AMENDED MINUTES
WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 19, 2018
Early Childhood Committee Meeting
Board’s Meeting Room

A meeting of the Early Childhood Committee took place on November 19, 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 Early Childhood Committee. The meeting was called to order at 5:18 PM and opened with a pledge to the flag.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Karen Pacelli, Chairwoman
*Susan Walker
Rosemary Russo

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Lauren Aceto
Robert Guthrie
Patrick Leigh
Pat Libero
*Rosa Richardson

*Rosa Richardson’s name was removed from the committee members in attendance area and placed in the board members in attendance area and Sue Walker’s name was removed from the board members in attendance area and placed in the committee members in attendance area per Rosa Richardson’s motion to correct the minutes.

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Brendan Carew
REPORTS

Dr. Stefania Larry passed out information to the board and thanked the board for having her at the meeting. Last year we reviewed the Pre-School Program and this year we will discuss the Kindergarten Program and current enrollment data. Stefania is very pleased with the numbers this year as classrooms average 20 – 22 we are not at the max and Pagels extra class helps a lot. We have had five new kids arrive at Haley last week with one coming in from Florida, one from Hamden and three from Mackrille. We have a lot of movement in our classrooms. Superintendent Cavallaro said we have seen this across the district and particularly at Bailey. We have 138 ELA students enrolled in kindergarten with over 18 languages represented. At kindergarten registration all incoming kindergarten students take an assessment which gives their oral language score and all families complete a language dominance form and information from both of these pieces the EL Department is able to pinpoint who is in need of EL instruction. Karen Pacelli asked if numbers keep going up do you get more funding money if you need more EL teachers. Dr. Druzolowski said not yet. Everyone is in the same situation and money is shrinking. Neil said we have hired a lot more EL tutors and we feel that is where we need to put our money in lately. There are a total of 73 students with disabilities represented in kindergarten. Two months ago Joe Lucibello and I spoke about our learning labs for our kindergarten students at Haley and Pagels. There are 8 students at Pagels in our kindergarten multi-disabled lab and at Haley there are 9 students that we have in our autism specific. Rosemary Russo asked if these kids came from our Pre-School to move into kindergarten. Yes, many of them have come from our pre-school or they attended a magnet full day and have transitioned back to us for kindergarten. If you combine our ELL and SPED Population you are seeing 40 to 50% of our classrooms consist of special populations.

Upon entering kindergarten the majority of kids receive an IEP in pre-school whether it was from us or a neighboring town. However there are students coming in without pre-school experience that are in great need of targeted intervention but through intervention we have been able to minimize those non-preferred behaviors and enroll some children in our preschool for part of the day to help with some of those social and emotional learning behaviors.

Stefania also talked about dramatic play and skill reinforcement where there may be a block area, a kitchen area, a dress up area, and a pretend play area where there is a great opportunity to work on turn taking, being a good friend and sharing your items. Other areas that were discussed were family engagement activities and movement enhanced learning. Questions were asked by board members and responded to. The board gave thanks.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to close the meeting. Karen Pacelli made the motion
Patrick Leigh seconded the motion
The meeting ended at 5:45 PM
Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary