The Regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on June 18, 2007. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Toni Paine at 7:00 p.m. The meeting began with a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: M. Toni Paine, Chairman
Mark Palmieri
George Monahan
Eric Murillo
Robert Guthrie
Howard Horvath
Gerald A. Calabritto

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Raymond Collins
Krista Pickering

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Before turning the meeting over to Dr. Andrees, M. Toni Paine, Chairman of the Board of Education asked for a moment of silence for Carmel Shea who was with the Board of Education for many years.

There were no presentations.

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Jason Stacoffe, Social Studies Teacher and Advisor for Student Government at WHHS, presented pictures from a project that the student government ran during the school year. In April they ran a Dodge Ball Tournament as a fund raiser which was very successful and used the funds to brighten up the outside area of the high school (the courtyard area). They cleaned out the overgrown brush area and put in new plants and benches. Students, teachers and community residents helped out in this process. One individual created the design of this project and donated the fence and plants. The names of many of the helpers were mentioned. All the brush was put through a chipper and the chips were used for the
walking area. In the fall we hope to put more benches in around the trees and have a nice area to sit and relax.

Toni Paine said the picnic table looks nice there and various board members stated how nice the area looks.

Neil Cavallaro stated he saw Jason out there almost everyday and thanked him.

The pictures were passed around and the board members were given the pictures to keep.

The Board gave thanks.

Dr. Andrees asked that Jason give us a list of the people who volunteered and assisted in this effort in order for thank you letters to be sent.

Arthur Rossi, 12 Robin Road, West Haven asked if the Board would consider selling benches like what was done on the beach. Perhaps some people would like to donate benches and we don’t have to have as expensive a bench as the City used. It might be for sports stars around the stadium. These benches could be placed tactfully around the school grounds. Perhaps the graduating class might wish to plant a tree and beautify the area.

The Board members thought this was a great idea.

The Board gave thanks

Public Session closed at 7:10 p.m.

C. Reports:

C.1. Administration

Dr. Andrees thanked Jolene, Neil, Garth and the administrative team and Patti Fusco for helping in the hiring of our staff. They did a fantastic job and we are at a better place this year than we were last year.

On the board agenda tonight we are asking you to approve paraprofessionals because we are getting a lot more autistic children coming to our district. Each of those students that we send out represent about a $70,000 expense to us. It is better for us to keep these students in our district. We have new classroom opening this fall which will need additional paraprofessionals. There is a new student coming to the high school and we will need a medical paraprofessional for that individual.

We are able to bring back people we had to lay off two years ago and this is nice to be able to do.
Our partnership with Yale and the University of New Haven is continuing and Neil will talk about this.

Bayer has offered to give us some additional supplies. Our Maintenance Department will go over and pick up some additional materials they wish to donate to our schools. Even though they are leaving they are continuing to supply us with materials.

We are a part of a unit that the City is involved in called Connect CTY. We are able to send out mass messages in the event of an emergency and we must make direct contact this will allow us to make thousands of calls in minutes as opposed to hours. We are pleased to be part of this. The cost is about $54,000 and will be covered this year by a Home Land Security Grant. In the future we are looking at a grant that is being written to cover our share. The cost will be split three ways.

Computers have been ordered for grades 2 – 5 and possibly we will be able to do grades 1 – 5. John Lessandrini found a company that will be able to dispose of the old machines at a nominal fee.

There will be two machines in every classroom if the old machine dies it will be disposed of at that point rather than tie up our time on the old machines.

PA system at Carrigan will be installed in the fall and there will be two new labs in Carrigan and Bailey. The bids for these jobs were twice what we thought the jobs should cost and we will wait until the fall as the price will be reduced at that time.

Attorney Floyd Dugas has written a letter to the union and the union has responded indicating that they are not willing to take that position out of their bargaining unit. Floyd has now filed with the labor board requesting that this be done. We will keep you apprised until we can take the next step.

Dr. Andrees then introduced Gary Miller who is here to do the day to day operations and facilitate some of the things we had in the hopper. Number one would be looking at the re-enrollment of our employees that will continue and also in getting our state reports out. Dr. Andrees asked Mr. Miller to give everyone a brief overview of his history and some of the things he will be working with us on.

Mr. Miller stated he was the business manager in Canton almost 13 years and was a naval aviator for 20 years. He has been doing this kind of work for the last two years along with some other special study project work in the towns of Wethersfield, Weston, Winchester and now West Haven. He was in Region 4. This week is his first full week here. He has taken the time to move in and meet the staff and have a couple of meetings. He will be keeping everything on track.

Dr. Andrees stated we are delighted to have you. The board members all welcomed him.
Toni Paine asked when the PA System at Carrigan would be complete. Will it be in by Christmas? Dr. Andrees stated that by the first semester it should be complete. We have elected to run new wiring at a price lesser than what we thought we would be paying. We are doing it right the first time.

Neil Cavallaro stated that we are 98 – 99% finished with our hiring. We have one Speech Language position in the Special Ed Department and we are concerned because there is a shortage in this area. We can spread out this position but it does put a strain on caseloads.

We have a science position at Bailey which we will be interviewing for this week. We have a Spanish position at Carrigan and have some applications. We have a math position opening at the high school which was just received. Teachers can cover an extra class. This position is most important to fill because students are scheduled for it.

Neil and Raffaela Fronc toured the Peabody Museum and met with the curator. The public only sees 1% of their display and now because of this partnership we will have access to more of it. Our kids will take part in the programs they offer. Professional development is available to the teachers throughout the year and the summer months. Eventually we hope our students will be able to work with world renowned experts from this field.

The people from Yale will attend our staff development for our new science program on the 28th to get an idea of the kinds of things we will be doing in the classroom. They like our Science Facilitator Program at the elementary schools which will be a nice way to get them to provide our kids with enrichment opportunities. They will be involved with our staff and come to our meetings.

He discussed the district wide improvement plan and the four goals. The most important is to increase our CMT Scores in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. More parental involvement is needed and this was a goal. We have tried numerous ways to attract parents i.e., the district wide newsletter. To meet the AMAO targets established by the State Department for achievement in English Proficiency.

Dr. Andrees stated that for increased parent involvement in the evening at some schools we are offering workshops (transitions) students going from middle school to the high school.

There is Special Ed funding for Title I for parents who can’t attend because they might not be able to get a babysitter. This is another way of trying to get parents involved.

Neil said he has sent a copy of our goals to all administrators and they were asked to share this with all teachers.

The Connecticut Mastery Result Scores have been received and we have scores by school and sub categories but we do not have the schools that have or have not received AYP.
adequate yearly progress but once we do we will have a presentation similar like the one we did last year. The board thanked Neil

C.1.b. Board

Bob Guthrie asked the Superintendent to send a letter to the Police Chief for the DARE Graduations. This is obviously a partnership with the community, the Police Department and the Board of Education. The individuals in these positions have really bonded with the students.

Mark Palmieri stated that the garbage at the high school after the 3rd of July Fireworks was cleaned up by a dumpster but the deal was that when the City uses that lot for the fireworks they were supposed to clean up right after. When the garbage came out of the dumpster and blew into the areas around it. They mowed and mulching the left over garbage. He hopes that next year we are more concerned as to how that lot is left after the 3rd of July evening.

If help is needed getting supplies out of Bayer Mark will make his truck available and bring the supplies to the schools.

There were no committee reports.

D.1. Approval of Minutes Inclusive:

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Meeting, June 18, 2007
7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building (enclosure)

D.1.b. Special Meeting West Haven Board of Education, June 29, 2007
at 6:00 p.m. at the Blake Bldg. (enclosure) (Extend the Superintendent’s Contract

Bob Guthrie made a motion to approve the above minutes
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.2. Resignations: (Certified) Inclusive:

07-99 Letha Williams, 4th Grade Teacher, Forest School
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Retirement

07-100 Bruce Sweeney, Social Studies Teacher, Carrigan Middle School
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Retirement
07-101 Dave Soler, Department Chair of Special Education, WHHS
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-102 John Castelluzzo, School Counselor, WHHS
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-103 Ira Caplan, Social Studies Teacher, WHHS
Effective: July 1, 1007
Reason: Personal

07-104 Christopher J. Ruggiero, Physical Education Teacher, Bailey
Effective: July 1, 1007
Reason: Personal

07-105 Douglas DeGennaro, Science Teacher, WHHS
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-106 Sharon Santos, Science Teacher, Bailey
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve the above resignations inclusive.
George Monahan seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.3. Leave of Absence (Certified)

07-107 Jennifer Caso, Grade 3, Pagels
Effective: 2007 – 2008 School Year
Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve the above leave of absence.
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.4. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

07-108 Tracy Goodale, Para Computer Lab, Washington
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Personal
George Monahan made a motion to approve the above non-certified resignation
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

D.5. New Hires: (Certified) Inclusive

**Correction to 07-117 made to Science Facilitator**

07-109 Jeffrey Takach, 227 Rimmon Rd., North Haven, CT 06473
Social Studies Teacher, Carrigan
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $36,070.04 (Step 2 B.S.)

07-110 James Lafo, 151 Sugar Hill Rd., North Haven, CT 06473
.5 P.E. Teacher, Thompson
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $18,035.02 (Step 2 B.S.)

07-111 Jesse Ralph, 130 Bellevue Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Math Teacher, WHHS
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $37,411.34 (Step 2 B.S. + 30)

07-112 Kevin Maurutis, 24 Elgid Drive, Milford, CT 06460
Science Teacher, WHHS
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $37,411.34 (Step 2 B.S. + 30)

07-113 Tricia Scafariello, 180 Hillside Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Teacher Grade 3, Thompson
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $37,411.34 (Step 2 B.S. + 30)

07-114 Sara MacLeman, 268 Karen Drive, West Haven, CT 06516
Teacher Grade 5, Forest
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $37,411.34 (Step 2 B.S. + 30)

07-115 Amy Jo Palermo, 453 Peck Lane, Orange, CT 06477
Coordinator of Math, Fine Arts, and Professional Development
Effective: September 1, 2007
Salary: $82,508.44 (Step 1 without Sixth Year)
Per WHAA Contract 2007 – 2011
Maria Nicolelli, 5 Perry Merrill Drive, West Haven, CT 06516
Teacher Grade 1, Molloy
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $42,512.06 (Step 5 B.S. + 30)

Carrie Mikenis, 300 Noble Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Science Facilitator Thompson/Haley
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $36,070.04 (Step 2 B.S.)

Kyle D. Bowerman, 84 Noble Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Social Studies Teacher, Stiles Alternate School
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $36,070.04 (Step 2 B.S.)

Shalynn M. Swinton, 433 Greenfield Ave., Stratford, CT 06414-3838
Teacher Grade 5, Forest
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $39,110.74 (Step 3 B.S. + 30)

Richard Boshea, 35 Mullen Rd., West Haven, CT 06516
Asst. Football Coach, WHHS
Effective: August 30, 2007
Salary: $3,500.00

Ed Hoffman, 52 Granite Rd., Killingworth, CT 06419
Boys’ Soccer Coach, Bailey
Effective: August 30, 2007
Salary: $1,950.00

Patrick Morrissey, 189 Noble Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Boys’ Soccer Coach, Carrigan
Effective: August 30, 2007
Salary: $1,950.00

Tanya Dana, 43 Squire Ct., Milford, CT 06460
Special Education Autism Teacher, Pagels
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $54,512.76 (Step 9 B.S. + 30)

Timothy Nixon, 200 Elm Street, Apt. 315
West Haven, CT 06516
Grade 8 Reading Teacher, Carrigan
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $37,974.28 (Step 4 B.S.)
Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve the above certified new hires inclusive
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

The addendum to the agenda is included in the above #07-125.

E. New Business:

07-124 Letter from Gary R. Palermo, Director, Pupil Services
requesting new paraprofessional positions for the 2007-2008
school year to support special education students

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above certified new hires inclusive
George Monahan seconded the motion
Discussion:

Bob Guthrie asked that we have Mr. Palermo come before the board with an indication of
how many students we are talking about and what amount of money we are talking about.
Toni Paine said this would be a really good idea especially since we will be receiving
new pupils.

Dr. Andrees stated that we received the resignation tonight from Mr. Soler but before we
move on filling this we might not have to fill this position and this might help in terms of
funding.

All in favor
Motion carries

F. Informational

Bob Guthrie stated after item F.1. the board needs to thank the administrative team of Mr.
Cavallaro and Dr. Andrees for working on the District Improvement Plan. There
certainly has been a sense of continuity over the last several months with the extension of
both of their contracts and there are good things coming from the leadership team we
have in place here.

He also stated that item F.10 has to go above and beyond and feels the board might like
to send a letter to Winkle Bus Company with regard to a parent who was able to attend
their child’s graduation with help from Mr. Winkle. Without this help they would not
have been able to do so.

Toni Paine asked Bob to give the people who may not be aware of what transpired a brief
description.
Bob Guthrie stated that a parent who had disability concerns could not make it to their child’s graduation and Winkle Bus Company provided a handicapped accessible bus and a driver to transport that person to and from graduation at no cost to the parent or the district.

There was no further discussion.
Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion.
All in favor
Meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola