

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
April 6, 2009
Regular Board Meeting

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on April 6, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Palmieri, Chairman
Gerald A. Calabritto, Vice Chairman
Robert Saley
M. Toni Paine
Howard Horvath Jr.
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
T. Sean Maher
Patrick Egolum
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Shamsi Aysha
Eric Pang

Neil requested we have one presentation before the public session because there is someone live waiting for us in Austin Texas. The board agreed to this and Tony Pedevillano began his presentation on Lifesize Classroom.

Mr. Pedevillano went to an HB demonstration in North Haven about a month ago and felt that what he saw would benefit the school system. He had three concerns: quality, cost and compression. The demonstration was amazing. For us to get this into the school system would be beneficial and afford us endless possibilities to every school in West Haven. He proceeded with the live video presentation after introducing Frank Gargano,

Senior Account Executive for HB Communications to West Haven and other public sectors within the State of Connecticut. He spoke about video conferencing and said this gives us the ability to bring students together without having to physically bring them to the same location. He gave various examples of the many uses of video conferencing. Some uses could be within the school system to collaborate, you can reach out to other science and technology programs both within and outside the State of Connecticut, Zoos and other science labs you can reach out to just to name a few.

He then gave a brief demonstration of this program and dialed out remotely over a public internet connection and went outside of our local area and went through the internet to make the call. They connected with Andrea Abortini, Sales Director for the Northeast for Life Size and she went on to further discuss the program. She could see the board and the audience and we all could see and hear her. One of the great applications of this program is the ability to see a student's reaction from a distance. This is very useful for students who are homebound. They can visit with their classroom teachers just as she can visit with us. A further discussion about the possible uses in our school system ensued. This product is very flexible (it can be set up anywhere in about 30 minutes). A further discussion ensued and they asked if there were any questions.

Howie Horvath asked a question of Dr. Anne Druzolowski as it sounded like she had some experience with this in the vocational schools. He asked what kind of things was this used for and what were the benefits. She said that when she came in they were not using it appropriately; they didn't have them all hooked up. The 17 schools across the state encompass a huge area and they did fix this so that we had no problem communicating. When you have teachers across the district and have them talk to each other you can use this. We were just starting to look into the offerings of foreign languages because it is difficult to find certified teachers for Spanish, French, Latin and Greek so it has been used for this. It is important to get a hook in the classroom and have a core group of teachers to really use this thoroughly within other school settings otherwise it will just be another piece of equipment. A further discussion ensued.

The normal cost for this equipment is \$5,000 but with the E-rate Program it will cost only \$2,000 per product.

Patti Fusco asked how this program is erateable. E-rate is a program you are eligible for. The product is 87% erateable so it is thirteen cents on the dollar cost to you. The question was how it is erateable. Any infrastructure technology that connects via a cable through the infrastructure in any public facility is eligible for this. E-rate is based on a district's food program and the infrastructure that is here is erateable. Patti asked if was internet or telecommunications. Yes, it has to be something that communicates over a network type of connection. (Not projectors or interactive white boards) Patti asked which category it would fit in. Telecommunications was the response. You have three components: HD Camera, microphone and the basic product called the Kodak. The Kodak is the compression device that enables you to E-rate at 87% because the camera and the microphone are not subject to E-rate. Patti said so 87% of the product is erateable at whatever percentage we get correct). The percentage of the E-rate that West

Haven is entitled to was corrected to 65% by Patti). Our costs on the product are under \$2,000. This becomes a very cost effective implementation.

Tony said he would like the board to look over the literature and if you decide it is something you are interested in. You could start on a small basis and after that expansion is up to you. The applications are infinite. There is no contract and there is no investment other than the initial investment. They offered to put two systems in and loan the board the product for a 30 day period. Neil asked Tony to come in and they would talk about a way to perhaps pilot this program.

The board gave thanks.

Mark asked that we add two items to tonight's agenda before moving on.

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

09-28 Catherine Maynard, Special Ed Teacher, WHHS
Effective: June 24, 2009
Reason: Personal

D.7. New Business:

09-29 Approval of the Washington School Window Replacement Project

Move To Approve

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to add the above two items to tonight's agenda.

Toni Paine seconded the motion

All in favor

Items 09-28 and 09-29 are added to tonight's agenda.

Public Portion

Chairman Palmieri asked if anyone wished to address the Board and to please turn off all cell phones.

Jaimie-Lee Rhone, a student at Stiles spoke on behalf of the students who came to the meeting tonight and signed their names to a letter that Jaimie-Lee read. There is great disappointment due to the closing of Stiles. The school has done more for the students than the average high school could. The teachers care about your grades and show interest and concern for the students. It is an environment that is easy to focus in and get your work done. Students do not agree with the closing of Stiles and having to merge back into West Haven High School. This is putting us back into an environment that we will fail in. We need a small environment to stay on track. Stiles is close knit like a family. Teachers show concern and given us their attention and advice on our problems. The students should not have to suffer by being forced into an environment that is not

beneficial to our learning needs because of the city's mishandling of funds. These were some of the areas mentioned.

The board gave thanks.

Ann Gentile, 286 Meadowbrook Court, West Haven, CT. Ann stated she raised her granddaughter Ann Manley since she was three years old. She has had problems and was not doing well in WHHS. There was not enough of 1 on 1 and I know it is hard work for a teacher with all the students but at Stiles the teachers really cares and went out of their way to help her better understand her work. She thanked the teachers at Stiles for their help and Mr. Hawley the director for overseeing Ann because he knew that she had a lot of potential that she could not express at WHHS. There was not the time or opportunity for her to do so. Ann is graduating this year and we owe it all to Stiles school, the teachers and Mr. Hawley.

The board gave thanks.

Cora Love, 85 Stevens Ave is here tonight because of her daughter who attends Stiles School. She didn't do good at WHHS and now with the smaller group of students she is pulling A's and B's and she wonders what will happen to her daughter if they close the school where will she go. This is her concern. Will she have to return to the high school or will they have an alternate program in another area? Mark Palmieri said they are not allowed during public session to have a dialog but you can come in and we can discuss this.

Neil Cavallaro asked her to contact his office tomorrow. Neil stated that nothing has been finalized nor will the budget be adopted until sometime in May. No decisions will be made until that time.

The board gave thanks.

Detel Davis, 561 Winthrop Avenue, New Haven, CT spoke about his experiences. He went to Hillhouse for two years and stayed back because he couldn't focus on his work because there were too many kids. They turned him over to an Alternative Program and he did pretty good and had straight A's. They sent him back to Hillhouse and he did not do well again and was distracted and then he stopped going to school for two months and then he went to Adult Ed. He finished school on February 12th and feels that he is not in favor of closing Stiles.

Many of the students from Stiles stood up and Jaimie-Lee Rhone stated that these are some of the faces that will be affected.

The board gave thanks.

John Lewis, 273 Peck Avenue, West Haven stated he had two points. Washington School PTA is having a tag sale on May 2nd. All board members and everyone in the city

is invited to our tag sale. It will be held in the parking lot/playground area of Washington School from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There are limited slots available 10 x 4 if you have items to sell. The cost for slots will be \$20 if you call in early and \$30 if you call late. The 24th is the cut off date. Every dime we make goes back to the students for field trips etc.

He did hear at the budget meeting that new windows are being considered for Washington School and they are very happy about this and hopes everyone votes in favor of this. We currently have windows that don't open and during the summer months the kids are hot and in the winter there are drafts etc. This will benefit the kids they will be able to stay awake and learn. This is a movement in the right direction. The school is having its 100 year anniversary in 2009 so this will be a good facelift.

The board gave thanks.

Robin Clifford, 54 Barbara Lane, West Haven is a para at Stiles and knows that we love and care for the 45 kids that come to them every day and they receive individual attention. Perhaps they will not go to college and get great jobs; perhaps they won't even graduate but down the road they will remember that at Stiles they got love, they got caring, they got learning and they get all individual attention. She has three children and thought that Stiles might have been the perfect place for her 14 year old eventually. There has to be a place for these kids; whether at Stiles or someplace else. These kids need a place where they are cared for and where they can learn in the best environment.

The board gave thanks.

Diane Bellucci, 35 Maltby Avenue introduced her son Anthony Bellucci who is a student at Stiles. She stated her son has a hearing deficit and was overlooked while at the high school. He should be graduating this year but is a sophomore. He is currently at Stiles and is doing a lot better. He gets up and goes to school everyday because he does want to go to school. When he found out the school was closing he refused to go to school. In WHHS he is nothing but a shadow. At Stiles he is a person. He receives the one on one attention that he needs. The teachers enjoy him and he enjoys them and that is a very shocking thing for my son because he does not like school but he looks forward to going to Stiles everyday. Losing this school and his education would not be fair.

Anthony Bellucci asked what will be done with the Alternate Program. Is it being eliminated or are you keeping some part of it because closing Stiles is OK if you still have an Alternate I Program because that is what helps people. It is not the school it is the moderating classes; it is easier to teach a small class. If they eliminate the Alternate Program it will be a problem. We need a program like this.

Patricia Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road said she wasn't going to talk about Stiles although she certainly could as she witnessed first hand many of the things that were talked about tonight. She was here to thank the board for not unilaterally non-renewing all non-tenured teachers. She thanked the board for keeping the staff in tact because great strides have

been made in the curriculum and with the standards and learning new techniques under Dr. Druzolowski and Mr. Cavallaro's tutelage to hopefully increase achievement, test scores and help the kids learn more of what they need to learn to be productive members of society. Those non renewal letters sometimes serve to end education to a point because your heart just isn't in it if you get one of those letters.

She thanked the board and said hopefully this year we will be able to retain most of our teachers and not lose as many as we have every year.

The board gave thanks.

There were no other speakers. Public portion closed at 8:45 PM.

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration:

Neil Cavallaro said that we have several presentations tonight. He called Mike Lenge, Assistant Executive Director and Patti Stevens, Executive Director of the West Haven Community House to give their presentation on some of the projects we work on collaborative with them. Patti introduced Deborah Wright, Assistant Director of Finances who is a West Haven resident. A sheet was passed showing the various programs along with a description of services. This sheet is included in the minutes. Patti stated that the valedictorian of WHHS a few years ago was a Head Start Student. Mike Lenge spoke briefly on some of the things that happened this year and what he hopes will happen next year. Some of the programs were: ParentTEEN, Head Start, KinderKlub, School Age Child Care, Kids in the Neighborhood, Summer Program, Teen CHAT Bailey and Carrigan After School. Some of the potential new services for children and youth in 2009/2010 will be Teen Outreach Program, Teen Job Club and Summer Program for Middle School Youth. Additional Services for West Haven resident offered in partnership with West Haven Public Schools are GED Classes, English as a Second Language classes and Adult Ed academic enrichment classes.

Special thanks were given to Superintendent Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent Anne Druzolowski along with the principals of all the schools, Jean Vitale, Francine Coppola, Larry Frattini and the West Haven Board of Education.

A further explanation is attached.

**WHCH services for children & youth offered in partnership with
WH Public Schools**

Name of Program	Description of Service	# per week	Highlights in 08/09	New for 09/10
ParenTEEN	Parenting education and case management for pregnant/parenting teens	20 infants and 20 young adults	New partnership with Visiting Nurse's Association to lead parenting education for teen parents at WHHS	Parenting education and case management for WH Adult Ed students
Head Start	Comprehensive pre-school education, school readiness, and family support	163 children	Addition of one more 5-hour day classroom, increases day by 1 ½ hours for 20 families 30 th Anniversary	
KinderKlub	Wrap-around child care and enrichment (Kindergarten)	70 children	First year of KinderKlub in schools (3 sites)	Increased coordination between Kindergarten teachers and KinderKlub staff
School Age Child Care	Before and after school child care and enrichment (K-5)	200 children	First year of SACC in Mackrille School	Additional before and after school site
Kids in the Neighborhood	After school enrichment (grades 1-5) & 10 City Youth Employees	150 children		
Summer Program	Child care and enrichment (grades K-5) & 4 City Youth Employees	90 children		

Teen CHAT Bailey	After school positive youth development (grades 6-8)	15 youth		
Carrigan After School	After school positive youth development and academic support (grades 6-8)	100 youth	First year of full-scale implementation	

828 children & youth served per week. \$3,050,000 in services. \$0 dollars in direct support from city tax payers! WH Board of Ed-related income includes \$19,000 from Family Resource Center (state funds) and \$122,000 School Readiness Council (state funds).

Potential new WHCH services for children & youth in 2009/2010

Teen Outreach Program	After-school positive youth development and community service	25 students at Carrigan and 25 students at WHHS	Pending application with CT Dept. of Social Services - WH guaranteed 1 program if funding exists
Teen Job Club	After-school workforce preparation and dropout prevention program	15 students at WHHS	Potential application to be Workforce Alliance, the regional workforce development board
Summer Program for Middle School Youth	Summer positive youth development and enrichment program	30 students from Bailey and Carrigan, based at WHCH	Pending applications with several funders

Additional Services for WH residents offered in partnership with WH Public Schools

GED classes	Instruction toward GED	1 class hosted at WHCH, led by Adult Ed
English as a Second Language classes	Instruction in English for non-native speakers	1 class hosted at WHCH, led by Adult Ed

Adult Ed academic enrichment classes	Instruction in math and literacy for adults with developmental disabilities	1 class hosted at WHCH Community Connections Center, led by Adult Ed
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Special thanks to the following for their cooperation and support of our mission and operations:

**Superintendent Neil Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent Ann Druzolowski
Principals Stancil, Cordone, Libero, Hunt, Pepe, Biagetti, Lopes, Prisco,
Sagnella, Paolino, Van Winkle and their staffs
Jean Vitale, WH FRC
Francine Coppola, WH Adult Ed
Larry Frattini, WH School Readiness Council
And the West Haven Board of Education**

In closing Patti announced that on April 28th at 4:00 p.m. they are planning The First Annual Presentation of the Dr. John E. Onofrio Award for Educators. This year they are honoring Tim Van Winkle, Principal of Washington School who has been a tremendous supporter of all the programs they have. Patti thinks Dr. John would be very happy that Tim was chosen to be the first recipient of this award.

The board gave thanks.

Beth Sabo, Director of Public Works, and Chris Ameno came before the board and Beth made a presentation to install manual scoreboards at the baseball fields at Seth Haley. Shore Haven Jr. Baseball uses the field in the summer time extensively and we would like to have a partnership between the City, School, Shore Haven Baseball and with Chris (Eagle Scout Program). We would construct manual scoreboards at each of the four fields. Participants from Shore Haven would actually place the numbers up on the board. For those who have been to Fenway Stadium you have seen a manual scoreboard. Someone is behind the board and actually puts the numbers up as the score is made. Most other scoreboards are electric. Frank Gladwin and Joe Yacano are aware of the type of scoreboard, the construction, and how it will be installed. Neither have a problem with this. There will be no cost to the school. The city will paint and maintain the scoreboards once they have been installed.

Rob Saley questioned if the sheet of $\frac{3}{4}$ plywood probably meant pressure treated. Yes, absolutely. He said it would obviously last longer if it was pressure treated. Yes and there would be a cap at the top and sides so water would not seep through. He asked if this would be placed in the outfield like Fenway's scoreboard. Yes and there will be no problem with that. It will be somewhat off of the fence so the individual can actually move in front of the scoreboard. It will be at least four feet in the air and will be beyond the outfield fence.

Mark asked if they were installing four. Yes. Mark said one was a Tee ball, one was coach pitch and the other two were kid pitch and he wondered if they were putting it up on the other two. She believes they use all three fields. The only one they might not put it on would be the Tee ball.

Howie Horvath asked who would be building the scoreboards. Chris, a former player of Shore Haven Baseball, will be building the scoreboards with help from members of Shore Haven; Joe Morrell, Jr. and Art Kelly. The City will certainly help in any way they can.

Eric Murillo asked if the boards are four feet above the fence how are they going to put the numbers up. Actually the board is four feet higher than the fence so it is actually 8 feet out. There is nothing for the person to stand on (landing) because of the liability involved. The spaces in which the numbers hook onto are long enough so you can hold them at the bottom and reach out and put them on the hook. Mark Palmieri said he worked a scoreboard like this.

The board gave thanks.

Neil introduced Jeff Grande who gave update on the status of technology services. He updated us on where we are and where we are going and what some of the major accomplishments have been. He also discussed some of the challenges that they face.

They came on board in July of 2008 to basically assess and recommend technology fixes to the district. He went on to highlight some of the technical network infrastructure and also some of the new non-technical aspects of process improvements.

Jeff said that a full outline of what he spoke about would be available on the West Haven Board of Education's Web Site in a few days so you may log onto www.whschools.org and see his entire presentation. After the presentation there were questions.

Howie Horvath said that Jeff mentioned scope creep and it typically presumes that there is an original scope and a contract. Did we ever sign a contract? Jeff's response was that they are currently working on a time and materials basis with us. That was stated back in the July 1st meeting. We had a proposal in front of the board as to what we thought projected hours would be and we have stayed directly within those hours and scope creep has really been a function of whatever has happened as a result to working here.

Howie asked about what happens when you run into those circumstances or situations - who decides that it is OK to go beyond the original scope. Jeff answered that it depends on the type of circumstance. For example when it was a security issue or process issue as relates to security it is a group effort in other words I work for the board but I work in conjunction with the Superintendents and in conjunction with the end users so sometimes it is what do we need to do to get this done now and then address the larger process issue as a result of which. Ultimately at the end of the day I am just a consultant to the board

so it is subsequent to whatever the decisions are to your management team (your superintendent, your assistant superintendent, your director of finance) which I assume constitute your management team.

Howie asked where we were exactly with the technology application (request for bid/RFP) process. Where exactly are we on this? Neil said it was advertised and I believe they are due this week; Jeff said tomorrow at 11:00 AM. Howie asked how many people responded. Neil said it goes to City Hall and we would get it back after the bids go. Howie asked if we did it in conjunction with City Hall. Neil said we do all our bids through City Hall. No, I mean there was a conversation about services for both the board and the City. Neil said no, they held it up because they were thinking of piggybacking but I believe they chose not to so we sent it out. Howie asked when it went out. It was advertised on March 30th or between the 26th and 30th and it is due April 7th. Howie said so really it is just one week. Yes, No almost two weeks. Howie asked if the board was given a copy of the RFP. Jeff said they downloaded it from the City site. Howie said then I guess we will know tomorrow how many people responded. Neil said you can call us tomorrow; we normally check with City Hall or the purchasing person at City Hall will send us a list of who actually bid on it. Howie asked for a copy of this. Jeff said we are going to post it on the web site as we are trying to save paper so we will have it up in 24 hours on the BOE link. www.whschools.org under minutes.

The Board gave thanks.

C.1.a. Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro said that the closing of Stiles is a proposal. The board has to adopt an operating budget. I think I need to make it clear where we stand right now though. We have asked for a 3.3 million dollar increase over the current budget we are operating on. Right now the proposal from the Mayor is (and I would say it is better than a 50/50 chance that it is going to be that number) will be three million dollars less than what we asked for. That means that this board has to make some tough decisions.

There could be a significant cut in ECS Funding not only for this year but for the next couple of years. So if we say nothing is going to change in this district over the next couple of years we would be lying to the public and to our kids. We are going to do what we can to minimize the impact on instruction but something is going to have to give. The board may say it is not going to be Stiles School but it will be at the expense of something else. We must think of decisions that must be made this year and over the next couple of years because at best we will be flat lined at ECS over the next two years and that makes up the majority of our increase. We think we can make the budget work this year but David has made it clear and I have made it clear to the City Council these are short term fixes. We are open to any suggestions you have. Over the next year or two we will be facing worse times; if not next year at least one year after that. This is the reality of the times we are in today.

We are hopefully looking at a Special Meeting on April 20th. This would be for a plan from Antonozzi and Associates, the architects and engineers and people involved in coming up with a plan for renovation, refurbishing, or rebuilding WHHS.

Wednesday night David, Anne and I will go before the City Council to discuss our budget for the upcoming year. Again we think we can make it work with three million dollars less than what we asked for. All are invited to attend and we would appreciate your support. The meeting is at 7:30 this Wednesday.

Neil and the Mayor are going to Hartford Wednesday morning to urge no cuts in ECS funding and they are proposing cuts from 10% to 20% and this can hurt us with benefits etc.

Neil said that there have been questions on the new science curriculum and order of courses at WHHS. Raffaella gave a presentation to parents tonight at WHHS and was available if anyone had any questions. She briefly discussed the 9th and 10th grade science strands and said they created a 1.4 Credit course which meets twice a week with labs. Neil said we think we are covering material that has not been addressed and this will give our kids a special edge.

Neil said that there was a very positive article in the Register today about the Freshman Academy.

Howie Horvath asked Neil to layout the timeline for budget purposes again.

Wednesday we go as an education department before the City Council to make a presentation regarding our budget and how we are going to make it work this year. The council will deliberate up until the first Thursday in May where they will have to adopt a budget and a mill rate. Once they do that we will adopt an operating budget by June 1st.

Howie said in between the first Thursday in May and June 1st are we all meeting individually? Neil would hope so and they would carry on what Dr. Andrees started the last couple of years when we called board members in either singularly or in small groups to look for your suggestions and give you our rationale. Then hopefully we will vote and adopt an operating budget around June 1st.

Howie said if something dramatic happens as you have kind of alluded to whether it is 5% or more is anything going to change or do you have scenarios already built out. Can we get together as a group? Neil said he thinks they would have to. That would be such a dramatic cut. Howie asked what the last possible date to finalize our operating budget would be - June 30th because July 1st the new fiscal year begins. I think the last time we waited until right around the deadline was three years ago because of what we were dealing with.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Nothing to Add

C.1.c. Board

Eric Murillo asked if Neil would explain the saving if we closed Stiles. Neil said sure and again this is a proposal. Right now we believe Dave will save about \$150,000. It runs about \$55,000 to \$60,000 in operating costs and we have at least one secretary who will be retiring so we can move a secretary and there will be a cost savings there. We have at least one custodian who will be retiring so that gets us up to at least \$150,000 in savings.

Eric asked what will be done with the Special Ed classes. Neil said Special Ed classes are scheduled to go back to WHHS. They will be in an area where Kurt Ogren's office currently is. They will be self contained learning labs just as they are at Stiles. Neil said the total population of those classrooms is between 10 and 13 students but on a day to day there are four or five kids in a classroom. Neil doesn't think this program will be affected. We can conduct the same program wherever we house them. Eric asked about the Alternative Program and what would happen. Neil said we thought about putting a new program in place right away after school at WHHS but we would like to take the year and look at developing a better program. There is certainly a need for an alternative program in West Haven. We are not so sure we are meeting all the State requirements. We are concerned about the number of instructional hour and the number of days. We think we can make a better program. We thought about encompassing Alternative Ed 1 and Alternative Ed II along with Adult Ed under the one umbrella with one principal instructional leader to steer kids into programs that meet their needs. At the high school not this coming year but hopefully the next year this will more than like take place after school hours.

Eric asked what will happen with the building (Stiles). Neil said the way he understands it will stay vacant a year and revert back to the city. At that point the City decides what they want to do with it. It would not be a board decision and the Board of Ed would not Necessarily receive any funds. Eric said so we have to cover the cost of the operation of the building for this one year is that correct. Yes, but it would be a lot less.

Eric also read an article in the paper that was a surprise to him about Yale taking over the Blake Building and the employees would go to the Yale West Campus. Neil said that this is what he knows and it is a decision the board would have to make just to save money. We would go over to a building at the Yale West Campus and use it for approximately one year to a year in a half. Hopefully City Hall will be renovated by that time and we would move into offices over there. Eric said so this is not set in stone. Neil said it is not set in stone and one of his concerns is that it is a no go if the general public does not have access to them during business hours. If we can't get past this we can't go. We can certainly make arrangements to have meetings elsewhere etc. but we need to make ourselves available to people who have questions, concerns and complaints. The Mayor has made this agreement. Tammy will be our contact person. She will be responsible for making sure that the space and the offices meet our needs. The mayor mentioned that we can go anytime but around January 1st would be preferable to Yale.

Eric requested a breakdown of the cost and what our savings would be. Neil said his understanding is that the Blake Building costs about \$180,000 a year to operate. There are going to be some expenses over at Yale. It is fully furnished so we don't have to take a lot with us. Eric asked if this will hold up our move to City Hall. No, Neil's understanding is that it will expedite us getting over there which is the goal by the city administration.

Patrick Egolom said then this is just an interim measure. Yes.

Howie Horvath asked if we are paying Yale anything to be there. Neil said the only thing they may ask us for is a portion of the utility. Howie said he was surprised when he read it in the paper. It sounded like it was all done. He doesn't know if it was their interpretation. Neil said the Mayor made the announcement that day and he didn't have a problem but he did give him some concerns I shared.

Howie said there are some things we need to vote on and some things we don't. If it is something we need to vote on he would rather not see them show up in the paper first if that is possible. He knows that there are some things we don't need to vote on. Neil said let me say this, we can't go unless you vote on it. I know that is my point, things that are very obviously in that category show up in the paper and to the community it looks like it is a done deal or headed there. This leaves us:

1. Surprised
2. Potentially embarrassed
3. Having to explain what we don't necessarily know

We need to know the details. We need to know what the cost savings are etc. Neil said he understands this and as soon as he can he will get this information to the board. Howie said it is not the end of the world but as a rule he would like to be informed.

Howie stated that he was impressed with the young people from Stiles who had the courage to speak up. Not unlike what I was suggesting relative to Freshman Academy last time we met, I think again it would be wise for us to sit down with the students and the parents to shape what this program turns into.

I was very impressed with the young man who spoke at the very end. His suggestion was that it is not necessarily the building but it is the program. I think again if we are going to make announcements in the paper without a plan in place it potentially creates a lot of problems.

Neil said he doesn't think he made an announcement in the paper. When he went before the council that night one of the things I had to do was to present to them some possible scenarios about how he was going to make up a three million dollar gap. I always cautioned that I would need board approval before anything. You will hear me say that many times. These are only my proposals to you and I certainly respect the board and would never be presumptuous to think that because I present it you have to vote for it.

Howie said he was a surprised because you and Ann both were kind enough to bring it up in conversation but the way it was discussed made him think it was something that was being thought about. Then to read it in the paper like it was a done deal – you saw how many people came out tonight thinking it is closing in June and it may well do that. Maybe in that environment where you are talking about budget dollars you have to say something but again I would rather we had a plan in place to say if we have to do that - this is what we are going to do.

Neil said one of the things that is really difficult with all of this is the timing. The Mayor comes out with a budget in March which is the end of our school year/fiscal year. The council doesn't adopt the budget until May. We are at the mercy of the state legislature where they may not adopt the budget perhaps well into the summer. We are forced to make a lot of decisions and maybe not thinking them out because of the timing and I do apologize.

Howie said that in going forth we don't want to be in that situation if they say 5% and all of a sudden we have a week. I don't want to be in a week window. I want to be able to say because this is serious as it was three years ago we are going to think through every possibility and be sure we have the best possible answer and I don't want to see it in the paper ahead of our deciding or discussing it.

Howie said the last point he wishes to make is that he thinks everyone remembers he was not comfortable with us doing business with any organization - not this particular organization that provides our technology service but any organization – even at what was proposed at a minimal amount a month – without a contract; and I am still uncomfortable. He wants to go back on record to say I think it is wise whenever we engage with any outside organization you set up a scope of work that identifies what work you will be doing, at what cost, what level of quality, with what deliverables and then as things come up as things often do you have something to work with – but it is contractual. You ultimately won't find out about it later. I'm just reiterating what I have already said months ago. What I would like to say now is: If we have one or no respondents to this thing because it has been out about a week I personally am not going to be comfortable voting on it. I don't know about my colleagues but that to me again is another instance of something coming out way too late. If the city is at fault because they delayed it as I have been told for whatever reason I just want to go on record now saying that if this gets presented at the next meeting as a done deal – Neil interjected my understanding just so you know we get advertisements all the time. I'd be very surprised if there was only one company. Howie said if there are three out there bidding on it I am fine. Neil said we don't control that process. Howie said he would like to have Jeff's presentation before the meeting or at least during the meeting especially because it was such small print and he can't see like he used to be able to.

At the end he talked about in alignment with our curriculum and instructional leadership. Again that is where I have been trying to point everybody right from the beginning. Not

Fix all this up or change this but to start with the end in mind and work your way back – what is it you need to be able to do from an instructional and academic and student achievement point of view because at the end of the day that is how you get measured and that is what counts. That is what the kids want to be able to learn well. That is the piece that needs to go before any large investment. I'm a technology guy I believe in technology probably like nobody around this table. That is where I will end with one last comment. I'm very intrigued by this demonstration and my suggestion would be at least in terms of thinking about how we use it obviously kind of supports this idea of professional learning communities and collaboration amongst schools but maybe we give one to UNH or to Yale somewhere where there are some higher ed professor types that are willing to work with our science teachers. You know, simplify it for them try that for 30 – 60 days as a pilot and say what that might do for our district. Not to say that we don't have lots of talent internally or the collaboration wouldn't be very valuable but let's get creative. It's a pretty powerful potential tool.

Rob Saley said that the move to the center of town can't happen fast enough for him. He can read in the paper for the next ten days straight he wouldn't care because four years ago he was in the previous administration's office talking with the previous administration and he was told we were going to have this happen within two years. He stated he knows municipal governments move very slowly but this is a boom to the downtown area and it is crazy that we haven't done it already. He commends Neil for expediting it as fast as he can.

Rob did some work at Mackrille School last year; they did some cleanups there and were chastised for it. In speaking with some PTA members from different schools they feel that their schools are lagging in the clean-up areas and his point is either get the guys to do it or we put something together (cleanups spring/summer maintenance). These are schools that we are putting a lot of stuff into and we need to make them look good for the kids to come to schools. Either prioritize those areas or we get these guys to do their job.

Sean Maher said that Cassie Marcella asked him to announce that the WHHS Band is forming a team for the New Haven Heart Walk on May 17, 2009 at Light House Point at 10:00 am. They are walking in honor of her mom, Gail Marcella who had open heart surgery and for Ed Clifford who passed away due to complication of heart surgery. They are requesting team members and donations. Neil said that Cassie is nice enough to supply some band members to do some actual performing.

Jerry Calabritto had the opportunity to see an enjoyable performance of The WIZ. The children were great. He really enjoyed it.

Jerry said just a thought, we haven't put anything in stone yet and knowledge is power – the sense that he got from the Stiles Community was that the Alternate Program was going away. He doesn't think it is the building itself that matters to a lot of those people I think it is the concept of the program. As the Superintendent said it is going to be there next year it is not going away. Then we have a year to take a look at it and change is tough but are we really servicing these children in the best way possible. If the message

could get to them that the program is still alive but the building is going away. Neil said we need to develop the program the right way so we are not sure as what it will look like yet. Jerry said right but we will still have something of an Alternate Program. We are not just going to throw them to the wolves. That is the concept that I kind of thought that they were thinking. Neil said we would never throw any child to the wolves. Jerry said he knows that and he thinks every individual on this board knows that but this is the feeling I got from listening to some of these children.

Mark Palmieri commended Sean and Margi Maher for the great performance of The Wiz. He also commended Dr. Druzolowski, Ann Valanzuolo, AJ Palermo, Raffaella Fronc, and Mark Consorte because at the last board meeting he brought up student's school projects and Dr. Druzolowski and the team promptly came up with a solution. I know next year they will go over it with all their teachers and I think it is very fair and wanted to thank Dr. Druzolowski and her team for addressing this so promptly and so professionally.

Mark stated he feels that Dr. Druzolowski, Neil Cavallaro, and David Cappetta as far as some of these things what happens is that the rumor mill hits a lot of times in the paper but I think they are being proactive and maybe thinking out loud and are constantly trying to move ahead in these times – we see it everyday in the newspaper – every district in the state throughout the country whatever and we need to be creative and I think they are having the vision not to settle our financial problems not just for tomorrow but for five and ten years down the road and I know there is no intent within this room or within our district to ever hurt children or hurt any of our teachers – everyone does a fantastic job. Nothing is written in stone and the final say is in this room. I believe they are doing a great job and they are trying to help us save money and also in the meantime never hurt any of our children. I think they are doing a wonderful job and would like to tell them that and appreciate everything they do.

Eric Murillo said that on the presentation today from HB Communications he would like to see a long term presentation planned for this. He thinks it is a shame to spend money when you don't have a program where you can utilize it.

Eric said regarding the format for the preparation of the budget after meeting one, two or three at a time with the superintendent regarding the budget – I know that once we do this we don't discuss with other board members what we think about what we are doing and how it was presented to us. After the budget was passed in June it was revised and we couldn't make the right decisions. We need to have a meeting for this budget and discuss it beforehand after the meeting with the superintendent. I would like to see the whole board get together and review what they have heard as to how you will spend the money and I would like to hear how they feel about it. I do not want to wait until the last minute and I would like to suggest this if it is OK with the chairman and my fellow board members.

Mark Palmieri said then what you are asking is that after meeting with the superintendent and assistant superintendent and the business manger you want a group meeting. Eric said absolutely. Howie said Eric doesn't want to wait until the last minute. Jerry said right

Eric wants to meet in mid June or early June. A further discussion ensued. Neil said he has set a goal of around June 1st. Jerry said they year they did it the last minute because we never got a budget from the city.

Mark Palmieri said everyone is putting the burden on the board we need to hear what the council is going to do for us first of all and that goes for the people at Stiles. They need to go in front of the council and try to get them to give the BOE their money. It shouldn't be thrown on the BOE all the time.

Eric Murillo said he knows there are some openings principals etc. He would like to see a posting. At least give a chance to the people who already work in the system to apply for the position.

Neil said that any lateral move we can make internal but anybody who wants to advance himself for an open position those jobs have to be posted the policy is set forth in the board manual. But again, a lateral move does not have to be posted. When there are open positions we would post the open positions.

C.1.d. Committee

D.1. Approval of Minutes D.1.a

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting

March 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building (enclosure)

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the Board of Education D.1.a minutes above
Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: T. Sean Maher abstained as he was not present.

All other board members voted in favor

Motion Carries

D.1.a. Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

09-19 John M. Turonis, Chairman Business Department, WHHS
Effective: End of the 2008/2009 school year
Reason: Retirement

09-20 Peter Harrison, Coach Boy's Baseball Team, Carrigan
Effective: Immediately
Reason: Retirement

09-21 Cathy Carley, Special Education Teacher, Seth Haley
Effective: July 1, 2009
Reason: Retirement

09-22 Mary Lou Cassotto, Library Media Specialist – Thompson
Effective: End of the 2008/2009 school year
Reason: Personal

09-23 Matthew Thompson, Reading Teacher – Carrigan
Effective: June 30, 2009
Reason: Personal

09-28 Catherine Maynard, Special Ed Teacher – WHHS
Effective: June 24, 2009
Reason: Personal

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

09-24 Debbie A. Furlo, Administrative Secretary, SRCS
Effective: August 15, 2009
Reason: Relocation

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

09-25 Renu Asthana, 448 Meloy Road, Apt. A1, West Haven, CT 06516
3 ½ Hour Cook – Thompson School
Effective: March 17, 2009
Salary: \$11.44 hourly - Per AFSME Contract Step 1

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve D. 2 through D.6.

Toni Paine seconded the motion

Discussion: Neil stated that on 9-19 and 9-21 John Turonis and Cathy Carley, they are retirements and they should stand out above the others. One person, John Turonis, has 35 years of service and I believe Cathy Carley has 33 years so they certainly put their time in and have been very valuable to our staff here in West Haven. I think they should be recognized.

All in favor

None opposed

No abstentions

Motion D.2. – D.6 is approved

D.7. New Business:

09-26 Correspondence from Chris and Craig Winkle to Neil Cavallaro regarding extending the Winkle Bus Company Contract for an additional three years.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 09-26

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob Saley stated in looking at this contract he wanted to make sure he was making a living. He looked at what we paid him in the contract and what we pay for extra curricular activities. When he does sports and field trips etc. is it per diem, is it done by the contract - I can't see how it could be because he would be broke, or is it – Neil said he charges by the run. How does he charge when he goes to an extra-curricular activity? He charges us \$175 which includes the bus, driver etc. for a field trip to say Mystic. He gives us a very good service at a very good price. Eric Murillo said he does a great job and his services are definitely fantastic. A further discussion ensued.

All in favor

Motion 09-26 is approved

09-27 Correspondence from Beth Sabo, Director, Public Works to Neil Cavallaro regarding a new manual scoreboard for Seth Haley School.

Toni Paine made a motion to approve 09-27

Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion 09-27 is approved

09-29 Approval of the Washington School Window Replacement project

Mark Palmieri read a letter from Ken Carney who could not make it this evening requesting that the BOE pass a motion authorizing the Washington School Window Replacement Project for the total of \$721,879.00. The BOE previously approved this project at \$500,000.00. He didn't have the exact date it was September 28, 2004. The Original number was not based on accurate information. The State has granted West Haven an extension until June 30, 2009 to start this project or lose all reimbursement.

Mr. Carney had said he would come to the next meeting and answer any questions. He needs the board's approval before presenting this to the Council.

Neil said this is an excellent value to the BOE. We are talking about \$175,000.00 total cost to the board for a project that is in excess of over \$700,000.00. Howie asked for the name of the company and was told he would receive it before the next meeting. Eric Murillo asked about the boilers and Neil said we were going to ask for the boilers to be done as well. A further discussion ensued.

Toni Paine made a motion to approve 09-29

Sean Maher seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion 09-29 is approved

F. Informational:

Nothing was added under informational.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to adjourn

Rob Saley seconded the motion

All members were in agreement

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary