

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
December 28, 2009
Organizational Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Toni Paine
Dorinda Borer
Howard Horvath Jr.
Eric Murillo
Mark Palmieri
Patrick Egolum
Robert Saley
Andrew DePalma

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: T. Sean Maher (Present via phone)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent
Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
Mayor John M. Picard

Prior to the beginning of the meeting Superintendent Neil Cavallaro stated that Sean Maher called from Las Vegas and felt that he had the right to vote and Neil confirmed this with one of the Board's attorneys who is available should we need him. Mayor Picard stated he is sure we won't.

Before beginning the meeting Mayor Picard asked for a moment of silence for Rose Reilly who is the mother of Brian Reilly who was a devoted teacher for many years. He also stated that Marisa Mastrisciano from the PTA Council also passed away suddenly and requested a moment of silence for both.

Organization

The Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John M. Picard at 5:18 PM. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

B. Public Session

Public session began at 5:20 PM
Sandy McCauley, 84 Richmond Avenue, West Haven, CT is President of the West Haven Federation of School Nurses and stated that for the third time in the last 10 years one of

our nurses is being recognized by the Connecticut Association of School Nurses as School Nurse of the Year; Susan Marchitto from Washington School. Applause followed. Mayor Picard asked three times if anyone else would like to address the board. There were no other speakers. Public Session closed at 5:25 PM

Mayor Picard stated that this is an organizational meeting for the Board of Education per Chapter IX of the City Charter of the City of West Haven. The first order of business is to elect a Chair. I am asking for nominations for Chair of the Board of Education please.

Patrick Egolum nominated Mark Palmieri as Chair
Toni Paine seconded the nomination

Mayor Picard asked if there were any other nominations.

Rob Saley nominated Howard Horvath as Chair
Toni Paine seconded the nomination

Mayor Picard asked if there were any other nominations.

Eric Murillo nominated Dorinda Borer
Sean Maher seconded the nomination

There were no other nominations.

Mayor Picard asked each individual board member to identify the candidate they wished for Chair by name and they would start from his left to his right and identify which of the three candidates they would chose for Chair.

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Candidate of Choice for Chair</u>
Andy DePalma	Dorinda Borer
Sean Maher	Dorinda Borer
Toni Paine	Howie Horvath
Mark Palmieri	Mark Palmieri
Dorinda Borer	Passed Once
Rob Saley	Howie Horvath
Howard Horvath	Howard Horvath
Patrick Egolum	Howard Horvath
Eric Murillo	Dorinda Borer
Back to Dorinda	Dorinda Borer

Mayor Picard stated he has four votes for Dorinda Borer and four votes for Howard Horvath and one vote for Mr. Palmieri. This would be a tie and I believe by our Charter the Mayor breaks a tie so Mr. Howie Horvath congratulations you have my vote. I'm going to have Howie take over from here but before I do that I would like to thank Mr. Mark Palmieri who did an incredible job as Chairman. (Applause)

Howard Horvath stated:

I am honored and humbled to have been selected Chairman. And I understand how important a responsibility it is in these fiscally challenging times. I however, strongly believe that in the midst of such challenging circumstances often lies incredible opportunity.

So I am very excited about our prospects for making a significant difference in the lives of our students. The US Secretary of Education in fact, has made it clear that the over \$10B in funding earmarked for education over the next few years presents us all with a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to make some giant strides forward.

I have great confidence that our board will work together to continue to support our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in all the important initiatives they and their team have worked hard to put in place as we strive to establish our school system as a model for all to follow.

I would like to thank my wife Patty, my daughter Carly and son Jake for their love and support and the rest of my family and friends for believing in me. I would like to thank my colleagues on the board for all they have done and will continue to do for the students of WH. I would also like to recognize all the time and effort Mr. Mark Palmieri has spent in service to the community as chairman.

And finally, I would like to commend all our school leaders, Neil and Anne, and our dedicated teachers and support staff for having the courage and fortitude to come together to move our district further down the road towards what I see as a very bright future - for our children and for all the residents of this great City. Thank you again.

Chairman Howard Horvath asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Dorinda Borer nominated Sean Maher for Vice Chair and Eric Murillo seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. By a voice vote all members were in favor of Sean for Vice Chairman. Congratulations Sean you are Vice Chair. (Applause)

Howard Horvath asked for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Dorinda Borer nominated Eric Murillo for Secretary/Treasurer and Rob Saley seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. By a voice vote all members were in favor of Eric for Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations Mr. Murillo you are Secretary/Treasurer (Applause)

At this point Chairman Horvath asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Toni Paine seconded the motion

All members were in favor

The meeting ended at 5:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary