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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond Collins, Vice Chairman  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabritto  
Robert J. Guthrie  
Mark Palmieri  
Howard Horvath  

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chairman M. Toni Paine  
Krista Pickering  

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools  
Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent  

**B. PUBLIC PORTION**

Vice Chairman Raymond Collins asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Ms. Carroll E. Brown of 56 High View Avenue addressed the Board. As a forty three year resident of West Haven, Vice President of this Board, having raised three children in this school system, it is my pleasure to stand here and bring to your attention something that needs to be displayed in the hearts of all. Over the years Carrigan has been the forgotten school and it is still in deplorable condition. It does not look like the other schools in the south end of town nor is it kept the way the other schools in the south end of town are kept. I would like you to put it back on your plates. There are some of you who were on the Board at the time the project was brought forth. It was probably the first time in the history of West Haven that Carrigan was getting not just a face lift but Carrigan was going to become the Community Center and a brand new school was going to be built. The area would have been a show piece like our fellow middle school, Bailey. It is wonderful to drive past Bailey Middle School, Seth Haley and Mackrille to see that everybody in that district is very proud of the way the schools look inside and outside. We would like the same treatment. When you are talking about the capital improvement plan I am asking you to keep Carrigan on your plate. Carrigan needs to be looked at. It has been forgotten it is never a priority. Nothing in Allingtown is a priority. I ask you the new Board to remember Carrigan and to remember that if your children
were going to Carrigan Middle School it wouldn’t look like that because there is nobody on this Board from Allingtown nor is there anyone on this Board that looks like me, I think you should take it into consideration that Carrigan needs to be made a priority. If nothing more then to say it is about time because it has been the forgotten school.

My second reason for being here is to remind all of you that on Monday September 11th there will be a reception for Dr. JoAnn Andrees at West Haven High School from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. We would like you to stop by and enjoy the afternoon with us as we invite friends from all over the State to come and meet our new Superintendent.

The Board gave thanks.

Mr. Curtis Jordan addressed the Board. I would like to welcome Dr. Andrees to West Haven and I would like to commend Mr. Cavallaro for his dedication and unselfish act of wanting to remain in this system. I understand he was offered another job which he turned down because he wanted to stay in this system. This was very unselfish of him and shows his dedication to the schools. I am sure that Mr. Cavallaro and Superintendent Andrees will be able to turn this system around. I have been involved in the educational system since 1999 when I found out how poor our performance was. I spoke with Mr. Palermo and he said that things were going to get better. I have here two mastery test scores; one is dated August 31, 2004 and the other August 1, 2006. The latest mastery scores set off an alarm in some cities and I can see why it would. In comparing 2004 with 2006 I am pleased to say that in Math and Reading West Haven did improve and that really pleases me.

I have always supported teachers maybe sometimes the way I spoke it may have sounded like I didn’t but I always have supported teachers. On a previous agenda we hired a new teacher and she was starting with $32,000 and on the same agenda we had an assistant custodian that was making $38,000. Don’t get me wrong I’m not saying the custodians shouldn’t get a decent wage but for a teacher to start out with $32,000 I think that is terrible. How are we going to attract and recruit good teachers? Teachers will probably take this because they can’t find anything else. I was told by some people on the Board that the Assistant Custodian was at his top rate. I think that if his top rate was $38,000, I feel the teachers should start at $38,000. Some might think that is too high but my life spans three generations and when I say this everybody start wondering how old this man is. I have seen cultures change, I have seen demographic change, and I have seen social economic change that has affected our school system. To me it appeared at the time that West Haven was in a state of suspension it didn’t change.

I think those on the Board who were with the previous administration should resign because everybody has heard that our audit for 2005 has been restated. We have had a forensic audit that shows just how incompetent the previous administration was.

Paul Harvey and Walter Winchell were two nationally syndicated columnists and national radio commentators who were concerned about a little City in the State of Connecticut and spoke about West Haven. It was said, “The bully of Campbell Avenue -
in West Haven where politics is played hard and tough and by invitation only.” Walter Winchell spoke of this in February 1980 and said if the Chicago political machines or Tammany Hall in New York want to learn anything new about running a political machine and using voters let them turn to the little town of West Haven, CT. He has been saying this for a long time and always brings his folder because mostly everything he says he has documentation for and he challenges anyone to dispute anything he has said. This city for years has been spending anywhere from ten to fifteen million dollars more than what we should be spending. A lot of this money could have been going to the Board of Education. We have audits showing this. He feels like he is preaching to the choir because the congregation isn’t here. They have gone back into their cubbyholes like nothing has happened. The rest of the time they have blinders on and can only see what is in front of them.

We have a fire service budget of about twenty one million which shouldn’t be anymore than fifteen, sixteen or seventeen million at the most. Why do we have to have three separate fire departments in a City 10.6 square miles? We ask why it stayed that way all these years – politics.

A Connecticut General Statute has been violated and nobody has said no we didn’t. They amended a special act that could only be amended by the legislature. The fire district could amend this in one way only, they had to incorporate.

Vice Chairman Collins requested he get back to education and he said right now people are screaming we need more money for education everybody on the previous administration knew what was happening in this City and they did nothing about it. We are in debt and we shouldn’t be in debt. We need more money for our educational system and if there had been true oversight by this Board, the unions, the commissioners, the City Council the things that happened in the past fourteen years would not have happened.

Carrigan School is definitely in need of renovation and is about thirty four years old. If the classes were crowded there is plenty of room to make additional classrooms. There was a time when they wanted to build a brand new high school and whoever built that high school made plenty of money. They could have built a high school and vocational school. People say we have nothing to do with vocational schools they are the State’s responsibility. Why didn’t someone go to the State? In the paper about two weeks ago it was stated that there were two students from West Haven that wanted to go to Platt Tech. Platt had room for 250 people and 750 applied. At least one third of our students who graduate from high school are not going to college; some don’t want to go, some don’t have the money and for various other reasons. We needed a vocational tech school. At least when they graduate from high school they would have a trade perhaps they would be electricians, plumbers, roofers, etc. People are saying that the reason we have so many immigrants coming into this country is because they are filling skilled jobs we don’t have people here to fill. We are the greatest country in the world and Connecticut per capita makes more money than any other state. We can’t educate our kids this is ridiculous.
In order to attract and recruit teachers we have to pay them more. They should have the education the specialties and the capability of teaching our kids. He doesn’t care whether they can’t speak English or whether they are minorities or disabled. We need teachers in this school that can teach every child that comes through that door because that’s our obligation we are not a parochial or private school. We can’t be selective of who comes through our doors. He would like to see an educational committee of volunteers. We have a lot of professional people who would probably volunteer if they knew what it was all about. You can sit here in your ivory tower and not get the help from out there but you do need help. We need help from our professionals in the community who would volunteer. They wouldn’t get paid they wouldn’t have any authority. You could meet with them once every month or so. Let them know what you are doing because a lot of them do have influence in the community.

As I said before we are a reactive community we are not proactive we wait until we have a crisis and then we react. In order to attract good teachers we must pay more. We also have to be cognizant of the fact of what is going on around us. For goodness sake take politics out of the educational system because it doesn’t belong.

The Board gave thanks.

Tim Wrightington of 21 Susquehanna Avenue addressed the Board. In two weeks it will be a birthday of the first time I came to a Board of Education Meeting. In the fall of 1996 the mother of a student I had coached in baseball came to me and told me about the curriculum that was going to be jammed down our throats in this city. Early in 1997 I spoke very loudly against this after reading about it. The Board of Education at that time was not receptive at all. We were pretty much ignored and the comment was thank you for your comments and I watched as my literature which showed that this curriculum didn’t work was thrown in the trash. That person didn’t even read it.

In 1999 an election came and we scored an excellent Board of Education where politics was pretty much gone. All Board members listened and a lot of them are still here some of them have come back. He was an advocate for people and reached out to people who were not his friends but were board members and they helped him. This board consisted of Ray, Sandy LaRusso, Jerry Calabritto and Paul Messina and others. As time went on those people were voted out or had to be removed because they didn’t agree with the administration. Now he sees a lot of Board Members who have practiced politics to the max. If you watch yourselves on television you will see who you are and what is going on here.

He saw something disgraceful at the last Board Meeting. When Frank Biancur came up and he was trying to sell West Haven High School, the behavior of you George and Bobby was incredible. You wanted to table it before it was even heard. That was politics at its best. To not want to hear it was horrible.
He read a letter that was in the West Haven Register last week. After a good 14 years it doesn’t add up. Like many other residents I am trying to get my arms around the Checkers audit in West Haven. If under Rich Borer we had 14 years of balanced budgets, 14 years of good audit reports from outstanding auditors and good bond ratings from national companies how do we coincidentally and conveniently go broke the very day John Picard takes office? (I’ll get there Ray) Then he gives large contracts to new auditors he chose without going out to bid which is a violation of the City Charter and the very thing he criticizes the prior administration for doing. They happened to find that everyone from the old auditors to the bond council to the finance director to the mayor were all wrong. Strange too these guys concluded that everyone is at fault for the prior administration except one person, Picard who was chairman of the City Council, second in command under Borer and was responsible for overseeing the auditors. Something doesn’t add up and I don’t need to be an accountant to see that. Now, I have a question shouldn’t the very same people that were responsible for overseeing the buildings in this city and overseeing the money that went into these buildings shouldn’t they have known what went on here also? The Chairman of that construction committee is right here in the room. There is an insinuation here and the insinuation should go all the way around.

Last week I had a question regarding a statement that was made by a board member, Mr. Monahan with regard to construction here and he made a statement with regard to the need for Ken Carney as we have been on top of this all this time. If you go back through the minutes of the Board of Education minutes the last time this was brought up was in October of last year. Yet, for the last six months if you watch on television you hear he is taking money away from our kids. When he cuts that budget he takes money away from our kids. There was a discussion about taking cars away from people. How is he taking money away from our kids when you are taking cars away from people? You are putting money towards the kids when you do this. It is so hard to fathom. If anyone has seen the Music Man this is the theme. Oh we got trouble, big, big trouble etc. this is the theme and this is ridiculous absolutely ridiculous. This needs to stop. I remember a good board. You could come here and there wasn’t stupid bickering going on.

The Oversight Committee that you questioned and had a problem with found almost three million dollars that hadn’t been collected from the State of Connecticut. That three million could have gone towards my kids. But we would rather point fingers about cars and stupid nonsense rather than get down to business. These projects have been overpriced and we have been over bonded and that could have gone towards our kids but I don’t see anyone addressing that; not since last October anyway. Truly think about our kids.

The Board gave thanks.

Ray Collins stated just for the record in talking about Frank Biancur, I don’t usually don’t go back but my colleagues weren’t against this it was just the protocol that they were questioning. No one was against the program. Tim Wrightington stated, “They didn’t want to hear the motion on the floor.” Ray started to explain this to Tim but didn’t want to debate it and let it go.
Robert Whitkowski, 93 Dalton Street addressed the Board. I sit in the audience and I hear pretty much everything that does get to me but my main primary is my child’s education and that is why I come here. That is the true reason I come here to try to get whatever I can for my child’s education. With the tax dollars that I pay my opinion is I want the best that I can get because I pay a lot in property tax just like everybody else does. He listens to people who come up and complain about how they argue about buildings and properties and who is making this etc. A couple of meetings I attended a few months ago they were discussing construction and a new committee the Mayor put together. They were in a school building up on a roof and there was a complaint about what they were doing up on that roof. As a taxpayer they paid for that roof they have the right to know it is being done right. There was dirty politics going back in this town for the past 15 – 20 years and not just the former mayor and current one but mayors before them and everyone knows it. You go to New York City and they are making fun of West Haven politics. To tell me that the Board of Education is not involved in politics that is a bunch of crock. They all know it. Everybody on this board got here through politics through a political party so politics has everything to do with the Board of Education. We have custodians making more money than schoolteachers a part time custodian. Obviously somebody was related to somebody back when these decisions were made.

We didn’t hire teachers for quality we hired teachers because they knew somebody and its affecting the school system and education. Look at the mastery results. This board has not a thing to be proud of. Hopefully we have a new superintendent and things are going to change. I know my daughter’s education is way behind what it should be and you all have been here. I have had several meetings with the teachers but I know it’s a pat on the back and quiet him down and get him out of here. I’m never going to be quiet never. As long as I feel my child is not being taught I’m going to be the biggest mouth here and I’m going to let you know you have a job to do that you failed to do. If you can’t do it step down now. We are paying a lot of money in taxes. We have school teachers that want raises, but you know what, I have a child that is not learning. We have a failed school system. I agree teachers should be making more money but I can’t afford it until I see quality. Since I bought my property over ten years ago taxes are greater every year, the budget for the Board of Education goes up every year but yet our quality of education is going down. Enough is enough. Some of these teachers, not all of them, maybe one out of every ten really care about where his job is going. I really want to get more money for the educational system but I need to see more quality. I know these teachers have hell to put up with because he watches the kids in the summer time. There comes a point when you have to care because if you don’t you don’t belong doing what you are doing. I care about my job and I’m good at my job you can go to New York City and ask anyone they know I am good. I have a good reputation in my field because I care about my job. I give my job 200% and I give my family 300%. I believe that teachers are having a hard time and the kids are out of control. Since Mr. Lopes has been transferred from Carrigan this school is out of control. The teachers and principal used to be out in the parking lot as they exited the school day. Now it is like a war zone. You have school busses racing down the driveway while kids are crossing or driving. This didn’t happen Mr. Lopes kept that parking lot under control everybody left in an orderly fashion. I talked to some personnel in the building and we have to get that school under
control. You can deny all you want everybody says nothing is going on in there. You are not going to be happy until somebody gets killed. Do something about it now before it happens. We wasted money on some project where we had someone come in to try to teach these kids how to behave. We need to start a program where we get the parents to learn how to make the kids behave. We need to make the parents get more involved with their kids. This is not the teacher’s job and I really believe that. I don’t want anybody thinking I hate the teachers and I hate the school system because that is not true. I want the best for my child and I want them to understand that. I want my child to learn this year she is really far behind. I want my child to learn this year. I don’t want to be patted on the back. I don’t want people to say let’s make him happy and make him quiet and send him off. I want to see my child learn something. Something I didn’t teach her. I want to see my child learn something the school system taught. Thank you for your time.

Patricia Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road President of the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses addressed the Board. I know I should be talking to the Board but I believe that I need to address you to dispute the remarks that were just made as far as the quality of the teachers in West Haven and I think you all would agree that we have fine teachers and we don’t pay them very well so the teachers that we have must be very devoted or personally wealthy because otherwise they probably would have left and gone elsewhere. If we don’t have a large number of quality teachers which I believe we do perhaps its because our younger teachers have left because of the budget crisis and the uncertainty in the school system with the budget being under-funded on the part of the City Council. I don’t want it to be stated that our teachers are not quality teachers that our teachers were hired politically because I believe that is an insult to the whole profession. Our teachers work hard they are devoted.

The Board gave thanks.

Sandy LoRusso, 721 Main Street addressed the Board. Listening to some of the people that spoke here tonight there are a lot of things that we would like for West Haven. This City is in serious financial trouble. Now I don’t know if all of you have read the audit but that is a small portion of what our problems are. We are about to bottom out we are about to hit junk bond status. If we had a serious problem with one of our schools I doubt we would have the ability without the State’s guarantees to be able to bond enough money to get something fixed around here. We won’t be looking at any new school improvements because for the next 14 to 20 years this City is going to be stretched so far it is unbelievable. Until the other shoe falls you have no idea as to what you are looking at. As a board you have to start working together. It doesn’t matter if you like me or I like you or if you like teachers or other board members, you have to learn to work together on behalf of the City. I’m begging you. We have serious problems here and we need to work together to solve them. The fact of the matter is when I served on this board one of the most difficult decisions I ever had to make was to vote for Bobby to be Chairman because I was a Democrat and he was a Republican. I had to vote against my dear friend who was running for the position, a woman I had been friends with for 20 years, that I had gone out with you know that I hung out with and I voted against her. I did it because she was in an appointed position with the City of West Haven and I knew that the
administration and people in the party would use that against her and make her do things on this board that shouldn’t be tolerated. I went ahead and I voted against her to make Bobby a Chairman and I was proud of him and I think that the two years that I served under him he did a wonderful job. But Bob, I have to tell you the truth, I’m not on this Board any more help them to work together you know how to do it I know you know how to do it. Please guys for the sake of our children we have to get back on track. Put the politics behind us lets do something for West Haven and for these kids. Thank you.

The Board gave thanks.

The public session closed at 7:40 p.m.

C. REPORTS:

C.1. Status of Schools

Dr. Andrees addressed the Board. I would like to begin this evening by saying we are on count down now for the next seven days our doors will be opened our children will be coming. Tomorrow morning we are slated at 8:15 a.m. to meet in the parking lot to go through and take a look at the physical plant and see the condition of our schools and their readiness of receiving all of our children. I am quite excited about that. This is part of the process because you know when you get to that day it isn’t far behind that our children will arrive and this is very exciting for us.

I would like to personally thank Ms. Jolene Barnes for an outstanding job of hiring this summer. I think we gave her all of two days of vacation because she could not go until we are fully staffed and she only has two to go and there are about eight days left. I can personally say that I have met with every single teacher that I am putting before your children. I personally interviewed everyone and unless I feel that they meet the standards and the criteria of the teachers we want in front of our children we have not hired those individuals. One of the challenges that we do face is that our first step in our school district is a very low first step which makes it very challenging for us to attract upstanding teachers and we compete with districts around us. These districts also compete with us in the candidates that we select. We have been very aggressive this year because we have gotten into a dog fight with them. Those that we thought were the best we were willing to fight for to ensure that we had competent, qualified teachers in front of our children. If for some reason we find that we have erred we will make sure that those individuals do not stay in front of our children and that is our commitment to you. Again, Jolene Barnes, Neil Cavallaro, Gary Palermo, Rafaella Fronc, Merle Stevens, Ann Valanzuolo, Dr. Rose Paolino, Gary Grant, Dr. Anthony Cordone, Pat Libro and Ron Stancil have done a yeomen’s job this summer of interviewing hundreds of candidates so that we can bring the best and brightest to our children in West Haven. We are down to as I said one Science teacher and one Consumer Ed teacher. If any of you in the audience know someone who is looking for a Consumer Ed position (that was cooking and sewing back in my day) or Science please have them contact me immediately if not sooner. We will be hiring ten new teachers tonight.
We indicated to you in June that we would be eliminating teachers who teach a sixth period. That seemed a great concern for a lot of citizens who attended our meeting. Yet we find ourselves in a position where we said we were not going to do that. In shortage areas sometimes we find ourselves unable to attract good candidates. Rather than bring in unqualified candidates just so we can fill the position, we find ourselves in the situation where we are now, having some teachers particularly in the elective areas teach an additional period. If at any point we feel we need to exceed a half time teacher we will go for that or that half time teacher we are able to find. Otherwise we will hire one or two hours of sixth period for the teachers to fill in our critical areas where we are unable to find adequate staff at this time. In the long run, let me share this with the people who have concerns, to the Board of Education this becomes a less expensive alternative. A teacher will teach one additional period which means there are no benefits and they are teaching at their 1/6th salary rate. This is a less expensive alternative for this Board of Education.

Also on June 28th when we passed our budget we assured you that Mr. Alan Belchak would take a look at the Food Service Department. He and the committee actually sat down and took a look at the ways they may enhance their services and how they might make reductions so they can be a more cost effective operation. They have done an outstanding job and one of the things we are bringing before you is three positions to fill tonight instead of four. These positions will be brought before you tonight to vote on.

We are in the process of contract negotiations for teachers and we are hoping to have that resolved Thursday. If not, we are moving in a positive direction and we are hoping that we don’t have to extend ourselves beyond mediation and we are also negotiating with our administrators at this time as well and feel that we are moving forward in that whole process.

Tonight on the table there are pink sheets and I must say I am quite proud of this Board of Education who joined us on August 7th for an evening with CABE the organization that serves the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. We actually devised a Vision and Mission Statement that will guide us and we are quite proud of that. We also would like input and so we have them on the table tonight and we hope you will take it and provide us with some feedback. We are quite proud of this statement and think it is a statement that will guide us ad our children over the next few years. We also piggyback on a fabulous mission statement that Ron Stancil and the team at the high school had written. We felt it catches the essence of the direction we wanted to go as well. So as they are preparing for their NEACT Accreditation we have piggy backed with some minor changes their mission statement and hoping to adopt it and making it our District Mission Statement. Take one with you and give us some feedback.

I’m also very proud to say that West Haven Public Schools is presenting the first quarterly newsletter which is coming out and should be in the mail Thursday afternoon in the homes of our children before school will begin. Kathy Barra one of our staff has been responsible for coordinating this and working with the high school and putting this
together. We are really quite pleased. It isn’t just enough that we produce a newspaper when part of our population can not read it so two young ladies by the name of Lisa O’Leary and Miriam Rivera have offered to translate this into Spanish and make it available for families throughout the community as well. We are quite proud of this document that should be in the hands of our student’s parents very shortly.

Neil Cavallaro spoke next and he too wanted to extend his thanks to Jolene for her hard work and assistance with the hiring process. It certainly has been a long summer and she has made the process much easier for all of the certified staff involved and keeps us organized and does a great job of doing everything she can to bring forward good candidates.

I also think it is important that we thank as a committee Dr. Andrees because she has allowed us some leverage with negotiating which has helped us attract some good people and we thank you for your support with that. That has really allowed us to be much more productive. Hopefully as Dr. Andrees has reminded me tonight we still have one week to go and we are going to get the last two positions filled so hopefully we will have very few teachers teaching sixth period classes. I want to just go over the schedule for the next few days. On Thursday the 24th Dr. Andrees and I will be meeting with all the new teachers that we just hired or are planning to hire. We will be having breakfast with them at Savin Rock School and giving them a brief orientation to our school district as well as allowing them to meet with Patricia Fusco from the Union and Frank Paolino. We hope that will get our teachers excited about working for us.

Tuesday the 29th is a full day staff development for teachers. Dr. Andrees and I want to extend an invitation to all of the Board Members and I know she will send out a reminder. We will be meeting with the staff and have a welcome back reception with coffee and at 7:30 a.m. at the high school cafeteria. There will be a presentation from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. in the auditorium at the high school where we will officially welcome them back. For the rest of the day they will be attending work shops for the most part at the high school although some will be going off to some of the other schools in the district. On Wednesday all of our staff reports to the building for individual staff meetings. This is a half day and of course Thursday the 31st of August is the first day of school. For our students it is a shortened day and Friday is our first full day of school. This is the calendar of events for next week.

I know that Curtis Jordan mentioned the CMT Scores. We are certainly going to prepare a report for you guys as we normally do. We do feel it is important that before we bring a report to you we sit down with our administrators and analyze those results and not only look at the results but we come to you and say what are we going to do with the results. To come before you before we have an opportunity to do that would not be fair to us or you as a board because we certainly want to know what our plans are based on these results.

Finally, I need to remind the Chairman that we need to add two items to tonight’s agenda and I know you have the paperwork in front of you. One is an English teacher that we
hired for Bailey Middle School and the other is our World Language Department Chair at the high school. At some point we will need a motion to add these to the agenda.

Ray Collins asked for a motion to add the following to the agenda

Adding to the Agenda
06-98 Jennifer Cassella and 06-99 Andriana Bertola

Jerry Calabritto made the motion
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
All member were in favor
Motion passed
06-98 and 06-99 were added under New Hires (Certified)

Dr. Andrees continued and stated to Chairman Collins that at the last Board Meeting you asked that we invite members of the Building Oversight Committee to come in and answer some questions for us. The Board of Education and Mr. Guthrie, who is on the Building Oversight Committee, had an opportunity to listen to their presentation and have questions answered on August 15th. While you had specifically asked for Mr. Kelly he is unable to be here tonight because he is out of town. The Chair and members of the Oversight Committee are here with us this evening and are looking forward to responding to questions that we might have. She introduced Mr. Ken Carney and Mr. Ed Arum.

Mr. Carney wanted to update us on some of the school projects and answer questions you may have. He started with Mackrille School regarding the vinyl floor in the girl’s locker room. Some tiles popped up he is not sure why and they asked for the specification on the glue that was used and it was the wrong specification it was latex glue not an oil. Got in touch with the construction manager, Art Kelly and the contractor and we asked them to replace the entire floor. They agreed to do that and it will be done this week. That should solve this problem.

The handicapped entrance door at the main office would stay opened once you opened it and would create a security problem. This now closes but there is a slight delay in the opening of the door when you hit the handicap button we are not sure why but we are working on it.

The glass was leaking the last time we were there and we had Norwalk Glass come out and fix that and it is no longer leaking. We have not seen any water since that visit.

In the electrical room at one of the new basement areas we have water coming behind an electrical box. We need to shut the school down power wise in order to arrest that. We need to seal this conduit from the outside and get the United Illuminating involved. This will be done and scheduled.

The largest issue is the gym floor which is buckling slightly. It is usable it has not gotten any worse we are finding that there is too much humidity in the gym and are talking
about various ways to address this. We have gotten the architect, construction manager, and contractor on board to accept responsibility for the gym floor. We have held back tens of thousands of dollars as final payment to the contractors until the issue is resolved. Right now we are monitoring that gym floor to see if it gets any worse as time goes on. Are there any questions on Mackrille?

Bob Guthrie stated Ken you said you have dealt with the leaks? Yes the leaks over the glass which is definitely no longer leaking, there is still a leak behind the electrical box in the basement that will be addressed very shortly. Bob stated that Mr. Kelly was trying to work on the sound system in the auditorium but Ken was not aware of this. There is a power problem it is cutting out and not working for students’ performances and events. Ken is not aware of this it wasn’t on his punch list. Bob stated that when he did the walk through with Mr. Kelly and the architects this was certainly brought to his attention roughly about six months ago. There was an event after this where the sound system went right out. Ken will get back to him on this and put it on the list.

The next school Ken Carney spoke about was Forest School. He visited it and observed that the two staircases going from the school to the courtyard were poured even with the sill and the two doors which was creating a water problem within the school. Every time it rained water would back up on the stoop go through the door and create water in the hallway. We asked these guys to rip those stoops out and lower them. They claim they built it to the specifications the architect had drawn. We confirmed that and now what we are doing is putting in sills that are made special for this situation. If the water continues then we are going to move to have them ripped out.

Bob Guthrie said he had walked the floors and there were numerous outlook covers in the media center and exposed wires that were going to be addressed and some roof leaks with damaged tile where they were trying to sort out the cause of the leak.

Ken Carney said they found some condensation issues which I believe were addressed. He is not aware of any roof leaks. Bob stated it was towards the back where the new addition is meeting the existing building. Also at the time the architect didn’t seem to be concerned about it but they improperly installed a water fountain inside a classroom. They improperly installed a water fountain on a carpeted classroom floor. Ken Carney requested a list. Bob stated the list was handed to Mr. Kelly and Mr. Sapienza. Ken will get a copy of this and pursue it.

George Monahan wanted to state something quickly about the water fountain. It was the new addition obviously and the question came up why wasn’t the water fountain in the hallway where it would be accessible to everyone without having to enter a music room or a classroom and disturb the class? It should have been on the corridor wall. This plumbing can be turned around. Ken stated that sometimes what he sees happening is that they bring a complaint to the construction manager and he makes a comment regarding the architect and the architect makes a comment back. George stated that all parties were there for the walk through. Ken requested a list.
Ken stated at Seth Haley School there were some leaks in the ceiling and we made them go up there and rip apart a brick wall. In the process of moving the brick we discovered some missing flashing. They replaced the flashing and re-veneered the brick wall and the leak stopped and they also fixed the sheet rock and painted. We are still waiting for a ceiling tile match to replace the ones ruined.

Bob Guthrie asked which leak are you talking about here. Ken stated the Music room and the Library Room. Bob interjected and also the corridor leading to the two? Ken answered yes. Bob asked if they feel they have solved the problem. Ken stated every time the rain coming from a certain direction it would be bad and we haven’t seen any of that.

Bob said the other concerns at Haley were outside the music room and the media center there were cracks in the building. Ken stated they did address those and in a lot of these additions they were built without expansion joints. He brought the structural engineer out and he claims it is not a structural issue.

Bob stated that also at Haley there was a problem with the fire alarm a constant audible beep. George Monahan stated it was actually the emergency lighting. There was a low battery alarm in the emergency lighting. Ken stated this was fixed. This was a design problem. Bob asked if they have reached an agreement on it and fixed it. Ken said they fixed it but there are about 15 or 20 more that they didn’t fix but are still working on it. Bob stated there was an audible sound during the course of the school day there was a beeping that would occur. Ken said it sounds like you have a punch list that predates their committee so he would like them to get him the information so he can pursue it for the Board and get back to them.

Ken stated that Haley also had a glass leak that was fixed as well. No sign of water there but it is always being monitored.

The final issue is the ramp at the high school. Joe Yacono has been over there almost on a daily basis and has been providing very valuable informative as to the construction process and what is going on. We have had several meetings we have gotten back on track and most recently some of our committee members met with Dr. Andrees and the principal to discuss how to clear the area for the school buses and cars. Bob asked how late in September before the finished product will be complete. Ken stated the finished product involves some doors we won’t have until the Christmas vacation so part of the area will be shut down until then. Bob asked if Mr. Yacano’s concerns regarding the expansion and the polls in the back to catch the doors were addressed? We referred this to Rich Miller and he is going to look into it. Bob stated when we did the walk through they had removed them and Mr. Yacano brought it to their attention that if those are not replaced they were going to go through doors probably every 30 days.

Bob also stated that the original project for the spot ramp was addressing the compliance of the 1995 88 standards and as far as you know are we current to all standards today? Ken’s understanding is that the print was approved by the State of Connecticut and they
are the ones reimbursing us and of course we have to make it to their specifications. The building department has also been over it and there have been no issues.

Mark Palmieri commended Ken Carney and the committee for the excellent job they are doing. Since I’m new to the Board I’m wondering on these different projects who initiates them and how do they get started? How did you figure that Mackrille needed a gym? Is there some type of study or report and from that who initiates the ball rolling?

Ken Carney’s response was that the administrators in the system and this Board begin the process. A number based on square footage is brought up and it goes out to bid, we choose a contractor, and the Council has to approve it.

Bob Guthrie expanded by stating that basically they are viewed as projects for space and we will go as far back as Bailey. Educational Specs were created by the administration and an estimated number of square footage per pupil to make us compliant. We have to strictly adhere to this because reimbursement from the State is based on those strict items. Other areas like code violation and roof repairs are also involved. A detailed discussion ensued. The specs come out then some conceptual drawings are created and go up to the State and are approved or denied. This process can take as long as five years before the shovel is in the ground.

Mark stated that as a building committee he wonders what everyone’s background is and on your committee is there a check and balance when a project is being done – even the simplest of repairs? He knows of an instance when money was spent on a repair project that did not have to be done because it was grandfathered in. It was an electrical situation on an elevator that did not have to be done. They were looking for some type of an alarm. What he wants to know is if there is an issue with an architect or engineer who doesn’t know the laws, and starts putting it out to bid, shouldn’t he be checking with someone in advance like planning and zoning is this part of the whole building committee?

Ken responded no the building committee doesn’t facilitate these projects that comes from you guys. Our role is to make sure that it goes out to bid properly, that the money that was allocated for the project is monitored so we don’t go over budget and that change orders, which in the past were done and filled out 36 days later are checked on. We stopped the change order problem and we put out bids in four newspapers instead of just one. A discussion ensued.

Professionals who are members of the committee include an abatement expert, CPA, people involved in construction, and an engineer. As a group they look at the plans, make comments and changes that save money. We don’t decide the size of the project, we can’t allocate funds, and our role is simply to make sure that what you guys create goes down the way you want it to.

Mark stated once again I’m under the impression that that is what was happening here but it didn’t happen. Ken stated he can’t speak for what did or didn’t happen but everything they have asked of this board they have given us more. At the last meeting they had three
board members there as well as Dr. Andrees. The door has been opened for any board
member to attend their meetings and ask questions etc. A lot of the money they found for
reimbursement they wouldn’t have found if they didn’t get the information out of this
building. They have received a lot of help from the Board. He couldn’t say what had
happened in the past but with the new oversight rules in place we are saving money.
We are sending out policy now that will eliminate some of the wasteful spending and we
are sending everything out to bid. In the past Art Kelly was the construction manager on
all these projects. We inherited three or four contracts from the previous administration
which had been signed by him. He understands that from this point on every project goes
out to bid and he may or may not be the construction manager for the projects. A long
discussion took place.

Ray Collins asked Ed Arum on behalf of the people who were not at the building
committee would you share with us the amount of money that was found with those
projects.

Ed Arum stated he was hired by the City to close out a number of projects. There are
eight projects that are on board now that he is looking at. He went through eight of them
and there are three of them that are still open because of certain things that are not there
that still have to be paid. One contractor went bankrupt and his bonding company will
set this straight to get those things out. One change order that was sent in required more
information so we couldn’t close that out. Five projects were brought to the committee
for closure. There are eligible and ineligible costs when you do a project. When you do a
project you are conservative and put a high number in ineligible costs. When the project
is completed you look at the scheduled values which is the most important thing that the
State of Connecticut looks at.

On a window replacement project the only thing reimbursable is the window itself. The
labor is not reimbursable so when they did that project four or five years ago they put an
estimate of $400,000 for labor when we finished the project the scheduled values was
only $164,000 for labor. So if nobody looked at the scheduled values the state would say
you have $400,000 in ineligible costs where when he looked at it he saw labor as
$164,000 so he wrote to the State and the difference received was 74.28%.

The first project was Thompson School which was a code violation project the ineligible
was only $12,000.00 and he brought this down to $1,706.00. The reimbursement would
have been $317,918 but with the revised it is $481,469.00 and the difference is
$163,551.00 additional money from the State of Connecticut to the City of West Haven.

The next project is West Haven High School which was window replacement energy
conservation. The eligible costs and ineligible came up to $2,000,000 and the revised is
$1,845,922 and he reduced the ineligible from $495,000 to $285,749 because of those
windows and the reimbursement would be $1,158,896 versus $1,117,914 with a $40,982
increase.

He went on to discuss the remaining projects.
George Monahan stated that renovating, putting an addition on, remodeling or whatever type of project is very complex. You start with a plan and get into the project and run into complications you didn’t see when you planned it. That is part of, not all of, some of these costs over runs. When you get unexpected, justified, cost over-runs you then have the right to request the State for reimbursement and they typically approve it. There are restrictions depending on what the percentage of increase is. It can be approved locally or may require legislative approval if the increase goes beyond a certain percentage. A further discussion ensued.

George Monahan stated he appreciated Mr. Arum’s operating procedure and stated he is obviously very thorough as is Mr. Carney. There have been comments made some maybe misunderstood but you have done a phenomenal job.

Mr. Carney pointed out that the odd thing here is that the person doing the reimbursement paper work up to the time Ed was hired was working for the construction end. That is unusual. What happened is that he kept the Board out of the loop and this was unfair to you guys because you were not able to have the contact that you will have today. The information will now flow more freely to you.

Mark Palmieri asked when do you say enough is enough when you keep pouring money into a building? When is it time to build a new school?

Ed stated you have to do a survey of the school system to see what is needed. You look at code violations, roof repairs-every 20 years the roof must be replaced, window replacement etc. You look at it and say is it feasible to replace this building or renovate it as new. The State came out with new legislation that you can renovate as new and they give you the full amount of reimbursement.

Ken stated he brought Ed in to specifically go back three years and he wouldn’t be involved in the above. The Building Oversight Committee doesn’t do this either.

Jerry Calabritto asked in Ed’s expertise isn’t it a fact that sometimes you can get a better reimbursement from the State building new rather than renovating? Ed stated there are three factors, new, renovation, and renovate as new. Renovate as new is almost like new construction. A discussion ensued. Maintenance items will not be reimbursable. Jerry also stated that Ken and Ed have done a fine job and they have watched our backs, and he thanked them.

Ray Collins stated there should be more communication between the committees and asked Bob Guthrie to follow up once a month since he sits on the committee.

Dr. Andrees requested that the committee members announce their names if they are present here this evening. Tony Giordano an Engineer and Tom McCarthy who has a great deal of building experience stated their names.
George Monahan stated to Mr. Carney that he knows he needs Board approval to deem these projects complete and submit bills. The last time this Board addressed this was back in October or November and there were punch list items that we were not satisfied with. There was a fairly substantial discussion about the pro and the con of signing off the projects at that time with the assignment of responsibility to someone to make sure that those action items were completed prior to payments being made. The Board at that time chose not to do that not to sign off on the projects. He asked Ken Carney what he would like to see the Board do today.

Ken Carney stated that he felt in the past the Board has not been given all the information and wants the Board to know that he is here to service the Board and make sure that the items on the punch list are done. On the jobs before the Board tonight unfortunately the City has already paid most of them. All of the contractors in the five projects have been paid out Ed Arum interjected. Ken stated that if we don’t approve these projects we won’t receive the 1 Million reimbursement. He recommends we sign off and approve this. Ed stated there is only one punch list item.

George stated that what he means by punch list items are issues that the Board knows were in existence and still does not know if they are finished or not.

Bob stated Ken you obviously are looking for approval on Forest but we would not know if those issues have been resolved. Ken stating he is monitoring them and is on top of them. He doesn’t see there being any advantage to the City or this Board of not accepting this. Bob stated then it will be your responsibility to make Mr. Kelly and the other parties fix those items. Ken stated he would say yes and that Mr. Kelly does not get a free walk.

George Monahan stated it goes beyond this to the contractors directly. They are the ones that did the work and probably have to fix it. So we can say that you now are responsible.

Ken answered yes.

Bob Guthrie stated this is really a mute point because everyone has already been paid. Ken stated that everybody but us has been paid.

Ray Collins asked for a motion to add page listed as C.1.a. to the agenda as item 06-100
Jerry Calabritto made the motion to add to the agenda 06-100  Acceptance of completed Projects
Howie Horvath Seconded the motion
All members were in favor
Motion passed

C.1.b. Board Reports
Jerry Calabritto wanted to echo Dr. Andrees’ comments to the Board that Bob and I have been the representatives on the negotiating committee for the teachers. Thursday we are going to mediation and I hope we can solve. I want to say that the teachers have been very mindful of the financial situation of the City and in all the years that I have seen this is one of the best negotiating crew that I have dealt with. They are thinking of the City and the children and I want to make this statement public.

C.1.c. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

D.1. Approval of Minutes
Chairman Collins stated approval of minutes D.1.a.
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Eric Murillo
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

D.2. Resignations Certified
Chairman Collins stated Resignations Certified Inclusive
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by George Monahan
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

D.3. Resignations (Non-Certified)
Chairman Collins stated Resignations Non-Certified
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Mark Palmieri
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

D.4. New Hires Certified
Chairman Collins stated New Hires Certified Inclusive
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by George Monahan

Discussion: Eric Murillo stated that in regard to the new certified teachers that were hired we need to focus on the change of our district and we should try to hire more teachers that reflect the diversity of our town. As a Board we sit here and discuss students whether white, black, Asian; we need to be focused on hiring minority teachers. If we don’t do this as a Board and think about this the schools are never going to improve. It doesn’t matter how much money you put in a building if a kid is not learning. Teachers must have passion if they loose this passion for teaching we loose everything.
Teachers and the Board should have parents get involved have them communicate with them and spend at least an hour a week at school and to bring their kids. I hope that this administration thinks about this. There are new resignations coming up from secretaries and clerks maybe we can get some bi-lingual people and Spanish whatever it takes to communicate. This would be very beneficial especially at the high school and Carrigan. We need this passion. If you don’t have passion you have no persistence you go to work from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and that is it where is my paycheck. They all say it is not my job it is our job. It is our job as Board Members.

There was no further discussion.
Motion passed unanimously

D.5. New Hires (Non Certified)
Chairman Collins stated Resignations Non-Certified Inclusive
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Robert Guthrie
Discussion: Mark Palmieri questioned that when hiring non-certified first they said three now there are five on here. How do we go about hiring since I have been here I haven’t seen these jobs posted? Are there other people and do we do some type of ranking or seniority thing?

It was stated we have three full-time people and two part-time. Ray Collin stated all these jobs were posted and last year during the hiring freeze they were filled with substitutes for four or five months. Mr. Belchak since you are here you may want to speak.

Mr. Belchak stated that he really appreciates hearing Eric Murillo’s comments about passion. His people have more passion than a lot of other people because we see every child every day. I do think we should be more diverse in our area. We have people in the high school that sign because we have children who are hearing impaired. This is what we look for in a person. All these positions went out by contract through the bidding process. All these people were interviewed and these are the people that were currently doing the jobs as a substitute. These positions were already posted but we had a hiring freeze at one time.

Mark Palmieri thanked him and asked if there were other substitutes that are working right now? Alan stated yes and they will be considered for positions as other resignations are submitted.

Mark thanked him for explaining the procedures and policy that is followed.

Mr. Belchak stated that Mr. Calabritto and Mr. Collins are on the Food Service Committee and are looking forward to making other changes as the year progresses.

There was no further discussion.
Motion passed unanimously
E. New Business

06-97 Correspondence from Jon Capone regarding the donation of a new sound system for the Ken Strong Football Stadium.

John Capone stated that tonight he is representing the West Haven High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. In the past the committee has made donations to the Board of Education in the area of athletics that the committee has felt that all kids at West Haven High School in the Athletic Department or the entire school can benefit from. The money we make from our yearly dinner we try to give back to the athletic department. This year we were here in May for the Scoreboard which this board has already approved and it was discussed that the stadium was in need of a new sound system. The City didn’t have money for a new sound system at that time so the West Haven High School Hall of Fame Committee looked into it. He and Chris Everone made plans as to what could be done with the sound system which is approximately 20 years old. We want to keep our stadium up to a top notch field. They brought in four different people to give a proposal all four came on site and forwarded proposals. Our recommendation is to pick Sound Advice and Jim McGuire is here tonight. He has been to the high school on different occasions and will give a brief explanation. Jim feels that the sound system he will install can be used for graduation rather than renting a sound system for that event.

Jim McGuire of Professional Sound Advice commented on what a beautiful complex West Haven High School has. He will install an audio system that will complement the complex in both aesthetics and performance. Systems have changed drastically in the past 20 years. This system will better suit our needs. He will install speakers and they will use the light towers which will bring the audio more directly to where it is needed. We can aim the speakers in a direction that will better suit your needs and bring in an audio system that will improve the listening and enjoyment of the games over 100%.

Bob Guthrie mentioned the noise issue and asked if this would help curtail this problem. By installing the speakers and new audio system this will bring 100% improvement. The speaker currently are in the wrong place the way they are aiming. The wind from the water makes the sound travel. Bob asked if these would be professionally installed by this company. Yes was the response. A discussion explaining some of the reasons for the current noise level ensued.

George Monahan thanked Jon and his committee for putting this on the table with the difficult financial times. There is nothing like a new sound system to go with a new scoreboard which was paid for by a grant. The Board is getting benefit here and the students and athletes will benefit from this. As a follow up to Mr. Guthrie the sound is a concern and a further discussion ensued.

Jerry Calabritto asked what the time table is for the completion of this project. Jon stated that assuming it is approved tonight Jim McGuire would bring him a contract and he
would order the equipment and have it ready by the first home game which is September 22nd at which time we will have both the scoreboard and new sound system.

Mark Palmieri thanked Mr. Capone on behalf of the Hall of Fame for this gesture. He also asked if they are putting new speakers on the baseball field so that has the same sound or are these two sound systems interchangeable? No, the speakers on the baseball and softball field are going to remain there. New speakers will be installed just for the football field.

Singers at various activities were not visible they were inside the press box. With the new equipment the singers can be on the field by the 50 yard line and be visible to everyone in attendance. A further discussion took place regarding delay time etc. There will be over 100% improvement in this area.

Ray Collins asked for a motion.
Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 06-97
George Monahan seconded this motion.
Discussion: All equipment comes with a standard warrantee on parts. The service is done through the company and Mr. McGuire backs and services all equipment and there won’t be a charge if it is under warrantee.
All Members voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

Ray Collins asked for a motion on 06-100
06-100 Acceptance of completed projects
George Monahan made the motion
Howie Horvath seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All members were in favor
Motion passed

INFORMATIONAL

Eric Murillo asked a question regarding the defibrillators. Bob Guthrie asked Eric to refer his questions to Donna Kosiorowski as she is handling the set up, evaluation, and monitoring of units.

Eric also asked Mr. Horvath to follow up with the committee and get back to him on the expulsions and suspensions.

No other member of the Board had any further information to share.
Ray Collins asked for a motion to adjourn
Mark Palmieri made the motion
Eric Murillo seconded the motion
All members were in favor
Motion passed

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Clerk