families in need at Washington School. Superintendent Cavallaro said there were several schools involved. Pat Libero also went to the Veteran’s Day Ceremony and the kids did a great job and it was a very nice time. Pictures were taken of the kids with their parents and/or grandparents who attended. All board members wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Chairwoman Russo also thanked everyone for all that they do for the kids of West Haven; it is much appreciated.

C.1.d. Committee

D.1. Approval of Minutes
D.1.a. The West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting was held in the Board’s Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 5:45 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes D.1.a., Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes Patrick Leigh seconded the motion Discussion: All board members were in favor Minutes are approved

D.1.b. The West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was held in the Board’s Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:00 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes D.1.b., Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes Karen Pacelli seconded the motion Discussion: All board members were in favor Minutes are approved

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

D.4. New Business

Chairwoman Russo said the rest is informational and asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Rosa Richardson Karen Pacelli seconded the motion The meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary
BOE Student Rep Report

November 19, 2018

1. The annual Thanksgiving Day football game against Fairfield Prep will be on Thursday at 10:30 AM.

2. There are food drives going on at the high school. Donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who have already donated!

3. Shortened day on Wednesday with Thursday and Friday off. Have a nice break!

4. The Powderpuff Football game will take place Wednesday afternoon. Tickets are being sold by class advisers.

5. The Women's Changing Roles classes will be going on a field trip to New York to see a Broadway show on November 29th and the AP English and Humanities Honors class will be going to the Shubert in New York to see a play on December 12th.

6. There will be a Student Talent Show on November 30th at 6 pm in the Auditorium.

7. The West Haven High School Theatre Workshop students performed the play “Almost Maine” on Friday night. The Thursday night show was cancelled due to the weather. Congrats to the cast of Almost, Maine for putting on a great show!

8. DECA is sponsoring the “Jingle Bell Ball,” a semi-formal dance. It will be held on December 7th at 6:00 PM at Cielo.

9. Choral Concert is December 5th.

10. Trees of Hope concert is on December 7th.