A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on December 3, 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  
Dr. Anne Druzolowski  
Cavallaro, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:  Brendan Carew  
Sumedha Chowdhury  
Julia Walker

Chairwoman Russo said we are very lucky tonight to have Carrigan Intermediate School with us and we will have Richard Webber, Principal of Carrigan Intermediate School and Alice Limosani come forward and begin the festivities. Principal Webber said the idea tonight is to highlight a couple of things from the ELA department, math department and one of the things we pride ourselves on which is reaching out to the community. There has been a big transition in our ELA, Humanities and Math department where it used to be all about the teacher in the front of the classroom. To speak about our Daily 5 and some math interactive stations we have Latanya Joyner who is also our Teacher Spotlight well deserved this month. Ms. Joyner talked about the 5th and 6th grade curriculum. The students are digging deeper into their comprehension and some of the sessions are on settings, mood, tone, character’s perspectives, timelines, minor characters
and stories, and big ideas and small details. There is a big push on writing in the 6th grade this year and also in the fifth grade so students have written a persuasive letter to the Governor and then there will be some writing on Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China. They are also doing Valley 5 which is set up with different stations. Some of the stations are: read to self, read to someone, word work which studies word prefixes and suffixes, writing, and listen to reading. There is also a teacher table with a small group of students for whatever skills the students may need. The overhead which was shown had many pictures of Shannon Adamo’s classroom because she does a great job with Daily 5.

Lynn Bonaldo & Mona Solano are Alicia Limosani’s right and left hand when it comes to math in the building. All three collaborate so much and she thanks them for everything that they do. They have taken data, teacher ideas, and curriculum and completely tried to revamp the 10 day schedule. Mona Solano said the 10 day teacher schedule has been revised to allow for five double math periods in a ten day cycle. Teachers can remediate and extend skills previously taught to help bridge the gaps and enrich those ready. This is in line with our school motto that All Students Can Learn. Lynn Bonaldo said when they break up into their five double periods there are five stations that each teacher can break their kids into. The first station would be a teacher station where the teacher has identified certain skills that they might lack in and will work one on one with a very small group of kids. The second station would be a skill station based off of skills that the teacher has recognized that the student might be weak in and the students would work in a small group together to answer certain questions that the teacher has given them. The problem solving station works with real world multi-step problems where kids work as a group to try and solve real world problems. Another station would be the writing and vocabulary station where students would learn how to answer questions in writing and to work on their vocabulary strategies. From kindergarten on up they have found that vocabulary is very important in math and they are really working with some vocabulary strategies for their students. For those teachers who are fortunate enough to have working technology in their classroom they can set up a station. The district has brought them Splash Math, I Know It and Rain Pop so the students can use those. They can also use any other site that supports what is being taught in the classroom at that time. Thanks were extended to Nicole, Raffaela, Dr. Anne and Superintendent Cavallaro for buying them a lot of hands on materials to use in these stations. The students and teachers absolutely love them. A further discussion took place.

Principal Weber said he would be remiss if he didn’t talk about the community and the family that they have at Carrigan. Whenever they have an opportunity to give back to the community the Carrigan family incorporates whatever they can do to help out West Haven. The major driving force behind that at Carrigan School is our Student Council and Student Council Advisors Kate Coldren, Christina DeCrescenzo and Mona Solano talked about the Student Council and some of the ways that Carrigan gives back to the community. The Carrigan Student Council is made up of 36 students that serve for two years and only 18 fifth graders are chosen. The Student Council’s mission is to create relationships with community organizations. Some of the organizations include the Connecticut Food Bank, Seacrest Retirement Home, West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Association, WHEAT, West Haven Animal Shelter, Yale New Haven Hospital’s Toy Closet, ADRF and many more.
Student Council Member Sarah Davey said she is in 6th grade and it is an honor to be in Student Council. One of their big events is collecting non-perishable foods for WHEAT. They have collected thousands of food items over the years to give back to our community. Student Council has offered her the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of members of the West Haven Community. Thank you.

Student Council Member Devonte Campbell a 6th grade student said our Carrigan family loves Spirit Days. Many but not all Spirit Days have students bring in a monetary donation where funds will go to a local charity or an occasional national charity that has ties to some local charities. They have raised money for families in crisis, scholarship funds and local and national charities such as Pam Strong, ADRF and West Haven Breast Cancer Awareness Association just to name a few. Devonte loves seeing all his friends participating and having fun while helping our community. Thank you.

The Carrigan Student Council takes pride in their effort to continue to support local communities. Over the years they volunteered to hand out food to the Connecticut Food Bank, we visited the Seacrest Retirement Home and interacted with the residents to make arts and crafts, we have made cards for the Thanksgiving baskets and place settings for the church on the green and the most successful has been collecting toys for the holidays. Principal Weber said they are about to kick that off today and the mailers will be going home today with our teachers. This is one of those opportunities where there was an innate need. The Toy Closet Program is for every child who is a patient at Yale Children’s Hospital gets to select a toy from the toy closet and we have been lucky enough to support that. This year we were recognized for all the work we have done based on the fact our Student Council having donated busloads of toys there. Our student council members get to go and take a brief tour and have the opportunity to speak with a doctor just to say thank you for all that they were able to support. This is just one other opportunity where Carrigan students can come together as a family. It is not just about canned foods; it is not just about those things but maybe the effort is to give back just a little bit bigger so the idea to be able to give to the Toy Closet Program certainly strikes a note in his heart as his son at three months old had a quick surgery and was able to select his toy and both he and his wife can tell you exactly what it was. Again, this is a special place in his heart but to be able to sponsor and to help to support something like that is wonderful. So, if you have any extra toys by all means over the next couple of weeks drop them off at Carrigan. That’s about it from the Carrigan family thanks for having us here tonight. Applause.

Chairwoman Russo thanked Principal Weber and all of Carrigan’s staff and students and said while Carrigan is here she wanted to let them know she has read all the writings in the Fractured Fairy Tale booklet and said the writings were great and the illustrations were just wonderful. Thank you for all you do for the kids and kids keep going you are doing great and we hope we can get you your computers and your paras. Thank you. Chairwoman Russo asked if there were any other comments.

Latanya Joyner said she is sorry she forgot to thank her principal and assistant principal for spotlighting her for the teacher and also Mrs. Bennett for working so closely with her. She doesn’t want to forget that. Applause
Chairwoman Russo said we have refreshments for you so please help yourself before you leave.

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 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Secretary