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 M. Toni Paine 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
Mark Palmieri
Robert J. Guthrie
Krista Pickering

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Tortora
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro
Mayor John Picard

STUDENT ABSENT REPRESENTATIVES: Kara Marcello
Shijing Xiong
Monica Senior

**** Public portion speakers are typed verbatim

B. PUBLIC PORTION
Chairman M. Toni Paine asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Paul Messina 64 Roosevelt Road, West Haven, CT. Mayor, Madame Chair, all the Board Members. I came here basically for two reasons tonight. One good, one not so good. It’s actually a heck of a lot better on this side then that side, I must say that, but you know my heart and soul are still in West Haven and I see and hear a lot that is going on, forget about the newspaper, I’m not even going to bring that up. I’m just going to bring things that are going on the board. In four years we so worked so hard to get creditability back to the board to where Administrators, Unions, people came up and said this is the best board we have ever worked with, I was proud of that fact. It appears that with what has been going on in the last sixty days, that it's headed in the other direction and what I would briefly like to say is, we are suppose to be creditable, suppose to have integrity, we are suppose to accountable for our actions and remember that it is not about power, who you’re working with or supporting and this and that. It’s about 7500 students that attend schools in West Haven that’s what we are here for, that’s what you’re here for. My second part tonight. I was very happy to be able to work with and stand along side Superintendent Tortora; I know this is his last meeting. I just came here to say, I wish you the best it was a pleasure to serve with you Paul. I learned a lot in that time. So for that, thank you very much.(applause)
Chairman M. Toni Paine asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Noreen Manzella, 21 Homesteader Lane. I speak as a life long resident of West Haven, a 1970 graduate of West Haven High School. Teacher is the West Haven school system for 31 years, having taught at Carrigan, West Haven High School and Bailey. As a attendee at the function during which the remarks of Dr. Cordone were made, and last but not least speaking for the many Bailey Staff who are here tonight standing behind me. I was saddened and shocked to hear that remarks that were spoken in a lighthearted manner at a social function were construed in a negative manner. It equally saddens me that remarks made four months ago, are suddenly now an issue, hinting at an unknown agenda. I and the teachers seated around at the dinner took his remarks, as we believe they were intended. A lighthearted satyr of the school climate and the teaching challenges of the 1970’s. I believe Dr. Cordone’s words were simply that a reflection of that the 1970’s. Which in no way reflects the school system that we have grown and developed into today?

Chairman M. Toni Paine asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Tamara Mursko, 748 Main Street, West Haven. Children come first is the mission statement that the West Haven Board of Education should adapt. When Mackrille received the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence did it receive front-page honor? No- the West Haven Board of Ed and citizens of West Haven should have been outraged that the goodness and accomplishment of children was not recognized by the New Haven register. It only appeared on the local page, when in fact it is a nationwide honor. We are teaching our children to judge others by incriminating descent people through the use of the newspaper and politics. We are all with fault, and everyone is innocent until proven guilty. I propose that we no longer have a Teacher of the Year Dinner or Founder’s Day Dinner. As what was a “roast” made famous by Dean Martin a tribute to a deserving person has now been spoiled because of self serving reasons and put on the front page of the New Haven Register. The question of Superintendent. There is a chain of command, when the Superintendent is away in Michigan the Assistant Superintendent must assume the responsibility without having to hire an additional Assistant Superintendent. The lack of responsibility to our children is the reason we do not have the Superintendent here. Do not spend money for an administrator that is already in place when our children could use that money. In closing I also want to see any committees that are formed by the Board of Education, that the committee is represented by parents from the high school, middle school and elementary schools. And that parents who are paid by the board not sit on committees because it is a conflict of interest. Thank you

Chairman M. Toni Paine asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Arthur Rossi, 12 Robin Road, West Haven, I would like to address the article about Dr. Cordone being I was the first student at Carrigan, I was there in 1970 and it was a nightmare. Seeing as most of you didn’t go to West Haven Schools or live here. I kind of address the fact that at that time there was massive walk out everyday, there were chairs and desks being thrown out windows, there was drug use that was ramped. Then Ralph Carrano came in, thank god for him and straightened the thing out. Dr. Cordone was one of the best teachers at that school and to this day I have respect and am still a little afraid of him. Before you sanction anyone, think about
what you are doing. You are definitely dealing with someone who has a high regard for education and the children of West Haven, all children. Carrigan was the hodge-podge it was not the private school on the other side of town. You had a private school on the other side of town 30 years, 40 years ago, you still have it, stop making believe that’s not issue. Because the people on this side of town have cars and we do drive to the other side of town. You should come and see what we have left. It is so bad, that this many years later from 1970 to now, the school needs to be torn down, why? Because no one spent a dime. So maybe we should start paying attention to the whole city and do something about it. But before you sanction the wrong person for something that basically, you should have been there. Welcome Back Carter was a good thing. Because it was worse then that, that was make believe. We have lived it, so unless you really know what is happening, don’t be so quick to judge, I hoping that nothing is going to happen and it was just a blurb in the paper. Thank you (applause)

Chairman M. Toni Paine asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

John, Peck Ave, West Haven I just want to mention that next Friday at Washington School we are having a Varity show seven PM at Washington School, the kids can display whatever talents they have. We have some singers, dancers, musicians, and I think even a karate act. So tickets are like two dollars, I just wanted to mention this, so if you can attend.

Chairman M. Toni Paine: Would anyone else like to address the board?  
Chairman M. Toni Paine asked for the second time if anyone wished to address the Board.

Margaret Krimsky, Hurlburt Street, I live in West Haven my whole life. I knew the principal Ms. Carrigan when she was principal at Forest School. So that name on that school is an honor for her. Yes, we had a lot of problems with Carrigan, my children went there and my grandson going there now. I understand we have a fantastic new principal of the school. You know what, I live at this end of the town and I’m tried of the knocks from the other end of town, people who don’t like the idea of the type of people that we are that live in this community. Were all blue collar, hardworking people who try to do the best we can to raise our children. But there are times when conflicts do arise and it’s not only the children, it comes from the home. If people would leave their attitude at home and not bring it to school, the teachers would have the ability to teach these children. And that’s what I instilling in my grandson. He is going to school for an education, he is not there to fool around or cause any trouble. Because if he does he has myself, my husband, his mother and father and will straighten him out. We won’t give anyone an argument if he does something wrong, he is going to take the punishment for that. And were not going to lie. That’s the problem with the kids today, they come in with an attitude they don’t do anything wrong. The parents don’t back up the school; they back up their kids when the kids are wrong. They should stop. The new superintendent of schools I understand, I don’t know if they are true or not, but they are things I heard she officially, does she officially um, um superintendent start on January 16, 2006. But she is officially not the superintendent. I understand she has apartment in Central Park West in New York and she takes the train and somebody here has to go pick her up and bring her to the school. Is that part of the deal that was signed when you gave her the job, you know what, I’m not for it, sorry. We have a person here that could have become the superintendent of schools, but I guess I was told he was too young, you know what, I don’t go for
that either. I don’t go by the person’s color of the skin either. I don’t care what you are you’re here to set an example and your going to take care of all the students not certain ones, everyone of those students comes under your care. And you have to show respect to them and they will show respect to you. It’s the parents that are the problems, sometimes. But you know what, this city was thrown in to that situation and I don’t think I care for it too much. I didn’t come to the open, when you had her at Carrigan, I didn’t know if too many of white people would be there, so I back off and hedged off, I didn’t want to cause a controversy because I am a controversial person. I open my mouth more and more everyday. I’ve had it. You know what, when you slide a person up you got a lot of perks. I heard about this teachers um, bringing their, um own children to schools in West Haven. I was shocked by it a few years ago, when Mr. Tortora brought forth that the new language in the contract that, that was going to be eliminated, I said to myself what wrong with the community, if you don’t live in West Haven and you come from out of town your child belongs in that town not here, your taking a space away from a child here in West Haven. This new program which I have a little controversy with, “I have to catch my breath”. (paused) There are so many children that live in this community that we would love to have go to that sort of program, my grandchildren, didn’t. We had to pay for them to go to Robert Johnson School. This is the first time I heard about this program. I guess it must have been a little closed mouth not too many people knew about it. Well let’s stop it. You’re hurting a lot of kids in this community. Their parents cannot afford to send them pre-K. And this sort of program is funded by the state of Connecticut then we should have the opportunity to send our children there. You know what; there are so many things in a contract that nobody knows about. I think it should be more open about it, because you are hurting this community; we got a bad name, West Haven. Everyday I read that paper, here we are, West Haven in the news again. You know what is like when you go to work and you got people from East Haven, Hamden, whatever, so I’m always the one, Margaret your from West Haven. Yeh, I know we, made the news again, what you want. You know what, let’s stop it. You know what, let’s stop it. Thank you

Chairman M. Toni Paine asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Beth Denton, 82 Woodvale Road, West Haven, CT. I know somebody is here from the register so I just want to thank her for her editors giving me a raise in my position. I just hope you guys reflect that in my paycheck this week, cause I would appreciate it. um, I’m here to speak about one thing this evening and that would be huh on behalf, behalf of the people who signed a petition, I have 730 signatures. From staff members, faculty, students at West Haven High School regarding the removal of Domic Vinci, um, first of all I have been in front of city council asking for their support, I did go to the police commission meeting Tuesday and I’m here with you my final stop for now. Domic came to us last year after Sal Carrano was injured during a meal what thing I can tell you about Domic that can be reflected by students, staff and faculty is Domic fit right in. He got to know everybody; um, he got to know the kids. He’s out there; he’s visible, his door was always open, anybody could go in there if they had a problem. I think after fourteen years of having the detective and if I’m not mistaken, and I did research this, so I’m only speaking of what I have been told, that the board of education does supply some money, some funding to have an officer in our school. I don’t know if that’s true, it true? I would think that we should have some say who’s there. I have nothing against the new officer that’s there. I just know he is not as visible as Domic is or Sal Carrano. um, as I was collecting signatures, I heard a lot a
great comments about Domic, how’d he be missed, the kids were upset, um, it was to the point where kids wanted to do walk out. We told them no, that’s not the way to handle it, sign the petition and we gonna go the next quiet route with that. um, I was really surprised at one student who said I defiantly wanna sign that, he kept me from getting arrested and I asked him to please tell me the story, and he said he was hanging out somewhere and Domic happened to drive by and stop to talk to him and by Domic taking the time to care about what he was doing prevent him from getting into trouble or arrested and I told the kid you know what, every time you think your goanna do something bad or somebody tries to influence you, um, you think about Detective Vinci stopping to see you. um, one good thing about having Sal and having Domic Vinci at our school is, when at the end of his shift not only is he a part of our community at school, he’s a part of our community, so when he done at the end of the day at three o’clock he doesn’t walk to another town, he stays right here. So he has a more opportunity more visibility to drive around and know the students. That’s number one. Two, I know in the past they have used the detective to identify um, victims of crime and assailants. Do to the fact that our detective key sense has always gotten to know most of our kids, sometimes it takes me four years to know a kids name. These people know, um. I know a lot of fights and situations have been averted because they had someone easy to talk to. We really feel that Domic needs to be brought back, and feel that some of his problems could have been through political for his discipline actions. um, I know that after fourteen years of not physically having one single detective inside two hundred Saw Mill Road, no difference would be made by Domic being brought back there, but it make a big difference to those of us at West Haven High School, I hoping some of you will jump on the band wagon with us, see if we can get him back. I think it’s most important for us to have him there. um, I trying not to read a speech and think of you know what it is from the heart, but he is a part of our school and he is greatly missed, um, and I do want to enter these signatures, a copy of the originals, the original at the police department. um, this man has been recommended for many commendations if you go to his personnel file, per his calm demeanor, his sense of detecting trouble before it happens, he’s a great guy, um, he’s great with the kids and I don’t want anybody to have to come back and say you know what, you should, you should of brought him back and look what happened ok and he does a wonderful job and everybody work well with him, and I just feel he needs to come back and we hope we can get your support. Thank you.

Chairman M. Toni Paine: asked if anyone else would like to address the board?

Curtis Jordan: 249 Malcolm Road, here in allingtown, my life spans three generations, I’ve seen the demographic change, I’ve seen the social economical change, and bothers me is my investigation of West Haven is that West Haven is never been proactive, West Haven for a long time it seems, it’s reactive, it waits for things to happen, instead of being proactive trying to head these things off. Then they become reactive. Now I understand that some of the problems we are having now, was known back in August. Now it seems to me, it should have been taken care of in August and people involved could have been notified and the situation could have been corrected. It almost appears as though you waited until after the election and then say oh we got ta do something about this. Now from what I understand there are several children that were on a waiting list in August. Those that were on the waiting list and if there was space for them, they should have been in the system, why did we have to wait until now, and something’s was said a long time ago about the reason why and I got ta tell you, it’s not just West Haven, it’s Connecticut. You read the newspapers we have one of the worse performing educational systems
in the state, and it’s not me saying it, it’s been in the paper. And the statement was made some
time back by the state and I think repeated by a former Mayor that one of the problems we have,
the problems we have are because of non-English speaking, children with disabilities and
minorities, for god sake non-English speaking, kids with disabilities and minorities have been
with us for a couple hundred years. Now we are the public school system, we are not a parochial
school, were not a private school, we have to teach all of the kids, and we need policies, we need
programs and we need procedures. And we shouldn’t wait until they get out of hand and then
react. This has been going on to long. To long, and I’m certainly hoping to see a change real
soon. Thank you

Tim Wrightington, 21 Susquehanna Ave, and I’m a little tried of the other side of the track speech
about Bailey Middle School and Carrigan and the comparisons. um, I went to Bailey Middle
School, first let me back up. As a very small boy, I went to Noble School and for those of you
who don’t know, that’s on Nobel Street it’s where Nobel Community Center is now. The majority
of the children in that school were at poverty level. I was at poverty level when I was a little boy
and didn’t know it, um, we had a milk program over at Noble School, we had all sorts of kinds of
programs in 1966, 67, 68. 1969 we moved to Ocean Ave and I went to Seth Haley School. When
we went to Seth Haley School we didn’t have those programs, I was on the so called other side of
the tracks and you know what, there were poverty stricken kids there, there were middle class
kids there, there were snobs there. But you know what , we all went to Bailey after that and
Bailey had its drug problems in the 70’s. I can remember a girl in seventh grade sneaking tangara
in school, I could tell you her name and I won’t. OK, so, I’m tired of this other side of the track
crap, Mr. Cordone will tell you right out, that I have a daughter that has learning disability, she
has a reading problem and you what, you know what, you know where the reading resource
teacher was? Not at Bailey, she was at Carrigan, so I don’t want to hear this crap about the side of
the tracks and how were snobs on that side of town, because god I got the dirtiest hands for the
snob on that side of town, so I’m sick of that. Now I would like to address Mr. Cordone. And you
know what, in a world of people think you have to be politically correct every fricken minute of
the day, I congratulate people that open up their mouths and say what they think, not as an insult
but you what as an analogy and you know what, you know where when my kids first started at Bailey and Mr.
Cordone was there, I didn’t like Mr. Cordone not at all, he knows that. He knows it very well.
And as time went on I learned to like Mr. Cordone an awful lot. Cause, you know what, he has
the kids at heart, he has that school at heart and he runs it like a tight ship over there, I seen it,
(applause) now there are certain people that fit into certain jobs. There are people that should be
Superintendent of schools; there should be people that belong on the front lines and Mr. Cordone
is one of those guys that belongs on the front lines. And let me just tell you this Mr. Cordone
came from the other side of the tracks, he’s from Allingtown. Right? So, I am tried of this
splitting this town in half crap, I’m really tried of it, I mean if Gianntti was still open would we be
splitting this three ways? It’s ridiculous, now there is a rumor going around that we going to bring
Dr. Karajanis back for short term, and you now I love Dr. Karajanis and he should have stayed
here as Superintendent of schools, but I can not see my kids money being put towards a
temporary Superintendent of Schools, when we already hired a Superintendent of Schools she
should have had her ass here now. So if I’m not politically correct I’m very sorry but that’s the
way I feel and as for those people who still think there is an election going on lets me tell yah, the
election is over, lets put this town back together. Thank you
Chairman M. Toni Paine: I see a hand back there

Sandra LaRusso, 721 Main Street, um, I’m a former board member and I have to tell ya, I came here tonight to tell ya how disturb I am by what’s going on in this board room. I’m disturbed at the supposed outrage that is really nothing but something to mask petty revenge and it’s ruining our city and it’s ruining good people. Now I must be the odd person, because I lived in Bailey School district and I asked for a waiver when my son went to school and I sent him to Carrigan, that’s were he wanted to go, and I got ta tell you, I don’t know there a difference, my son certainly got a good education, I’m sure if he had gone to Bailey he would have gotten a even good education. I don’t want to talk about stuff like that. I want to talk serious matters, now there is a quote in the Bible, he who is without sin, should toss the first stone. Take a look around at the people around and you know what, this is like a Patten Place. It really is, it’s sickening, you know, what’s the line from Harper Valley PTA, this is nothing but a Patten place and your all Harper Valley hiparacrats but I think you know who you are, so that being said, what have we accomplished other embarrass the city and to embarrass our residents, and embarrass certain members of this board, when I sat on this board and there was something wrong, you know what, I didn’t flash it out to the newspapers and media I brought it into this board room and I discussed it with my fellow board members and I got it resolved and I did that by working with them, your vice-chairman when I came on this board and I told him to his face a million time, I’m going to cut him down to size and today he is one of my best friends. Why because we worked together, I worked with you Jer when you were Chair, there were times, you know it Jerry that you were at my house and boy I wanted to throw you out a window, but we resolved our differences. I feel sorry for the new superintendent when she gets here, because in this town we eat our own, but are we going to do to an outsider. I’ll pray for her every night because I don’t think shell ever get a chance to perform, I do think it’s terrible that’s she’s not coming until June, but who allowed her to do that, this board and now people want to be outraged it’s not her fault, it’s our fault and now were going to spend money, were going to pay her thirty thousand dollars between now and July 1st and the were goanna have to spend somebody else to come in and run our school system. What’s wrong with us, no what’s wrong with you? Because you allowed it to happen, you ot to be ashamed of yourself and I’ll tell ya, it never would have happened if I sat on this board, I hope all of ya start to get your act together, this is about West Haven, this is about our children who don’t have a voice for themselves, your suppose to be that voice, start acting with a little dignity gentlemen and ladies. Thank you

Chairman M. Toni Paine: would anyone else like to address the board? For a second time, would anyone

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, I would like to talk about a couple of things that others talked about. First I would like to start with the finance Committee Meeting that was held on February 1st at 3:00 pm in the afternoon. I commend the board members that spoke out against that time. The reason being, I realize there is no state statue telling you when you can or cannot have a meeting. However I have sat here for five years now and it’s upsetting to me that you say you want parental involvement but most people work in this town and three o’clock in the afternoon is very difficult. I am very fortunate that I can change my schedule and was able to attend, however in the future, I think consideration should be given, I understand it was suppose to be an
emergency situation so I am hoping its just one time and not on a regular base, everyone should be allowed to have the ability to come and some kind of notice. So I hope in the future, consideration is given to that. The other thing I want to talk about is Freedom of Information, request to the Chairman; the request is for a document that was given out during that meeting, it was basically for committee members only. I took the minutes and I called Hartford, I read it verbatim to Mr. Henick in Hartford, Freedom of Information, he told me absolutely not, any papers, unless exempt for a specific reason under the statute is available to any member of the public anyone in this room who wants it. So I have requested that document and I would appreciate in the future if

Chairman Paine: It's already been turned over

Nancy Rossi: I am just saying it cannot be for committee only; we do want the public to feel a part of it. Also I wanted to talk about Molloy School, I sat up here and listened to there are no difference and everything else. I don’t think anyone is stating there is any difference in the quality of teachers, because I think the teachers are excellent. Whatever side of town your from. I think we are talking about the atmosphere the structure of buildings and anyone who can set here and tell me that Pagels, or Mackrille or any of the other schools that have had renovations and walk into Molloy School and tell me it’s the same, I guess I would have to have a disagreement with that person. My understanding is, there was suppose to be improvements made to Molloy School that would bring it up to the same situation as Mackrille and the others and now these renovations have been put on hold and I want and I have written to the Mayor and I’m sure he has received my letter. I want to be kept abreast of what is going with Molloy School, hopefully it’s just a monetary glish and that’s what I am hoping, because Molloy School deserves the same kind of structure and amenities that the other schools have. I want to remind members who were on this board, that when power school was introduced and the union, Patty Fusco got up to state there were not enough batteries, there problems, that they could not even do the test, because of the problems there. Again we not saying, there is different classes of people, what I am saying is I would like to walk into Molloy School and get the same kind of look, that I did when I went to Mackrille, or when I went into Pagels or any of the schools that had renovations. So, I don’t want this to be put on hold forever, I have already contacted the PTA in the 7th District and no one there is happy about it, so I hope we go forward with the renovations as promised and voted on. The other thing I would like to talk about is the policy committee meeting that I did read up on, I happen to like to idea of individual board members being assigned to the different districts, I know you’re here to represent all the districts, I understand that and I don’t think anyone was saying that your weren’t, my problem again is, it’s not like the city council where you have people from your own district, there aren’t people there from my district, I don’t believe anyone here is from my district, I don’t believe they are and I would like to know that there is someone who is specifically put there by the board. If I have a problem as a city council person, I can call this person and they could contact the rest of the board, I understand it was held in a bay, there may be conflict or whatever, but I really think you should rectify that and move forward, because I think everyone deserves someone looking out for the district they live in. The other thing I would like to talk about is the recent press, and everything else. I caution and this is something that has bothered me for five years that I have come here to speak on behalf of the students. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty and the same thing should go for the adults as the
children. That’s the way it should be, you don’t leave your constitutional rights at the door. Yet with the expulsions, not even necessarily with an arrest a mere allegation a child can be thrown out of school. I can show you a stack of papers and lord knows I have all of them now, well not all, not the most recent one yet.

Assistant Neil Cavallaro: (joked with Mrs. Rossi) I’m pretty good at complying.

Nancy Rossi: (laughing) I have up to January, I have to get the rest. My thing and I have always had a problem with that. I understand that state statute mandates you can do this, but maybe its time we change certain things. I have a problem with throwing a student out and throwing an adult out on a mere allegations, even if it does result in an arrest it does not make you guilty. If that was the case, you would be telling me that everyone that is arrested is found guilty, if so, I could buy into that, but I know that’s not the case. Again I am going to say we should start looking into a new impartial hearing officer, because the same one has been there for quite some time. That the students and everyone gets a fair shake in everything. As far as the expulsion decisions I would like to see them put back in the agenda book, I don’t know who found out or if it was announced, but I did win the hearing during Freedom of Information says that the stipulations are available for the public readacted of course. So I think we should go back to reporting, I do like the state reporting, I’m not saying take anything out that you have in there, I’m saying add so you have the full, the decisions, the stipulations, the minutes and the state report. All of these things are F.O.Y available by anyone who sits here. It’s a public document, last but not least, very good wished to Paul Tortora, I understand it is your last meeting, I wish you well in what ever it is you chose to do. If you would like I could cc my F.O.Y request to your house, just so you don’t feel like I have forgotten you.

Thank you very much. (applause)

Chairman M. Toni Paine: would anyone else like to address the board.

John Carrano, 137 Perry Merrill Drive, West Haven, I know today is Paul’s last meeting and um I want to let you know what a honor and pleasure it was to serve with you. I learned a whole lot um about education and a lot about business and I learned about being a good person. I appreciate it very much. Thank you very much

Chairman M. Toni Paine: would anyone else like to address the board.

Kevin Hardy: I am an 8th grade social studies teacher at Bailey middle School, I have been fortunate enough to work in the West Haven School system for the last 14 years, seven of which have been under the leadership of Dr. Cordone, and I just felt the privilege to speak to his character. I have had the privilege of working with him in the building and had conversations with him outside of the building, and never has his character his willingness to help all children been a question for me. So it’s just important that I state that I have never heard any comments that I would be embarrassed or offend or felt were discriminatory. It’s my pleasure to work with him. The support of the school at Bailey has been one that is conducive of all students’ achievement and I feel he has brought us all together as a staff and it has been a pleasure to work there. So, I just wanted to make my comments to the board. (applause)
Chairman M. Toni Paine: would anyone else like to address the board?
Chairman M. Toni Paine asked for a second time if anyone wished to address the Board.
Chairman M. Toni Paine asked for the third and final time if anyone wished to address the Board.

Public Session closed at 7:55 PM

C. Reports:
C.1. Status of Schools Superintendent Paul Tortora: no reports Madame Chairman

C.1.a. Administration: Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro, very quickly, I would like to thank the curriculum committee members from the other day, and the other board members who showed. It was a good opportunity to show how we are moving forward in this district. We had a presentation from Mark Consorte on the Middle Schools. We had a great showing of teachers and we are very proud of the program that we are offering. Also at the last meeting Gerald Calabritto had asked for an update on where we are with our school improvements. We had planned on bring it forward Monday, then we moved to Wednesday, but I didn’t want to ask people to change their plans for a third time, so we will do it at the next meeting. I was very proud not only of the department but the meeting in general; we had a chance to show what we are doing in the school system.

C.1.b. Board- Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Cavallaro I just want to share some of today.

Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro: That’s right, today I had the privilege of moderating the spelling bee, the number one winner was from Carrigan Middle School, her name was Elizabeth Rayis, it was great competition, the Mayor was here, Bob was here. We were certainly impressed and glad we were not competing against them. It really is a nice event and the kids work hard and take it seriously. I just want to wish our district champ luck going into the statewide competition. Thank you Bob

George Monahan: I have a couple of items, first if the chair could make available an updated sub custodian list. As everyone is aware the former chairman Mr. Carrano, had implemented a modification to how custodians are hired. Through a ridged sub list, last year we improved that program by having a reporting system on when they are used, they are graded by their supervisor and by the administrator in that building and a record are kept of the performance as well how frequently they are subbing in the system. So that people that are not used for a certain period of time can be removed from the list, they can get back on the list, but they lose that ranking or seniority if they are not used for a certain period of time.

Chairman M. Toni Paine: noted

George Monahan: the second thing involves school safety security; I know everyone on the board has equal concerns and feelings about this. I know all the current building have a practice where if a visitor goes into a building, they report to the office and sign in as a visitor. If there is not a current policy or rule in place. I would like the board to request through the administration that we also ask our internal maintenance staff to use that same log. It is only respectful that they report to that administrator of that building let them know they are in the building and what they
are there for. Then we all have an accurate record of who is in the building at any given time. I
would like that to be considered if it is not already in place as a rule. Last hope I will see you one
or two more times in your official capacity Mr. Tortora, but it’s been an honor working with you
the last two years, you are a roll model, class act, its been a pleasure working with you and
learning from you.

Ray Collins: It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve with you Paul, I’ve learned a lot from you
and you have truly brought class to the position, Your level headiness, and your one more piece
of the puzzle analogies. I wish you happy sailing.

Mayor Picard: I concur with Neil about the spelling bee it was under adverse the heat was going,
I know Paul went to shout off the heat, it was fun to be here, they did an excellent job. Paul I ‘m
going to be a little self-fish here, as much as people are saying that you are retiring, I goanna call
on you to help as much as you can, not only do I consider you a friend but I respect you. Your
integrity has never been a question and I going to ask you to help out in West Haven, on
volunteer bases of course.

Gerald Calabritto: I don’t know what to say Paul; I have known you for over twenty five years.
From the time you were an educator, and I was the president of the JC’s, through the years on the
board, it’s been an honor, a privilege to serve with you. There is no question you will be missed
and the shoes will be hard to fill. You have served this system well; you have always had the best
interest of the children in your heart. Your greatest challenge is vision, but not only to have that
vision for the future but to bring them to reality, like cyber café, I could just go on and on, I wish
you were staying I really do. It’s been a pleasure; it’s been a great ride.

Paul Tortora: I give you a little tip about the shoes, payless $9.95

Mark Palmieri: I have known you for quite along time through coaching your children,
unfortunately I have not had the pleasure to work with you that long. But you were always well
respected in my eyes and my family’s eyes. Best of luck in the future.

Howard Horvath: First as liaison to Carrigan and Molloy, I met with the Principals and the
Assistant principal. They were pleased and appreciative. Also I want to say thank you very much,
I don’t think anyone has ever worked as hard as you have to make it a better school system. So,
thank you, see you in margarita vile.

Krista Pickering: what left for me to say? Thank you so much for your time and effort, I wish you
well.

Eric Murillo: I’m the only member who has not known you very long, the past months we have
chatted and you seem very sincere. I think you’re an outstanding individual. I well miss that I did
not get to work with you longer. I wish you lots of luck and a great retirement.
C.1.c. Committee – Krista Pickering- I would like to thank the teachers from the 6th, 7th and 8th grade both from Carrigan and Bailey as well as Mark Consorte. We certainly did learn a lot, the teachers certainly gave a lot of time and effort. We entertain a motion tonight to add middle school curriculum for grades 6th, 7th and 8th to tonight’s agenda.

New Business 06-12

Krista Pickering made a Motion to add middle school curriculum to New Business E. 06-12. MOTION was SECONDED by Gerald Calabritto

Chairman Paine: any Discussion: No Discussion: all in favor, any opposed. Motion passed unanimously, that will be added under 06-12

Chairman Paine: any more Committee reports

Gerald Calabritto: yes, Madam Chairman at the Finance Committee meeting it was recommend that the full board take consideration of the Deputy Superintendent Position and request at some point we call a committee meeting of the board.

Chairman M. Toni Paine: While we are talking about calling a meeting, not next week but the week after school is closed, the board members here is there anyone who will be on vacation that week and not available for a meeting? While you are all here.

Gerald Calabritto: the week of the 20th

Chairman M. Toni Paine: the week of the 20 through the 24th. I figured while your all here, we have to pick a day.

Gerald Calabritto: any day but Wednesday.

Chairman M. Toni Paine: any day but Wednesday.

Mark Palmieri: the Athletic committee had a meeting. We are discussing the possibility of changing the advertising policy through out the sports complex. There is more information that we do need to research.

Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve minutes D.1.a through D.1.d

D.1. Approval of Minutes:

D.1.a West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting, January 9, 2006 (rescheduled from January 3, 2006) at 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Bldg.

D.1.b West Haven Board of Education Budget Meeting, January 18, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Blake Building

D.1.c West Haven Board of Education Policy Meeting, January 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Blake Building.

D.1.d West Haven Board of Education Finance Committee, February 1, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the Blake Building
MOTION was made by Krista Pickering, and SECONDED by Raymond Collins, Discussion: No Discussion: Motion passed unanimously

Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve Leave of Absence D.2 06-08
D.2. Leave of Absence: (Certified)
06-08 Deanna Pucillo, Science Teacher at Bailey Middle School, Request for child Rearing Leave until February 17, 2006.
MOTION was made by Raymond Collins, and SECONDED by George Monahan, Discussion: No Discussion: Motion passed unanimously

Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve Resignations D.3. 06-09 through 06-10
D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)
06-09 Coleen Weatherspoon, Medical Paraprofessional at Washington School Effective: January 13, 2006 Reason: Personal
06-10 Marie Castracane, Six-Hour Production Worker at WHHS Effective: March 7, 2006 Reason: Retirement
MOTION was made by, George Monahan and SECONDED by Gerald Calabritto Discussion: No Discussion: Motion passed unanimously

Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve New Business E. 06-11
E. New Business:
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro: If I can before there is a motion, I would just like to explain in the past, up until last year this is the band annual field trip. Which up until last year, they had not requested making it an official school sponsored event. We thought in light of recent events that have happened on these trips, it would be to our advantage to make sure this is fully board approved and sanctioned by event by the Board of Education. This is the annual band trip, which they are now saying that they want it sanctioned by the board of education

Superintendent Tortora; we started that last year.

06-11 WHHS Request for Field Trip Approval from to San Francisco/Lake Tahoe for Annual Performing Tour, July 2, 2006 – July 9, 2006
MOTION was made by Gerald Calabritto, and SECONDED by Raymond Collins Discussion: George Monahan: Just that I am sure that the Assistant Superintendent will make sure that all the appropriate forms, chaperones, and safe guards are in place.

Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro: I do believe it is a wise move for the board to sanction this is trip

Gerald Calabritto: absolutely

Chairman M. Toni Paine: anymore discussion: Motion passed unanimously
Chairman M. Toni Paine:  
So, 06-12 accepted  
06-12 Middle School Social Studies Curriculum  
**MOTION** made by George Monahan and **SECONDED** by Gerald Calabritto  
**Discussion:**  
Chairman M. Toni Paine: I was extremely impressed; everything was in-depth and so well planned. I was over whelmed by it.  
**Motion passed unanimously**

**Executive Session:**  
Personnel: Anthony Cordone  
Pending Claim: School Readiness

**Chairman M. Toni Paine asked for a motion to move into executive session**  
**MOTION** was made by Gerald Calabritto and **SECONDED** by Raymond Collins  
Went into Executive Session at: 8:00 PM

Chairman Paine Left

**Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins asked for a MOTION to leave executive session:**  
**MOTION** made by Gerald Calabritto and **SECONDED** by Mark Palmieri  
Came out of Executive at: 11:59 PM

Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro: asked for all documents to be returned.

**Gerald Calabritto:** Mr. Chairman I make a **MOTION** that we accept the agreements, with the stipulation that we get a status reports on when payments when you them, that they have been made. **SECONDED** by Mark Palmieri, George Monahan asked for a roll call vote:

**Vice-Chairman Collins:** yes, Mr. Guthrie

Mr. Guthrie: Mr. Collins can you just explain the way people will be voting, yes means or no means

Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins: yes, means were goanna accept the Superintendents recommendationed agreement that was reached between the two attorneys that would be a yes.

Gerald Calabritto: the four agreements? I believe there is four.
Vice-Chairman Collins: roll call vote

Robert Guthrie: NO  
George Monahan: NO  
Eric Murillo: YES  
Krista Pickering: NO  
Howard Horvath: pass  
Mark Palmieri: YES  
Gerald Calabritto: YES  
Ray Collins: I vote YES – back to Howie  
Howard Horvath: as I said about this board’s ability to come to the correct decision on such leading matter looking at the evidence. I vote NO

Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins: votes 4 – 4  
Mayor John Picard – YES  
Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins: vote 5-4 approval

F. Informational:  
Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins: Next, informational, asked if there were any questions on informational?  

Eric Murillo- No  
Krista Pickering - No  
Howard Horvath - No  
Mark Palmieri- No  
Gerald Calabritto - No  
George Monahan- No

Robert J. Guthrie: just a couple of items Mr. Chairman – regards to F3- are there two positions there or is that one?  

Superintendent Tortora: Here is what happened there, she took that job and had already bid out of a 12 month assistant custodian at West Haven High, she wasn’t placed and nobody else bid on the other job.  

Mr. Guthrie: I’m just curious the second closing doesn’t have to close until February 15th? Here we have it on February 9th agenda and it closes February 15th.  

Superintendent Tortora: Which one Bob?  

Mr. Guthrie: F3 – The posting will be closing February 15th  

Superintendent Tortora: Because that’s for her not taking the job. We are reposting it, but I will verify it.
Mr. Guthrie: the second item Mr. Chairman, a question for the Chairman, the board of F15 education committees, why the change in the fiancé committee my original document had Mrs. Pickering. Tonight it has you.

Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins: want to table that question until the chairman comes back?

Mr. Guthrie: I am asking the chairman

Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins: I didn’t put together the agenda

Gerald Calabritto: when I got my agenda packet there was a note from Rose and a copy of the agendas that matched, committees I’m sorry, that matched the committees we got the night of the organizational meeting.

Gerald Calabritto: asked if they received an envelope in their packet? It was in a white envelope. Was there a white envelope in your agenda?

George Monahan: no, we did not get an envelope in the packet.

Rose: (talk to George)I gave it to you when you were here at Monday nights meetings. It was not in your agenda packet.

Gerald Calabritto: When this agenda was delivered to me, there was a white envelope in it with a note from Rose explaining, why our phone numbers were given out and a copy of the committee.

Mark Palmieri: asked Rose if she wanted to see letter?

Rose: no, I wrote it.

Mr. Guthrie: I guess I have to get an answer from the chairman

Gerald Calabritto: this is the same

Krista Pickering: Bob what was your question?

Robert Guthrie: I was just curious what changed from the original document had you Mrs. Pickering were on the finance committee and tonight it has changed

Vice-Chairman Raymond Collins: I will check with Mrs. Paine and get back to you. George?

George Monahan: nothing Mr. Chairman
Vice-Chairman Collins asked for a MOTION to adjourn
MOTION was made by, Krista Pickering and SECONDED by Mark Palmieri
Vice- Chairman: all in favor, anyone against?
Robert Guthrie: Opposed
Vice-Chairman Collins: So noted, Bob was opposed.
Board Clerk: asked Vice Chair if Mr. Guthrie was just kidding or should it go in minutes.
Vice-Chairman: put in the minutes.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:03 P.M

Respectfully submitted,
Rose McDonnell
Board Clerk