The Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman M. Toni Paine at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Heffernan
Krista Pickering
Howard Horvath
Raymond Collins
Paul Messina
Toni Paine
George Monahan
Robert Guthrie

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Chairman John M. Carrano

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Tortora
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro
Mayor H. Richard Borer, Jr.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Sharfi Farhana
Jerome Calhoun

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ABSENT: Robert Proto

B. Public Portion of Meeting.

Vice-Chairman Paine asked if anyone wished to address the Board. Margaret Krimsky, Hurlburt Street, wanted to know if Forest School construction was finished. Superintendent Tortora, no not yet, there is a whole new plan now. Margaret Krimsky, said she felt it was about time, construction has been going on for two years. Asked about the mountain of dirt, temporary drive way also is it possibility of removing poison ivy. Superintendent Tortora, asked Mrs. Krimsky to call him tomorrow and he would answer any questions. Margaret Krimsky said she takes pride in the school and will not give that up. She will call him.

Vice-Chairman Paine asked if anyone else wished to address the Board. Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, handed out letter from Floyd Dugas, this is the latest threatening letter from your Board attorney. The documentations that I am requesting are the stipulations that are drawn up for expulsion hearings. I use to get the minutes, stipulations and decisions before. Up on till the ad-hoc committee started meeting and asking questions. After a couple meeting, I could no longer get them. I was informed that your attorney said I could not get them. Well then how did I get them before? So it is in my right to go to Hartford and ask for a ruling on if I can or cannot get them. If not then there is another problem. Which I will deal with later. I get this letter the day, he says that the statute reports are not required for disclosure due to student privacy. If you look at minutes from previous expulsion meetings they go in and out of executive session. Reason being the orders are subject to freedom of information that is why the students name is redacted. Then he goes on to say as you have chosen to pursue the Freedom of Information complaint, notwithstanding my letter to you citing Commission staff's interpretation of the statute, please be advised that the Board has no choice at this point in time but to pursue attorney's fees in connection with this matter due to the patently frivolous nature of your complaint. First see this attachment, notice the date April 2004, the case he is referring to is the previous case. When I went to Hartford, to ask for expulsion letters, because they are cc'd to hearing officer and the
parent is not aware of this. I went to Hartford. This is a decision I regret, because I thought let's try and work together, the hearing officer said could we make an agreement. Well if I came home with my 9 documents I was willing not to do the hearing. I came home with the nine documents. It was stated under oath, that these documents were not public because they did not come from the assistant superintendent office. Well since then in the Ad-Hoc Committee meeting that they do come from the assistant Superintendent office. The case states that law firms are exempt because they are not public agency. But I was also told in Hartford that I have every right to ask as much information as I wanted. The hearing officer even sited a case, where he ruled against someone who he thought was asking for too much. His decision was over turned. The only thing I cannot do is run in on a Monday morning and demand to see stuff, which I have never done. I have never come in without an appointment, then the letter goes on, this is the second time in the Board’s view that you have filed a frivolous complaint. Previously, we indicated that we would not pursue attorney's fees at that point, but that you in fact filed any further frivolous complaints the Board would have no choice but to pursue frivolous attorney's fees. According, please be advised that should you not immediately withdraw this complaint, the Board does intend to pursue an award of attorney's fees at the hearing of this matter. First I love he uses the word frivolous. But in order o a warded attorney's fees you would have to win something. Now these letters state the Board, and I keep asking who is behind these letters. I am assuming the Board is the Board of Education. That you, you are elected; you set the policy for the children. I want the proof, where is it you were even aloud to ask for attorney's fees. To send me a threatening letter like this, when I am exercising my right under federal law. Let's go to Hartford, find out if I am right. If I am wrong, then I am wrong. If I am right I want my documents. I gotten other threatening letters, but when we went to Hartford, it was a agreed upon decision. There was no hearing, Floyd did not win and further more at the time. I brought up that I was threatened by the attorney. He stated that what attorney’s do. That was his answer. I was told by the hearing officer it was well with in my right to ask for the information. I want to know when did you win, when were you aloud to ask for attorney’s fees from me? Honestly, save your money you can send me a threatening letter everyday. I feel it is important to look after the disciplinary process, and I am very disappointed that the Ad-Hoc Committee has not finished the business at hand. I understand it is budget time, but we could now find in the near future a date to set up a meeting or meetings. One does after to wondering, sitting on this Board after a few meetings the flow of documentation has stopped. Also in information F.a, this is the report I asked for, of course I never received it. But this is not the report I was promised in the meeting. I was promised like a state report, because it is a state issue one has to assume there is a state report. For the State Department of Education. I would still like the report that I asked for and not just put in a agenda book. Thank you

Vice-Chairman Paine asked if anyone else wished to address the Board
Vice-Chairman Paine asked a second time if anyone wish t address the Board
Vice-Chairman Paine for a third and final time, does anyone wish to address the Board.
Public session closed at 7:15 P.M.

Vice-Chairman Paine asked under New Business to remove E. 05-32

C. Reports:

Paul Tortora on March 28, 2005 at West Haven High School lab tops will be delivered and training for teachers, there will be a half-day of school.
Also I will be meeting with the people from Blue Ribbon software, everything is moving along.
Capitol Improvement there is one minor change, we met with staff at Savin Rock and we feel we need to remove carpeting sooner then later.
John McKee, Introduced DECA Representatives
Representatives presented the commercial that they will be submitting for conference.
In Anaheim, California.
Students requested permission to attend International Career Development Conference in
Anaheim, California from April 26, to May 1, 2005. The purpose of this conference is to develop
our leadership skills that we have been working on for the last two years. Marketing students will
be presenting their projects to a panel of judges. Anyone not competing will be attending the
leadership academy. Attending workshops, working as a team and developing leadership skills.

Students presented their project to the Board.

Superintendent Tortora presented Board with citation from Mayor for Board appreciation week.
Robert Guthrie, asked what date is the Capitol Improvement due at City Hall
Superintendent Tortora, by February 1, we are actually behind schedule.
Robert Guthrie- thank you
Vice-Chairman asked if there were any more questions of the Superintendent

C.1.a. Administration.

Neil Cavallaro thanked the Board for their support in recognition for board appreciation week.
Paul and I are happy that when we make a decision that you are behind us.
I would like to speak in support of the DECA trip, it is an annual event. The students always
represent us well. I am sure this year will be no different.
Cassie Marcella could not be here tonight, she is preparing for Li'l Abner this weekend. We are
asking that the Band trip be sanctioned by the board. I believe we have met all the Boards
concerns.
Also we are hiring a Spanish teacher; this position has been being covered by an intern for most
of this school year. This will allow us to get a jump on next year and finish staffing this year in that
department

C.1.b. Board.

Mr. Guthrie, said the students did a great job in the spelling bee, they went several rounds.
Also College night the counseling dept has certainly come along way in a short time.
Black History Celebration at City Hall I would like to thank staff and committee for putting it on.
The students and staff at Molloy did a wonderful job with their talent show. Also most of us were
at Founders Day, and hopefully that red coat has been successfully put away.
One question for the Chair, I would like
1. Who is on Custodian List?
2. Who determines who get on the list?
3. Are background checks in place before we accept applicant?
4. Is there any check for valid Drivers license? I do know that some individual have been brought
in and are driving our vehicles and as far as I know have no proof of valid drivers license. I just
have concern with the way that is confirmed.

Vice-Chairman Paine – I defer to Mr. Tortora
Superintendent Tortora, I will get that stuff for Mr. Guthrie
Mr. Guthrie- That's all Chairman

George Monahan – I too would like to confirm Founders Day was an enjoyable event. 
Also I attend on Feb 5; I attend the Black Coalition dinner. There were several West Haven High
Schools students and Stiles Learning Center that received awards. Including our student
representative Jerome Calhoun. I would like to congratulate him.
WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 7, 2005

Paul Messina, I wish I had all the information, but our Chris Everone will be one awarded the John Wentworth Good Sports Award at its 64th Gold Key Dinner award on April 17th at Aqua Turf.

Jim Celone, the kids had had very busy weekend at the Eastern Class Championships, the team did very well. There was not as much competition as we would have liked. We are asking for approval from the Board for the West Haven High School Chess Team to attend the National High School Championships from April 8-10, 2005 in Nashville, TN.

Anne Heffernan, March 31, 2005 there will be a Chili Contest in the West Haven High School Cafeteria, anyone who would like to compete please contact her. Also the second cookbook should be available in two weeks. Please pass the word around. I hope everyone can come.

George Monahan, I would like to address the letter that was presented to us during public session. The letter from attorney Dugus who represents the Boards legal matters. As I recall a year ago there was another threatening letter that the Board was upset about and we requested that the Attorney that he needed to make Board aware if he is going to issue threatening letters. There was a majority concurrence that this be done. Here we are again with a threatening letter, and I know I was not at any meeting or involved in any discussion, maybe it’s possible I missed the meeting, but I doubt it. and I would like to Superintendent again to refresh the attorney’s memory. The Board does not like at less in my view. Threatening letters made with our name on them unless we know that they are going to be made. If the letter is being made on behalf of the Superintendent or being made on behalf of the Board Chairman the letter should indicate that is the approval of the letter. Thank you.

Mayor Borer, I know I got here a little late, I was at the High School doing a little promotion for Adult Education, you all can be proud of what the program is doing. One thing I brought up last time I was here, the condition of the bathrooms. They did clean it up over the break. The only thing is there is a wooden cabinet there, if they could put a stainless steel cabinet. I did mention to the custodians that there is a big improvement. Also I would like to thank the Superintendent for presenting the citation. Every year the Boards of Education are recognized from Feb 28 through March 4th. I know he already spent some time presenting this to you. But I would like to give a heartfelt thank you for your dedication away from your families, your commitment. Not only running for office but sitting here every night to do the job. I know it takes a lot a time away from your families, and a lot of energy and resources to be here. To help full fill the dreams of our education needs for our young people. So thank you.

Anne Heffernan, April 9th, there will be a dance sponsored by the theater workshop at West Winds. It will be $25.00 a person and open bar. Also don’t forget the play this weekend. Also thank Marge Schenkle, Larry and Alan for the help with the cookout.

C.1.c. Committee.

Approval of Minutes:
Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.1.a

D.1.a Regular Board Meeting of February 7, 2005 P.M. at Blake Building

MOTION made by Anne Heffernan and SECONDED by Raymond Collins, Vice-Chairman Paine
Discussion: No Discussion: Howard Horvath Abstained, absent from meeting. MOTION passed.
D.2. Unfinished Business:
Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.2 04-463

04-463 West Haven High Band trip from meeting of November 15, 2004 held at Savin Rock School

MOTION made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by Krista Pickering, Discussion: No Discussion: MOTION passed unanimously

Community Service from Meeting of January 31, 2005 part of Revised Graduation Requirements for West Haven High School, School Improvement Plan 2003-2006, STILL ON HOLD

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.3 05-21

D.3 Leave of Absence (Non-Certified) 05-21 Bernadette Cappella, 610 Main Street, West Haven, Paraprofessional at Savin Rock School, request unpaid medical leave from February 14, 2005 until February 28, 2005.

MOTION made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Discussion: No Discussion: MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.4 05-22

D.4. Voluntary Quit: (Certified) 05-22 Aimme Benedetto, 1 Campbell Avenue, West Haven. English Teacher at West Haven High School, Effective: February 18, 2005, Reason: Moved

MOTION made by Anne Heffernan and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Discussion: NO Discussion: MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.5 05-23

D.5 Voluntary Quit: (Non-Certified) 05-23 Rose Gilbert, 97 White Street, West Haven. Part time Cook at St. Lawrence, Effective: February 18, 2005, Reason: Personal

MOTION made by George Monahan and SECONDED by Paul Messina, Discussion: NO Discussion: MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.6 05-24

D.6 Resignations: (Certified) 05-24 Ronald Zuk, 210 Hillfield Road, Hamden. Head Lacrosse Coach at West Haven High School, Effective: March 1, 2005, Reason: Medical

MOTION made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by Anne Heffernan, Discussion: Anne Heffernan said she was sad to see him leave. MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.7 05-25

D.7 New Hires: (Certified) 05-25 Dennis Luciano, 33 McKee Street, East Hartford, CT 06108. Spanish Teacher at West Haven High School, Effective: March 3, 2005, Salary: $30,052.10 / BS Step 1

MOTION made by Paul Messina and SECONDED by George Monahan, No Discussion MOTION passed unanimously
Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve D.8 05-26 through 05-31
Vice-Chairman Paine read each name individually.

D.8  **New Hires: (Non-Certified)**

05-26  Donna Kennedy, 32 Baldwin Street, West Haven. Building Paraprofessional at Forest School, Effective: March 8, 2005, Salary: $15,168.92 / Step 1
05-27  John D’Amico, 53 Hilltop Lane, West Haven. Special Education Building Paraprofessional at Seth G. Haley School, Effective: March 8, 2005, Salary: $15,168.92 / Step 1
05-28  Carlos Casanova, 98 Dunn Road, Hamden. Self-Contained Learning Lab Paraprofessional at Carrigan Middle School, Effective: March 8, 2005, Salary: $15,168.92 / Step 1
05-29  Lisa-Gaye Richau, 32 Main Street, West Haven. Building Paraprofessional for Washington School, Effective: March 8, 2005, Salary: $15,168.92 / Step 1
05-30  Jane Warren, 6 Contact Drive, West Haven, Special Education Building Paraprofessional at Seth G. Haley School, Effective: March 8, 2005, Salary $15,168.92 / Step 1
05-31  Angela Pascale 247 Washington Ave. West Haven. Medical Paraprofessional at Pre-School, Effective: March 8, 2005, Salary $15,168.92 + Stipend $750.00 Step 1

MOTION made by Anne Heffernan and SECONDED by Raymond Collins, No Discussion
MOTION passed unanimously

E.  **05-32 – Was tabled**

05-32  Request from Thomas Hunt, Assistant Principal Carrigan Middle School, for a half day of school. So that staff may attend SERC’s workshop presentation on Positive Behavior Support

**New Business**

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve E. 05-33
05-33  West Haven High School DECA to attend the International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California from April 26, 2005 to May 1, 2005

MOTION made by Robert Guthrie and SECONDED by Paul Messina, No Discussion
MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve E. 05-34
05-34  Pre-K School Readiness Grant for the year 2005-2006

MOTION made by Paul Messina and SECONDED by Anne Heffernan, No Discussion
MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve E. 05-35
05-35  West Haven High Grant Application Revision for Adult Education for 2004-2005

MOTION made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by Paul Messina, No Discussion
MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve E. 05-36
05-36  West Haven High School Chess Team to attend the National High School Championships from April 8-10, 2005 in Nashville, TN 37214

MOTION made by Robert Guthrie and SECONDED by Krista Pickering, No Discussion
MOTION passed unanimously

Vice-Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to approve E. 05-37
05-37  Five Year Capitol Improvement Plans 2005-2006

George Monahan, made MOTION that 05-37 be tabled until a separate meeting could be held to discuss. Because of the importance of the projects and amount of money. Would it be possible to hold separate meeting after the policy meeting on the 16th. SECONDED by Robert Guthrie
Vice Chairman Paine asked for Discussion
Anne Heffernan will there be a problem with the time frame for the city. Superintendent Tortora, we are very late. Rich will that be a problem
Mayor Borer, when would you be completed?
Superintendent Tortora, the 16th is the policy meeting,
George Monahan – next Wednesday
Superintendent Tortora Rose when is next meeting
Rose, the 16th is the next meeting and the next Board meeting is the 21st
Mayor Borer, I think I am presenting on the 17th.
It maybe the following Thursday, why don’t you schedule it and I will try to work around you. George Monahan, if it is the following Thursday that would clearly give us time to have policy meeting and then a separate meeting for Capital Improvement. Then the following Monday is our regular board meeting.
Mr. Guthrie, we had a meeting to discuss this and it was canceled and never re-scheduled. The Board has expressed an opinion, there is obviously we are hoping to see there is some sort of plan put together, that we are addressing the whole facility not just pieces. So that in two, three years we can see we are actually getting something accomplished. In a timely fashion and approriate cost.
Paul Messina, where does policy come in.
George Monahan, it is not, it would be a separate meeting but all in the same night.
Paul Messina, that’s fine, I also would like to discuss it. I just want to be clear.
Mayor Borer, I think I call the Superintendent tomorrow if this is a problem. Superintendent Tortora, I like to refresh the Board memory, Capital Improvement was not voted on. I started that when I became Superintendent. I not saying it is a bad idea, but clearly we never voted on it before.
Mayor Borer, I‘ll call you tomorrow. Please make your sure that your 5-year plan is a 5 year plan, things that need to be done first year are done.
Vice-Chairman Paine, Motion on the floor is to table the 05-37 Five Year Capitol Improvement Plans 2005-2006 – to next schedule meeting or if there is a conflict a special meeting will be called. MOTION passed unanimously
F. Informational:
Anne Heffernan –Let me know how many tickets you need for Chili Contest
Krista Pickering - No
Howard Horvath – No
Raymond Collins -No
Paul Messina –No
Mayor Borer- No
Sharfi Farhana - No
Toni Paine- No
George Monahan – No
Robert Guthrie- No

Vice- Chairman Paine asked for a MOTION to ADJOURN
MOTION was made by Raymond Collins and SECONDED by Anne Heffernan
MOTION passed unanimously

Meeting ADJOURNED at 7:55 P.M.