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  
Howard Horvath

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chairman M. Toni Paine  
Krista Pickering

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

**B. PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven addressed the Board. She circulated pictures of some of the students who attended the Urban Gifted Showcase which took place last Friday at Central Connecticut State University. This consisted of all the urban schools districts under the direction of Dr. Doris Kurtz. Projects were put together on everything from drama, art, music, science and math etc. Our students did a fantastic job. We brought some chess players, a clarinet ensemble and twenty two gifted 5th grade students. Many of the students stated, “Wow, I might try to come here.” This is the purpose of having them go to the university. Our students held up very well against the other students from throughout the State.

Our retirement dinner is this Wednesday at Anthony’s Ocean View. Tickets are $35.00. There are only three people retiring but they are people that have worked for the system for quite some time.

Ms. Fusco wanted to urge the Board to consider that education is the purpose of the budget. When you are making your cuts please try to cut the least from education and the most from other areas. I am speaking specifically of sports. Sports are great for kids but
learning to read is more important. This Board has been a great Board so far and she knows you will do your best. She thanked the Board.

Ray Collins thanked her on behalf of the Board and asked if anyone else would like to address the Board.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, West Haven, CT addressed the Board.

Nancy passed out information regarding a meeting tomorrow night that the West Haven Black Coalition is sponsoring. It will be held at the Blake Building at 6:00 p.m. and will explore the effects that suspension/expulsion has on students; in particular the minority students. Although this is short notice she would appreciate anyone that could come so we can all work together to make changes in this direction.

She commented on F.1. under Informational in tonight’s Agenda. She agrees we should cut costs and there must be a better way of doing this to save money. As Mr. Cavallaro’s office is doing most of the stipulations she feels there is no reason to involve the attorneys and therefore money would be saved. She stated that the letter was two pages and she was curious just how much this letter cost the district. This matter should have been handled sooner it should have been handled a year ago. The other problem is that the attorney who wrote this letter has not been involved with expulsions in this district for quite some time and she thinks it should stay this way. From the last meeting she understood that the Board wished to continue to use the services of Attorney Floyd Dugas and doesn’t understand why this other individual is involved. She really doesn’t think she should be.

Ms. Rossi doesn’t know who the new administrators are but she has to believe that most of the expulsions were done at the high school or the junior high level with a few at the elementary level. She knows that most of the individuals who work at these schools have been there for sometime. She went on to name the individuals and also commented that Kurt Ogren, who she added is supposed to be the person involved with the high school, wasn’t copied on this letter. She hopes this was just an oversight because it would be very difficult for him to try to do his job when something like this is being done. He should have been consulted. She doesn’t understand why we need to spend the district’s money to have an attorney explain to these people how to expel or not expel students. This would be a waste of money when we are talking about lying off teachers and getting rid of extended day kindergarten. It seems ridiculous to spend money on a two hour seminar for new administrators. Who is new? If the person is at the elementary school level I am sure that Neil Cavallaro, Dr. Cordone, Mr. Stancil, or Kurt Ogren can explain the procedures. She doesn’t believe we have to waste money to go to our attorney to do this.

There was a line item from the City Council for the Board of Education for $200,000.00 that was to be used this year for computers. It is her understanding that it is for Molloy School for upgrading the third grade computers. She was here at a meeting a few months ago and Ms. Fusco stated that the students were not able to complete a test. She has not
toured Molloy School but she intends to tour it along with all the elementary schools. She went on to state that the disparity between schools is unbelievable. When you look at one school and it is like a private school and then you go to another school such as Molloy there is a great disparity. (She uses Molloy School as an example because she represents that district) Now Molloy School is not going to get their addition because there is no money for it. She feels that if there is any extra money it should be used to bring Molloy School up to speed. It is not fair to take all these children and lump them together into two junior high schools and then ultimately one high school when they didn’t have the same advantages. It is not fair especially with computer skills. She is requesting from Superintendent Cavallaro permission to tour all the elementary schools and wants to see something done to clear up the disparity between one side of town versus the other side of town. She has a real problem with this.

She thinks the field trip to go to London is very nice. Her only question is what they do with the chaperones. Are the chaperones paying their own way? Do they have a fund raiser? She didn’t see that mentioned anywhere.

Ray Collins thanked Ms. Rossi on behalf of the Board.

Raymond Collins asked if any one else would like to address the Board.

Helen Smith, 47 Savin Park, West Haven, CT addressed the Board.

Helen Smith passed out information regarding Math, Academics, and Music Programs. The math scores of over three million students who took the SAT during 1987, 1988, and 1989 were compared. The high school groups compared were:

1. Students who took music appreciation
2. Students who participated in music performance
3. Students who participated in no arts education and
4. The national average of all students nationally

It showed that students who took music appreciation and participated in music performance group had math scores which were consistently 15 to 23 points above the national average and 19 to 37 points above students with no arts experience of any kind.

Ray Collins thanked Ms. Smith on behalf of the Board.

No one else wished to address the Board. Public Portion closed at 7:25

C. REPORTS:

C.1. Status of Schools
Neil Cavallaro addressed the Board and was brief because there are a couple of presentations in executive session that may take some time.

The letter from Attorney Laubin concerning expulsions actually came about because we are trying to cut costs as best we can. Michelle came to my office to discuss ways to do this. Down the road we are going to save some substantial costs. By not hiring court reporters and by doing the work in-house we will save $250 an expulsion.

Neil commented that we have Paul DeFonzo at Carrigan and we do have two new assistant principals at the high school who do have to filter information through their principal’s office when they do an expulsion. We are currently getting a lot of incomplete packets with missing or incomplete information. What he though would work best is if they all met for a meeting and stated what was needed and in the long run we will save money because we won’t be contacting the law firm as many times. Everything will come through my office and I will make sure everything is complete. We won’t be asking the law firm as many questions with regard to certain issues. He thinks down the road there will be a significant savings. If there are problems I can always call Attorney Dugas but he won’t be used for areas that I can oversee and handle.

Howard Horvath asked if the court reporter was a legal official. Neil responded yes we have been using a court reporter but we no longer will be using a court reporter.

Howard asked if this might not present a problem. Neil responded that if something is contested we will be able to make the tapes available. We can have them typed up if anything is contested.

The policy committee will meet before the next Board Meeting with regard to allergies and the distribution of medication. We are having all our administrators review the policy at this time. These are mandatory policies which have to be replaced by the next school year.

Neil extended his thanks to Ray Collins and Jerry Calabritto for their help in contract negotiations over the last couple of weeks. He knows he has taken both Ray and Jerry from their work on many occasions. We have put in a lot of time with the contract talk and the negotiations. Tonight we will go over the proposals.

Raffaela Fonc along with people from the high school was in attendance to hand out binders on the new revised Mission Statement: We, at West Haven High School CARE. The binders have the results of the revised Mission Statement that was approved 100% by our faculty at the May meeting. This is just slightly different from our last mission statement. The reason we changed it was for the acronym because we thought the parents might find this a little better way of remembering it. The binder has the results of all the questions asked. Please look through the binder before the 29th. If there are any questions or concerns please know they are more than happy to talk with you.
C.1.b. Board Reports

George Monahan addressed the Board regarding the public input from the previous Board Meeting regarding the fund raising event linked to the NASCAR theme at the high school. The Board had some preliminary discussion following this being brought to their attention at our last meeting. During this discussion I raised note that there are some rules and regulations covering that topic. The minutes reflect that a few of my colleagues disagreed with that; in fact a couple of you thought that maybe I had two heads or something (laughter ensued). Mr. Monahan brought in some information to share with Board members that would shed a little more light on this exact topic. First of all Connecticut General Statutes 10-239 directs procedural requirements for the use of Board of Educational Facilities. It specifically discusses the use of building and the fact that we can choose to make them available for non-profit organizations and various agencies. Specific activities though will not be permitted. A few of these would be any activity that could pose a conflict with school activities and anything that involves commercial advertising and fund-raising campaigns except as permitted by the Board of Education or by special action of the Board of Finance. We do allow the Superintendent of Schools to grant permission for fund raising activity when the funds are directly going to benefit a certain school function. We have groups and clubs and organizations and we allow these to take place and allow the Superintendent authority to use his or discretion to allow these activities to take place.

Continuing on we have another policy 1324(a) and we have a whole section on fund raising and in this we do discuss that the Superintendent has authority; however the Superintendent is restricted to approve any activity which is not in direct support of any school curricula or extra curricula activities. It specifically restricts them from raising any funds that do not benefit the school district. As a reminder that particular activity was not related to the school. It clearly involved a NASCAR theme. NASCAR has corporate sponsorship associated with it. They sponsor race car teams but they do that because they are benefiting from the advertising; they don’t give away their money for nothing.

Clearly there were many areas that were in direct violation of our State Board Policy. Also contained in these policies are specific approval and authorization forms that an agency or an individual who wants to hold one of these fund raisers have to fill out and submit to the Superintendent. Also, in some cases, it requires student permission slips from parents.

The individual who put this together had well wishes in mind and did put a great deal of effort into it. Mr. Stancil responded to it and clearly there may not have been as great a degree of communication as there could have been but the bottom line is that this should not have taken place at the school without this Board hearing about it. I will present this paperwork to the chair and have him authorize copies to be made for Board members.
The second item Mr. Monahan addressed is the congestion at the high school. Anyone who drives by the high school, early in the morning, as students are arriving at school and being dropped off can see that the circular drive is very, very congested. The immediate driveway closest to the building is a two lane driveway with parking restrictions to enable two lanes of traffic to flow through while you are dropping off a student. It does get very congested. I drop my daughter off there every day and during certain parts of the school year there are some field trips that require buses to stop; this creates havoc. I have had some communication with Mr. Stancil and I really appreciate the conversations we had. He immediately took action and I want to applaud him and thank him for what he did. He chose to have the buses wait around the corner over by the rink area and of course with anything new there is always some confusion. When the busses were in their original position the traffic was backed up down Kelsey Avenue. Traffic is much better now. I want to thank Mr. Stancil for getting involved as it has made a big improvement.

C.l.e Committee Reports

Robert Guthrie asked for a motion to recommend to add to tonight’s agenda approval of Acting II, III, IV and Freshman Seminar – Mathematics.

Gerald Calabritto made a motion to add it as item 06-53
Mark Palmieri seconded this motion
All voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

Howard Horvath Jr. welcomed Dr. JoAnn Andrees. He stated that West Haven High School has a wonderful track record and extended his complements to Kurt Ogren. He is concerned with the number of expulsions tied to weapon like instruments. He is sure we knew about the threat made to the middle school. It is one thing to deal with budgets that result in a cut of talented teachers like the one referred to under informational F.2 but the loss of students or loss of life threat is very serious and we need to address this issue and form an AD HOC Committee to look into this.

Howard Horvath requested a Motion to form an AD HOC Committee to look into the weapons problem. Motion 06-54
Howard Horvath made a motion
Jerry Calabritto seconded this motion
All voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

Neil Cavallaro was requested to check with Garth and Paul to see if on June 20th at 6:00 p.m. and June 21st at 7:30 p.m. we could start our Budget deliberations. He was requested to send a notice out.
Ray Collins appointed Jerry Calabritto to begin contract negotiations for an extension of the Assistant Superintendent’s Contract.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

Gerald Calabritto had a correction to the minutes. Under E. New Business **Item 06-48** It was stated Krista Pickering made the motion but this should be corrected to read Mark Palmieri made the motion.

Motion to accept all Minutes D.1.a, D.1.b, D.1.c, and D.1.d with the correction in place was made by Gerald Calabritto

Seconded by Mark Guthrie

No Discussion

All members were in favor

Motion carries

E. New Business

**Approval of 06-51 Correspondence from Ken Carney, Chairman Building Oversight Committee** to Neil Cavallaro regarding abatement work.

Ken Carney address the Board stating the Oversight Committee is made up of many professionals in the building trade whose goal is to save money for the Board by identifying and eliminating waste and by examining and investigating work done making sure all work has been completed to the specifications of the contracts. They investigate and examine every single construction invoice that comes in. He went on to state that Mackrille School is one example. He received a fax from Neil Cavallaro to go out and look at a leaky window over at Mackrille. He went over there and proceeded to get up on the roof with a hose and made the window leak and indeed it did leak. One of the custodians gave him a list of problems at Mackrille that didn’t exist anywhere else. The warrantee on this work is about to run out. If this list was not identified the City would have had to pay for this work to be done.

Mr. Carney passed out some pamphlets giving details of problems at Mackrille School (pictures included) and attached a letter written by Joseph O. Yacono, Director of Buildings and Grounds to Mr. Arthur J. Kelly, President, The Joseph F. Kelly Co. Inc.

He called a meeting with all the contractors and is now going to resolve this problem in full. This is about $140,000 replacement cost if this wasn’t brought to light. These are the kind of things that the Building Oversight Committee is doing.

George Monahan asked for cost and warranty information on the projects in question but Mr. Carney was unable to supply this information.
Mr. Monahan then asked who granted Mr. Carney authority to climb up on the school roof. Mr. Carney stated the Building Oversight Committee is empowered by the Mayor and they have a charter which describes investigations of these types of projects and saving money. This is a very broad definition. From time to time they have to go out and inspect the work this is the case in question. The Board has a charter and Mr. Carney was told that no City Charter can grant him admittance to Board property. He then stated he had received a fax from Neil Cavallaro requesting him to look into this problem.

Bob Guthrie requested Mr. Carney to follow-up with warranty information specifically when it starts and ends on these projects.

George Monahan stated that we have Joseph Yacono as our Director of Buildings and Grounds but he does understand the Mayor’s desire to review projects and try to save money. The Board has its own methods as to how it oversees and runs its projects. He would like the Board to be briefed on all Committee Projects for Board property and would like to see documentation on what the Committee oversees and who makes decisions on their projects.

Jerry Calabritto stated it was requested that a Board Member be appointed to the Building Oversight Committee. Mr. Tortora is presently on the Committee. Robert Guthrie is in the process of being appointed to this Committee.

**Motion to approve 06-51**

Made by Gerald Calabritto
Mark Palmieri Seconded this motion
No further discussion
All in Favor
Motion carries

**Approval of 06-52 Field Trip Permission Form from Margaret Maher, English Teacher at WHHS to Neil Cavallaro regarding Field Trip To England**.

**Motion to approve 06-52**

Made by Gerald Calabritto
Mark Palmieri Seconded this motion

Discussion: Margaret Maher wanted to clarify to the Board that the chaperones are definitely paying their own way. They are going through a reliable travel agency that has been in business for years.

All members voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

**Approval of 06-53 Acting II, III, IV and Freshman Seminar Mathematics**

Motion to approve 06-53 made by Robert Guthrie
Seconded by George Monahan
All members voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

**Executive Session**

1. Grievance
2. Contract Negotiations

Motion was made to go into executive session by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Robert Guthrie
Executive Session began at 8:00
Executive Session Stopped at 9:05

Gerald Calabritto made a Motion to Add 06-55 to Agenda - Grievance
Seconded by George Monahan
All in favor
Motion passed

Robert Guthrie made a motion to deny Grievance
Seconded by Gerald Calabritto
Discussion: limited
Robert Horvath opposed
Motion passed

**Executive Session**
Executive Session resumed at 9:10 p.m.

Mark Palmieri made a Motion to come out of Executive Session
Seconded by Gerald Calabritto

Executive Session ended at 9:55 p.m.

**F. Informational**

**Discussion limited to F.5.**

Mr. Calabritto’s only concern is the legal standing of F.5. and its effect on our budget. Is it legally standing and how would we budget with this letter? Unfortunately we do not have an answer to this so he doesn’t feel the letter has any standing.

George Monahan stated that the West Haven High School Cheerleaders are holding an authorized fund raiser in the form of a car wash at Paul’s Service Station on June 11th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The cost is $5.00 for a wash.
Ray Collins requested Board Members to make sure they turn their microphones on at the next meeting.

Chairman Collins asked for a motion to adjourn
Motion was made by Jerry Calabritto
Seconded by Robert Guthrie
All members in favor
No further discussion
Meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Clerk