The Meeting of the Board of Education as a whole was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Raymond Collins III, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond Collins, Vice Chairman  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabritto  
Robert J. Guthrie  
Mark Palmieri

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chairman M. Toni Paine, Krista Pickering and Howard Horvath

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

**B. PUBLIC PORTION**

Vice Chairman Raymond Collins asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road addressed the Board with some concerns regarding the Budget Meetings. She stated she has read the minutes but her concern is that there was very little discussion and the general public doesn’t know what you did or didn’t look at. She brought up things in the past that she saw no mention of. One of these being the attorney. She thought we were looking at hiring someone as an in-house type of thing which might save us money and not cost us between the $200,000 - $300,000 it has been costing us. This could have saved some teachers. If we had someone experienced in labor, union and expulsions of course this would have been helpful.

The other thing is the hearing officer’s contract. She understands this is going to be done but hasn’t seen anything in print. The problem is that someone is getting $400 for a hearing that may take ten minutes in some cases five minutes. She knows a decision needs to be written but most of these decisions, and she has read several hundred if not thousands of them, are pretty much the same except for the offense and maybe the days. Mr. Cavallaro’s office does a lot of the work with these with the stipulations. Again these are just two things not to mention what I read from the last meeting that Patti Fusco had brought up. She is very concerned because when it is done this way the public doesn’t know and she really would like to know.
The next thing is under New Business 06-74 from Neil Cavallaro to Dr. Andrees, Superintendent about the Executive Secretary for the West Haven Board of Education. She voiced a problem with this being a permanent position long ago. My reason being, not that I don’t think you need a Board secretary but I think the way we are doing it now is working out fine. The idea of hiring somebody at this point in time and giving benefits when you just finished laying off teachers and para’a is wrong. My understanding is that you cut some of the clerical in the maintenance. She doesn’t think it is fair to get rid of this type of personnel. If you are really strong on doing this at the very least the job should be re-posted because there are several people that don’t have jobs that may be qualified for it. Some of the para’a, I don’t know their expertise, but I’m sure the teachers aren’t going to apply for it, but some of the para’a might. I have a problem with the benefit part of it. If you went with 19 hours no benefits necessary. The City Council cut the hours for our own secretary for the City Council Agenda and the work that’s done in that office is much, much more extensive. She is not sure what her hours were cut to but she thinks it was ten hours a week off of what she had. While everybody is looking for givebacks this should be left as a temporary position for the remainder of this school year or at least re-post it or if you are going to do it then do it 19 hours and just leave out the benefits because as you know the benefits are what cost a lot of money.

The third thing is that I’m going to have an FOI request and I didn’t get a chance because this is my first day back. It won’t be too extensive but it has come to my attention by an anonymous letter to my house while I was away that there are accusations being made. She wants to find out if the former Superintendent has been paid after June 30, 2006. This is her question and concern. She was here the night it was voted that he was to be called in by Mr. Cavallaro on an as needed basis at $550 a day and that he was not supposed to be here when Dr. Andrees was here because that was the problem with Dr. Karajanis. He wanted to be here when Dr. Andrees was here to help her but that was against what the people wanted on the Board at that time. Also this was supposed to cease on June 30, 2006. As she missed a couple of meetings the Board might have voted to extend this into the new calendar year. If you didn’t then fine but she is going to be requesting what was paid and when it was paid.

She also stated someone questioned the video tape part of the meeting. To set the record straight. Yes meetings have been videotaped for the past 4 ½ - 5 years at mine and my husband’s expense and time. This will continue to be done as well at the City Council. The reason she does it is because a lot of people can’t make the meetings for whatever the reason. She doesn’t think it is from lack of interest; it is because of busy schedules, children and whatever. She has received more compliments and good comments and feedback on these video tapes than anything else. One person compared it to the Sopranos and she thinks that is a good rating.

She looked at the expulsions and hates to see them so close to the end of the year. She will be requesting from Mr. Cavallaro’s office from January until the present date all the rest of the information the hearing officer’s decision and that kind of information so that I can put everything together. She also pointed out that we still have the same hearing officer, one of them for the last five years that she knows of and definitely before and she
really thinks this should be done on a rotating basis. She feels many attorneys would like to get involved in this. Maybe not local attorneys because they may know the families and feel uncomfortable but there has to be a better way of doing this.

Last, but not least, the Black Coalition is sponsoring a scholarship fund raiser for their scholarship fund on September 9, 2006 at UNH. No exact time as yet but it will be sometime in the afternoon. Several area chefs will come and make food. Tickets will be $25.00 a person. The chefs are donating their time and food so basically all of the money is going into the scholarship fund. She asked anyone who is interested to contact her.

The Board gave thanks.

Sandra LoRusso, 721 Main Street addressed the board. While reading the minutes on the internet she came across the meeting where Mr. Carney of the Building Committee addressed the Board. He talked to the Board about problems he had found at Mackrille School. He had gone up on the roof to investigate some claims of leaking windows and other problems. He wanted to make sure that prior to having the contractor’s insurance lapse that we found out whether or not there was a serious problem and obviously there was. The gentlemen saved you a couple of hundred thousand dollars and this Board treated him very rudely when Mr. Monahan asked him who gave him permission to go up on the roof. A man comes before you and tells you he saved you a couple of hundred thousand dollars and your question is who gave you permission to go up on our roof. He is a member of the city’s committee. Maybe you would rather pay the money. You also made a statement that the Board has a way of handling these problems amongst themselves and that you look into things. If I am correct, when Mr. Ray Curren quit as Building Committee Chairman a member of this Board took over and it was Mr. Horvath. If he was here tonight she would have liked to ask him if he was looking into this. Was he bringing the Board up to snuff on what was going on and that we had a serious problem. She thinks it is a shame that someone should be treated that rudely by a member of this Board when he saved the City that kind of money.

Secondly she wanted to speak in favor of the position that was just discussed. She thinks the Board does need a secretary. You need somebody that people can reach someone who has time for all of you. I know that I liked it when I sat on the Board and I’m sure all of you like it too. I think it is something that is worthwhile.

I would like this Board to do me a favor. Since Mrs. Rossi is so concerned about finances I want somebody to go over the past two years and get a bottom line number on how much this Board has spent on her FOI requests and I would like it in writing. Thank you.

The Board gave thanks

Tim Wrightington, 21 Susquehanna Avenue addressed the Board. He would like to explain how those building problems were dealt with in the past. The Board would call Art Kelly up and he would sit at the chair over here and he would say that was a problem
in the past and when we built this on it was never taken care of before. This is the explanation that was given for a leak at Bailey Middle School when the addition was put on there that is the nonsensical answer that we received for a leak when it was the addition that was actually leaking. He has watched Mrs. Rossi’s videos and has seen him come before this Board and if you listen to his answers about this and know anything about construction it is nonsense. Nothing over the years was taken care of. He has the sheet that he passed out to the City Council and was passed out to the City Council last year $311,000.00 in overages on school projects that nobody could explain and that nobody took care of and handled. He is sorry if the Board is hurt because someone is looking at our projects but someone needs to look at our projects because nothing was done over the years except for my pockets to be more empty than they already are. He is glad somebody climbed on the roof and yes he is insured because he is in that kind of business. Your concern was if he was insured. Yes, he is insured. If he is not insured through his business he is insured through the City of West Haven because he is authorized by the City to go up there.

The question that should have been asked is how come the floor is buckling at Mackrille School? Did you ask that question? No. Are you asking any other questions about anything else that went on? No. Pagels School was supposed to have windows in their gym or auditorium whatever you call it. There are lintels there for them. Explanation from Art Kelly was they ran out of money. That’s not our fault. You came in and said you could do this job for this much money and you didn’t. Put the windows in. If I left my car to be fixed and they said I’m going to guarantee you it will be $900 to fix that car and I come back and the same job was $1,500 that is not my fault. I signed a paper that said $900. You are not being responsible to the people of West Haven when you do something like that. When you ask stupid questions instead of clapping for the guy I’m sorry I’m not buying it. I watched for a lot of years.

The Board gave thanks

George Monahan, 376 Center Street addressed the Board. Mr. Chairman, for the record I’m a big boy and people can attack me any way they want but not when they attack the Board and the way the Board reviewed those construction projects it is clear it is on the record. Mr. Cavallaro is aware of it. Former Superintendent Paul Tortora is aware of it. My colleague Mr. Guthrie did a walk through of the buildings. Acting Chairman Collins did a walk through of those buildings and those projects. Former Board member Messina did a walk through of those buildings and reviewed those projects. What you need to do before you speak out about something is get facts. You need to get facts before you spew something that is not factual. The problem is that if you check the record and you check those facts the Board was already aware of those discrepancies and it was documented in writing. The contractors were made aware that they were in warrantee violation. Monies were withheld and are still withheld to this day from those contractors until those repairs are made. I can’t speak for past practices of four, six, or eight years ago but I can speak for the last three years and I can tell you that the Board does pay attention to these things.
Mr. Carney came forward like we didn’t know this. He didn’t have the courtesy to consult the Board and discuss what our activities were with those projects and were we aware of the problems. He went over there on his own with no authority to be on Board of Education Property. The Mayor and the City Council can’t grant permission for one of their chosen committee members to go on the Board’s property without permission. He didn’t go through proper protocol that is what I was saying. I applaud Ken Carney as the Chairman of the Building Oversight Committee. The intention of that committee is phenomenal and I think it will do a very good job. It clearly has done a very good job already.

This was a question of mutual respect and he embarrassed this Board when he came before it in public and challenged that we didn’t know what we were doing and weren’t aware of these problems and he found them; he didn’t find them the Board was already aware of them. Thank you.

The Board gave thanks

Tracy Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive addressed the Board. She would also like to put this on the record and would like an FOI request of all minutes of the Building Committee Meetings that have taken place. She stated that she has sat on the Building Committee and a lot of this stuff was never brought to their attention. As a PTA representative she came to all the meetings and would like a copy of the minutes because she doesn’t think any minutes were taken at any of these meetings. Also, as a member of this committee, she was supposed to sign off and vote the approval of the projects. This never came before them. As a Building Committee we never signed off on any of these projects. Who did? Who took the responsibility out of the hands of the Building Committee that was formed? She would like these answers. There was a lot of money spent. She also would like the answers for the different discrepancies on how much we were being reimbursed. We were told that we would get 75% reimbursement and then I found out we didn’t get 75% reimbursement so I would also like this to be addressed. These were serious projects that took place and some serious mistakes were made and why was the Building Committee dissolved? Who signed off on the projects? There were people that were principals of the schools, there was PTA representation from all the schools there were even some board members here. Why were the projects not signed off on? She requested this information in writing as soon as possible. As a Building Committee member she is disappointed in the way it was finished up and how people could be left out of the loop like this. She is glad that the Building Oversight Committee is taking it upon themselves and researching this because she has attended these meetings also with some of these board members and none of these issues were ever brought up. If you check the attendance from the minutes including the past superintendent he was at these meetings. How come these issues were never discussed? She would like to see the minutes of these meetings because she doesn’t think there are any. She thinks everyone just sat around and passed everything by the wayside. If there are minutes then it should be documented that the Board was aware of these issues because we all sat here and we never heard of it.
Actually I am very disappointed in the Forest School project. If my child was going to Forest School I would be very upset because that project is still not completed, never signed off and there was a ton of errors made there. Luckily my project at Mackrille was completed and the project at Seth Haley but with a lot of errors. They should have been signed off on. When I first joined the Building Committee they told me that we would have to sign off on these projects. What changed? Why didn’t we have to sign off on these projects? We attended every meeting. What happened I would like to know? Thank you.

The Board gave thanks

Vice-Chairman Collins asked if anyone else would like to address the Board for a third and final time.

Vice-Chairman Collins thanked all who attended the public hearing.

The public session closed at 7:25 p.m.

C. Reports:

Status of Schools
Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Board for their support as we have gone through the process addressing the concerns of our loosing teachers. As of today after we had posted positions we had lost additional science teachers, a total of five positions we still need to fill. We have one Math, two Guidance, and a Special Ed position we are looking at. Our hope is that we move aggressively trying to find candidates that will choose to come to our district and hope we have this before you at our next meeting in August.

One of the challenges that we encounter is our beginning salary. This is something we will be looking at and comparing it to other districts where our teachers, who have chosen to leave us, have gone. We are also looking into perceptions that are out there. These are two areas that we are working on very diligently to see if we can’t make a difference and get our staff to stay with us, support us, and stay through this tough time.

Mr. Collins, the Mayor and I have a press conference scheduled with Marissa on Wednesday and we look forward then to come out in a joint effort in terms of how important education is in the West Haven community. Hopefully this is a one time anomaly and we move forward and hope to be able to maintain our current, very effective staff.

As a new Superintendent coming on board I have had a series of meetings with members of the administrative team, with members of the City Council and city officials. I have had the opportunity to tour churches where I have had the opportunity to speak with citizens and at other social events throughout the community. It is amazing how as you
speak with people I think it is no different than what national research talks about and that is that people have a high regard for their schools and the school that their child is attending but will surely give you suggestions of things that might need to happen at the buildings. Because of the listening it has given me an opportunity to see the schools through the eyes of the citizens of this community. As a result of this, we will be putting together a plan and bringing it before you to help us take direction in terms of where we might be going as we look at the plan for the 2006-2007 school year for our students and providing the best educational opportunities for them.

One of the meetings that we had that I felt was very productive was the one with Chief Quagliani and Deputy Chief Smullen. One of the things we will be looking at is making sure that we have crisis and intervention planning as well as lock down procedures in place for every building this fall. This is something that is not inherent right now. There are different plans in every building. We will be putting this together and making it more uniform. We will make sure that our building floor plan will be updated so that if one has to enter our buildings for their safety and other concerns that we correctly place the windows and all the additions that have been made to the various buildings. It is very important that we update this department with this information to be pro-active and support our students.

Another component thing they will offer is support to Stiles School. There will be a presence of officers in and out of there so that they too will have that support. They were very cooperative and collaborative and we are looking forward to working with them as we provide safety and security for the children in our school district.

We are also preparing for opening day even as we speak. We are looking at providing professional development opportunities for all of our staff for that day and are inviting all of the Board Members to be present and to be able to have an opportunity for us all to come together. I understand this had been done years ago in our community maybe as far back as about ten years ago. Everyone will come into a central location on that opening day where we set the charge and direction for our school district with our Board there and administrative teams and leaders of unions and our buildings. Looking forward to this to be our opening and plans have been made for teachers to be able to be engaged in aggressive, professional development for the opening of the school year. This is already in place.

Lastly, I have had the chance to meet with our technology team. One of the concerns is that we wanted to make sure to assure you as a Board that while we have made deliberate cuts in that area we are still looking ahead and trying to be aggressive in our plan of serving the students and making sure the equipment and software is all in place and updated and an aggressive plan has already begun as we prepare to open that for our coming school year.

Thank you for the opportunity to give the state of our department at this time. Thank you
Administration

Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board. He spoke briefly as Dr. Andrees covered our series of meetings that we have attended for our preparation of the next school year. We have spent a good deal of time meeting with regard to our open positions. Obviously this was no one’s fault but because of the late passage of the budget we had a late start this year but we are working very aggressively to fill our positions and we are hopeful that by day one all of our teaching jobs are filled. He also mentioned that we worked very closely especially with the Teacher’s Union and the Para Union. As far as the displaced people we are trying to handle these issues as delicately as possible. People who aren’t coming back have been notified. We have placed all of our displaced teachers. Our job posting closes this week and so we can actually formally offer positions to teachers and also this week we will meet with the Para professional Union and place those displaced paras and then look and see if there are any jobs we need to fill or even possibly consolidate. We are working diligently and aggressively but it is a process and again I want to thank all the unions because it has been a cooperative process and not an easy one. We feel it is important to go step by step and get it right the first time and I believe we are doing that.

Board Reports

Robert Guthrie addressed the Board. Previously the Superintendent and Chairman explained the damage done to the system by the Mayor, our City Council, our school community, we the Board certainly hope it is a one year issue and looking at tonight’s agenda we continue to loose seasoned staff as a result of the city’s financial commitment. That is number one.

Number two again kudos to Mr. Everone and the field the CIAC was pleased with the accommodation that made for hosting a softball tournament at the last possible minute. We thank them for putting that together and most of these Board Members know and hopefully the Chairman will ask Mr. Kelly to come before us again. There is a push to have this Board accept certain projects he finished. This Board has refused to accept them because we are not pleased with them. Despite what anybody’s discrepancies may be many people did a walk through, most of the Board Members did a walk through with the Superintendent. We showed the architects many of the things that in a few of our buildings we are not satisfied with. The one thing that was consistent, whether it was the previous administration or the current administration, we can point the blame all we want but the one consistent is the project manager who continues to push politics forward not obviously looking out for the City or the Board of Education’s best interest. We continue to ask and continue to fight. There is a question about Building Committees. This Board has argued that for years. When the projects get started they go to a Mayor’s Building Committee. The Mayor’s Building Committee has no direct correspondence or feet held to the fire for these projects. This Board does not get to see those projects we merely get to vote on them being completed or not completed. Again the one thing that is consistent, the previous administration phased out the prior building committee this current
administration instituted the Building Oversight Committee. We thank them for trying to look through those records but it is still not getting to the root of the problem and solving the change orders and making the projects go out to bid. You know one administration to another. The Project Managers continue and this City is going to continue to get the black eye until we solve the bottom line problem. If we again can ask Mr. Kelly to come before us which we have asked when those projects will be completed and now months have gone by and I’m not sure of any correspondence to the Chairman or Mr. Cavallaro. There has certainly been none before the Board but again the building committees are creatures of the Mayor and this Board whoever is sitting here has no authority on behalf of those building committees. Hopefully, we again can try to get some answers on the status of the projects as to when they are going to be finished. I understand the longer that those projects are held back or not accepted the longer the City waits for reimbursement. Well we are not going to sign off on a project, the people sitting here, until the project is completed. It’s the taxpayer’s money and we are not signing off on it because that is the only right we have to voice on that committee. Thank you.

Ray Collins requested Dr. Andrees or Neil Cavallaro to invite Mr. Kelly to our next meeting for the status of the projects.

Bob Guthrie stated in going back to the minutes those are not Board Minutes and whoever the secretary was at that building committee would be responsible for maintaining a file on those minutes those are not Board of Education Minutes.

Jerry Calabritto said that he didn’t believe it was a Board of Education Committee it was set up by the Mayor. Bob Guthrie said it is a Mayor’s Committee. Jerry and Bob both stated that the FOI request should go to the Mayor’s Office. Ray Collins stated that is not our committee we have no control over that. Bob Guthrie stated again those are not Board of Education Committee Minutes. Jerry stated Mr. Chairman we don’t appoint that committee it is appointed by the Mayor. Bob stated that those minutes are not accepted by this Board.

Jerry Calabritto stated that he concurred with his colleague over there, as strange as it may seem, regarding the Council’s lack of commitment to the education of the children of this city. I emphasize Council because I want to make a point that the Mayor did give us an increase of 1.8M but the Council cut that 1.8M plus the additional funds and now we find a letter from the State of Connecticut saying that we should have gotten $93,000 more in the ECS Money and in the $82,900 the penalty to the City is twice that amount. So now when they want to give us money in 2008 and 2009 they are going to cry poor because they are going to get $200,000 less. So again I think it shows the lack of commitment of the City Council to the education of our children.

Mark Palmieri wanted to commend Mr. Stancil. This was the first time he had ever been to Blue and White Up All Night. He wished they had that when he went to school. It was a very nice evening. He was most impressed when he spoke to quite a few people there who didn’t even have children in the high school but still have that commitment to
show up and volunteer their time. Mr. Stancil and his committee did a heck of a good job.

There were no Committee Reports.

**D.1. Approval of Minutes**
Chairman Collins stated approval of minutes D-1 Inclusive
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Mark Palmieri
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

**D.2. Resignations Certified**
Chairman Collins stated Resignations Certified Inclusive
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Mark Palmieri
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

**D.3. Leave of Absence Certified**
Chairman Collins stated Leave of Absence Certified
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Mark Palmieri
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

**D.4. Resignations (Non-Certified)**
Chairman Collins stated Resignations Non-Certified
Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Mark Palmieri
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

**E. New Business**

06-71 Correspondence from Frank Biancur Jr., Property Maintenance Zoning Official

Bob Guthrie made a motion to table this until we have input from our Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director.

George Monahan seconded this motion.

Mark Palmieri began to speak but was interrupted.
Jerry Calabritto stated there is a motion on the floor to table Mr. Chairman
Chairman Collins asked all those in favor of tabling
Mr. Cavallaro wanted to point out that he knows that motion is there but Mr. Biancur and Mr. Stancil are here to answer questions about the Festival but he considers it the Board’s prerogative.

3 For
3 Opposed
Motion to table dies

Chairman Collins asked for a motion to approve
Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve
Seconded by Mark Palmieri
Discussion:

Mr. Biancur and Mr. Stancil said good evening.
Mark Palmieri asked if he could interject on this?
Ray Collins stated yes.
From what Mark Palmieri understands this idea came from when the woman from China was here and there was a presentation at the Conference Center and it was a very successful evening. He didn’t attend but knows people that did. It showed what is offered in our high school and was a very impressive evening and people wanted to build upon it. That’s how this came about. His wife is a part of this committee. She told him about this and he told her before her committee continues she should get in touch with Mr. Cavallaro tomorrow and let him know they need to get the paperwork and address the Board before they go any farther. From what he understands that is what they did do. On the other hand once again he is having such a difficult time because we are here for the children, and this is for every committee, club and sports group to go on the West Haven Green and show what the high school has to offer and how successful it can be. We can also have students that are going to these magnet schools or other schools throughout the district stay in West Haven. This is a great thing and I would like to be involved in that. The other part, once again gentlemen you can correct me if I’m wrong, they are going to do different ideas. One group may have hotdogs and sell them, another group may have games and they are going to raise money and these monies go to their clubs. If they want to have a banquet or buy shirts whatever they want to do with those monies they can do. This relieves their parents and the burden on the Board and why is doing something good for the children of this district a problem? We are here to help the kids and we are taking something very good away from them. Maybe I’m seeing something wrong am I missing something gentlemen? I can’t understand it.

Mr. Collins interjected that he agrees with him but he doesn’t think this was the intention of his colleagues.

Mr. Palmieri interjected well we didn’t listen. No one listened today.
Mr. Collins felt it was protocol. A discussion of the protocol followed.

Mr. Palmieri stated as far as he knew they followed protocol.

Jerry Calabritto stated he would venture to think though he can’t speak for his colleagues they would think it is a good idea but it is the way it came about. Secondly he has some concerns talking about any item outside of food and clothing for sale would be approved by the festival committee. We are taking our high school our Board of Education groups and clubs and we are putting in into the hands of the festival committee. I think this Board as Mr. Monahan so artfully pointed out two policies when we discussed Race Day that this Board has concerning fund raising. I would like to see if we are going to sell food or anything not through an outside group. You don’t bring in a vendor to sell something. I don’t think you should have an outside group.

Mr. Biancur said there would be no outside group.

Jerry Calabritto stated that is not what it says in black and white it says outside.

Actually Mr. Biancur said it states outside of food or clothing which means if the cheerleaders put together a calendar he would want the festival committee to review the calendar to make sure it was tasteful and would sell.

Jerry stated he would think the Board would review the calendar.

Mr. Biancur said there would be no outside venders involved at all.

Jerry asked who from the Board did he appoint to this committee?

Mark Palmieri stated he is bringing it to me.

George Monahan stated but it is the night we are voting on it Mark. With all due respect we are asked to vote on this tonight. There should have been a meeting before this where we could have gone over all these details.

It was stated there was a meeting.

George Monahan stated there was no meeting before the Board. You stated they came before us they didn’t come before us.

Mr. Biancur stated when he came up with the idea he went to the Mayor and he approved it. Then he went to his boss the Commissioner of Planning and Development she approved it. He then contacted Jonathan Capone and Ron Stancil. He went on a fact finding mission before coming before this Board. It didn’t make sense not to get the
backing of the key people involved before coming to this Board. He held an informational meeting on June 8th at the high school cafeteria. Coaches and parent groups were very enthusiastic about this idea.

He said he had a coach call him but won’t mention any names but he lost eight kids in the last two years that would be playing varsity right now that are at private schools. He went on to discuss other issues. He thinks it was a great idea of Mr. Stancil’s to go with Homecoming Week especially if the football team is undefeated.

Mark Palmieri said this is every club and committee throughout the high school not just sports. We are talking about everything the high school has to offer and every committee if they choose, correct?

We can have this happen sometime during the week that wouldn’t interfere with the dance or the game.

Mr. Guthrie said it was never a question of knocking someone down it was simply reading something in the agenda that the education department has not been aware of. We have nothing from Mr. Stancil, Mr. Cavallaro, Dr. Andrees, or Mr. Capone stating they are in favor of it. Now you said you were in contact with the athletic director now he obviously has been in contact with players and coaches and there is interest? I’m asking because I have called three coaches and they know nothing about it. I want to make sure this is for every coach not singled to individuals.

Jonathan Capone let every head coach know about the meeting and we did have quite a good representation. there.

Mr. Guthrie stated his letter mentions that the band and the choir would also be scheduled to perform are they available is there was an interest from the group and from the directors?

Mr. Biancur stated Cassie Marcella was there.

Mr. Guthrie stated we try not to obligate to something they might not be able to produce or bring the students out. That is the purpose of this discussion. You also stated the City is committing this endeavor financially.

Mr. Biancur stated yes it would come at a very minimum cost security would be volunteers and the normal scheduled police officers on duty at that time. He spoke to the Chief of Police about this. If the baseball team wants to do baseball cards they have to get on the computer and ferret a way to produce those cards for sale. This won’t be costly to do. If the soccer team sells hot chocolate they would be the hot chocolate. There might be money on the grant side through the City or some Federal money that would help subsidize some of the cost but we don’t see a problem.
George Monahan asked if this is projected to tie into either a harvest festival or any other festival?

The Italian Festival is three weeks before this and the Apple Festival on the Green run by the church is in the first or second week of September.

Mark apologized and can see where the Board Members were coming from. It was just the way you did it. He wishes he was informed. He thought the whole idea was good. Get the parents involved and once again you are making a community effort. He thinks there intentions are good and would like the Board to get the other information they like and would like to see this on the next meeting to vote on.

Ray Collins said we are voting on it now.

Jerry said a motion to approve is on the agenda right now.

Mr. Stancil added he thinks it is a great idea. Every sport team except for one or two of them at the high school have a banquet and for the most part the parents put money in by having a concession stand at each of the games to raise the money for the trophies and things they give out. Some are quite elaborate and some quite modest. Its all about student recognition and he thinks that is very important. These banquets are all good and the kids enjoy it. That’s the important part.

Bob Guthrie stated Mr. Palmieri you are absolutely right it is all bout the kids and the students we are just trying to make sure that we don’t obligate our students and our clubs to something they haven’t had the opportunity to buy into. He doesn’t want us to vote to accept an idea without knowing that the principal and athletic director have spoken to put the feelers out there so we know there is enough interest from our student body before we make any sort of implied obligation on behalf of them.

Ron Stancil stated he thought he remembered that the choral department was going to take songs from the musical Bye Bye Birdie and have a small presentation and the band would play a couple of small numbers.

George Monahan stated that it is clearly going to be a phenomenal function and is definitely all for it Mr. Palmieri and will vote for it no matter when the vote takes place. He thinks you now understand what the conflict was all about and he would hope that maybe the Chair would consider appointing a Board member to the committee and maybe you are the choice as Chairman of the Athletic Committee and you will insure on behalf of the Board that there is full inclusion for whoever wants to participate as Mr. Guthrie said. With this provision I would be happy to vote tonight.

Mark Palmieri said this is not a problem.

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Biancur if he was the Chair of the committee.
Mr. Biancur stated he came up with the original idea but he is not the Chairperson.

Ray Collins said congratulations you are the Chair. Other Board members in unison stated yes you are the Chair.

Ray Collins stated to try and save time and I think this is a great idea but you have a lot of work to do. If you have no opposition to have a Board member appointed. Also in regard to anything being sold whether food or clothing be brought before the Superintendent.

Robert Guthrie stated as long as Mr. Palmieri is a member of the committee he can bring it back on behalf of the Board to the Superintendent.

George Monahan stated Mr. Chairman as my colleague Mr. Calabritto brought up my discussion several meetings ago about a couple of policies. This is clearly a function that requires no approval from the Board. We have already given authority to the Superintendent. It is a fund raiser which benefits a club or an athletic function and the Superintendent can approve those tasks. This is not anything in any way which requires micro management. This is not the intent here it is just a question of making sure that this is fair and open to everyone that would benefit from the program.

Ray Collins asked if there was any further discussion. There is a motion and a second.
All those in favor
All Board Members voted in favor
Motion passed

The Board congratulated Mr. Biancur and wished him good luck.

E. New Business (Continued)

06-72 Correspondence from David Russell, Director of Grant Administration

Chairman Collins requested a motion
Gerald Calabritto made the motion
George Monahan seconded the motion
No discussion
All Board Members voted in favor
Motion carries

06-73 Correspondence from Donna Kosiorowski RN, Co-chair, Wellness Committee

Chairman Collins requested a motion
Gerald Calabritto made the motion
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
Discussion: George Monahan wanted to thank Eric Murillo as Chairman of that committee. We recently adopted some new policy in that area and he has already begun to expand on that policy. This is a great addition and we want to thank you for your efforts.

Eric Murillo also wanted to thank Donna Kosiorowski for doing such a great job with it. He thanked the Board

All Board Members voted in favor
Motion carries

06-74 Correspondence from Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Chairman Collins requested a motion
Gerald Calabritto made the motion
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No Discussion
All Board Members voted in favor
Motion carries

Informational:

F.1. Correspondence from Gary Palermo, Director of Pupil Services

F.2. Special Meeting – Student Expulsion Hearing, June 28, 2006 at 9:29.m.

F.3. Special Meeting – Student Expulsion Hearing, June 7, 2006 at 12:00 p.m.

F.4 Involuntary Transfer Letters

F.5 Board of Education Roster

F.6 West Haven Board of Education Committees and Representatives

Chairman Collins asked each Board Member individually if they had anything for discussion.
Other Discussion

Jerry Calabritto was the only member to speak. In regard to the notice from Dr. Andrees regarding the Budget negotiations, he requested that any suggestions the Board has be given to Dr. Andrees by July 20, 2006.

Chairman Collins asked for a motion to adjourn
Motion was made by Gerry Calabritto
Seconded by Mark Palmieri
All members in favor
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Clerk