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:** M. Toni Paine, Chairman  
Raymond Collins, Vice Chairman  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabritto  
Robert J. Guthrie  
Mark Palmieri

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Howard Horvath  
Krista Pickering

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

**B. PUBLIC PORTION**

There were no speakers at the public portion.

**C. REPORTS**

**C.1. STATUS OF SCHOOLS**

**C.1.a. ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Andrees stated that she is excited about the project that the students from West Haven High School are bringing before the Board tonight. They stated they wanted to save the school district a lot of money and that they could possibly save the school district $100,000 then they really had her attention. She had the opportunity to sit with the recycling students (approximately 20 young ladies at the time) who had some great ideas about recycling. This would be good for the school, community and environment.
Dr. Andrees wanted them to share with the Board a proposal that they presented to her, Ron Stancil and to the Union President and to Mr. Joseph Bonaldo. Their sponsor, Mr. Liam Leapley is here with them tonight and he will introduce the Grass Roots Action Club. Mr. Leapley stated that he brought the officers of this group to make a presentation Rebecca Rakoczy - President, Taylor Norton – Vice President, Erin Kelly – Secretary, Sarah Parmelee – Treasurer, and Cory McClellan - Historian. He stated he is not from West Haven but he finds himself as a teacher here very interested in the community and it is basically due to working with students like these. He then showed some of the posters that the students made. They are working on educating the elementary school students about the environment and recycling and community action. The members of the group discussed some of the various ways their group is providing information to the community about the environment. They came up with a mission statement and the acronym for this is PRIDE  P-Protect R-Reduce I-Improvement D-Dedication E-Environment. They have gone to the elementary schools and have provided information to the students which help them want to recycle.

In the future they would like to start recycling cardboard and get a bailer. They also would like to begin with organic waste which can be donated to local farms for compost. They would also like to begin recycling plastics. They are also hoping for a greenhouse to donate the food toWHEAT. Their goal is to reduce waste by 50%.

Last year they went to Seth Haley School and they demonstrated by a slide the three R’s they showed the students: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They have made posters showing how to recycle and the percentage of each which are recycled.

Mr. Leapley stated they are doing a completely self sustaining project are not looking for money. They are trying to get the community interested and are beginning with only paper recycling. You have to walk before you can run. They have received bins free of charge and the transportation is being provided free of charge. With these cost free benefits a realistic 50% in reduction waste is possible. Mr. Leapley stated this program is good for the community and good for the budget. We just think this program is great.

Dr. Andrees encouraged the students to get their colleagues involved and stated that there is no need for action by the Board this is informational to them. We wanted to make the board members aware of this program if they didn’t have knowledge of it. The custodial staff endorses this program and gave them a donation to get it off the ground. You never know where initiative can take us and the only challenge is to add some more members to their organization and get some young men involved to add to the diversity of their group. The excitement, energy and commitment is here and we are looking forward for them to tell us how their organization has grown as a result of this great project they are hoping to get off the ground.

Dr. Andrees thanked the group for coming tonight and for their efforts and wished them the very best in this endeavor.

The Board thanked them for their presentation.
Dr. Andrees began her report by stating that Garth Sawyer, our person in charge of the budget in West Haven, has a new daughter who was born on Sunday and arrived one month early. Her name is Samantha and mom and daughter are doing very well. The board and Dr. Andrees extended congratulations to Garth and his wife.

Dr. Andrees wanted to thank the generous staff in West Haven and by staff she means teachers, custodians, secretaries, paraprofessionals, nurses, and food service employees. Dr. Andrees and Neil Cavallaro have gone to the various school buildings and were told how people from the school communities have been digging into their pockets to help others in their community who are in need. They are supporting families in this community who may not otherwise have a good holiday. This makes her feel quite proud and warms her heart to be part of this community.

She wanted everyone to know that a letter went home today to the homes of students at Pagels stating that it was alleged that a black car slowed down in front of a group of students today as they were on their way to school. Parents in the area observed this and didn’t see this in the same light; however due to the fact that this was suspicious a letter did go home to all the parents. Tomorrow Dr. Cordone, Principal of Bailey will be sending a letter home to all the parents at Bailey to inform them also.

We just hosted a meeting for new teachers in our system. One of the things we have spoken about is that we hire new people and then we don’t see them again until we are ready to lay them off or a year from now and we don’t know how their year was. We are prepared to meet with the new hires three times this year. We had our first meeting and we talked with them about how it is going and what could we be doing to help your experience to be a successful one. We asked what do we need to do to help your transition be a smooth one. Jolene Barnes and I will do this again in March to see how it is going and then we will do it again in June. This is our way to stay connected and to hopefully hold on to the new people we brought here by addressing their needs and concerns. This was a very productive meeting.

We have had some outstanding concerts in this community last week and it is still ongoing. Tonight at Savin Rock they are having a concert and they are having another one at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow if you are available. Mackrille is holding their concert tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. and Pagels will hold their concert at Carrigan on Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Several of the elementary concerts will be hosted at Carrigan due to the large audience. This has been a real nice thing to see this holiday season. The band will perform Thursday at 7:00 p.m. this is the finale.

We are having our EDO1 Audit where our 2005-2006 Budget is being audited as part of the educational process we have to have this done by December 31st. Garth was scheduled to come in today and just had the baby last night. They will be here today and again tomorrow and are just about done with taking samples of the budget to see if it is exactly what we say it is. We should be getting a report once they finish compiling everything.
One of the young men from WHHS who was just honored last month for the National Merit Finalist has received early acceptance from Yale University. This young man went to Thompson, Carrigan and is now is quite a shining star for us at WHHS. Kudos to Steelson Smith and his family. Again, a lot of wonderful things happen to children in this school district.

Neil Cavallaro stated this is important wonderful and it is really important to state that we have good students in all of our schools. We have done the tours as you all know and there are so many positive things going on. At Thompson School which is in economically the poorer end of town they are collecting things for needy families. These types of things are going on throughout our entire school system.

Neil stated that he has the bus numbers which were asked for by the board. As some numbers were kind of high he wanted to go out and do some extra counting. On paper the numbers looked high but we felt the numbers were good pretty consistently throughout the district.

Neil received an e-mail from a 12th grader at the high school who wanted to know how we could get global warming into our curriculum and more environmental type things. These types of things are important to our students and are things that we should be doing more in addressing these things if there is an interest there.

Dr. Andrees added that tomorrow she, Mr. Cavallaro and staff will be meeting with legislative members that represent West Haven as they are preparing to go back to the new legislature. They have heard the concerns and issues that are affecting education. We are quite pleased to have that audience tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

C.1.b. BOARD

Bob Guthrie stated there is definitely a lot of activities at the schools and he had the opportunity to attend Seth Haley’s Play and he attended the Forest School Concert which was held at Carrigan and it was a full house. It was a wonderful production. He also had the opportunity to attend the Washington School concert and this was nice because it was for the whole student body.

Senator Gayle Slossberg D-West Haven and Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams Jr. D-Brooklyn held a press conference and he wanted to state to Mr. Consorte and Mr. Stancil that the student government students were fine representatives of not only the school district but the city in asking pointed questions. A brief synopsis is that they are looking to push through approximately 15 million dollars for what they are calling SAFE Schools (Security Assistance for Education). That’s 15 million dollars for 169 municipalities. They have nothing in the pipeline and are hoping to start when they go back in session. As you know we applied for a school construction grant for new renovation. They want to make it mandatory that you apply these security initiatives however it is not reimbursable by the present formula. The state will make you mandate
it to install it but not pay you the money to reimburse you for it. The same thing for remodels they want to make it mandatory to bring remodels for you to install it but again the application for reimbursement doesn’t tie into it so it is on the dime of the local school district to make it happen. It’s a pretty picture of 15 million dollars but it doesn’t show what the true cost would be coming back here. So they were asked to look into changing the formula and if they are the ones mandating it at least make it 70, 80 if not 100% reimbursable.

A couple of meetings ago we had a parent come to us about Seth Haley’s playground and there was some confusion and we stopped Tom McCarthy from the Building Oversight Committee in the hall a couple of weeks ago. It was implied that the Building Oversight Committee was going to fix it if they could find the funds or get back to us. They certainly made it clear in no hidden terms that there was no funding coming from them for that purpose. He gives Beth Sabo credit as she went out the next morning at 6:30 a.m. and personally inspected each and every playground to see what needs to be done. She found some very common surface issues to be addressed, quite a few of them which she will work on in a bulk purchase. As far as the specific complaint Haley’s slide the problem is that this slide is one unit you can’t just replace a section. They have to talk to the manufacturer about ordering that slide and you are talking 6 – 8 to 10 weeks before it gets here and is installed; we are looking at spring. Toni Paine stated we wouldn’t be using it until then anyway and Bob agreed.

Bob stated that as most are aware at Savin Rock we are trying to get a computer lab up and running. I would ask all of my colleagues to stop in there and see it. If you have an opinion I would ask that you please voice it in public as this is where we have our say as nine board members not privately and obviously they presently have 23 computers sitting in a room that are unable to be utilized by students. We authorized the project to be started and then it was interrupted; I’ll leave it at that. At this point in time all hope of designing a better room equivalent to say a new building like Mackrille lets just face it we are not going to see an existing building meet the new construction standards like that. If we have 23 computers brand new that were donated in there let’s finish what was started with the electrical and get this system up and running and get the lab up and running so the kids can use it this school year. In speaking with Mr. Yacano a rough estimate would be $30,000 to do a true computer lab. I don’t see $30,000 in this budget year or next budget year so these computers will just be going to waste for the students. I would ask my colleagues to stop over and take a look at it and try to make sure this is finished so the kids can actually use it. That’s all I have.

Toni Paine stated she is in agreement with Bob about the computer lab because she saw it and voiced my opinion with Dr. Andrees. They are physically just sitting there. Bob stated they are sitting there going to waste and they are brand new issues. They need the proper electrical but it started and could probably be finished wiring in a couple of weeks especially with the shut down. Jerry Calabritto asked where the $30,000 is coming from. Maybe down the road a rich uncle or something. George Monahan stated that would be the cost to build or remodel a lab as a sort of state of the art in an existing building. But that is not in the short term window. Jerry stated lets get the kids to use them.
George stated that as everyone knows this is the second year where the board has elected student representatives as members of this board. The first group of three were involved very well and got it off to a good start. The three elected representative this year are also off to a good start. He wanted to acknowledge and have the record reflect that they have taken their responsibility seriously and they did run an article in the school newspaper informing everyone of their capacity and their position and the fact that they wanted some dialog. They wanted feedback from the students on issues that they might want us to hear about and they also let them know that they are there to answer questions on what we do as a board as well and I just thought that they deserve a lot of credit for starting that kind of dialog and communication.

Eric Murillo stated he had concerns about the lab. There are 23 students and the area is too small it is like a phone booth. He was concerned about the different hours that were stated as the hours kept changing. He was looking ahead and the lab should be planned correctly. He brought his concerns to Dr. Andrees.

Bob Guthrie stated that perhaps Mr. Calabritto can restate this but the only time the nine of us are in any authority is when seated here at the Board Meeting with the exception of the Chairman. Those items you had concerns about should have been brought before the whole board because as an individual you have no right to take that action (Eric interjected he didn’t take any action) to interfere with the children learning.

Eric stated he didn’t stop it he reported his observation to Dr. Andrees that was it. There is nothing wrong with that. If you see something you don’t like you make an observation right. Bob Guthrie stated if you bought your observation to the board you would see it reflected back in the minutes. George stated that we are a board of nine and you as an individual board member have every right to inspect and look at things and draw conclusions and have opinions but it would be proper to go to the committee first that is associated with that particular issue and then to the board as a group. Acting individually is not proper. Eric stated again he just made his observation and he didn’t think there was anything wrong with an observation and gave it to the Superintendent. That’s all I did I didn’t tell them to stop the work. He thought the cabinets should have been moved to allow more room; that was only an observation.

Chairman Paine stated duly noted and she knows Dr. Andrees has looked into it.

Eric stated he previously had requested that Eric Pimer ride the school bus as a preventative measure. This had been approved by the Board and Toni Paine stated we can get a report from Eric Pimer.

George Monahan stated that his daughter stated there have been police officers on her bus and he believes hers isn’t the only bus.
Eric Murillo stated he would like to see the log on the defibrillators. He also stated that the recycling project is a great idea. As adults we should recycle. He had passed out materials last year and nothing happened. This is an excellent idea.

Chairman Paine thanked him and asked if there were any committee reports.

C.1.c. COMMITTEE

Ray Collins stated that the Food Service Committee met and Mr. Belchak presented to them numbers for the summer lunch and there was a dramatic increase from last year. They went through the application process for free and reduced lunch and the audit process they are looking to use. They are utilizing Power School at the high school and at the elementary schools and this makes it more efficient. There was a proposal put forward for a hiring policy for food service that was defeated 2 to 1. We discussed changing positions at the high school and the agenda will be placed into the minutes.

Chairman Paine thanked him and asked if there were any other committee reports.

George Monahan stated as Chair of the Special Education Committee I had a brief conversation with Gary Palermo and Madame Superintendent I would ask if you could arrange to set up a committee meeting in the early part of the year (any of the first three meetings of the year would be fine whichever is convenient). Mr. Monahan also would ask Gary to extend an invitation to anyone in his staff that might come forward and talk to the committee. This can be held right before one of the board meetings.

Jerry Calabritto stated that immediately prior to the next board meeting we will be having a Finance Committee Meeting and we will give you a status report. Garth will be there and we will have reports from the rink, food service and stadium.

There were no further committee reports.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. Approval of Minutes
Ray Collins made a motion to approve the minutes
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes
D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

06-154 Michael Guarino, Tennis Coach, WHHS
   Effective: Immediately
   Reason: Personal

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the resignation
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

06-155 Kimberly B. Bennett, 12 Month Clerk, WHHS
   Effective: Immediately
   Reason: Personal

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the resignation
George Monahan seconded the motion
No discussion
Bob Guthrie opposed
6 for and 1 opposed
Motion passes

E. New Business:

06-156 Correspondence from Ann Marie Sherman and Miriam Rivera, PTSA Co-Presidents to Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent requesting permission to hold a Benefit Golf Tournament for Project Graduation on May 4, 2007 at the Orange Hills Country Club.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the request
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes
Chairman Paine asked Dr. Andrees to discuss this matter. Dr. Andrees stated that we have a student coming to our district from New Haven who utilized a paraprofessional and now this student is returning to this district and we need to supply our own paraprofessional.

George Monahan made a motion to approve the recall.
Ray Collins seconded the motion
Discussion: Mark Palmieri asked if it was a medical para. Dr. Andrees stated she would get the information for him. George Monahan stated that either way it is a position required by law.
All in favor
Motion passes

F. INFORMATIONAL

All Board Members wished everyone a nice holiday.

Vice-Chairman Ray Collins made a motion to adjourn
George Monahan seconded the motion
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Clerk