WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 18, 2013
Regular Board Meeting
Council Chambers

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on March 18, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Palmieri, Chairman
Dorinda Borger
Betsy Davis
Robert Guthrie
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Toni Paine, Vice Chair
Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Egolum
Eric Murillo

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
David Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT: Catherine DePino
Chairman Palmieri welcomed everyone to the March 18, 2013 regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Education. The children from the Bailey Flute Choir were here to perform and Mr. Ken Carney was also present to update the board on the City Hall and WHHS Project. It was asked if they could be heard before the public session. This was agreed to.

Superintendent Cavallaro introduced Francine Coppola, Coordinator of Fine Arts and Director of Adult Ed. This is National Music in our Schools Month and we wanted to bring to the board a sample of what we do and what one of our programs look like. Francine introduced the 7th and 8th grade students from the Bailey Flute Choir and their teacher Ms. Rachael McKeel the instrumental music teacher at Bailey. Rachael McKeel wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate some of the achievements of our students. There are a lot of things happening in the Bailey Music Department. The Drama Department is getting ready for their Fiddler on the Roof Theatre Production on April 5th and 6th. This was the first year we had multiple students from the Band Department get into the Connecticut Music Education Association’s Southern Region Middle School Festival and that was a big accomplishment. The students performed the song “Danny Boy” for everyone present. The board and audience applauded their excellent playing. Francine Coppola thanked Superintendent Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent Ann Druzdolowski for their unending support and their vision for the Fine Arts Department. The students who performed were: Karen Cacare, Sirena Frissora, Gabriela Gijola, Devin Pascale, Gabriella Villanueva and Maggie Yeh. The board gave thanks.

Mr. Ken Carney asked if there were any questions on the City Hall Project before starting the WHHS Project. There were no questions. Mr. Carney passed out a Form Letter that the state demands we follow in order to secure our grant money. The state allows a project to be broken up into four phases. In our response to the form letter we have chosen three phases and each phase is required to have a full set of plans, project manual, and is required to be signed off by the Board of Education, The Building Committee and the Superintendent. The first phase represents asbestos removal in the form of contaminated elbows in the tunnels underneath WHHS. He passed out the plans for WHHS to the board members present and stated on April 1st the owner’s representative CREC will come before the board and ask for a motion to approve the plans. This is necessary to achieve the two million dollar grant. The next time the owner’s rep comes before the Board of Education in about 10 to 12 months we will have to view a full set of proposed plans for the new high school. This particular phase is strictly based on some minor asbestos removal to meet the state deadline of June 7th. You are not asked to vote on this until the April 1st meeting. He asked if there were any questions.

Dorinda asked if CREC was bidding out the asbestos removal. No the way it is supposed to work is the construction manager would be responsible for hiring the asbestos company for the abatement work. This job is too large for a general contractor. The monitoring and design of that work is the responsibility of the architect. The architect has hired a company out of Stamford, Jim Twixel, one of the best in the business and he
has designed this set of plans. Mr. Carney stated his name is on the cover sheet of the plans. Because the building committee decided to put the construction manager back out to bid the city will now hold the contract for this abatement work directly with the contractor. Because there is not enough time to advertise for that work we then default to the State bid list where competitive numbers have already been bid out. The trick is to have a monitor as good as this Jim Twixel guy who monitors what this contractor is doing to make sure they only charge us what is on that state bid list. We anticipate the job to be anywhere from $180,000 to $212,000; that is phase 1; the asbestos removal in the tunnels. Once we sign a contract with that abatement contractor the clock stops ticking and our 82 million dollars is secure. Dorinda asked where Twixel came from; was that a competitive bid that he bid on? Twixel is hired by the architect. The only contracts that we will hold are the owner’s rep, the commissioning agent, the CM, the architect and now the fifth contract in the form of the contractor for a small portion of the work. Dorinda said OK and thanked him.

Bob Guthrie stated Mr. Carney you said in the original plan the city was not going to hold this contract. Mr. Carney stated the city is not going to hold any contracts for subcontractors. In this plan the CN answers to the city. He has to guarantee a price for this building. If the project exceeds that price he pays out of his pocket; it is called CM at risk. The only contracts we are going to hold are these four main contracts and now we will hold this abatement contract.

Bob Guthrie said the original plan was we were not going to hold the asbestos contract. Correct. Bob said do you foresee any other wrenches or projects coming up that we have to hold contracts for? Yes there will be one more. The state has to review all the documents we give them before we can put out to bid any part of this work that includes utilizing the state contract. April 23rd is our planned completion test with the state for phase 1. There is a PCT for each of the three phases. Those meetings take about 6 or 7 months to book. We booked it a long time ago and have April 23rd. At that meeting the state will tell us that they can not review this asbestos plan in time for our June 7th deadline so we will then have to hire an independent reviewer to review the plans so the state will allow us to go out to bid. That will cost somewhere between two and three thousand dollars. We also suspect that when we present the architectural plans for the entire building again because the state is short staffed they will not review those plans they will ask us to go to an outside reviewer. The city would hold this contract as well.

Superintendent Cavallaro wanted Mr. Carney to inform the board when the work will be done and when will it be complete. Mr. Carney said by state rules they can’t do any abatement until school is out. We have a completion date on or before August 20th. Nobody under the age of 18 can enter the building while asbestos work is going on. Neil said the point being we don’t anticipate any issues with interruption of school. A further discussion took place. There were no more questions. The board gave thanks.

B. Public Portion of Meeting
Chairman Palmieri asked if anyone would like to address the board. Public portion began at 7:20 PM and closed at 7:45 PM.

David Orio, 375 Captain Thomas Blvd, West Haven. Mr. Orio had some concerns after reading the paper this morning. He read about the talk of privatization of the food department and protecting the jobs but he didn’t read anything about union protected jobs. He doesn’t know where that stands because we have a lot of contractual issues we would have to deal with. He has worked in the food department 36 years and maybe only three or four board members have ever come down to the kitchen. He feels most board members don’t know how many trucks they have, how many coolers, freezers and employees. Do they know about government contracts? When he reads they may do something like this without having any background other than a figure thrown in front of them and he is almost certain $500,000.00 is wrong because he went through the budgets for years and he thinks it was more like $150,000.00 to $200,000.00. He finds it very distressing that this could happen without more preparation. He understands the economics of everything and that you have to look into things but he would hope that people would come down and ask questions so they would know what they are voting for if they do privatize thank you.

Louise Martone, 4 Big Spruce Lane, West Haven. Ms. Martone is proud to be employed as a custodian at Pagels School and is also proud to serve as President of AFSCME Local 2706 representing Non-Certified BOE employees in the West Haven School System. Membership includes 23 food service workers along with custodians, secretaries, tradesmen and maintenance workers. She expressed her deep disappointment over the fact that privatization of food service is being considered. AFSCME Local 2706 participated in good faith negotiations with the board. They have extended the contract twice making concessions with regard to filling the vacant positions and insurance costs. This is not just disappointing it is a slap in our faces.

The members in food service have worked hard to help management improve the quality and the healthiness of the food that they serve the kids. We don’t just work for the West Haven Schools; we live here in this town, we pay our taxes, we shop at local stores and send our kids to the West Haven Schools, we support civic groups and charities. Privatization will destroy much of this. It will destroy relationships we have built with students and families and it will harm the West Haven economy. We deserve better than this and most importantly so do the students. Please take our concerns into consideration thank you.

Bob Rosner, 642 Rosemont Lane, West Haven. Mr. Rosner is a 20 year resident of West Haven and a 38 year business taxpayer. Mr. Rosner is in the food service business and his company in West Haven delivers to school lunch programs in over 100 school districts across Connecticut that they service. He has dealt with privatized companies and has been a vendor of theirs over the years. He is here basically as a taxpayer and wants to see his money put to the best use. When he sells to these companies they don’t buy the best quality and cost is important to them; the lower the cost the better. He serves West Haven and they buy as good quality as any state and any district anywhere in
Connecticut. What they say they will do to raise the quality is probably a sales pitch. The specifications these companies would give me at the beginning of the year are usually based on cost and not quality. They wanted the lowest possible price. A further discussion took place about New Haven and the higher price of chicken nuggets with privatization rather than the price he sells them for to a smaller school district with five schools. Where is the savings in food cost? A further discussion took place about the bid West Haven puts out every year of over 100 items. He wins some and he loses some to other vendors. Private companies don’t have a bid they come in and run your food service but they buy from one company that probably services them nationally so how does anyone in the city know that the price you are getting on anything is less; there is not a bid. What they charge is what they charge but it is not comparative pricing. Because he is a taxpayer and it means something to him he thinks the only way they can reduce costs is to cut quality or cut labor. He has been in this business for 45 years and knows all the tricks of the trade and is concerned that this isn’t going to be a money saving proposition for the city. He would be happy to talk with anybody on the board about this. Thank you.

John Pascale doesn’t believe we should think about privatizing food service. We have great people that work there and they work hard. You know what you have and you don’t know what you will get. To take jobs away from our own people who live in the city to give them to somebody else is terrible. We have to keep the jobs we have for the people that live here and pay their taxes here; that is number 1. Number 2 is he knows places that have privatized and they didn’t get what we have. They have people that don’t care and don’t live in their city. If you don’t live in the city you really don’t care what goes on in it. If you have people that live here and have jobs here they care about the city. The one thing he knows is you don’t want to lose you job. He lost his job after 25 years and it hurts. He didn’t hear anybody say they were going to do it. I heard them say they were going to discuss it and he hopes that is all they are going to do and then forget about it. Thank you.

Sue Montagna, 14 Daniel Road, West Haven. She has been in food service for 22 years in three different schools. The kids in the schools look up to them. They are right there for them in every way you can imagine. They like to see us everyday. Privatizing is not going to work especially in the elementary schools. Why try and fix something if it is not broken. As far as the money she is a cashier and sees that a lot of kids aren’t buying lunches but that is because of the economy people can’t afford it. It is not because of the food or what we are serving. We give the children vegetables, fruits and go out of our way everyday for these children and they are very happy to see us. We are not strangers to them we help them in every way. Thank you.

Marilyn Lawrence, 618 Savin Avenue, West Haven. She said she would like to know who suggested privatizing food service. Chairman Palmieri said they are not allowed to answer questions this is the public portion. She would like to know where this idea came from. The other thing is that they did take away the strawberry milk from the kids and the kids signed petitions so they did get it back and they want the vanilla milk back. Her son plays D1 baseball and on his diet is chocolate milk. She has three children; one has to
gain, one lose and one who has to maintain and chocolate milk is on all their diets. She would like to know if the two women who come around the schools have been to school for nutrition. She wanted to know why they come around to the schools to see what they have. She doesn’t think they belong in the schools. She knows what they serve and it is healthy for the kids. Thank you.

Jessica Chong, 403 Painter Drive, West Haven is the PTA President of Seth Haley School, Treasurer of PTA Council and a concerned mom. Last Thursday the buses were overcrowded at the high school during testing. Some grades were supposed to get out earlier than others and there were only seven busses available. It turned out that at the high school everyone got out at the same time. Winkle was not contacted and the kids were then forced to sit three to a seat with others sitting on their laps. She asked who was at fault. Should the bus drivers have stayed at school until more busses were available or should the high school have been sure that Winkle was contacted?

During the February board meeting she asked questions and sat down. Superintendent Cavallaro said he thought everything was fixed with the heating problem question she had inquired about. She then spoke up and stated some schools were still having issues. She knows the board and public are not supposed to converse back and forth however someone was supposed to get back to her yet no one has responded to her to date. Mr. Palmieri said you are not allowed to talk or converse but he did allow two city council members to do so. She found this upsetting and it was OK to allow some people to talk back and forth but she was not able to. She has not had any board member contacted her about what she has asked questions about during meetings and it is her understanding that it is up to the chairman to do so. She gave her email address so she could be contacted. Thank you.

Jim Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive, West Haven talked about the March 11th article in the New Haven Register concerning the West Haven Hockey Rink. As the parent of a hockey player he took special interest in the article and read it over several times. He was quite disappointed in the responses that were given by the administration. The hockey rink was double booked to an outside pro team when the West Haven Youth Hockey had those time slots for the last twenty years. What the BOE had to do was pay out $34,000.00 to another rink to get the other program off the shelf. He finds it amazing that this could happen and what really bothered him most was that he thought it was a blatant attempt to keep it quiet and he wanted to thank the Register for somehow recovering the article. This makes him skeptical of other things that are done behind closed doors that the public doesn’t know about that he thinks they have a right to know about. His question was who authorized these payments to be made to this organization. They probably had a contract and were locked in but there was a major blunder there. He understands people make mistakes but that is a $34,000.00 mistake that could have been used to upgrade the rink. You privatized over there and said how much money you are saving and I’m not going to argue that point tonight but the facts are what they are. He doesn’t know if the Board even knew about this $34,000.00 in payments and he would like to hear what the board has to say about it tonight if they knew about this at all. Did they vote on it; he doesn’t know. Were they aware of it; he doesn’t know but it makes
him very skeptical and he is questioning what else goes on that we don’t know about. His son had a practice at 9:00 PM on a Friday night because of the out of town league coming in; that is ridiculous. It occurred during the football season and conflicted with the WHHS football game so the ice time at $350 an hour was wasted because nobody showed up. They were thrown into this time slot because the out of town league took those time slots. He thinks this board needs to ask some serious questions tonight to find out what went wrong and why it went wrong and why it was kept quiet.

He spoke about three months ago when there was an issue about public speaking. He said then and he will say it again tonight that there are too many brewing issues in the city of West Haven that the public needs to know about. These people are sitting here tonight for an issue that they truly believe in so I’m hoping that you let the public have a right to speak. Thank you. Public Session closed at 7:45 PM.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Chairman Palmieri turned the meeting over to Superintendent Cavallaro. Superintendent Cavallaro wanted to clear up a couple of things tonight because the people here are good employees and they do deserve some answers with regard to food service. Superintendent Cavallaro said he thought this was something we should look at because the school system loses $200,000.00 a year when it comes to food service; that is a minimum. That is in the actual budget and there are also other factors where that number goes up when you look at Workmen’s Comp and substitutes that don’t come directly from the food service budget. He assured everyone that no decision has been made yet; nor can you make a decision until you look into it and by asking questions and by going to the board and saying we have some things we need to decide on. When we lose money from food service any dollar amount comes from instruction. He said this before; he said it when it concerns the rink and our stadium. There aren’t a lot of places where we can go and get money for instruction.

Because a lot of people have heard about the letter that was sent out but haven’t actually seen it Neil said he will read the letter. His intent was to let everyone know this is what we are trying to do and he wanted it to be an open process. This is what the board thought last week when we approached them with it. Neil doesn’t anticipate this is something that is going to happen tonight or in the next couple of weeks. He will use this as a learning experience to find out if it is worth pursuing it or not. He has heard the word disappointed and has heard the word union protected jobs. Neil said we want to protect jobs and we want to work with the unions. Neil has always said whether it was when we brought in AFB to manage our services or whether we brought in some other people, our job is to negotiate and respect the contracts we have in place. We put this information on the agenda to let employees know what was going on. Neil read the letter (Schedule A which is at the end of the minutes) stating hopefully this will put your minds at ease at least for now and hopefully this will be the beginning of a lot of discussion that will take place. Is this worth exploring of course it is everything is worth exploring. The letter was
sent from Neil to the business agents of both the unions. It is based on a conversation that we had with the board and the board's attorney two weeks ago prior to the board meeting. We listen to and respect the unions and their point of view and we will move forward with an open and honest process but we are a long way from making a decision.

The bus situation last Thursday was a mistake on our part. It was the first day that freshman were getting out of school early and unfortunately Mrs. Gardner had a personal day for a funeral but had sent a letter to Winkle notifying them earlier in the week. She is a very well organized person and gave them the necessary information. She had a funeral day and wasn't in on Thursday. When we found out there were not enough busses we ordered more. Put yourself in the shoes of a 15 year old and if a bus is there you are jumping on it and leaving. We did make a mistake that day but did correct the problem the next day and made sure we had enough busses and they were there on time. It was a one time incident and we took the proper measures to make sure it wouldn't happen again.

In respect to the concern mentioned tonight about the rink; there is no board of education money that is appropriated for the rink. Unfortunately the rink was overbooked. Unfortunately we put ourselves in that position and it was a mistake. At the end of the day we made more money than we paid out and what we tried to do, because we are new at running the rink and being in the rink business, is to schedule now for next year so that something like that wouldn't happen again. The outside league that came in does have West Haven kids involved with it. Certainly our first priority is the West Haven Youth Hockey who is our biggest customer so we will give them the first choice of hours. We are doing the scheduling and booking now so we don't make the mistake that we made this year; it was overbooked. We feel like we made money, we are not putting out money; when the rink loses money it comes from our board of education's operating budget from instruction. We don't want to be paying out; breaking even is nice but we want to be able to put money into things like compressors; this needs to be looked at as soon as we close the rink up this year. We have to make money for when these kinds of things happen. This was an oversight and we are new at it. The guys who made the mistakes admitted to the mistakes. What concerns Neil is that there was a perception that we took money from our board of education that was used to educate kids and pay. No we took some of the money taken in at the rink and had to pay that money out. Certainly we want the money because breaking even isn't good enough. We want to get to the point where we have those reserves so when things need to be fixed we can start thinking ahead. A further discussion took place. Superintendent Cavallaro hoped the three main concerns addressed tonight were responded to. We are making an effort to keep lines of communication open. That was the end of his report and he asked if there were any questions.

Dorinda thanked Neil for addressing the bussing concerns earlier this year by working with Winkle by adding and rerouting busses but now we have another incident. It is our responsibility to make sure the kids are put on the bus properly but it is the motor vehicle operator's responsibility not to move that bus unless the children are safe. We know there is not supposed to be three to a seat in Carrigan and above and no child is supposed to be sitting with their legs in the isle or on anybody's lap and that is the bus driver's
responsibility. She is concerned because we see these incidents over and over again. Winkle is responsible for operating the bus and she would like to see Winkle’s operating rules and what those bus drivers are trained on. All it takes is one fender bender with those kids three to a seat; it is a traffic violation and against the law and they are not safe. Can we just ask Winkle what their rules and their training is? Neil will try to get whatever they give to their drivers as far as orientation and those kinds of things. OK

Dorinda thanked Neil regarding recycling and said at least we are making progress and thank you for taking the idea of double sided copies. We spend $47,000.00 to $65,000.00 for copies a year and by going double sided but just 35% of that we could save $15,000.00 and that would pay for the bins for the recycle program. We will see this in April right. Neil is hoping so and thanked Dorinda for bringing this up. Neil thinks it is good for the district.

Dorinda thanked everyone who spoke from food services. She has been to food services and school kitchens and talked to Alan about different issues. He is right we are not the closest ones to it you are. She asked while the board is going through this process if they can come up with a list because sometimes the most innovative ideas come from employees closest to the job. If you put together a list of cost saving measures such as food ordering, paper goods, anything you can think of as a group to help us come up with some cost savings and how can we get more children to buy the lunch so when it does come to that point we have some alternatives she would appreciate it. Dorinda thanked them all for coming. Regarding the responsiveness she prides herself on responding to every email, text and phone call she gets and stated she does like to respond to everyone. Board member Cebi Waterfield said ditto to that one too.

C.1.b. Student Representatives Report

Catherine DePino read the Student Representative Report (Schedule B) that is at the end of the minutes. The board thanked Catherine for this report. Neil said Stacie Hurley emailed him that she is not feeling well tonight and Abdul Zachariah is at a conference in Rochester and they were both in the play this week and did a great job.

C.1.c. Board

Dorinda congratulated the high school and the Theatre Workshop on the play this week they did a really good job. She said Abdul was one of the leads. Board members said he was awesome. She thanked everyone involved in the CMTs for the last two weeks. She knows how much work and effort is put into that. They did an amazing job at Carrigan during the Pep Rally all the kids were very focused and very relieved when it was over. Dorinda requested for the next agenda an update on teacher reform. Neil said on the evaluation process sure.

Cebi Waterfield said the Carrigan CMT Pep Rally was really amazing. Her daughter was so impressed that there were so many rock stars at Carrigan School. The teachers and staff are really talented. She thanked the staff at all the schools for all the stress that they
go through for the CMT weeks. She especially thanked the cafeteria staff who get the kids after the CMT’s are finished and they are probably ready to bounce off the walls.

The online course selection through the parent portal was really simple and it was really easy to select the courses she thought it would have been more difficult. Dana Martinez was a big help. Good job at the high school.

Bob Guthrie attended the Theatre Workshop on Saturday and the kids did an outstanding job.

Mark Palmieri thanked everybody from food service for coming this evening. Mark said when we met it was just something that was being spoken about and there were no decisions being made whatsoever. You have to remember we have also sat here and had people come in front of the board and tell us all the things that are wrong with food service too. As it was stated earlier things aren’t being addressed so we are addressing these other items that people come to board and complain about the quality of food. We had heard this quite a few times and a young lady also mentioned about serving vegetables. He knows food service personnel have made changes and the last thing anyone on the board wants is to have anyone here to lose their job. We have about 119 members from West Haven and the last thing that any of us would want is for anyone to lose their job. The worse thing in the world is to lose your job in this economy. There is no one here looking to cut anyone’s job. It is just that you do have to think creatively and look at different things but it is just talk as of right now. We put it under information on the agenda and there is no vote it is only under informational to hear about it.

Mark apologize to the young lady who said he didn’t respond back to her. He along with everyone on the board does try to get back to anyone. When someone calls him or emails him he calls back but if he don’t know how to get in touch with you until now; if you give him your phone number he is better at conversing on the phone than he is at typing. He would rather she talk with him after the meeting if she would like to. He doesn’t remember the conversation but if he remembers as far as the council member they were speaking to it is because they were the liaisons to the board and that discussion was just to get information from them; it is never to shut anyone down. A lot of time people come back after the board meeting to talk to anyone of the board members and he doesn’t know of anyone that doesn’t respond to anyone’s concerns. You can always call the board’s secretary and give her a message and leaves their phone number and Marylou contacts me with the number and I call the person back and that goes for any board member here.

C.1.d. Committee — Nothing to report.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held at Savin Rock Community School, 50 Park Street, West Haven, CT on March 4, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.
Dorinda Borer made the motion to approve the minutes D.1.a
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
Discussion: Cebi Waterfield abstained as she was not present
All board members present were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

13-18 Charlesina Stancarone, Para – Special Ed – WHHS
   Effective: March 31, 2013
   Reason: Retirement

13-19 Lois Fonda, 7 Hour Cook – WHHS
   Effective: End of the school year
   Reason: Retirement

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve items 13-18 and 13-19
Cebi Waterfield made the motion
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
Discussion: Dorinda thanked the employees for their years of service and
dedication to the system.
All board members present were in favor
Items 13-18 and 13-19 are approved

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

13-20 Jim Lafo, 102 Manomet Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473
   Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach – WHHS
   Effective: Immediately
   Salary: $2,500.00

13-21 Kristin Varunes, 123 French Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512
   Assistant Girls Softball Coach – WHHS
   Effective: Immediately
   Salary: $3,350.00

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve items 13-20 and 13-21
Bob Guthrie made the motion
Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Items 13-20 and 13-21 are approved
D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

D.7. New Business

13-22 Approval of the 2013/2014 School Calendar
Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item 13-22
Bob Guthrie made the motion
Dorinda Borer seconded the motion
Discussion: Cebi had questions about the color code and days that were blocked off. Neil summarized everything. Dorinda asked if we can negotiate with the union the go to week early on next year if we have snow days and post it so everyone knows and there is no confusion. Yes. Neil said we worked very well with the unions and Patti Fusco put a survey out to all of the teachers and the calendar was acceptable. Every holiday listed in the contract is a day off that by state statute we have to give with the exception of the Jewish Holidays and those would be days we would talk about for the following year. All board members present were in favor
Item 13-22 is approved

13-23 Correspondence from John McKee requesting permission for approximately 14 11th and 12th grade DECA students to take a field trip to Anaheim, California on April 23, 2013 returning on April 28, 2013.
Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve item 13-23
Cebi Waterfield made the motion as a former DECA member
Dorinda Borer seconded the motion
Discussion: Neil stated we certainly support the trip but would like to get this before the board earlier next year. It is generally one chaperone for every ten students but because of the cost of the trip and the fact these kids have had a very good track record and are top students so it will be one for 14 students. He wanted to have the board know the ratio before they voted on it.
All board members present were in favor
Items 13-23 is approved

F. Informational
Cebi Waterfield student’s names for the National Scholar Athletes through the West Haven Pop Warner and West Haven Seahawks Program (Schedule C) at the end of the minutes

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn
Dorinda Borer made a motion to adjourn
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary
March 12, 2013

Joseph C. Mayhew  
CWA Local 1103  
345 Westchester Ave  
Port Chester, New York 10573

Re: Local 1103

Dear Joe:

I understand our counsel, Floyd Dugas, has advised you that due to revelations that the Food Service program is losing nearly a half million dollars per year, combined with the City’s overall fiscal problems, we feel it is imperative that we explore the possibility of outsourcing our food service operation.

Towards that end, we intend to put out a request for proposals. Once we have received responses, I and the Board will evaluate whether to move forward. I wish to emphasize that a decision to outsource has not yet been made. At this point we are simply exploring that option. While I understand this may create some uncertainty on the part of your members, it would be our present intention to insist that our employees, your members, be protected to the extent practical even if we were to move forward with outsourcing.

Accordingly, we will attempt to keep the Unions effected apprised as we explore this possibility. We would hope that the Union will keep an open mind regarding this issue and in return we will commit to a transparent process. In the meantime please contact attorney Dugas or myself if there are any questions.

Very truly yours,

Neil C. Cavallaro  
Superintendent

cc: Board of Education  
Mayor John Picard  
Floyd J. Dugas, Esq.
CAPT Testing has just concluded at WHHS. Grade 9 students took practice test, a practice PSAT, and heard from a Rwandan genocide survivor Daniel Trust. They also heard from UNH Admissions Counselor Monique Valt about the Charge Into the Future program.

Scheduling for courses for next year is underway at both Bailey and the high school. Assemblies for each Bailey team and grades 9, 10 and 11 were held, and all registration for courses will take place online through the powerschool parent portal.

We are pleased to announce the premier of "How a Difference is MADE," a special series created by the producers of MTV MADE, and sponsored by Secret Deodorant's "Mean Stinks" campaign. This series was filmed at West Haven High School and prominently features our students. We are very proud of Shauna Edery and Morgan Hotchkiss and the difference they made while filming this episode. The girls, along with their MADE coach followed through on a promise to "gang up for good," and got more than 2,000 people to take the Blue Pinkie Promise. This promise asks those who take it to pinkie swear not to gossip, bully, cyber bully, or be involved in mean behavior, and to intervene when they see this happening. This series shows West Haven High School in a very positive light, and we are very excited for its premier. Please go to made.mtv.com to view the series.

The Math team has seen its share of success this year, finishing in the top half of the league, and will compete at the State Tournament.

Student Government has been working on its initiative to remember Sandy Hook. Students are currently selling bracelets for $2. They plan to purchase a memorial bench and plant a tree at WHHS in remembrance. They are also adopting first grade classes throughout the district to give back to our own elementary schools. They will be working with Forest and Mackrille.

Students in the AP Government class recently attended a symposium at Yale on International Relations. Previously, the attended a forum on gun control at Wesleyan, a forum on the presidential election at Southern, and went to hear Anita Hill at UNH.

Juniors Carlos J. Andino, Andrea Grillo, Amanda Plaza attended the Rotary’s Next Generations Conference at Choate.

Senior Brenda Calderon represented all WHHS students with her remarks at the UNH press conference, announcing the partnership with the West Haven Public Schools.

Seniors Abdul Zachariah and Zaneta Nicholson participated in OneWorld’s Civic Engagement open discussion on Black History on February 27th.

WHHS continues its long relationship with the Yale Smoking Cessation Study and has been conducting cessation programs throughout the year as well has focus groups after school.

Lots of exciting news with Project Lead The Way. The Introduction to Engineering students have been designing objects that can be printed on their new 3-dimensional printer. Physics, technology and engineering students are designing and creating underwater RO’s and are planning to compete in the Connecticut State ROV competition in Plainville.

Postponed from February 14th, the student group, GirlUp will be sponsoring 1 Billion Rising, the biggest mass global action to end violence against women & girls in the history of humankind, on Thursday with a moment of silence.
Tomorrow, please stop by TGIFriday’s to support the WHHS PTSA.

Graduation has been set for Friday, June 28th with Blue and White: Up All Night being held at the University of New Haven.

The Lil' Miss Westie Pageant will be held on Saturday at 11am in the WHHS auditorium. Please stop by to see all of our Westie talent and support Project Graduation.

40 students will be attending the annual True Colors Conference at UCONN in Storrs on Friday, March 22nd.

The Junior Prom will be held this Saturday at Amarante’s in New Haven.

Band concert April 4th
From: Cebi Waterfield
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 3:21 PM
To: Nell Cavallaro; Anne Druzdolowski; Frank Paolino; Richard Weber; AmyJo Palermo; Anthony Cordone; Sean Morrissey; Valerie Bruneau; Pamela Gardner
Cc: michael.liaxt@ct.gov
Subject: Pop Warner National All-American Scholar Athletes

Dear Superintendent Cavallaro and Dr Druzdolowski,

On behalf of the Ray Teller Midget Football League, West Haven Seahawks, I am very proud to announce that 15 West Haven students have been chosen to receive the elite honor of being a National Pop Warner All-American Scholar Athlete.

As I have said before, Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. (PWLS) is the only national youth sports organization in America that requires its participants to perform adequately in the classroom before permitting them to play.

These students had previously been chosen as New England Region Scholar Athletes. Each year the most academically accomplished Pop Warner kids compete for Academic All-American status. This process begins at the association level and up through each of the eight Pop Warner regions to the national level. These students are ranked amongst the top 1% of all Pop Warner participants. They will be recognized in May at the Pop Warner All-American National Banquet in Boston, MA.

The students are:

Grade 5
Cassandra Dalton
Jasmine White
Austin Doyle
Justin Rivera
Shawn Valenzuela

Grade 6
Brianna Rivera
Faythe Thibodeau
Riley Waterfield
Darren Warren
Brandon Atkins
Matthew Peters 7th grade

Grade 7
Tiffany Koenig
Victoria Quezada

Grade 8 and above
Brittany Tulchin 8th grade
Robert Hawkins

Thanks to all of YOU for providing such a wonderful education to our students to make this huge accomplishment possible. If possible, I would love for their classroom teachers to be aware of this accomplishment, and know that we at the Seahawks thank them for all they do for our kids!

Sincerely,

Cebi Waterfield
Matthew Peters

Grade 7
Tiffany Koenig
Victoria Quezada

Grade 8 and above
Brittany Tulchin
Robert Hawkins

Thanks to all of YOU for providing such a wonderful education to our students to make this huge accomplishment possible. If possible, I would love for their classroom teachers to be aware of this accomplishment, and know that we at the Seahawks thank them for all they do for our kids!

Sincerely,
Cebi Waterfield

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