WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 4, 2013
Regular Board Meeting
Savin Rock Community School

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in Savin Rock Community School, 50 Park Street, West Haven, CT on March 4, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:10 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:  
Mark Palmieri, Chairman  
M. Toni Paine, Vice Chair  
Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer  
Dorinda Borer  
Betsy Davis  
Patrick Egolum  
Robert Guthrie  
Eric Murillo  
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:  
Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent  
David Cappetta, Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:
B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairman Palmieri welcomed everyone to the March 4, 2013 regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Education. He asked if anyone would like to address the board during the public session.

Board Member Cebi Waterfield, 70 Seaview Avenue addressed the board. She said the West Haven Seahawks Program had some athlete scholars and she sent Superintendent Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent Druzolowski this information in an email which was forwarded to the principals of Carrigan, Bailey and West Haven High School. Most of the student’s names were announced during the day that they received this honor. They had to maintain a 96 grade average as well as participate in community and volunteer activities after school and scouting and activities like that. We have 10 students from West Haven and would like them to come to a meeting once the National Scholar Athletes have been announced; these are the New England Regional Athletes. Cebi also thanked the board for supporting the Seahawks; our students did very well this year. The board gave thanks. Superintendent Cavallaro said the look forward to seeing these students at an upcoming board meeting.

There were no other speakers. Public portion closed at 7:15 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Chairman Palmieri turned the meeting over to Superintendent Cavallaro. Neil stated that Mrs. Gardner notified him that two student reps would not be in attendance tonight because of an upcoming play which is coming up in a couple of weeks and the third student rep had to work.

Neil thanked all the staff that will take part in tonight’s presentation. He also encouraged board members to ask question about how the material is being used and how they are being received and the progress we are making. We will get you answers to all your questions.

The union had a meeting and they are looking at a couple of various options on our school calendar for next year. Before we can change the calendar we need to consult with the union. Neil thanked the union because we had a leg up on many districts with the days we were able to make up and be able to work through and get the vacation which is important. Hopefully by the next meeting we will have a calendar we will all be in agreement with.

We are working with the city and submitting all of the costs for the recent storm. The hope is that we will get 75% of that money back. Overtime and the money lost at the rink are our two largest expenses. Paving, curbs, fences and other things that were destroyed
are also being looked at and will also be submitted. We will submit it all and hope for the best.

There is cake here for board member appreciation month and we thank the board for their service. The board serves without compensation and they put a lot of time in above and beyond the meetings every two weeks and we thank them and appreciate all they do and all their support.

Dorinda requested to bring something up under status of schools. Recycling was bought up by Dorinda and Mark said he is in total agreement with her on recycling. Dorinda said we talked about it being a large undertaking and tapping into the GRAC or The Energy Commission that Rob Saley is on that the Mayor put together but that seems to be going not quickly enough for us. Dorinda said she found something that AFB presented to us on April 4, 2011 because I thought they said they would institute a recycle program and they did say that. The following represents some of the projects that AFB will be working on and completing during the fiscal year 2011/2012 and it lists in bullets that one of them is that they will be implementing a district wide recycling program. That is a presentation that they gave us that we voted on so I think that we need to go back to AFB who is our contractor that we pay and say to them what progress have you made on this recycle program because I think at the end of the day we are not recycling and I think the employees are ready, willing and able to recycle. We just need somebody to coordinate it and they are the group we pay to do that. If we can take that back to them is that fair? Neil said he is glad she actually found this as it gives him something. Dorinda said she did her homework. Neil said he had asked Rob Saley to please get that presentation going. Dorinda doesn’t think we should rely on them. Neil said we will get this done. Dorinda said OK thank you.

Dr. Druzolowski welcomed all the teachers that came tonight who have worked very hard on a station type of setup of all of the investments that we have made through the use of Federal Funds, State Funds, and donations from Yale University as well as local money. We were about to purchase new programs for reading and had done something for mathematics. With the new National Standards the materials out there particularly for literacy are pretty weak. Why spend all that money when it wasn’t aligned well and didn’t meet the teachers’ needs. When the teachers went through curriculum writing particularly last summer I asked them to write down all of the resources that they would like to see support all of their references in listening, reading, speaking and obviously mathematics. They gave these materials to us and we took a look at them and made the decision that these were high quality materials that provided structure, organization, and sent a common message across the district. At the early elementary PreK – 4 the focus is on assessing content. We really pushed to have these kids perform well when they hit the 5, 6 grades. We decided the best way to show you this was to set up some stations for you to go through in five minute increments. A power point was also set up for everyone to see before heading in to see the stations. Patti Fusco has put the complete power point on line for everyone.
People and board members moved through the group of nine stations in groups of four or five and were able to get a good sense of what was going on during each five minute interval. The teachers were all users of the materials and gave excellent examples of how they worked. At Station 1 they used Lexia. We saw examples of how the ENO Board is used. This is used as a Lab for 20 minutes every other day for students. Station 2 used Symphony and the ENO Board (Math) Students can access this at home and can identify numbers by sight and sound. Various math examples were used to demonstrate how students use the ENO Board. Benchmarks are used to place children. Station 3 Daily 5 This includes 5 independent literacy tasks students practice daily. (Read to self, read to someone, word work, work on writing and listen to reading. Students have books in boxes for them to choose to read independently. They also can read to each other and this incorporates comprehension, spelling and writing. Station 4 SPIRE - Comprehension and reading with all teachers teaching the same 10 steps. This is used in grades 1 – 3. Concepts are introduced with keyword concept sheets with pictures of the object and word cards for the first step. There are 8 levels that have a lesson plan with a sequence and timing. For each concept there is an introductory lesson and one or more reinforcement lessons. Station 5 IPOD & Inform - Testing is done three times a year September/January/June. Initial Sounds/ blending sounds and reading are worked on. Second year incorporates non-fiction reading. Station 6 ELL Bilingual - The first goal is to develop language. This is done through repetition. Students repeat words and work them into sentences. Bilingual teachers work as a team with the classroom teacher. Colorful letters, blocks and colorful, furry strands were used to form letters and then words. 7 Guided Reading - Groups of 6 students work with a teacher who will set a purpose. They may develop a character or a setting. Work is done on comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expanded vocabulary. 8 PreK and Kindergarten Stations showed what materials were used such as games, sight words, picture clues and the Right Wave Sentence Board. Station 9 Sounds Sensible – Supports literacy basically used for kindergarten students. A multisensory approach is used to learn a letter name, its sound and the correct form for printing. Letter cards are used and rhyming is identified. This is also used in the first and second grade for students who didn’t master kindergarten skills.

Dr. Druzolowski suggested that board members can go to any building to see this in use any day until 1:30 PM. Teachers would be thrilled to have you in their classroom. She thanked the board for giving them the flexibility to purchase these items. These tools are critical for expanding what we are doing beyond the classroom walls. We will be doing this in Washington School this year. Washington School is a distinguished school for being one of the schools in the state with 10% improvement on the CMT from last year to this year and that was in the area of mathematics. We will be honoring them in the future at a board meeting.

Neil stated that it was wonderful to see the excitement the teachers showed while demonstrating each area.

Pat Libero asked if there were any plans for all the schools to do the IPOD Testing. Not yet. This was part of a grant the State Department gave us and encouraged us to become test data to see the effectiveness of using those. We have three schools using them. Pat
said the teachers seem to really like using them. Anne said it is fast and helpful. The first and second grade at Savin Rock has them and we are buying them for Washington and checking our budget to see if we have enough for the other Title I School Forest; these are our neediest schools. Third and Fourth grade would be the next push and then we look into 5 & 6. We might get other things we have been talking about that we want to start with grades 5 & 6.

Eric Murillo asked on the Daily 5 that you have in first and second grade are you going to put them in third and fourth grade. Third grade yes and in this particular school we decided mid year we weren’t going to wait until next year. They may even begin with the third grade this week. You get kids to start focusing on different types of reading. Anne stated this was a very good question.

C.1.b. Student Representatives Report

C.1.c. Board

Dorinda thanked everyone stating it was really great to see everything and everyone was so enthusiastic. It is nice to have such nice, new shiny stuff to work with. Dorinda mentioned that the CMT Rally at Carrigan was awesome once again.

Bob Guthrie thanked the four finalists from the district who were in the Spelling Bee. It was a wonderful time and he also thanked the PTA Council for funding the savings bonds for this.

Patrick said we gave the teachers the choice to buy the books for this. Yes. That is very nice and was one reason for the teacher’s excitement. Yes they are the ones that write and revise the curriculum so a program box of books and teacher’s guide are not sufficient; they needed to tell me their choices of what they wanted to have purchased.

Pat reminded everyone about the play at the high school next week. She would be interested to see if our scores go up with this data because the people said they see the difference. They see the kids making a connection. It will be interesting to see if that translates. Anne thinks you will see that.

Neil said the amount of growth that individual kids were making really struck him.

Pat thinks technology is in their DNA these little kids. This statement was agreed with.

Dorinda asked if Anne thinks this helps prepare us for the online assessments for the common core by doing all this. Anything we can get in their hands technology wise will. They are trying to get kids to feel more comfortable behind the screen and that captures their attention; so she thinks it will. Any new school we build at this point has to be loaded with technology. Neil has made a lot of advances with this in just what we will be trying at Carrigan.
C.1.d. Committee

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on February 4, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.
Toni Paine made the motion to approve the minutes D.1.a
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

13-15 Robert Jeffords, School Counselor – WHHS
   Effective: June 30, 2013
   Reason: Retirement

13-16 Marc Julia, Physical Education Teacher – Bailey Middle School
   Effective: February 7, 2013
   Reason: Personal

13-17 John Vento, Social Studies Teacher – WHHS
   Effective: June 30, 2013
   Reason: Personal

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve Items 13-15 through 13-17 inclusive
Bob Guthrie made the motion to approve Items 13-15 through 13-17 inclusive
Toni Paine seconded the motion
Discussion: Pat Libero stated that Bob Jeffords is a wonderful person and was the guidance counselor for her children. He is there at 5:00 AM until 6:00 or 7:00 PM. He was always there for you and is a great guy. He will be a real loss. He always had the kid’s best interest at heart. He will be missed.

Neil said he was very good at keeping staff moral high, always had fun things to do and if there was a way to help a kid; whether it was make a special program, get them into a class, stay after and tutor the kid himself so the child would pass the class he went above and beyond. He will be sorely missed by the district.

Dorinda wanted to piggyback on that because he was her teacher and he was awesome. She also wanted to comment on John Vento who was also her teacher and thank both of them for all of their service.
All board members present were in favor. Items 13-15, 13-16 and 13-17 are approved.

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)
D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)
D.5. New Hire: (Certified)
D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)
D.7. New Business

F. Informational
   Nothing to add.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn
Dorinda Borer made a motion to adjourn
Pat Libero seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary