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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Anne Heffernan - 7:02 P.M.  
Krista Pickering  
Raymond Collins  
Paul Messina  
John M. Carrano  
Toni Paine  
George Monahan  
Robert Guthrie

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:  
Howard Horvath

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:  
Superintendent Paul Tortora  
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:  
Sharfi Farhana

B.  Public Portion of Meeting.

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone wished to address the Board.
Cathy Zarnowski, 31 Alexander Drive, West Haven, and Miriam Rivers 107 Baker Street, West Haven -West Haven High School Co-Presidents PTSA, see statement attached

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wished to address the Board
Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, I glad we started out talking about Community Service, the unfortunate part is this was not taken seriously 2 ½ years ago when it was voted on. I sat here, I talked about it. I said basically the same thing the PSAT just said. That there is a time restraint and that it should be positive and reinforced. You not are going to force these kids to do it. That is awful to hold a High School Diploma and dangle it in front of them and say you’re not going to get it if you don’t do the hours. Also it was represented at that meeting which I have a video tape for anyone who was not present who would like to review it, I can get you a copy of it. That the majority of the schools in the area are doing it. I went home and in the next few days I called about 20 of them, I found maybe 2 or possibly 3 schools that were requiring it as mandatory. The majority of the schools were not doing it. I brought this information to the board. What happen, absolutely nothing? Everyone sat there, I think there was one question, and it passed unanimously. I could not believe how they just voted this in. Further more I said it that night I will follow this there to the end. I will be there when you have the meeting explaining to parents that their kids are not graduating. I’ll be there with video tapes that I assure you. If you make something mandatory that affected every child that walks through there research should have been done. You are elected official of the city you have the final say, if you had voted no, tabled it. Unfortunately not, did anyone follow it, no. Just me, I asked how parents know, the next day a letter went out to all parents. Did any follow it after that? No, again I did and found that even less were complying then I thought I brought this information to the board, did the board do anything no. Most recently I requested the information again. The majority is not. Now I understand that if you are going to rescind or change something it should have been done in the same form. During a regular meeting such as this, not put in on an off meeting when there are not many people here. It should have been presented at a regular Board meeting and it was not. If you vote something in at least watch it, have someone track it. Grab them as freshmen or sophomore. No one did anything, so now you want to get it back. What about the kids did comply?
If you are going to do something mandatory then you need to have a plan in place. No one followed through, if I had not requested. In the future, especially when it affects so many students, instead of just taking someone word for it, you should check into these things. Expulsion, 9 of them, all the same hearing officer, also stipulations again. I went through a regular hearing it seems to be public information. But if it has stipulations, that not. Under freedom of information I am requesting how many Special Ed students at Stiles; it must be reported some where everyone keeps how much money we are saving. Also I would like any invoices and literature that goes into computer programming. Software anything that has been bought or will be bought, that has to do with the grading and everything else. I am requesting a copy of anything that was handed out at last weeks meeting. Last when you had your CABLE representative here, they told you that you need to get parents to sign handbook. Has anyone enforced this or are you going to wait until something happens? Thank you

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wished to address the Board
Curtis Jordon, 249 Malcolm Road, felt Mr. Carrano, should have been let resign and Ms. Paine take over. Also feels that we spend millions of dollars on Education and we should be ashamed that we have poor scores in the State and in West Haven. Said he did not support a new Carrigan School, but felt we need a vocational school.

Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wish to address the Board
Robert Wittosski, 93 Dalton Street- Does not feel we should mandate Community Service. That if Mr. Carrano wants to resign he should be able to and Ms. Paine should step up. Feels we need to revamp our hiring procedures. Also feels the Board should show more support for achieving the dream program at Carrigan run by Ms, Fentress

Mr. Guthrie, asked Chairman Carrano for a 5 minute break 7:25 P.M
Meeting resumed 7:35 P.M.
George Monahan - wanted to make it clear that hiring is a board action.
Chairman Carrano asked if anyone else wish to address the Board
For a second time, would anyone else like to address the Board?
For a third and final time, does anyone wish to address the Board?
Public session closed at 7:36 P.M.

Mr. Tortora: Asked Mr. Lally and Mr. Copone here tonight to answer any questions on new program
Jon Capone- Unified Sports will service roughly 25 students, they have three teacher already trained Mr. McDermott, Mrs. McBride and Mr. Conlan. There will be a basketball tournament in March, also tournament in soccer and track and field. There are several levels, 4 being beginners, no scoring, 5 wheelchairs students only and level 1 basketball. Mr. Copone would like to see us enter at least one team this year.
Mr. Lally, Unified Sports program is for disabled students. We have roughly 25 at High School and outside placement. We already have the best body program where they bowl. We may need transportation for students from ACES. This is a highly respected program in the State.
Mr. Messina, asked about coaches
Mr. Capone - said three are trained and ready to go, and they have gym time.
Mr. Messina, is there any funding?
Mr. Capone, CIAC pays for the transportation to the tournament for the first year.
Mr. Tortora, we figure on an $800.00-$1,200.00 budget
Sharfi - asked if this counts toward community service.
Mr. Lally, said they did not feel that would be appropriate
Mr. Messina- thought it should be considered.
Mr. Tortora, Mr. Lally, could you give Mrs. Rossi the number of Special Students at Stiles?
Mr. Lally, it varies from time to time, due to drop-outs, roughly 15
Mr. Tortora, please make information available to Mrs. Rossi
Mrs. Paine, asked if any extra insurance was needed for program
Mr. Capone, said no, it falls into the regular CIAC guidelines
Mrs. Paine, sounds like an excellent program
Mr. Copone, we would like to send letters home, and see what the response is.
Mr. Tortora, Congratulated the Chess Team on their 8th year in a row victory
Mr. Tortora, I am working on next year school calendar, we are working on staff development days.
Mr. Tortora, we receive $96,514 in grant money to finish wiring at West Haven High School
Mr. Tortora, Mrs. Rossi, in response to your request, invoices are available with Garth Sawyer in the business office. Copies of handouts should be on file in Board Office or contact Mr. Stancil

C.1.a. Administration.
Mr. Cavallaro said he would never embarrass the board and to his knowledge no rules or laws have been broken in our hiring procedures. He has always been honest with this Board and appreciates their support and understanding.

C.1.b. Board.
Mrs. Heffernan, congratulated the Chess team, said she had a wonderful time with the student for the two day tournament. Said it was a wonderful experience.
Sharfi- we took the High School Championship, we took it all
Sharfi- thanked Mrs. Heffernan for all her help and support over the weekend and the food.
Mr. Guthrie- Asked if a date has been set for celebration dinner
Mrs. Heffernan, not yet, we are waiting on Nationals.
Mr. Guthrie, when are the nationals?
Sharfi- In April, but there is a lot of competition out there.

C.1.c. Committee.
No Committee reports

Approval of Minutes:
Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.1 a through D.1c.

D.1.a. Regular Board Meeting of January 19, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at Blake Building
D.1.b Minutes from Budget Meeting of January 25, 2005 at Blake Building
D.1.c Minutes from Budget Meeting of January 31, 2005 at Blake Building

MOTION made by George Monahan and SECONDED by Anne Heffernan, Chairman Carrano Discussion: Anne Heffernan said minutes were wrong she made motion not Mrs. Pickering MOTION passed unanimously with change in D.1.b

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.2 05-14 through D.2 05-16

D.2 Resignations (Non-Certified)

05-14 Sally Ann Pierro, 196 New Haven Ave Derby, CT 06418, Title I Reading Aide at Carrigan Middle School, Effective: January 6, 2005, Reason: Other Employment opportunity
WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
February 7, 2005

05-15 Roseann Kaliszewski, 15 Knight Lane, West Haven, CT 06516, Cashier at Savin Rock School, 
Effective: January 13, 2005, Reason: Medical

05-16 Debra Dewick, 22 Peter Lane, West Haven, CT 06516, Paraprofessional at Seth Haley School, Effective: 
February 28, 2005, Reason: Personal

MOTION made by Anne Heffernan and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Discussion:  
MOTION passed unanimously

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve D.3 05-17 through D.3 05-18

D.3 New Hires: (Non-Certified)

05-17 Nancy Nixon, 577 Third Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516, Six-hour production worker at West Haven High 
School, Effective: February 8, 2005, Salary: $ 9,519.90 / Step 1

05-18 Linda Rallies, 370 Blatchley Ave, New Haven, CT 06513, Three Hour Day Cashier at Savin Rock School, 
Effective: February 8, 2005, Salary $ 8.75 an hour

MOTION made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by Anne Heffernan  
MOTION passed unanimously

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to approve E. 05-19

E. New Business:

05-19 Request for approval of Unified Sports Program at West Haven High School

MOTION made by Toni Paine and SECONDED by Paul Messina  
MOTION passed unanimously

Chairman Carrano, asked if Grievance was going to be in Executive Session
Mr. Dugus, It must be heard in public
Mrs. Heffernan, asked why?
Mr. Dugus, the statue changed Grievance held in public, deliberation can be in executive session, 
but vote must be public.
Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to move E. 05-19
MOTION was made by Krista Pickering and SECONDED by Ray Collins

F. Grievance:

05-20 Grievance # 135, Step 4 attached Grievance Administration’s Exhibits

Mr. Law, West Haven federation of teacher 
Board approved a course for African American studies 
3 credits are need in Social Studies towards graduation requirements. 
Course approved as elective 
2002-2003 3 to 4 classes 
Class deals with diversity, also includes co-curriculum, including Helping Hands and Taste of Africa 
2003-2004 Social Studies- all freshmen have to take a rural respective class as part of the requirements for 
graduation.
African American Class is only an elective 
In Sept, Union Stewart, Ms. Eason and Dr, Whitney met to discuss Ms. Eason concerns
Dr. Whiney was in favor of class as an elective

Ms. Eason feels she is being treated unfairly and that less students sign up for the class as a world perspective as required for graduation because it is an elective.

Ms. Eason looks at idea of race and the challenges the idea of race through out the world. Deals with Africa and different Africans who have made a difference around the world. Europe’s slave trade. Fridays were contemporary issues, many topics, one is wars. One of the prospective from an African American point of view was should African American be participating in conflicts that they don’t directly benefit from since there is still discrimination with-in the United States.

Ms. Eason feels class should be a requirement
Sharfi, Other classes focus on other cultures also, not just one.
Ms. Eason feels you learning cultures from the Europeans eyes.
Sharfi feels that you should not focus on just one perspective, you alienate all the others. It is totally different when you see only one prospective.

Mr. Dugus, this course has never been offered as a mandatory class.
Social Studies dept has a series of courses for world focus offered to freshmen
The design was approved by the Administration.
Ms. Eason wants to teach more sections of the African American studies.
She was told by the staff, in order for his to become a mandatory require, the curriculum would have to be changed.
This has not been done.
Procedure is present to social studies staff, and then it is put to a vote. They would have to decide if it meet requirement for world focus. Then if approved, it goes to Mr., Stancil, then to Mr. Tortora. Ms. Eason was told this, her course which was invented before the world focus, had to be revamped to be considered.
She was also told the course needs to support the CAPT test.
She has never done this. We had it on the Agenda in 2003, but she asked that it be pulled off. We don’t know but we suspect that is because she never did what she was asked to do. Which was to go back and re-write curriculum and give it a world focus and that it applies to the CAPT. Mr. Stancil approved course for freshmen as an elective.
He also asked Dr. Whitney to sit down and help Ms. Eason understand what was needed and hopefully having it approved. This did not happen. Not that Dr. Whitney was not available or willing, But Ms. Eason has been out a substantial amount since this fall.

What are we here for? Are we here to second guess a process that belongs in the High School that someone has not applied with? No. We are here to decide a grievance; a grievance is an alleged violation of the bargaining unit. The question you may be asking is what does this have to do with the bargaining unit. My answer is nothing. They have to prove that any bargaining unit has been broke. 1. Teacher treated unfairly 2.a violation or misinterpretation of the contract or policy. This does not even come close. I have explained process; I can have Mr. Stancil, and Mr. Consorte explain if I have presented his properly. There is a process to follow.
She will not re-write it. this is what she is saying to her peers in the social studies dept.

Anne Hefferman, asked if they have to take a social studies freshmen year.

Mr. Consorte, we mandate one of the three for freshmen.
We do the same thing for 10 graders as well.

Mr. Carrano, any questions

Mr. Messina, numerous curriculums has come before the board the last three years, roughly 50 have been re-written, and I do not see the problem.

Mr. Monahan, the value of the course is not in question. We have three courses that are truly global. The course in question is available; we have a lot course offered. We have a structure to follow. I agree with Mr. Messina, if someone wants to do the work and submitted it, it will be considered. At this point this has not been done.

Mr. Guthrie, MOTION to deny Grievance, SECONDED by Toni Paine,
MOTION passed unanimously
WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 7, 2005

Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to move into Executive Session
MOTION was made by Ray Collins and SECONDED by George Monahan

G. Executive Session:

Grievance # 135
Negotiations:

Moved into Executive Session 9:00 p.m.
Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Robert Guthrie and Seconded by Toni Paine, MOTION passed unanimously
Moved out of Executive Session at 9:48

H. Information:

Chairman Carrano, any questions on informational

Anne Heffernan - No
Krista Pickering - No
Howard Horvath - No
Raymond Collins - No
Paul Messina - No
John Carrano - No
Toni Paine - No
George Monahan - No
Robert Guthrie - Two things, first item H.m, Will we be hearing outcome of investigation
Mr. Carrano, I'm sure we will
Mr. Tortora, there were two breaks; one a hair line fracture in the pipe may have been there for years.
the other they broke during testing.
Mr. Carrano, was this pipe uncharted
Mr. Tortora, no but it measurements were charted wrong.
Mr. Carrano, who is they
Mr. Tortora, the testing company, I have asked Art Kelly to look into reimbursement.
Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Carrano I was glad to receive letter saying you are staying Chairman. Although Howie is not here, I'm sure all nine of us Board Members are 100% behind you
Mr. Carrano, Thank you
Chairman Carrano asked for a MOTION to ADJOURN
MOTION was made by Paul Messina and SECONDED by Toni Paine
MOTION passed, Mr. Guthrie Abstained

Meeting ADJOURNED at 9:55 P.M.