WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

May 5, 2003

The Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Guthrie at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Carrano
Raymond Collins
Joseph Esposito
Robert Guthrie
Anne Heffernan
Sandy Lorusso
Paul Messina
Toni Paine
Ursula Reilly

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Tortora
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro

PUBLIC PORTION

Chairman Guthrie asked three times if anyone wished to address the Board. No one spoke so the Public Portion of the meeting was closed.

REPORTS

Superintendent Tortora reported the following:

The website is coming along nicely and there will be an unveiling on June 2nd.

I have spoken with representatives from Winkle Bus since the two incidents and reinforced our policies with them.

West Haven once again won the Mock Trial competition. The competition was extreme this year. West Haven did some amazing maneuvering at the end and pulled through.

There are between 20 and 30 events during the months of May and June. Among them are a Middle/High School Affairs Committee meeting scheduled for June 4th, the Adult Education Graduation on 5/14, the Chess Banquet on 5/16, the National Honor Society Induction is on 5/8, the grand opening of the Audio Visual Studio grand opening is on 5/12, 5/7 is Nurses Day and this week is Teacher Appreciation Week.

Chris Everone gave an update on contracts for Ken Strong Stadium. Among the new clients are a professional soccer team that will be using the stadium on a week to week basis until they are totally organized, the CT Hurricanes are coming back for the fan fair in August. Also a softball tournament will be held at the field and work is being done on the baseball field.
Chairman Guthrie asked if the cost of the lighting at the stadium has been received from the United Illuminating company and Chris said he has called several times but his calls have not been returned.

Neil Cavallaro said having the Mock Trial Team win, the Chess Team win and the high school football team this year’s State champions is a wonderful diversity. Regarding the bus incidents we handled both incidents as well as could be expected and spoke with representatives from Winkle. Hopefully incidents such as this will not happen again.

Mr. Cavallaro said it may appear that there are more expulsions this year than in previous years and that may be due to how we are reporting them. Currently there are 37 expulsions and 5 pending. Ann Heffernan asked the comparison to last year and was told the numbers are up from last year. John Carrano asked how we are doing compared to other towns and cities. Mr. Cavallaro said he has contacted several area towns and their numbers are up as well.

Toni Paine said with what has happened in the schools during the past two years most school systems have zero tolerance which could have something to do with the number of expulsions.

Discussion was held on the cost for each student that is expelled. Mr. Cavallaro said we are trying to come up with a plan to get 3, 4, or 5 expelled students in the same classroom but since each student has different needs it is difficult. Also, Mr. Cavallaro said he is hoping to come to the point where he is comfortable enough to handle the case and an Attorney will not be needed.

Paul Messina asked if it is possible to recoup some of the money from the parents. He said the parents might get a little more involved if they know it is going to cost them.

Chairman Guthrie asked that a joint meeting of the Building Committee and the Facilities Committee be scheduled.

Ann Heffernan notified Channel 8 of the dinner for the Chess Team and was told it isn’t visual enough for them.

Paul Messina said the sidewalks at Bailey need to be cleaned and the Platt Avenue side of the High School needs to have the weeds removed. Also, people are leaving the dogs in the cage near the tennis courts at the high school. He requested a No Pets Allowed sign be placed there.

Raymond Collins said the new computer system for the Food Service Department is up and running and if it works out well it will be placed in all elementary schools.

Paul Messina requested an event be held to honor the Mock Trial team.
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D.1.  APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting, Student Expulsion on March 18, 2003
Special Meeting Student Expulsion on March 18, 2003
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on March 19, 2003
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on March 19, 2003
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on March 28, 2003
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 3, 2003, 10:30 a.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 11, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 21, 2003, 9:30 a.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 21, 2003, 7:00 p.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 22, 2003, 9:30 a.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 22, 2003, 12:30 p.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 22, 2003, 7:22 p.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 22, 2003, 6:30 p.m.
Special Meeting of Student Expulsion on April 28, 2003, 5:34 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting of April 21, 2003

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, SECONDED by Sandy Lorusso to approve Item D.1. and SO VOTED unanimously.

D.2.  RESIGNATIONS- Non-Certified

03-70  Joann Cowen, Food Service Cook, Thompson School
03-71  Margaret Gavin, Part-time Math Aide Thompson School

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Joseph Esposito to approve Item D.2. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

All recommendations and appointments are contingent upon each candidate providing proof of Connecticut Certification/Official Transcripts, verification of fingerprints, police record, Department of Children/Family and medical clearances. If the candidate fails to obtain or meet this criterion for the position for which he/she was employed by December 30, 2002, the West Haven Board of Education shall have no obligation to honor the contract and the appointment shall become null and void.

All recommendations and appointments are contingent upon each candidate providing proof of Red Cross certification, CPR certification and eligibility for Connecticut Coaching Permit. If the candidate fails to obtain or meet this criterion for the position for which he/she was employed, the West Haven Board of Education shall have no obligation to honor the contract and the appointment shall become null and void.
D.3. APPOINTMENTS- CERTIFIED

03-72  Kimberly Boyke, 92 Westfield Street, West Haven, Spanish Teacher at West Haven effective August 26, 2003

A MOTION was made by Anne Heffernan, SECONDED by John Carrano to approve Item D.3. and SO VOTED unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

03-73  Permission to use Ken Strong Stadium for West Haven High School Graduation

A MOTION was made by John Carrano, SECONDED by Anne Heffernan to approve Item 03-73 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-74  School Readiness and Child Daycare Grant Program

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Ursula Reilly and Ann Heffernan to approve Item 03-74 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-75  Carl D. Perkins Grant Application Secondary Basic Grant July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, SECONDED by Ann Heffernan to approve Item 03-75 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-76  Request for Special Education pre school and autism Summer School program positions to be posted

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, SECONDED by Joseph Esposito to approve Item 03-76 as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, SECONDED by Paul Messina Reilly to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Tim Wrightington then asked the Board to please reopen the Public Portion of the meeting for a demonstration. Anne Heffernan said other people have had the same request in the past and were denied. Chairman Guthrie asked for approval by the Board for the Motion to adjourn. The MOTION carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bernardi
Board Clerk

*These minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Education