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  
Krista Pickering  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Robert Guthrie  
Howie Horvath  
Gerald A. Calabritto

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**
Raymond Collins  
Mark Palmieri

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**
Mayor John M. Picard

M. Toni Paine, Chairman of the Board of Education turned the meeting over to Dr. Andrees.

Dr. Andrees stated to Mrs. Paine and members of the Board of Education that she is delighted with the presentations that are being brought to you tonight; we have students, adults and partnership recognition tonight to bring to you tonight. We will begin with our partnership recognition and that is with Ms. Sandra Oliver, Vice President Public Policy & State Government Affairs for Bayer Corporation. She has been a helpful partner with the high school in sponsoring the advanced placement Bayer Luncheon for those students who achieve a B or higher in their eight advanced placement classes. Students who take advanced accelerated courses and score a three or higher in those courses and take a national test can actually walk into college with college credit. Even though Bayer will be leaving West Haven they will continue to partner with us to encourage young students to take accelerated curriculum and also to excel in that curriculum. They have also provided wonderful equipment for our science labs and furniture and supplies for the schools in our district. Mayor Picard has a presentation for Ms. Oliver tonight.
Mayor Picard stated that Sandy Oliver, the Vice President of Bayer, has been exceptional with us since the first day the Mayor took office. Sandy Oliver has done so much for the school system, the Community House and so many other areas and she never wants to be recognized.

While Mayor Picard was visiting schools last month on one of the Superintendent’s visits they stopped at one school and the teacher’s lounge wasn’t all it could be so he called Sandy and they drove out to that school together. That Saturday that school had equipment, furniture and many other things which they could use. This is not the only way that Ms. Oliver has helped. She has helped with the honors program, with the science equipment and in many other areas. She is extremely talented and modest and I am very proud to call her friend. Sandy Oliver will continue to sponsor these types of programs and continue to do these types of things over the next few years.

A plaque which came from West Haven High School was presented to Sandy Oliver by Mayor Picard. Toni Paine, Board Chair presented Ms. Oliver with a pin for her service from the Board of Education.

Pictures were taken with Mayor Picard, Superintendent Andrees, Board Chair, M. Toni Paine and Ron Stancil, Principal of West Haven High School.

Applause from the audience.

Sandy Oliver thanked everyone on behalf of all the employees at Bayer. Sandy said it has been an honor to work with West Haven and the new superintendent and the mayor. They have given Bayer lots of opportunities to participate. She doesn’t think that Bayer had been involved in the community as much as it has been in the last few years. Although Bayer will be leaving they are turning it over to some great hands. Sandy stated she will continue to support the efforts of West Haven over the next few years.

West Haven is a very special town with a lot of very special people who are very appreciative of everything that Bayer is able to do. She mentioned the Community House and other areas.

Ms. Oliver wanted to recognize the new superintendent and the mayor because without the two of them all the things that Bayer has done probably wouldn’t have been possible because they are always there looking out for all of you and the City of West Haven.

Applause

Dr. Andrees stated that in the audience tonight is a young winner. All the fourth graders across the district were given the opportunity to participate in an anti litter campaign. Many hours were spent going through all those beautiful posters trying to decide which one will be seen on the trucks from City Hall this year. Our winner is here tonight and with us in the audience tonight is Councilwoman, Mrs. Martha Bell. Mrs. Bell came
forward with Angela Riehl, a fourth grade student from Pagels School, who is the winner of the City Wide Anti Litter Slogan Contest.

Mayor Picard thanked Dr. Andrees, Martha Bell, all the students and teachers who have helped us clean up on Saturday. It was a lot of fun and Martha Bell had the idea that we should make every Friday clean up day and I think we are going to honor that idea.

Applause

Mayor Picard called the police chief this morning after they finished cleaning up on Saturday and told him that the amount of litter out there was shameful but everyone did a great job cleaning up. He asked the police chief to make it a priority to issue a fine if they see people littering. The fine will be under $50.00. The police chief promised Mayor Picard that this would happen. Mayor Picard stated if someone receives a fine for littering they will not get the fine reduced no matter which office they call.

Mayor Picard then presented Angela with a citation from the Office of the Mayor. The citation stated that the City of West Haven offers it sincerest congratulations to Angela Riehl, fourth grade Pagels Elementary School, in recognition of crafting the following slogan:

Are you willing to throw away your world? Don’t litter!

The entire City, the Superintendent, and the Board of Education extend their very best wishes and we want continued success for you. Mayor Picard stated that you really have to see the slogan and the drawing it is incredible.

Applause

Mayor Picard also thanked Dr. Andrees, Councilwoman Martha Bell, City Council, Board of Education, and all the volunteers and everyone who helped.

Mayor Picard presented Angela Riehl with a $100 United States Saving Bond.

Applause

Pictures were taken with Mayor Picard, Superintendent Andrees, Board Chair, M. Toni Paine and Councilwoman Martha Bell.

Dr. Andrees asked Angela’s parents who were in the audience to stand to also be acknowledged.

Applause

Dr. Andrees said Middle School Sports were cut last year and in the winter Parks and Rec
said maybe we can work together. Mr. Capone and Parks and Rec were able to provide Middle School Activities at both Carrigan and Bailey. This was a wonderful opportunity that had not been done before. They took kids from Carrigan over to the ice rink and they were able to participate with other kids. Students from both schools were working together on middle school activities.

Tonight I am going to ask the Board in light of having completed our budget and having brought back all the teachers. As of today we brought back the teachers that we laid off last year. I ask for you to support Middle School Activities and Middle School Sports in addition to Middle School Activities in the schools next year. It is in the budget. Dr. Andrees asked for the Board’s formal support of this tonight and for this to be added to the agenda tonight.

In the meantime Dr. Andrees wanted to acknowledge the Parks and Rec Staff. Dr. Andrees stated she has learned a lot this year coming in as a new Superintendent. She has learned how to balance what the town values and what the people value. She is thrilled to bring before you tonight the members of the Parks and Rec. Board Chair, M. Toni Paine, called off the following names and presented them with plaques:

- Bill Slater
- Tom Conroy
- Diane Dietman
- Jon Capone

Applause

Pictures were taken with Mayor Picard, Superintendent Andrees and Board Chair, M. Toni Paine.

Diane Dietman from the West Haven Parks and Recreation spoke. When it was learned that Middle School Sports were being eliminated Tom Conroy and she spoke to our Director, Mr. Bill Slater to get everyone interested in trying to do something to fill the void. We had done this in the past under a grant program and it was very successful. We thought we would try and initiate it again. We sent out a survey to the middle schools with a listing of different off the wall activities that we suggested. We also had an area for the student’s feedback as to what they would like to try. We compiled the results and determined the sports to be presented. Some of the sports interesting to the students are:

- Team Dodge Ball
- Team Volley Ball
- Co-ed Floor Hockey
- Yoga
- Swimming
- Hip Hop Dance
- Flag Football
- Skating
We broke these down to three sessions held in January, March, and May that last about five weeks.

In Bailey Middle School we had 217 total applications for the three sessions. In Carrigan we had 234. Again this is a total combined of the three sessions we offer. Team Dodge Ball was a very popular activity and we had 84 enrolled with an average of 40 attending. Swimming at Carrigan had about 40 students enrolled with an average attendance of 22.

We had a wonderful time doing this and we had a lot of great students.

Toni Paine stated that it really impressed her to hear that a lot of the kids were happy to be part of something that was organized and not going home and being by themselves.

Krista Pickering stated she thought it was great that you could come out and play on a team no matter what your ability was. She thought it was great that they didn’t have to try out for a team they could just join whatever they wanted to. You don’t see this in regular school sports you have to try out for a team.

Jerry stated as my colleague said there are a number of children that would like to participate in something that may not be middle school sports. It may be a sports type activity but maybe not in the competitive nature of middle school sports. Is it the intent to continue with this next year for those children so they can be afforded these opportunities next year?

Dr. Andrees stated they met last week to go over what it might look like for next year and we are encouraged. She mentioned the number of parents who told her that my son never stayed after school but now plays dodge ball after school. Many students who never played sports before saw this as an opportunity to participate and stay after school. Jerry stated that these numbers may even grow next year.

John Capone stated he noticed that the kids that normally participated in sports didn’t really come out for this so it is really not going to hurt us one way or the other.

Bob Guthrie asked Diane if she expected to do the same sessions during the same time of the year or do you feel the need to change them. It seems to be good the way it is but they are making some alterations.

John Capone said the key thing is to coordinate the facilities because last year we didn’t have Middle School Sports so we had the full use of the facility. We could run in the gym and the field now we have the gym being taken and it will be his job to make sure we communicate and don’t have two people in the same place at the same time.

Dr. Andrees said Parks and Rec are picking up the cost and the Board is picking up the transportation at the end of the evening. Jon said they supply a late bus because many of the kids would not have a ride home.
George Monahan stated that the decision by this board last year to eliminate not only Middle School Sports but also extracurricular activities at the Middle School level was a difficult one and we were not happy in doing this but didn’t have much choice. One of the factors that lead us to making that decision was that the sports that were available within the community for that age group were a lot greater than in different age groups. We felt there would still be sports available through Youth Soccer, Youth Baseball, and Youth Hockey. He did want to ask Mr. Capone if he has any feel for what impact the lack of middle school sports last year will have on the sports at the high school this year.

Jon Capone stated over one year it is hard to tell but I have had this conversation with Dr. Andrees and my philosophy is that what we are doing in middle school sports is having an honors program for athletics. These kids are gifted kids who will go to our high school and potentially play in our varsity. In the league that we play in they have middle school sports and they all have this program so our kids are going to fall behind. It is no different than if you didn’t offer an academic honors program and because of this our kids would fall behind the kids from Milford and Hamden. If it is offered kids who take it will be more advanced than our kids. Coaches at the high school have seen that the kids that come over from the middle schools are more used to the system. Middle School Sports brings the best students together just like we do academically.

Jon Capone continued with his presentation. He stated that when they do the scheduling they are always a season ahead and May 15th was the deadline for fall sports. Everything has to be done in the middle school and high school by that date. In September we start winter sports. Dr. Andrees told him to get the ball rolling even if at the time it wasn’t a definite but it is easier to cancel it than try to get everything organized tonight. It is easier to pull something if rejected than to add something. All the scheduling has been done and the budget has been put together, the sixth graders and the coaches have been called back.

Toni Paine said the only thing we have to do is officially vote on it so would someone make a motion to add it to tonight’s agenda.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to add an item to the agenda tonight to bring back Middle School Sports and the After School Activities Program item 07-98.
Bob Guthrie Seconded the motion
All were in favor
Motion passes

Item 07-98 is added to tonight’s agenda.

Bill Slater, Parks & Rec Director, stated that what is happening is a really good example of cooperative effort in the City. We wouldn’t be able to do this on our own and neither would the Board. He has always had a good relationship with the Board over the years but as of late (he has been with the Parks and Rec Department thirteen years and with the City 28) the cooperation here now is improving with Neil, John and Dr. Andrees here.
These three people are wonderful to work with. We don’t have a community center in town so we rely on the schools for a lot of things and we are able to get our programs in the schools. He thanked the Board of Education and their great staff for working with the Park and Rec Department.

Applause

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Margaret Maher, a teacher at West Haven High School thanked the board for giving the permission to travel to London, England this year. There were 26 people who went in April and had a wonderful time. We were able to see three main stage productions. They went to the Globe Theatre. Students worked with a genuine Shakespearean actor and had a wonderful one on one session with him. The students would make you so proud they never caused them concern or worry. They made us look so good. She just wanted to say thank you very much.

The board gave thanks.

Patricia Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Rd., stated she feels the need to clarify and correct her comments at the last board meeting. She knows that Marylou condenses the minutes but thinks some things were taken out that she feels need to be said. She stated she would read a statement and this will make it easier to put this into the minutes.

The statement follows:

Although I can not remember verbatim what I said I started by inviting everyone to the retirement dinner I then voiced my concerns about the magnet school which is being proposed at UNH. My concerns were not accurately reported in the minutes. My first concern is that the City would be losing tax revenue and could lose ECS funding. Although Mr. Linehan said that districts still receive the Educational Cost Sharing funding that they are entitled to despite the number of students they send to magnet schools, I pointed out that that formula is not written in stone and that could change. (as an aside, at the Pipeline to Prison presentation last week, Senator Toni Harp told the gathering that the ECS funding was projected to change based on magnet enrollment and that she opposed the change). I also pointed out that the district stood to lose Title 1 money and possibly other grant monies such as e-rate. These federal grants are based on the number of students that qualify for free and reduced lunch. If a student goes to a New Haven school, we cannot count them in our numbers which will change the percentage that the district receives for these grants. I know that for e-rate alone, the reimbursement rate has changed as the enrollment has declined from 65 – 63%. This takes money directly away from the students who stay in our schools. I added that I supported the concept of the school, that science and engineering is an up and coming field and hopefully the addition of this school will bring industry to our city but I felt that it should be a West Haven School, not a New Haven School. They are taking members away from my union because as enrollment declines, my membership declines. (End of statement)
That was the part that was stressed and I think we lost the other points and I just needed to clarify that. I am certainly not against the school. My daughter is an engineer. It is an opportunity that if she had had as a child it would have helped her get even further in her career. She is doing quite well as a result of being educated in the West Haven Public Schools.

Thank you.

Toni Paine asked Patti to give a copy of the statement to the Board Secretary, Marylou.

The board gave thanks.

John Lewis, 273 Peck Avenue, West Haven stated that members of the Washington School PTA wish to address the fact that Mr. Tom Griffith is not scheduled to be the music teacher at Washington School next year. It was announced at the Bailey Middle School Concert that another teacher would be taking his place. Our parents have been very pleased with the results of his instruction. Concerts have been enjoyable and representative of the progress our band members have made. Our students look forward to their music lessons and have a great deal of respect for Mr. Griffith. He employees humor, hard work, and practice with the children. In addition it has been brought to our attention that Mr. Griffith is also concerned about the student’s academic progress. Before he finalizes his schedules for instructions he checks with the teachers to make sure it does not interfere with their plans. Mr. Griffith will also make accommodations for children who have special programs on Sunday and allow the child to go for instruction at another time.

As members of the PTA we have demonstrated our faith in our music department by donating money for the student’s instruments. Mr. Griffith wants to make music lessons available to children who have talent but are unable to pay the fee for the rental instruments. He then read a letter sent by Mr. Griffith to the PTA which mentioned instruments that could be played at Washington and used for smaller students and also enhance their musical experience. Some instruments mentioned are:

- 2 Baritone Horns at $150
- 1 Yamaha Sax $600
- 1 Standard Coronet $319
- 1 Percussion Combo Kit

A further discussion ensued. He then read a note from Dr. Andrees to Mr. Griffith dated May 17, 2007 stating that the All City Band Concert was phenomenal and stated that we are blessed to have him as a leader in our music program in our district. The letter continued.
For the above reasons the Washington PTA is requesting that Dr. Andrees and the Board of Education reconsider their decision to replace Mr. Griffith as an instructor at Washington School.

Carroll Brown, 56 High View Avenue, West Haven stated on behalf of the West Haven Black Coalition she would like to thank those people who did attend the School to Prison Pipeline presentation for the second time. She thanked Chairlady Paine, Mr. George Monahan, and Mr. Eric Murillo. She thanked Dr. Andrees because she knows Dr. Andrees gave a lot of effort to inform the teachers and administration about this presentation. Patti Fusco and many teachers were here. Everything we do in the city we do for the good of the community. It is imperative that you understand that our role as community activists and I as a community leader is to make sure all of our children are treated fair. That presentation is something that should have been made mandatory because you should all want to learn what you need to do to improve the quality of life for all children. It needs to be seen by everyone. I hope that at some point Mr. Cavallaro all of the people will come to that presentation because we will bring it back again next year. To those of you who found it necessary and important enough to be there I thank you.

The board gave thanks.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Rd. She attended the presentation that Carroll Brown was speaking of and it was an excellent presentation as it was when I previously viewed it. I do believe that everyone should see it as it is very informative, enlightening and sobering as to what really is going on in the school systems today. She stated she has been here six years asking for equal education for all and I think it is very important that in certain instances this is not being done. The road you put a child on when he is suspended or expelled is not the road you want to put your child on so I encourage you to get a copy of this presentation and that you don’t have to wait until next year. This is a very good youth organization and they did a wonderful job.

She attended the picnic at Molloy and the D.A.R.E. Graduation. Her district is asking for their addition. They definitely want it and she was very disappointed that it wasn’t in the 5 year plan. She understands that this year there is going to be a strategic plan that we did approve and unless there is a reason why, I don’t see any reason why that school should not be made to look like the other schools which have already received their addition. That is why as she has said many times, she really would like to see charter revision. She would like to know that there is someone sitting here who is from the 7th District or the 5th District or the 6th District that will take care of their district. There are great differences in schools from one side of town to the other. I am not talking about teacher the teachers are phenomenal. She loves the teachers and administrators at her school. The children want to have the same amenities as the other schools do so she will keep it up from now until the end of the five year capital plan. She will be here six more years because her work is not done yet.

The board gave thanks.
Lou Persiani, 104 Martin Street, wanted to echo what John Lewis said. Mr. Griffith is a visionary. He is thinking about a trail that he is going to blaze with these children. When there is not enough money to purchase music for the students he writes it for them. The quality of life and the future of these children should be taken into consideration.

The other thing is not to forget about all day kindergarten. A.M. they get lost and lose out on the P.M. activities and the P.M. they lose out on the A.M. activities. All school meetings are in the morning and the P.M. misses out. Students lose out on basic things, following instructions, standing in line and not getting out of it.

He commends the board on the 8th grade and the middle school and focusing on them they are left behind. We see them walking our streets, hanging out in the play grounds, but if you go up and talk to them they are nice kids. With something to focus on like you are providing to them now will help a lot. We praise them in elementary school and challenge them in high school and in the middle school they are kind of lost a little bit. These activities will help. He applauds the board for bringing them back.

The board gave thanks.

Paul Kaplow, 31 Dawson Avenue, West Haven. He thinks it is wonderful that the city of New Haven and UNH are having a magnet school. He is disappointed that it is not a West Haven School however he is for education and thinks it is a wonderful opportunity and hasn’t taken place in this city since its inception. He encourages the planning to go with West Haven to bring tax dollars back if we possibly can without giving up certain things. He hasn’t looked at any site plan and asked if there was a site plan yet where the building will be built. This is a big concern to him and he is certain to other taxpayers and to members of the board of education. He asked if a site has been picked yet; no. Is there a site committee to look at one. Toni Paine said she is not aware of one. No there has not been one. They are exploring different options. Is there dialogue between us, UNH, and the State? Toni Paine stated it wouldn’t be between us we would have nothing to do with it.

Mayor Picard said we have different sites and have not come up with anything definite yet. Mayor Picard stated that he knows Paul wasn’t here during the beginning stages and stated there are several sites along the Post Road.

A further discussion ensued about the need of a community center for this end of town.

The board gave thanks

Public Portion closed at 7:45 p.m.

C. REPORTS

C.1. Status of Schools
Dr. Andrees thanked the board of education for a great year. This is when she came in a year ago. She complimented the staff and the people who sit around this table and make wonderful decisions in the best interest of students and of our schools. Dr. Andrees stated that she feels very blessed that you brought me here to the West Haven Community.

A few of the successes achieved by Neil and me, along with the teaching staff, the support staff, and all the employees of the district are as follows:

Our goal was to improve technology and I think we have done a great job moving in that direction this year. Across the district you will find new computers in classroom from grades 5 through 2. There are two middle school computer labs that will be in place when the students return in the fall. There are two new elementary computer labs in place at Pagels and Washington. Special development has been coordinated with Neil Cavallaro to address the diverse needs of the changing population in our community today. We are moving forward to provide a middle school band and even a middle school jazz band for both Carrigan and Bailey. The same teacher will be teaching at both schools so we can insure that the same instructions and opportunities are afforded to both groups of students. The opportunity for Bailey and Carrigan students to perform together comes with this. This is an opportunity for these kids to come together before meeting in high school. There will be a middle school choir in the fall for both Carrigan and Bailey with the same instructor at both schools. This will create equity and wonderful opportunities for the students from both sides of town to come together and bridge that gap long before they get to the high school.

Mr. Cavallaro and staff have worked vigorously on summer registration for all elementary schools. New people moving to our community will have an opportunity to register in the summer as opposed to waiting for the fall. This will help us to not have to react to the number of non residents who come at the very beginning of the year with that rush. We will have medical staff to help families with their physicals etc. Neil Cavallaro, Myrtle Stallings, and Steve Lopes helped put this together and this is a good way for us to be pro-active instead of reacting at the beginning of the school year.

We have had increased partnerships with UNH this year for example in science the collaboration with our science department and Neil Cavallaro and Roberta Fronc has been a great partnership and our teachers have benefited. We have also looked at alternatives for suspensions and are working on a grant that we are trying to pursue. We are trying to see what we might do beginning next year that gives us a chance to see if we can eliminate the process of sending more children home. We are working with those children in the school district when we must separate them from their classrooms. There has been an increase in middle school activities.

A delight this year was All City Band. This is a part of what we will continue to do in West Haven; showcase the arts in our community.
Dr. Andrees thanked the Board of Education for their continued support and for a staff across this district that are second to none and to be blessed to be part of the West Haven School District. She thanks the board for a phenomenal first year.

Applause

Neil Cavallaro feels we have had a very, very good year and have initiated a lot of new projects – technology was mentioned. We are very excited about the partnerships with UNH and are meeting with staff from Yale next week. We are excited about the science program. The changes in the music program have been mentioned and he knows that Mr. Lewis and Mr. Persiani are concerned. Unfortunately we have to do some reorganization which we feel will strengthen the overall program. Unfortunately when we make these changes it does necessitate movement. We ask that you give us the opportunity to put forth a plan that we are still finalizing and judge us based on the final outcome. We think you will be pleased with the plan and we have tried not to make too many changes especially with the special areas like the gym, art, and music teachers. We will have a stronger plan which will only add and make our programs better.

Last year we lost about ten to twelve elementary school teachers that we had hired. As of last week every person from that list who has been laid off has had the opportunity for re-employment with the Board of Education. Unfortunately some of those people have taken other jobs but at least we have been through the list. We anticipate a handful of elementary school openings and are aggressively working to try and select the best candidates for that. The teachers that we are asking you to approve tonight are all in shortage areas and we feel we have a good jump again on the hiring process. There are only a handful of positions at the high school and I believe there are a couple of positions at Carrigan in the area of English and Math and Science at the high school which we have interviewed for.

Our goal is to have our full staff in place during the first day of school. We are exited about our partnership with Park Rec and we have worked very closely with them. I also can’t thank Mr. Winkle for all his cooperation with the many activities he certainly goes above and beyond when we tell him we need a bus.

Neil also thanked the Union because with their cooperation in allowing us to make some moves we were able to expedite the process of bringing people back and opening up positions for people.

He also wanted to thank Dr. Andrees for her leadership and the members of this board for their support we have come a long way and next year should be even better.

C.1. b. Board

Robert Guthrie attended Haley’s Play which was a wonderful production, Carrigan’s Honor Society, and Bailey’s Band. He unfortunately missed one of the DARE Graduations but did make Mackrille, Molloy and Haley’s. Next year Washington School is celebrating their 20 year partnership with Yale. It is interesting that they are discussing
the science school because at the time Washington School was a Science Magnet Elementary School. I certainly hope this City and the Board acknowledge Yale’s partnership with Washington and this District and their 20 year anniversary next year.

George Monahan thanked Dr. Andrees for the wonderful job she has done in her first year especially with all the challenges she faced when she arrived. She is modest and gives credit to other people. She clearly brought to the table a very open mind, a voice of reason and tremendous talents that have clearly set this community at ease that the school district does have a phenomenal leader with the retirement of Superintendent Totora. I also would like to acknowledge Assistant Superintendent Cavallaro, who was an applicant and competed for the open Superintendent’s position. Everyone knows that he was not selected. Human nature results in some disappointment when someone wants something badly and doesn’t achieve it at first. He spoke privately to him after that process and would like to thank him for quickly coming back to the table. He clearly brings tremendous talents to this school district in the role that he plays and he clearly did go back to work totally on behalf of this district very quickly and has given tremendous support to our new Superintendent. Neil, you really do deserve a lot of credit for that.

Applause

Mayor Picard stated to Dr. Andrees that he is sure it has been a very exciting and fun year for you as it has been for all of us. Neil is a professional and so is Dr. Andrees and a lot of good things have happened and these are very exciting times here in West Haven. There are a number of projects being done with technology and he wants to commend you because he knows it was a difficult budget year but you actually found the resources in this year’s budget to make some things happen and we are very proud of that. He went on to talk about communication; the anti-litter campaign that was headed up by Dr. Andrees, Martha Bell and City Hall, the American Heart Association, the communication as Bill Slater has said has really come a long way and I think it is only going to improve. These are the types of things we are very excited about.

When you attend DARE Graduations throughout the city they are a lot of fun and rarely do I not see Bob sitting out in the audience along with a couple of other people in the audience and Nancy is one of them. Officer Chris and Officer Mike do an excellent job too with these kids and we really appreciate their efforts.

There is a person I think we really should acknowledge and she is Cassie Marcella. She is everywhere also. Cassie (the Band) was at Forest School when they had the Spring Concert, the Memorial Day Parade, and was also at the Sunday night Senior Honor Alumni Band Program which was phenomenal. The kids from Carrigan at Seacrest had a blast and they are always helping out. These are the things that need to be celebrated in this town and all the good things that are happening. Whether it is the Spring Concert at Forest School, the multiple Flag Day events at Savin Rock School or at The Ward Heitman House, or events at Seacrest, along with all the honor’s nights – these are the positive things that enhance the communication between the city and the board of education and I am very happy to be a small part of this.
Lastly, the announcement that Yale has purchased the Bayer Campus has made this town very vibrant. There is a meeting at Bailey at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow night which will address a couple of things and will be approximately a 45 minute presentation. There will be a representative from Bayer, Yale, and the City and everyone is welcome to attend. The commitment they are making to the school system is huge, the voluntary contribution of half a million dollars, the fact that the property could have been vacant or knocked down like Bayer did in Indiana, and the pilot money – each school is going to get better and better. If anyone can read between the lines what Yale is going to accomplish it is going to be extremely exciting and beneficial to all those in West Haven and the whole region. There will be inquiries now about development projects since that announcement has come forward. We are very excited about this and we are looking forward to a great summer and the mayor extended his thanks to Dr. Andrees, Chairwoman Paine and the whole board of education for all their support and for a great year.

Jerry Calabritto stated this has been a good year and thanked Neil Cavallaro, Dr. Andrees, and his colleagues for their contributions to the children of West Haven.

Howard Horvath Jr. wanted to echo the sentiments previously stated and thanked Dr. Andrees for reviewing the highlights of the year. It is a reminder a year goes by quickly and just how much was done and how much we were faced with – the challenges – and the results. I tip my hat and thank you. I am delighted to see your effort and excellence recognized by the community and the places that I go and the people that tell me about the job you are doing. It has been four years here on the board for me. I’m proud of a lot of the decisions and things that we have done. Some of them were tough decisions but I am most proud of having been a part of bringing you here to the district. I want to thank you for the great job that you have done and look forward to many years ahead.

Krista Pickering wanted to thank Dr Andrees for helping the Local Chapter of MDA. The school district became involved and the idea of donating a dollar to MDA and being able to wear a hat to school evolved. Unfortunately this idea was not acceptable to all schools. All of our schools participated on some level. The schools all chose various ways of collecting money for MDA. Some schools gave a pass for no homework for one day with the receipt of a dollar. Some schools had bucks that could be used at the school store. There were many wonderful ideas and unfortunately I don’t have the final amount that was collected but I do want to thank all the schools and the administrators and students who contributed to this cause. Krista stated that she knows that the end of the year is a very busy time and wanted to thank everyone for their help with this.

Eric Murillo thanked everyone and Dr. Andrees. He is very happy to work with Dr. Andrees especially as a member of the Courageous Conversations Equity Team. The state is involved in trying to close the achievement gap. The seminars that we have attended have been the highlight of my presence in this board because of what we have learned and what we heard and spoke about. I enjoy working with the equity team members who are very passionate about their role in this effort to close the achievement gap. In order for us to succeed we need to be open minded of the diversity of our
children and we need to reach out to them, to their parents, and to their community to help us help them reach the goal to succeed academically. I want to thank the board, Dr. Andrrees, administrators, teachers and students who have made this a very special year.

Toni Paine thanked Dr. Andrrees and Neil Cavallaro for all the work they have done and the board. It is the end of another school year and the work isn’t easy. Most of the time it is very happy but sometimes the decisions are hard. Toni Paine also thanked everyone who attends the board meetings and who voiced their opinions because that is what keeps us in tune to the heartbeat and to what is going on. It isn’t just the superintendents or the teachers or the boards who educate the children it is the whole community so thank you.

Applause

C.1.c. Committee

Neil Cavallaro wanted to remind the chair to add the two items to the Agenda. One is a resignation/retirement and the other is a leave of absence.

George Monahan stated this is an addendum to the agenda.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to add item 07-96 and 07-97 to tonight’s agenda  
Krista Pickering seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Items 07-96 and 07-97 are added to the agenda

D.1. Approval of Minutes:

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Meeting, June 4, 2007 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building (enclosure)

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Food Service Committee Meeting, June 4, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Blake Bldg. (enclosure)

D.1.c West Haven Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting, June 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Blake Bldg. (enclosure)

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above minutes inclusive with the addition submitted by Patti Fusco
George Monahan seconded the motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion Carries
D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

07-82 Virgiree Moore, Family/Consumer Science Teacher, Carrigan
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Retirement

07-83 Vincent Vollono Sr., Technology Ed Teacher, Carrigan
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Retirement

07-84 Christopher Cuomo, Assistant Football Coach, WHHS
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-85 Erica L. Blecich-Tamsin, English Teacher, WHHS
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-86 Garth Sawyer, Director of Finance, Board of Education
Effective: July 2, 2007
Reason: Personal

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above resignations 07-82 – 07-86 inclusive
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion Carries

D.3. New Hires: (Certified)

07-87 Dana Mendillo, 249 Alden Ave., New Haven, CT 06515
English Teacher, Carrigan
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $36,456.40 (Step 2.5 B.S.)

07-88 Aretha Rankine, 61 Rockledge St., West Haven, CT
Home Economics Teacher, Carrigan
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $36,070.04 (Step 2 B.S.)

07-89 Mary Thurston, 5 Regent Ct., Wallingford, CT 06492
Math Teacher, WHHS
Effective: August 28, 2007
Salary: $36,070.04 (Step 2 B.S.)
D.3. New Hires: (Certified)

07-90  Taylor Paredes, 83 Tuthill Street, West Haven, CT 06516  
Technology Education Teacher, Carrigan  
Effective: August 28, 2007  
Salary: $36,842.76 (Step 3 B.S.)

07-91  Valerie Bruneau, 238 Peck Avenue, West Haven, CT  
Assistant Principal, Bailey  
Effective: September 1, 2007  
Salary: $82,231.16 (Step 1 with Sixth Year)  
Per West Haven Administrators New Contract

07-92  Sean Morrissey, 69 Graham Manor Rd., West Haven, CT  
Assistant Principal, Carrigan  
Effective: September 1, 2007  
Salary: $82,231.16 (Step 1 with Sixth Year)  
Per West Haven Administrators New Contract

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve the above new hires 07-87 – 07-92 inclusive  
George Monahan seconded the motion  
No Discussion  
All in favor  
Motion Carries

E. New Business:

07-93  Letter from Chrystal Fanelli, English Teacher, WHHS  
and Kim Boyke, World Language Teacher, WHHS  
requesting approval for a 10 day tour of Italy with WHHS  
students in the summer of 2008.

07-94  Letter from Gary R. Palermo, Director, Pupil Services  
recommending staff for the Summer School Special  
Education Program at Savin Rock School.

07-95  Letter from Jolene Barnes, Personnel Director  
recommending staff for the summer school  
teachers/directors for both the High School and Middle  
School Summer Makeup Programs.

07-96  Resignation: (Certified)  
Verna Voulgaris, Elementary Teacher Grade 2, Pagels  
Effective: July 1, 2007  
Reason: Retirement
E. New Business: (Continued)

07-97 Leave of Absence: (Certified)
Amy Webster, Social Studies Teacher, Bailey
Effective: 2007 – 2008 School Year
1. No Salary
2. No Benefits
3. Must be for the entire 2007 – 2008 school year
Reason: Opportunity to teach one year in Mexico

07-98 Bring back Middle School Sports and the After School Activities Program for the new school year.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion approve 07-93 to 07-98 inclusive
George Monahan seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

E. Informational:

Nothing to share under informational

Howie Horvath made a motion to adjourn
Eric Murillo seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary