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 Chairman Gerald Calabritto at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
Chairman M. Toni Paine  
Raymond Collins  
Howard Horvath  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabritto  
Robert J. Guthrie

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
Mark Palmieri  
Krista Pickering

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**  
Paul Tortora  
Interim Superintendent Neil Cavallaro  
Mayor John Picard – left 7:25

*Chairman Calabritto:* the single item on the agenda is Capitol Improvement. I will now turn it over to Interim Superintendent Paul Tortora

*Paul Tortora:* you should have received the addition to the packet that went home. if anyone needs one I have extras. There are just 2 pages addendums. One item is the Intercom Systems, I will explain that shortly and then there is a new summary page. Just a couple of general housekeeping. Before we dive into these, we follow the format from previous years, and I’m not sure if the City Finance Committee will have a different format. So again what you have in front of you in relative to the format in the way things get priced out. So forth and so on are kind of the old formats. The second thing is the Mayor has had some discussion with me in light of the fact that the ten million dollar announcement on where these projects will fall. Of course he and the city council have the right to move them anywhere they want. So I think we can really take a long hard look at what’s going where. Usually in the past and again I’m just speaking from the past, generally when the board approves these and we send them over. At some later point, the city usually comes back and asks for the priorities. The third thing is the Mayor has had some communication with myself and I um, Mayor I may turn it over to you little. In that the format of the building committee for the projects is going to change a little. John would you mind talking a little bit about that.

*Mayor John Picard:* Interim Superintendent Tortora I appreciate it. We are at the present time Construction Board Committee is going to be in place to review some of the past projects. The current one, the future ones and the procedures, change orders, putting things out to bid. When it comes to the school side the project, obviously we will be in touch with the Superintendent, the principal, members of that board to keep them involved. The Board is together of some enormous of amount of expertise, engineering, finances, construction, demolition the call that I have for the board that is in place to work with city, work with the board of education to assure to the best of their ability that the projects are done, done correctly, not to have to be done twice, like some
projects in the past. To hold the people accountable for the post they are using, to make sure that the most qualified people receive the bids and make sure they actually go out to bid. That is some of the things we are doing, this is a volunteer board that will help supplement what we have now in place. Any project that will be going forward on the board of Ed side. Will be kept current with the Superintendent, principal, and maybe some of the board members from the finance committee. If I may continue on that construction board, I believe it meets the second Tuesday of every month from now on and continue as often as necessary to insure the best interest of the city is at hand. While I’m on that Paul, and Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons beside financial, actually I am asking that all projects be put on hold and if you don’t that is your prerogative. One of the things is to give this construction board time to review things and make sure things are done properly. The thing is we have a 10 million dollar deficit in this year’s budget, we have a debit services that is escalating. From 19 million dollars this 2006-2007, it will go up to 20 – 21 million whether we borrow 50 cents or not because the principal has not been paid back. The taxes are already abnormally high. So I am asking for some patients and understanding, we are looking to do the best possible job for the city, correctly, in the right way and the first time. Hopefully at least if not acceptance at least a little understanding. Thank you

Paul Tortora: Thank you, I just want to go line by line. I also want to thank my department heads who are here, Harry, Alan and Joe is here. A couple of principals are here as well. If you need more information, I’m sure we can supple you with most answers. If we can’t we will certainly research. I first going to talk about We have getting concerns from the union, from the principals, from staff on a on going bases at three specific locations, Saving Rock, Thompson, Carrigan Schools, we constantly do repairs but it still mostly the original system,. This is the room to room intercom system. These systems are very expensive; the last one we did was Molloy School. Which went out to bid twice and I think it came in between 50 and 60 thousand. So, hey are expensive, they are accentual in our opinion. As Neil said the police are often very concerned, relative to lock downs and things of that nature. So we added that. To cover those three schools. We are going to go down the spread sheet, the revised spread sheet. You can forget the years, because as I said the City or the Mayor have the final authority to move these where ever they want or need to be. We will go line by line.

1. The window replacements are a continuation although we request approximately ½ million dollars each year. The area is not done at Blake and certainly we are no asking for money to this building. Washington school is in line next. As you are aware the High School just finished the window portion and Forrest School we still have half of the old building with the old style windows. We are in pretty good shape. Stiles School is the last one and the big one hanging out there is Carrigan. Sp we have been fortunate that we have done the entire system with the exceptions of Stiles, Carrigan, a part of Forest and this building, which is certainly not a concern at this time. Just so your aware the 500 thousand doesn’t not do all of that. We broke that up to 500 thousand a year. We in essence get as much as we can done.

2. Computer Technology is a great thing, it keeps the system current. The past year was very trying because we did not get to roll a level. Because we had to fund the additions at Forest, Haley and Mackrille, the technology had to go into those additions. So it was a little trying, so, we do have third grades in need right now to roll out.

3. Abatement of Hazardous Materials, we certainly don’t have asbestos on the pipes or anything like that. We were one of the first systems many years ago to take a proactive approach. But we still have the tile over the district. The tile is fine as long as we don’t get an area of more ten 36
inches become pliable. But we have been on a plan, that the state comes in and reviews. The book in every principal’s office, the state comes in every year and does compliance review. They walk through the whole district, then they come back and spend hours with the Superintendent going over the plan. Basically met their approval. The state is very happy. But part of that plan is x amount of tiles every year. So that’s what that is about. That’s not new; it’s in there every year. When we get to places like the High School, we are dealing with thousand of square footage of tile. So it does two things, it replaces areas that have come loose and it’s a proactive, when we can fit in any many classrooms as possible.

4. Energy Conservation/ Air Quality by state statute now, we have an obligation to compile with new laws relative to air quality. Air quality has been very big in this district most of you are aware of that. It’s a very minor amount of money. We belong to tools for schools. That doesn’t require any money, that’s why we bid it, it’s a state design program. We have teams in every single building. They go through, they have a check list, and they have been trained by the state and our people. That’s just a little bit of seed money. That allows us to do, when we do have a problem let’s say we needed to duck cleaning for a very specific reason, we have an area with a small amount of money we can fall back on.

6. The High School roof, we have done portions of that, Joe what part is that?

Joe Yacono: we were going to try and do the whole roof, but I don’t know if it going to happen

Paul Tortora; that’s been what 20 years, 30 years.

Joe Yacano: yap, around that around 23 years now. We have been patching it.

8. WHHS auditorium Seating, Stage Curtain, & Handicap Lift

It the original seating, what Joe has been doing is we keep repairing seats by taking seats from the back. sections. It would be nice to get that. Certainly not a priority. Year after year we talk about the handicap lift. We are not incompliance, that’s what that’s about.

Robert Guthrie: Correct me if I’m wrong the lift would also be mobile, so it could be used at another school.

Paul Tortora: yes, we had rented one and we would like to buy one.

George Monahan: Real quick on the auditorium seating, I know many years ago when the orange Showcase closed, they donated seating from that building to the city of West Haven. I know the theaters are closing in Milford; maybe the Mayor could reach out and maybe make a contact, see if that complex may be interested in making a donation to our school system

Gerald Calabritto; that’s an excellent idea

M. Toni Paine: which ones are closing?

George Monahan: the ones on Cherry Street., it the same company that is opening in the mall.
WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 28, 2006
Capitol Improvement

Robert Guthrie: While we have all this and Mr. Yacono is here, we are looking at HVAC replacement, roof replacement, Auditorium Seating, Stage Curtains & Handicap Lift. I know that there are no really large venues in the city to rent for a meeting space or to make a presentation; I know it’s been kicked around a long time. I don’t know if it’s included in here to include air conditioning in the auditorium as part of project.

Joe Yacono: We put a figure in there, it is very minor. We will go to the first floor and punch two extensions the side of the building, we did some low calculations. I did a few of them. We just did Bailey over, I think everyone saw that. But yes, there is a plug in to that.

Paul Tortora: Bailey seats were done by a grant

Robert Guthrie: Are you planning on doing Carrigan seat replacement at some point.

Joe Yacono: some point

Superintendent Cavallaro: The seats at Carrigan are in pretty good shape.

Joe Yacono: Carrigan does not get the same use as the High School. So they are not bad. The problem is you can’t get parts for them anymore.

11. Savin Rock Boiler Re-tubing: -Every thirty years or whatever, we have one or two boilers that really need to be replaced. In their last couple of years of use, they come in and replace the tubes.

12. Thompson School Masonry repairs: - we put new windows in the school a few years ago, but unfortunately we ran out of money so they tried to patch them. When ever there is a strong wind the back of the school is really bad. We put in for it every year, and every year it gets put out. It is at a point now where the water comes in and there is no way to stop it.

13. Washington School Flooring: They used a new rubber back in 88 on the first, second floors and on the stairs. I guess what happen was, the school had originally had a wooden deck with a concrete deck underneath it, and they put the wood over the sleepers, then ply wood over that. Then they put this flooring, what ever happen the bonding agent did not hold up over the ten years. Now the floor is coming up and if you try to re-glue it. But you can’t do it. We tried. Because of so many years it just does not stick any more. It’s getting worse and now their tripping over it. They floors really need to be replaced.

Paul Tortora: I did skip number 10; I will come back to 5 and 10

14. Intercom System: we talked a little bit about this already.

15 Parking Lot Repaving- generally the practice is to do a parking lot or a portion of year to year. We found it easier to do a portion at a time. So we like to take that approach, one area at a time. Detail is on the back up sheet.

16 Maintenance Facilities: It certainly not a priority but it is something we have a fleet of trucks, We just have no place to put them at some point we would like to see a facilities.

Gerald Calabritto: this has been kicked around for years. Didn’t you bring one or two in over at the High School.
17. Stadium Concession Stand with Bathroom- Chris is not here this evening, but he did talk to us. This is something he has been asking for every year.
Paul Tortora: Harry is here, so

Harry Conlan: two request, if either one goes down we are out of business
18. Rink’s Cooling Tower for Compressor; is right at its life expectancy. It’s at 15, 16, they usually go at 15 to 20 years. Again, we will be shut down for a long time if this goes. I don’t know how we would go about getting a spare.
Zamboni – If the Zamboni goes down I have a back up in the garage, that’s from 1962, I looked at it again this weekend. I wanted to make sure that we had exhausted every opportunity. If we could retrofit to make it propane. You can’t have gasoline in the rink anymore. I am currently looking for a retro fit; it cost about $4,00.00. Then I can convert is over from gas to propane and then tune it up, Paul Messina spent so much time putting a new engine in it. So I don’t want to junk it. So, if I can fix the old one, considering the city finances. I just need permission to spend that money.
Doors in the Rink are a mess, none of them close correctly, they don’t lock.
The floors need repair.

Neil Cavallaro: asked about net
Harry Conlan: we need to put them up, we had an injury this past weekend during a West Haven game. They are on both ends, they need to be put on the sides.

George Monahan: asked where on the list is the girls lockers were?

Rink Bleachers & Exit Doors
Harry Conlan; the boys locker was done by people in West Haven, I am hoping to do the same for the girls, we are looking at about twenty one thousand dollars. I would to get it done. With the resources in this city to help us out.

Paul Tortora; 22-34
Food Service HACCP Controls – Elementary Schools
We put in for three things. 4 of our schools will need to have ovens to meet the new regulations on July 1st.

Food Service Serving Line; Final piece at the High School, gives the kids a chance to have the sandwich they want and have it made fresh. That would be the last piece at the high school we have already replaced over the last ten years
Food Service Two delivery Trucks- Trucks are getting older and they take a beating. We have two trucks and one van.

Paul Tortora: Back to 10 the Molloy School addition; the original scope was a four room addition. Gym, we cannot add a gym in it self and get reimbursement, so we looked into to adding more rooms, a computer lab, music similar to the other elementary school projects.
We ran into space standards, we need to calculate space standards by state. The enrollment was increasing enough that the state would improve the reimbursement. Its seats at gym and four rooms. We feel that the enrollment has not reached what we thought. So we are looking at maybe only 75% on the dollars. So there is less reimbursement. If there is a penalty the project has to be re-approved by the city. Right now that project is a little shaky. I think we need to look at closing Thompson School and making a 10 to 12 addition on to Molloy. I think Thompson School children would go into a state of the art school. I just don’t think we can fit all of Thompson school in there. It needs to be thought through with more detail.

Toni Paine: Bob how many years now have we said we would do the re-districting

Robert Guthrie: The previous budget there was money allocated for re-districting study. The money was never spent. There is no present money allocated for it, but we hear about racial balance, classroom size. The board originally brought the re-districting to try and really look at the numbers, correct the numbers so each building so they all had similar class size. The Tortora and the board decided to back off a year or two, because of the racial balance. Once the minority becomes the majority it is no longer an issue. Which is a good thing, because kids should be able to go to their neighborhood school. Instead of having to get on a bus.

George Monahan: it was not just a racial issue, it was also we have no idea what the population represents for each neighborhood school. I am all for diversity in the classroom, to have all white schools or all black schools does not serve the district or the children in anyway. I think the survey was for the data.

Neil Cavallaro: we did a survey if you remember Forest would still be the largest, Thompson which is the fourth or fifth would have the largest population. Also I support the idea of diversify schools.

Paul Tortora; as you go forward you will be faced with some difficult decisions for the facilities.

Gerald Calabritto: This is something we could visit at operating budget time maybe we could put that study back in?

George Monahan: A lot of the items on this list are up in the air and at the mercy of the Mayor. Maybe we could make a motion to add the twenty-five thousand study to the Capitol Improvement Plan.

Gerald Calabritto: just like you said this plan is at the mercy of the Mayor and council. If we do it, it is at our mercy. The city could stick it out five years. I ill certainly entertain that motion.

Paul Tortora: #5 I think this is something that we should look at. It would lower the High School population by 300. We would collaborate with other districts. We went to the UNH for support. It would be a varied of police, fire, homeland security, cyber security.
UNH was geared up on this. I think this is a great idea, every year that we wait, the project goes up.

Robert Guthrie: The problem is you compete with every other school district for the magnet money. The money from the state is going to keep getting smaller and the amount of reimbursement is going to continue to decrease. To look at it as a 1.9 million at cost. YI understand that you have to account for it on paper, but anyone who has been involved with a building project, it can be three to five years before any of those funds would have to be authorized. City Council would have to accept it; the ED049 would have to be submitted by June 30 to be considered for the next legislative session. But the actually money having to be accounted for by West Haven could be a number of years out. It could be a number of years for approval or not even received.

Ray Collins: Is UNH collaborating with money?

Paul Tortora: it hard to get anyone to collaborate with money, the ownership becomes an issue. Getting 95% on the dollar covers everything in the building. We would move a team of staff out of the High School, for the English, Social Studies, any course for requirement for graduation. I think we could get other types of funding. We would use some of their labs.

Robert Guthrie: It is more cost effective to build to standard, rather come in and try to retro fit. The state actually discouraged us from looking at any existing buildings.

Toni Paine: How many students could this school take?

Paul Tortora: About 300 out of High School and maybe another 100 or so from other districts. I would like to get this going.

Robert Guthrie: Urban, suburban so it would not just be New Haven, we would have to look to Wallingford, Guilford to make that connection. There is no expectation when you turn the key to open. You have all four grades, you will probably start with freshmen and sophomore class then work your way through so it’s four years before you are fully up.

Chairman Calabritto: that makes since.

George Monahan: I think the concept of the plan, and Mr. Guthrie deserves all the credit because it was his idea. He started originally petitioning the state to see if there was an interest. all the surround magnet schools in the area are very successful schools. And with the nature of the world today, giving the High School students the opportunity That may not want to go onto college. I don’t think we will have any problem attracting students.
Robert Guthrie: What we need to do is since we don’t necessarily pick the projects, we now need to lobby to the City Council and the Mayor. Explain and justify to them on behalf of any board of Ed project you may feel it justified, here it is on paper. Now we need to lobby on behalf of the Education needs.

George Monahan: we requested the funding last year, the state has already blessed the project, they are on board. They need a comment from the West Haven City Council saying they are willing to step up to the plate and go ahead with the project. They do not have to put any money on the table, until we start spending. But they need to commit. That when the money is available, they will be there with their share. 95% percent reimbursement on the dollar. Last year, I don’t know what happen with city council because they choose not to go with the program.

Gerald Calabritto: the thing is it is 95% today, tomorrow it could be 80%.

Paul Tortora: it was 100% last year.

George Monahan: I would like to make a motion to add line item 24 to the plan for twenty five thousand dollars for a redistricting population study.
Chairman Calabritto: asked for a SECOND, Robert Guthrie: SECONDED Motion. Discussion: Gerald Calabritto: I have one question is twenty five thousand enough?
Paul Tortora: yes. That’s very comfortable

Howie Horvath: part of the study would include alternatives correct?

George Monahan: Yes, we want to know if we put everyone back in their home school. What would that be, racially and total enrollment.

Chairman Calabritto: asked for a Motion to accept the Capitol Plan as amended with item 24. Motion made by M. Toni Paine and SECONDED by Raymond Collins, Discussion: No Discussion, MOTION carried unanimously

Chairman Calabritto: Before I accept a motion to adjourn I would just like to say, Mr. Tortora I wish you well, I bid you well, I will say it been a honor and bang the gavel and say we adjourn at your last official act.

Chairman Calabritto: Bobby?

Mr. Guthrie: Chairman could I just ask that you schedule another Finance Committee meeting

Chairman Calabritto: Certainly, I’ll work on it with the Chair.
WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
February 28, 2006  
Capitol Improvement

**Superintendent Neil Cavallaro:** Jerry, the three of us have talked and we were going to schedule Garth for the next four months at the second meeting of each month. If you would like to do a separate meeting?

**Chairman Calabritto:** we could add it to that. Before the second meeting in March, how about 6:00 pm. Toni is that ok. Chairman M. Toni Paine: we won’t need more then a half hour.

**Chairman Calabritto:** The second meeting in March 20th at 6:30, anyone else, any comments to Paul? Neil would you make sure the notice goes out? I’ll call you.

**Chairman Calabritto asked for a MOTION to adjourn**  
**MOTION was made by, M. Toni Paine and SECONDED by Raymond Collins**  
all in favor, anyone against? **Motion passed**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 P.M**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rose McDonnell  
Board Clerk  
Minutes Subject to Board Approval