The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 255 Main Street, West Haven, CT on January 3, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Howard Horvath, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:10 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman
Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
Sean Maher, Vice Chairman
M. Toni Paine
Dorinda Borer
Mark Palmieri
Robert Saley
Andrew DePalma
Patrick Egolum

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:
Howard Horvath welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for January 3, 2011. The meeting began with a special presentation to Martha Jacobs.

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro said he is happy to recognize Martha Jacobs who was nominated for the Heisman Award which recognizes the most esteemed high school senior with excellence in academics, athletics and community involvement.

Superintendent Cavallaro asked Mrs. Gardner, Principal of WHHS to talk about Martha’s many achievements. She is #1 in the class currently, is active in the community, plays soccer, is in the honor society, plays tennis, does volunteer work with the challenger space book, and with Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven in their Scrabble Fund Raiser. Mrs. Gardner stated that when Martha did her essay for the National Merit Semi-Finalist it should be something very easy for someone of her caliber. Martha would not wrap around anything that would show off herself. She is the most humble kid I know and good things come to her because she is herself and she does it because she loves it and is passionate about education, learning and people. She is just an outstanding representative of what West Haven has to offer. The board and everyone present offered their congratulations to Martha and the board thanked her and her family for attending. Pictures were taken.

Toni Paine asked if we knew what schools Martha had attended. She attended West Haven elementary schools and went to the New Haven Magnet School for Middle School and returned to us for high school.

B. Public Session

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven updated us on what was going on in our schools regarding reform because we are in the midst of a lot of reform. Our teachers are doing amazing things for our students and working hard to minimize all the destruction that normally would occur with all the changes being implemented at once. As you know 54 of our non tenured teachers were laid off in June. All but 14 were recalled but almost none of them were in the same school or grade they were in before being laid off; maybe there are one or two. We closed two schools and restructured grades 5 – 8 which caused many teachers to be moved to a new school or a new grade. I estimated by going through the list of our teachers 188 teachers are in new positions this year and most are in new buildings and new grades and are teaching something they didn’t teach last year. Three principals and one assistant principal are in new buildings as well and there is a brand new assistant principal at the high school as well as a new department chair of special education and world languages. All of the elementary teachers including those in the fifth grade at Carrigan are using a new math program they never saw before this year and
all teachers in the district are using the newly revised curriculums that were implemented last year in all subject areas and all teachers are using data driven instruction which means they must constantly be modifying and adjusting what they are doing on a daily basis so their students are successful. The bottom line is there has been an awful lot of change in the district. Most people do not like change and in fact it is one of the top stressors listed in articles on stress and the workplace. I feel you should know your teachers are doing an excellent job of not just coping but working to make things better for kids in all of the schools. Howie mentioned the energy in the last meeting and that is what is going on in the district.

Right now there is talk of re-doing the teacher evaluation plan. The legislature passed a law requiring districts to use multiple measures of student achievement when evaluating teachers and this law was revised in the last session to give the state department of education the ability to draw guidelines for the districts to use. I was asked in October to get teachers to pilot a teacher evaluation plan and I went to our state union and national union and talked to the President of AFT Connecticut, Sharon Palmer and others and we had the opportunity to be at meetings and to have conversations about it. Many of our executive board went to the New Haven Evaluation Plan Meeting and learned what New Haven had to offer. Sharon and the AFT were instrumental in developing the New Haven Plan. Commissioner of Education Mark McQuillan sent a letter to all Superintendents on November 8, 2010 suggesting that they wait until the State Department comes up with guidelines before they change their evaluation plans as the guidelines are not done and there is much work to be done.

The jury is still out in New Haven and it has taken over two years and a new administrator has been hired to implement the plan. Even with Commissioner McQuillan’s letter and Mrs. Palmer’s advice I brought this topic to our executive board because I had to ask to have them consider it. I didn’t want to make a decision all by myself I wanted input from teachers from all over the district. The unanimous decision of the Federation’s Executive Board was to wait. Their feeling was the teachers have enough to cope with right now and that we should also see what happens in New Haven.

West Haven does not have the financial resources that would be required to implement changes like New Haven did; even with the grant money from the federal government to restore jobs to teachers and with direct student contact that money that can’t be used to pay for administrators or anything other than direct student contact. Furthermore our teacher evaluation and professional development plan was designed by a committee of administrators and teachers under the guidance of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. The board was not involved and that is an aside I’m not saying the board should not be involved. It was sent to the State Department of Education to be approved and they set up the guidelines we had to follow and it took us over a year to develop this. We studied many different plans before deciding on our plan. We worked many hours to make sure the plan was good for everyone; the administration, teachers and students. The current plan works. There is essentially nothing wrong with it. Is it perfect; no but that is largely due to administrators not following the plan as it is written not due to flaws of the plan. It needs a piece on student achievement to access multiple measures to access this
and the Commissioner asked us to wait. In closing I would like to emphasize that there has been enough disruption in the district this year and teachers are doing their best to make sure it doesn’t disrupt the educational process and hurt kids. The one thing I have learned over the years and I have been teaching 28 years is that it takes three years to really teach a curriculum. I did a great job my first year and my second year was even better and by my third year I felt more or less an expert. The first year you try it the way it is written and you do your best but there are things that need to be changed. The second year you make some changes and this is kind of what we are doing with the curriculum; you make some changes and figure out better ways to deliver the instruction and that is where we are right now. By the third year you are a pro and really know what you are doing and can be more creative with it. I am asking that you do not pursue looking at our evaluation plan this year when we are busy learning our new curriculum and new methods of teaching. Many teachers are going to workshops to become better deliverers of instructions and better teachers. Follow Commissioner McQuillan’s suggestion to wait. Let the State Department’s Committee work out all flaws before we begin the process. Let West Haven teachers work on curriculum and instruction this year and next year and give them the chance to perfect it. We owe it to our students to focus on them right now. This is the only year they will be in the grade they are in and they need teachers who are experts in the curriculum they are expected to master this year and teachers need time to become experts. She has a copy of Commissioner McQuillan’s letter and the section of the proposed Senate bill that passed that has those dates in it (attached at the end of the minutes) and will email all board members the teacher evaluation and professional development plan so you can see for yourself it is an excellent plan. I was chairman so maybe I was prejudiced. We had everyone at the table and we tried to make it work for everyone.

The board gave thanks.

Sandy LoRusso, 75 Tuthill Road, West Haven. Sandy works at Carrigan School at the front desk and checks in the students who come in late and checks out the kids who are leaving early and greets the parents who are bringing in the forgotten eyeglasses etc. I get to speak to a lot of parents and in conversation I might ask how do your children like being at Carrigan? The response is they love it and are doing so much better this year. I get to view the teachers every day and see them work as a team and the excitement is evident. The paras say for the first time they feel as if they are useful in the classroom and doing something. At Carrigan things are very, very good this year.

When she was a student she brought home straight A’s but with a C in handwriting. Her father said if she had gotten a C in any other subject than handwriting he could understand it because she might not under it. There is no excuse for handwriting you must strive for excellence. You can reevaluate teachers and curriculum but the fact of the matter is unless this nation can engage parents in their children’s education we are never going to succeed because that is the problem. Teachers can not teach in a classroom with students who are unruly and whose parents don’t care. Children do well in private schools because their parents pay for them to get an education and if they don’t do what
the parents want they are going to pay for it. In our educational system there are many students who are disruptive in the classroom and their parents simply don’t care. The magic is to find a way to engage the parents and we will have a wonderful education system in this country. The board gave thanks.

Pam Gardner, 16 Big Spruce Lane, West Haven addresses the board as a parent not as principal of the high school. She had planned on preparing her child’s lunch everyday but she has to give kudos to food service because everyday when we look at the lunch menu her daughter says she love the hot dogs, chicken cutlet etc. So everyday her daughter doesn’t want her lunch but gets school lunch every day.

She also wanted to thank everyone for voting in the Wooden Tap Contest that earned the Blue and White Committee $5,250.00 it was a great accomplishment and it was great to see the kids involved in voting. I didn’t realize there were 51 schools in the competition and West Haven schools were three of the top 10. I’m very thankful that West Haven did receive that so support them when you can.

Public Session closed at 7:40 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro stated the Power School Team is here tonight to give a presentation regarding Power School. Before beginning he thanked Mark Palmieri because they needed to use a real student to give an example of the many things Power School can do.

Fran Lytwinick introduced the Power School Team which included Pam Gardner, Joe Lucibello, Dana Martinez, Fran Lytwinick and Maria Giovannini. Fran stated that Neil and Anne requested that we have a 10 to 15 minute presentation and I think we could all talk about power school for three days. They gave a power point presentation and then took the board into power school and showed the various things you can see as parent and as a teacher. The entire presentation is included as Schedule A at the end of the minutes.

Dr. Druzolowski spoke about Data Analysis Tools where teachers can put in the scores and we can analyze pre and post and see where the kids stand. We are getting a lot of data but we have to do a lot of importing in EXCEL format into it to get what we want and we still are not getting all we need. To be able to spend more time teaching and using valuable information to inform their teaching I need to give it to them in a format. They need to be able to push a button and have their benchmark assessments analyzed. As a team of teachers they must be able to say we are not hitting the mark here what are we not doing and what do we need to do differently in the curriculum. Those are the types of things we are missing so after asking Fran and others why can’t you get me this it turned out that this product is the brain for many other products to be attached to it. As more and more people across the nation have used data to form instruction Dave Pearson in
particular with his elite software has created and has brought out several products which connect to Power School. We have been looking for about a year and a half now at a variety of products and none of them has made us happy. We are not going to invest in anything that is not going to do what we want. There is a new product that we will be reviewing that is teacher friendly and that can provide open ended assessment so kids can do something online and we can get quick assessments for teachers, and will desegregate data anyway we want. This way they don’t have to wait and won’t have to do it by hand because it is a lot of work. They have done it but we need to make it a little quicker. We will keep you advised as to what we are doing and looking at and obviously it all depends on money and if you don’t have money you can’t buy it.

Neil said it is important to note this is one of the expectations we talked about when being a Partner District. This is an expectation of the team that came in that they would take us and help us get to that process and actually pick out a system that works for us. As Anne said we have been involved with this anyway. Neil said this would also make it easier for parents to get their kids registered in a timely manner because that is an issue we have. This is our future so that is what we are looking toward.

Howie stated you said there is one that you were describing does it have a name? Anne said it is a brand new name. Howie asked who is it from? It is from Pearson and is a part that integrates with Power School.

Under Parent Portal Rob Saley asked if there is data analysis available on grades. You do it on the first quarter, second quarter, mid terms what is available. Right now when we store the final grade we won’t have all the previous grades. We do have grade analysis; we have to figure out percentage of failures etc. You can’t just do it on a click. Dorinda Borer asked if you are able to see how many parents are accessing this so we have a percentage of who is using this. Yes. We can see when parents contact the teacher and have a report showing this called net access. Dorinda asked how do we communicate that this is available to the parents. We send letters home at the beginning of the year, we discuss this at every assembly, newsletters are sent home and also online registration is done through the parent portal. Dorinda asked if we still send home paper report cards home. Yes.

Sean Maher asked if under power teacher does a teacher have access to information whether or not a student has a 504 and then is it tied in. Yes. Does it tie into reporting? You mean like IEP direct? Yes. It doesn’t because of privacy issues but it will indicate in an alert symbol that the student does have a 504 and an IEP Plan.

Toni Paine asked if there is ever an incident where a student needs to be written up or anything like that is that on here? Does the parent have access to it and is it part of the permanent record? That would be in the log entries. The parent wouldn’t have access to the log entries unless they requested it. They can have a discipline alert if a student owes an extended detention that they haven’t served a discipline alert would be added so the parent could view this. Neil said this is a very useful tool.
Patrick Egolum said isn’t there a presumption that all parents are computer literate and have access to computers? We don’t assume that every parent has a computer but we are always putting this out there. If a parent says I don’t have access to a computer then that would be through our guidance department and we would send a paper bi-weekly progress report home. What we are trying to do is get the parents if they do have access to get on there and show them how easy it is to use. They still get a paper progress report as well as a paper report card.

Rob Saley asked how long it took them to get teachers to learn all of this. It worked very fast. We have come to rely on our lap tops in power school so much we can’t afford to do without them. It is become a very useful tool for 99% of the teachers. The old method was so time consuming that teachers actually loved this being done automatically.

Mark Palmieri stated how much teachers rely on this when you go to parent teachers visiting. Every teacher has their lap top out.

Rob Saley asked what happens if it crashes. Everything is backed up. Even if your laptop crashes everything is backed up on the server and then on the back end.

Toni asked if someone backs up the system every day? Absolutely. Do you take the back up off the premises? We have three backups. I mean is it off the premises. If the school burned down we would still have all the information. It backs up every night at three o’clock.

Howie Horvath asked if the system provides any early warning indicators that help identify a problem? We have an atlas report if what you are talking about is for a student. Howie was thinking about as attendance and tardy were mentioned. It doesn’t automatically tell you but we have the attendance and discipline committee that constantly run reports for attendance, discipline and grades.

Rob asked what happens if a student wants to skate and take lighter courses. He would have to see a counselor to have it approved as there are set courses.

Dorinda asked if this will be available for the elementary grades. We are using this for absences and for lunch.

Rob asked if the elementary teachers have lap tops No just a classroom lap tops.

2004 was the first year for Power School and most states us this. The board thanked everyone for the Power School presentation.

Neil Cavallaro stated that Dr. Whitney is out of school with a broken foot and there have been some complications after the surgery so we will be bringing back John Clifford at a lower salary as this is an important position for the students.
The bus numbers were given out two weeks ago and they look pretty good. Two things popped out one was the high school. As the weather grew colder more students have been riding the busses so we are in the process of making some adjustments. The other school we are working on is Savin Rock School because it encompasses such a large area; they have a lot of the kids from Thompson and the area behind Chuck’s Steak House was part of Savin Rock in the 60’s also. This is a very spread out area and we may have to add a bus but we believe we can do that by subtracting a bus from some other school. Those are really the only two schools where there were any issues.

AFB will be at our next board meeting and continue to be present at the second board meeting of every month. They have put on the recycling bins and they are single stream. We thought we could meet with the principals and start a volunteer recycling plan and get the PTA’s involved to get the totes that are sold around Christmas time for $4.00 or $5.00 and put some in the classroom. We are looking into this and hope to get some donations.

Rob asked if meetings with AFB are still taking place every Thursday at 9:00 PM. Yes.

Neil said he spoke yesterday with Rob regarding his conversation with the Mayor on following up on turning the three buildings over and Rob is going to plan a facilities meeting. In the meantime I will contact our attorney and have a motion ready to make sure that we are covered so that way when the board wants to make that decision and move forward with turning the three properties over to the city we can have that ready.

The Office of Civil Rights Tour went well. That tour only specifically addressed the actual physical plants and the school facilities that is what they were looking at. The next step will be to interview central office staff and at some point bring in board members to talk about what went into their decision process. We don’t have a date for this yet.

Dorinda asked if there was any indication of when they will have the preliminary report. Neil said it has been about 6 months since the actual investigation was originated and originally they said 6 months but it sounds like they are still gathering information so my feeling is probably not until more towards the end of the school year.

Neil said they have done a lot of work on a preliminary budget to get to you and I have had conversation with the Mayor. One of my biggest concerns is the whole budget process and timeline. Given the concerns at the state level the Mayor said in a lot of cases this year he will be forced to use last year’s numbers because he needs by Charter to submit a budget to the City Council in March and we are not so sure how accurate those numbers are going to be if there are changes. Governor elect Molloy pledged we will get about 41 million dollars from ECS funds. The concern is what if Pilot money is eliminated or another grant. This could affect any potential increase we could have. The Mayor said he would speak with any board member who wants to meet or would schedule a small meeting to share concerns. We don’t want to give you numbers and have you believe it is the rock solid truth when in fact we want to be up front and say we have some real concerns about what this year will hold that will affect the accuracy of our budget and the timeline of it. Realistically we may not have a state budget in place that
will give us our real numbers by May when the Council has to approve a budget. We have some preliminary numbers and are putting the final touches on our recommended budget.

Howie stated you mentioned Pilot…Neil said he is using that as an example. Howie stated he knows but that is kind of an impact on the city which kind of indirectly impacts us. Neil hoped that maybe it would give us a little bit more money. Howie understands but are they any direct correlates to our budget so if we get the 41 million in ECS are we worried at all about the whole magnet school funding or is that kind of sacrosanct? Neil doesn’t think that will happen this year he thinks it will be OK this year. Howie asked if there were any others that were more directly tied. We talked about the ECS Funding and the interesting thing is we are already at about 50% and the goal is to get all communities to 50%.

Eric Murillo asked how much of the Pilot money has the district received? Neil said the City actually gets that money and we are just using it as an example Neil’s concern would be if that were cut it would affect the City’s ability to give us money. Eric said he meant the stimulus money. How much have you received. Neil said there is no more stimulus money next year and we are absorbing some of the positions but we do have about 1.7 million in the jobs bill that was appropriated to us back in September that we have not used. That money will actually be reflected when the city gives us money in their revenue.

Howie asked for the general budget timeline. In March the Mayor gives it to the Council. Neil said they are happy to answer questions as they are working on it but they could be ready to go next week. He thinks maybe a meeting should be scheduled with the Mayor to talk about his concerns as far as making those appropriations to us. I don’t believe we will be in the dilemma we were in last year unless there are serious cuts. We have done the right things to prepare for a difficult year.

Howie asked in February what happens? By February 1st the Mayor will work on his budget to submit to the City Council in March. Howie said so our deadline is February 1st to get a budget to City Hall. Neil stated we will get you a document by next week and the Council has it through April and by the first week in May they will give us a bottom line number than we have a couple of weeks to work on it and prepare for the next school year.

Rob asked a question to piggy back on Eric’s. That money we got in September did it come to the City or to us directly? David has the ability to draw down from it and it did come directly to the Board of Ed. The only thing is we can’t book revenue similar to a situation where we can’t lease our buildings.

Dorinda asked if we were having difficulty paying any bills? Or is food service having difficulty making payments recently. Neil said traditionally at this time of year there is a cash flow problem and it is my understanding they are catching up and we are getting people paid. Food Service had a couple of vendors that were behind a little but it is my
understanding that we are in the process of catching up. Neil stated that one thing that will help the City out tremendously in the future that has always been in our contract is that the teacher’s got those double paychecks prior to a vacation which hurt the ability for the city to have cash flow. Now that we have direct deposit there is no need to give two checks at once. This will help the city to meet cash flow.

Howie said he thought the payment schedule was part of the negotiation. Neil said yes as of next year. No that particular piece I get that but weren’t they trying to suggest that we do less frequent deposits or was that not a part of it? It wasn’t part of it.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

There were no student representatives present at this meeting.

C.1. c. Board

Rob Saley eats a lot at Wendy’s and always wondered what the Heisman was and now I know what it is and can tell people I have actually had somebody in my district be nominated so I am very proud of that. It was very nice of that young lady to receive that nomination. Neil said they do a lot of our fundraisers for the school district and a lot of our clubs.

Toni Paine made some of the concerts and was quite impressed and was especially impressed with the high school.

Dorinda questioned the board because she had put the schedule together for 2010 when we were meeting at the different schools as part of parental communication and reaching out. I think I know the answer to this that the feedback from the board is to have meetings at City Hall and not move them around any more. She wanted to get some feedback and then asked do you want to rotate them at the schools? She said it is 10 of nine do you want to rotate them at the schools or have them here. The vote was in favor of having them at City Hall 5 to 4. Eric Murillo said they will be booked a lot of the time here too so I will find this out. The board secretary had already looked into this and there is only one meeting date booked next December when the Mayor will be holding his organizational meeting and this will be looked into again at a later date. Toni Paine stated in all fairness I think there was one parent here tonight and when we go to the other schools we really don’t get that many. This is central and everybody knows where City Hall is. Mark Palmieri said we are supposedly moving the Board of Ed here too so why not have our meetings here also. Sean Maher said he thought ultimately that it got confusing for some parents that is what he heard. It was kind of difficult. Mark asked what is the consensus and Dorinda stated City Hall 5 to 4 that works. Patrick said it makes your life easier.

Howie thanked Fran and the team for presenting Power School it was intriguing and based on your level of enthusiasm it seems like a very valuable piece of what you do. It has been a long time and I can see now it has been built into the fabric of the day to day
and it sounds like we will do more with it and that is really great too. I am really intrigued by the fact that you let the students start doing some of the work and the next thing you know all the data is in there; that is the way the kids are and I think it also pertains to the fact that technology is a part of the future and the more we look at it and think about ways it might be of value to education the better.

I also wanted to mention that I did go to visit Carrigan and Bailey and enjoyed it thoroughly; it was kind of unannounced but it was great to see things moving smoothly. Busses were full so I could see there was a potential for issues there but fundamentally that day in both cases they were OK to my eyes and the people I spoke to. There is a lot of people moving through the hallways in an organized and I thought in a fine fashion. The teachers basically said many of them anyway said they like the fact they have so many more people on their team in their grade level that they can turn to work with and I thought that was encouraging. I didn’t talk to any of the students or parents but that was my sense of it so I was pleased. There was just a great energy. I walked into both buildings and the kids were smiling and the teachers were really into it and I was really pleased although I did have one request for some funding for arts but I will talk to you about that later.

**C.1. d. Committees**

Eric said he has no report but stated he has some CD’s he will pass out from a friend of his that talk about what is going on with the bottle industry and the recycling of the plastic bottles filled with water. This kind of helps you understand what is going on with recycling and what we need to do as a community to increase recycling. We can’t stop using the plastic bottles but we can definitely cut down. He offered the CD’s to everyone present.

Rob Saley saw what was on the CD and it was a little scary. He received it a couple of months ago and we don’t drink anything out of plastic anymore. He is right and we have to recycle more.

We will have Mr. Carney here next week. He was here earlier tonight. I would like to schedule a Facility Meeting at 6:30 next week before the board meeting to discuss the three buildings that are no longer schools and we will discuss what we want to do with them at this meeting.

I thought power school was phenomenal. Later on when you get to teacher’s evaluation in my opinion if in the elementary schools you see a kid struggling through 1st, 2nd and third grade and then in the 4th or 5th grade he shines and then struggles again the next year; to me there is something there that says that teacher is doing something right in that classroom where the student shines. I could be wrong but that could be used as a tool too.

Eric wanted to state that Mr. Carney apologized but had to attend another meeting that is why he had to leave.
Howie reported we had our initial I’m calling it (ERIN ) Education Reform, Innovation & New Grant Monies subcommittee meeting where we talked about a number of things and we came to a consensus that next time we would come back with a laundry list of possibilities we would talk about, think about and prioritize. That made sense to me too. We also heard that a potential recommendation might be having the grant team report out to us initially and then on a more regular basis to look for additional funds for all those things we are going to need.

Before approving the following items Sean Maher made a motion to add item D.5. 11-03 to tonight’s agenda and Mark Palmieri seconded this all were in favor. D.5. 11-03 is added to the agenda

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

11-03 Joanie Amato, 9 Chase Lane, West Haven, CT
Mathematics Teacher - WHHS
Effective: Contingent upon being released from New Haven Schools
Salary: $39,523.10 (Step 5 BS)

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held at, Seth Haley School, 146 South Street, West Haven, CT on December 6, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Howie Horvath asked for a motion to approve the minutes
Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.1. – D.7. inclusive
Dorinda seconded the motion
All board members present were in agreement
Items D.1. – D.7. inclusive are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

11-01 Charles H. Shooshan III,
Tech Support, WHHS
Effective: January 3, 2011
Reason: Personal

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)
11-03  Joanie Amato, 9 Chase Lane, West Haven, CT
Mathematics Teacher - WHHS
Effective: Contingent upon being released from New Haven Schools
Salary:   $39,523.10 (Step 5 BS)

D.6.  New Hire: (Non-Certified)

D.7.  New Business

11-02 Request from the Head Cheer Coach Angie Alston and the West Haven
High School Cheerleaders to attend the National High School
Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, FL from February 11 – 15th,
2011. They are requesting excused absences from school on
February 11th, 14th and 15th.

Neil Cavallaro stated that the cheerleaders are doing their own fundraising for the trip so
the trip you are approving for the excused absences is contingent upon them raising the
funds to go to Orlando.

Howard Horvath said we will do the vote again in a moment but just to note that D.5. 11-
03 is the new hire. Again all those in favor. Everyone was in favor motion passes.

F.  Informational

Rob Saley has known Bobbie Nugent personally and he does a lot of good. I’m not a
bowler but I think in the near future we will be looking at a lot of businesses to help us
with our education in our community and Bobbie should be thanked for that and I know
Pam Gardner thanked him and he is a good guy.

Howard Horvath requested a motion to adjourn.
Sean Maher made the motion
Rob Saley seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 9:10

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola,
Board Secretary

Schedule A is attached on the following pages and Patti Fusco’s insert follows that.
Whois it?

PowerSchool
PowerLunch
Parent Portal
PowerTeacher
PowerSchool Admin
Contains 4 Major Components

- Real-Time, Anywhere Access
- Single District-Wide Database
- Cross-Platform
- 100% Web-Based Student Information System (SIS)

HighLights
Who uses it?
Engaging all stakeholders

24/7 access to

- Staff
- Student Support
- Guidance Counselors
- Curriculum Leaders
- Cafeteria
- Special Education
- Tech Directors
- Superintendents
- Nurses
- Parents
- Students
- Secretaries
- Principals
- Teachers
How Do We Use It?
On a District Level

- Provides demographic data to bus company
- Naviance
- Integrates with third party software
- Allows for integration with PaySchool
- Qualifies student for free or reduced lunch
- Provides state reporting data
On a School Level--Admin

- Student data: Id's, athletic uniforms, etc.
- Grades, attendance
- Ability to search fields cards
- Progress reports, report cards
- Student reports (transcripts)
- Data interventions
- Data analysis
- Connected to Naviance
- Historical grades
- Registration
- Schedule, online student
- Scheduling (school master
- Quick lookup
- Information/demographics
- Student
- Attendance
Net Access

Student Photos

Attendance

Ability to generate reports

Access to student demographics

Classes

Access to student performance in all classes

Grades, log entries, on a daily basis

Entering assignments, comments

Gradebook

On a School Level--Teachers
Community

As a Public School

- Automated Emails
- Daily Bulletins
- Phone Messenger
- Direct email to teachers
- Parent Portal (24/7 Access)
Role of Powerschool Team

- Customizations to Powerschool
- Pages
- Synchronizing tables
- Data validation
- Performing special operations
- Maintaining parent portal access
- Maintaining security and level of support to end-users
- Training and providing ongoing support

Process
- Beginning and end of year

Troubleshooting
- Maintain integrity of data reported
- Information to and from importing and exporting
- State reports
- Create custom reports/pages

Throughout the district
- Maintain accuracy of data
Where are we headed?
- Central Registration
- Customized health screens for nurses
- SRBI
- Evaluate connection between content and achievement
- Data analysis of CFA's
- School
- Efforts with PowerSchool
- Integration of the district's curriculum and assessment
- Review and evaluate available software
- Data analysis tools
TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan Commissioner of Education

DATE: November 8, 2010

SUBJECT: Clarification Regarding Recent Changes to section 10-151b of the Connecticut General Statutes Regarding Teacher Evaluations

Section 4 of Public Act 10-111 revised section 10-151b of the Connecticut General Statutes to require that "multiple indicators of student academic growth" be included as a part of all teacher evaluations, effective July 1, 2010. However, the public act also revised 10-151b to require that such evaluations be conducted pursuant to new guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education, on or before July 1, 2013. Such guidelines are required to provide districts with guidance on the use of multiple indicators of student academic growth in teacher evaluations.

While the statutory change to require that "multiple indicators of student academic growth" be included as a part of teacher evaluations is effective July 1, 2010, the State Board guidelines to instruct districts on how to do so are not yet available.

The State Department of Education is advising districts to wait until the new guidelines have been adopted by the State Board of Education before revising the teacher evaluation process to include multiple indicators of student growth. The law requires that such evaluations be conducted in accordance with the new guidelines. Therefore, once those guidelines are adopted, if your existing teacher evaluation process conflicts with these guidelines in a substantial way, the evaluation process will have to be revised accordingly.

If you have questions, please contact the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs at (860) 713-6520.

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27
of teacher evaluations to the local or regional board of education on or before June first of each year. For purposes of this section, the term "teacher" shall include each professional employee of a board of education, below the rank of superintendent, who holds a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education.

(b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and implement teacher evaluation programs consistent with guidelines established by the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and consistent with the plan developed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-220a.

(c) On or before July 1, 2013, the State Board of Education shall adopt, in consultation with the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council established pursuant to section 5 of this act, guidelines for a model teacher evaluation program. Such guidelines shall provide guidance on the use of multiple indicators of student academic growth in teacher evaluations. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Methods for assessing student academic growth; (2) a consideration of control factors tracked by the state-wide public school information system, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-10a, as amended by this act, that may influence teacher performance ratings, including, but not limited to, student characteristics, student attendance and student mobility; and (3) minimum requirements for teacher evaluation instruments and procedures.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) (a) There is established a Performance Evaluation Advisory Council within the Department of Education. Membership of the council shall consist of: (1) The Commissioners of Education and Higher Education, or their designees, (2) one representative from each of the following associations, designated by the association, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, the
Connecticut Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, and (3) persons selected by the Commissioner of Education who shall include, but not be limited to, teachers, persons with expertise in performance evaluation processes and systems, and any other person the commissioner deems appropriate.

(b) The council shall be responsible for (1) assisting the State Board of Education in the development and implementation of the teacher evaluation guidelines, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-151b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) the data collection and evaluation support system, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-10a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The council shall meet at least quarterly.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) (a) A local or regional board of education for a school district identified as a priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, may, through agreement with the organizations designated or elected as the exclusive representatives of the teachers' and administrators' units, as defined in section 10-150b of the general statutes, convert an existing public school into an innovation school or establish a new school as an innovation school, in accordance with the provisions of this section, for purposes of improving school performance and student achievement. For purposes of this section, an innovation school is a school in which: (1) Faculty and district leadership are responsible for developing an innovation plan, as described in subsection (b) of this section, under which the school operates and the administrators of the school are responsible for meeting the terms of the innovation plan; or (2) an external partner is responsible for developing the innovation plan, as described in subsection (b) of this section, under which the school operates and the external partner is responsible for meeting the terms of the innovation plan. For purposes of this section, an external partner may include a public or private institution of higher education.