

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
August 18, 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 August 18, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:15 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Palmieri, Chairman
Robert Saley
Patrick Egolum
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
Gerald A. Calabritto, Vice Chairman
T. Sean Maher
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Toni Paine
Howard Horvath Jr.

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Mark Palmieri welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for August 18, 2009. Mark asked for a motion to add two items to tonight's agenda. Jerry Calabritto made a motion to add items 09-104 and 09-105 to tonight's agenda. Andy DePalma seconded this motion. There was no discussion and all board members present were in agreement. The following two items were added to tonight's agenda:

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

09-104 Elizabeth A. Warren, English Teacher – WHHS

Effective: August 17, 2009

Reason: Personal

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

09-105 Alicia M. Simoes, 343 Andrews Road, Wolcott, CT 06716

English Teacher - WHHS

Effective: August 27, 2009

Salary: \$39,110.74 (Step 3 BS + 30)

B. Public Portion

There were no speakers at tonight's board meeting.

Mark Palmieri stated he was sorry and he should have mentioned this earlier and would be remiss if he did not ask for a moment of silence for a great teacher in this district; Annette Wilson. A moment of silence was observed for Annette Wilson and condolences were extended to her family.

C. REPORTS

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro gave a report on the summer projects. There have been a lot of projects that have been done this summer and he invited board members to visit the completed work. The rink project is complete and looks beautiful, the science labs are in very good shape, we are in the process of finishing up the alternate classrooms. The entire high school building is very clean; they did a great job there. They should be finishing the project at the field in the next day or so and we are excited because the band is having their first rehearsal tonight and want the kids to go back and tell everyone how nice it looks. The boiler projects at Forest and Molloy are underway and the abatement work should be finished by the end of this week which will clear the building for students. The projects will proceed from there. Both projects should be done prior to heat going on in October. Mike McGrath should be given a lot of credit as he spearheaded the furniture move from Stiles and oversaw a lot of the projects. Mr. Carney, from the Building Oversight Committee, helped out as far as pricing out jobs and getting them done in a timely fashion.

Superintendent Cavallaro requested AJ Palermo to attend tonight's meeting to talk about the exciting professional development that will take place in the next couple of weeks. All board members were invited to attend any of the up-coming staff development seminars that are being held in the upcoming weeks.

AJ Palermo spoke about Professional Development. She talked about what was going on with the Districtwide Professional Development Calendar for Septembers that is available on the web. She passed out information about the 2009 – 2010 New Teacher Induction. On Monday, August 24th from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Savin Rock Conference Center, 6 Rock Street will be the first day to welcome approximately 27 new teachers to the system. We are having a two day induction ceremony/workshop/professional

development. Day one will start with breakfast with the Mayor. Patti Fusco will be speaking and the new teachers will be receiving a textbook called the “First Days of School” compliments of the union. This promises to be a very exciting day. We think two days for now will be just enough to give the new teachers what they need without being too overwhelmed. They really just want to get into their classrooms and meet with their grade level partners. We hope to have more sustained contact with the new teachers this year; not just two days in the beginning of the year but have monthly meeting to keep touching base with them in order to retain them more and follow them for the first few years and not just year one.

Day two will be held at Pagels Elementary School, 26 Benham Hill Road from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. because we need a lab. We will be talking about Power School, the email system, Protraxx, and how to utilize the professional development calendar on line. All board members were invited to attend both day’s events.

August 27th is District Wide Professional Development Day. Most of the presenters this year are the teachers themselves. They worked on the content areas: Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts – Writing and Reading K-12 during the year and summer months under the leadership of the coordinator, superintendent, assistant superintendent, and the consultants we have been working with from the Leadership and Learning Center. A discussion ensued about Mr. Reeves’ study 90/90, seminars and workshops being held in September which will be posted on the Districtwide Professional Development Calendar. She thanked Patti Fusco for getting this information on the website and making it available. She is very excited about the coming year and thinks the teachers are really excited too.

The board gave thanks.

Jerry Calabritto asked how many pages is Mr. Reeves’ study. Some are 18 pages – summary. He asked for a hard copy in his mailbox. Dr. Druzolowski stated she will mail it to all board members. Some board members wanted it sent electronically some as a hard copy.

Mark Palmieri said the feedback from the New Teacher Induction held last year was phenomenal. The camaraderie really grew through this and as far as the professional development when it started last year too I commend this administration and there was a lot of great feedback.

Neil said that tomorrow is Freshman Orientation at WHHS at 9:00 a.m. and invited board members to come and tour the building and meet Mrs. Gardner if you haven’t done so yet. There are activities planned and we have had a really good turnout in the last few years.

The board, at our last meeting, hired Matt Cavallaro to oversee the ARRA Funds and he is here to tell us what he has been doing in his first month on the job.

Matt stated that for the first month he has become familiar with what the government expects to be reported for the Stimulus and ARRA grants that we received. There is a lot of new information that is being received every day. He handed out information on Web Tran Seminars that are about two hours each and anyone can access these.

He signed up for the online electronic emission of all reporting that has to be done for the grants. The first report is due October 1st which will state how much money we spent to date, which positions were created and the way the money was spent. This information will become public on October 11th.

Neil stated that Matt also put together the packet regarding salaries etc.

Rob Saley asked if we had any idea how much money we are getting yet? Matt stated the following:

IDA – 1.3 over the next two years
Title 1 – 1.5 to 1.7
IDA Pre-School – about 60 to 70,000

Rob asked if these were all under Matt's and Dave Cappetta's review. Yes. Is there any chance of loosing this money or getting more money? No. This is for two years and how many jobs are we looking at that will be created and are they teaching jobs or administrative jobs. They are teaching jobs. Neil said with the exception of one Assistant Principal's job many of them are teaching jobs that we put into our current budget and we created some new jobs that were presented at the last meeting. Rob asked how many jobs we are talking about. Neil said there are 7 new jobs but prior to that we had taken about 25 off our operating budget. Rob asked if we have to write grants for this money. Ann Druzolowski said we just have to give statistics based on scores. A further discussion ensued.

The board gave thanks.

Neil Cavallaro stated that we have some preliminary AYP status and we have received our CMT scores. Anne will give you a brief overview tonight and we have our coordinators working on a presentation next month when the AYP numbers are made official; they are not actually official at this point.

Anne Druzolowski said that is why it is really difficult right now to release anything because it is all hypothetical. You will have a very thorough review in a package that will talk about the data. The bottom line is that what we are seeing is flat information which means there is not a big growth spurt and neither is there a decrease; that is good we have maintained what we have been doing with all the grades across the CMT and CAPT. The districts that constitute our DERG are: Ansonia, Bristol, Danbury, Derby, East Hartford, Killingly, Meriden, Middletown, Norwalk, Norwich, Putnam, Stamford and us, West Haven. Some highlights are we were number 1 in writing district wide as well as in science. These are two really solid pieces. Could they be better – absolutely

they are not where we want to see them. In mathematics we didn't see a big dip or big gains - but we will. What we want to see over the next two or three years are the sub groups that are identified and are not doing as well as the rest of the largest group start to rise. Our numbers of kids in Special Ed groups as well as our groups of students of color and economically we start see those not as much as a disparity between that group of kids and the general population. As a result of analyzing this data we will tell you what we need to do to intervene in this and to bring the scores up. I have nothing much more to report on this now except it wasn't bad it wasn't outstanding; it was where it should be right now moving up.

C.1.a Status of Schools

C.1.b. Student Representatives

C.1.c Board

Eric Murillo asked how we are doing with school choice. Neil said that is a good question. Carrigan must still offer school choice. Savin Rock and Forest School must offer school choice. In Carrigan the letters went out. In Savin Rock and Forest letters will be going out to all fourth and fifth grade students. We are limited in school choice. If we use our preliminary numbers in AYP Bailey has been identified preliminarily as a school in need of improvement year one so there was a question if we could send students from Carrigan to Bailey; however the state sent word that because it is not a Title 1 school it would still be to the student's advantage to offer that choice. We were very limited to the number of spots we had. Bailey has a very large 6th grade class. There were over 30 applicants from Carrigan and they were only able to accept 5 students. There were small numbers in the 7th and 8th grade so we were able to take most of those students. We are in the process of doing it for Savin Rock and Forest and if history is any indication last year Forest had a dozen people make application however only a handful decided to opt out most still liked their elementary school.

Rob Saley wondered if we could save paper by sending informational material via email rather than hard copy for the Agenda's backup material. It can be scanned in and it would save time and paper. Neil said this is not an issue we will request a delivery receipt to be sure it has been received and if you want it in written format we will give it to you. Jerry questioned if we can do this under FOI. Jerry thought we could as it is not part of the agenda it is informational.

Andy DePalma said he toured the high school on Thursday and they did a fabulous job there. The rink, science rooms, and alternate rooms look great; the difference is unbelievable; the guys did a great job.

Mark Palmieri said all the schools and the ground too, the grass and hedges have been cut and weed whacking has been done and everything looks great. I went to the rink and the field and they look great and the field was at no cost to the taxpayer due to stimulus funds am I correct? Neil said we were able to use salaries; had we not been able to move those

salaries the project would not have occurred. The price on the boilers was great and the rink looks fantastic. This will bring up the moral of a lot of our students when they see the science labs and football field and the cleanliness of the entire area. He is very happy with the outcome of all this work as a taxpayer and a board member.

Sean Maher commended everyone involved in the planning of the baseball banquet the other night; it was a terrific event and the video came out wonderful. It was great to see the boys get their just desserts.

C.1.d Committee

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held July 20, 2009
at 7:00 p.m. in the Blake Bldg. (Enclosure)

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting held August 4, 2009
at 6:30 p.m. in the Blake Bldg. (Enclosure)

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the Board of Education minutes D.1.a. and D.1.b.

Andy DePalma seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present voted in favor

No one was opposed

Motion Carries

D.1.a. and D.1.b. Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

09-104 Elizabeth A. Warren, English Teacher – WHHS
Effective: August 17, 2009
Reason: Personal

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

09-101 Krista Bush, 131 Rangely Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Library Media Specialist - Thompson/Molloy Schools
Effective: August 27, 2009
Salary: \$43,064.56 (Step 4 BS + 60)

09-102 Jared Stevens, 63 Pilots Point Drive, Westbrook, CT 06498
Technology Education Teacher - Bailey Middle School
Effective: August 27, 2009
Salary: \$39,523.10 (Step 5 BS)

09-105 Alicia M. Simoes, 343 Andrews Road, Wolcott, CT 06716

English Teacher - WHHS

Effective: August 27, 2009

Salary: \$39,110.74 (Step 3 BS + 30)

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

09-103 Danielle L. Dumont, 56 Linwood Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Medical Building Paraprofessional – Pagels School

Effective: August 27, 2009

Salary: \$17,567.45 (Plus Medical Stipend)

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve items D.2. – D.6. inclusive

Patrick Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion:

All board members voted in favor

Items D.2 – D.6. inclusive are approved

D.7. New Business:

Rob Saley wanted to clarify the email discussion and agreement stated earlier in the meeting. We are not getting any paper right - it will all be sent via email. Neil said unless it is requested differently we will send it electronically. Some board members stated they wanted paper. The actual agenda can be sent with paper but supporting informational documents by email.

Jerry said are we all in agreement when we come to a meeting no one will say I don't have those documents. Eric Murillo would like hard copies as we will still be printing them anyway. Patrick Egolum would like hard copies as well. The agenda will be sent out as a hard copy but everything else (back up material) will be scanned and emailed. Jerry would like us to double check with Floyd and make sure that legally this is acceptable.

Neil said the full agenda recipients will also receive scanned documents via email and if they request paper we can look at it again.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Andy DePalma seconded the motion

All members were in favor

The meeting ended at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola

Board Secretary