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 M. Toni Paine, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

M. Toni Paine, Chairman  
Raymond Collins III, Vice Chairman  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabritto  
Robert J. Guthrie  
Howard Horvath  
Mark Palmieri

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
Krista Pickering

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

**MAYOR:**  
John Picard

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

Before beginning the meeting Chairman, Toni Paine stated that there were two additional items to be added to tonight’s agenda under Section E. **07-25** Paraprofessional contract was ratified tonight and the Board needs to take action on it. Also under E. **07-26** Board of Education action is required for our students to participate in the New Haven-Yale Saturday Seminars and Yale New Haven Summer High School. Both of these programs are free to our students.

Ray Collin made a motion to add these two items to tonight’s agenda. Howard Horvath Jr. seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion passes.

E. **07-25** and E. **07-26** will be added to this evening’s agenda.

**B. PUBLIC PORTION**
Jackie Grady, 83 Hoffman Street, West Haven stated that she is proud of the West Steppers. The Steppers took home the first trophy ever in competition in Fairfield County they captured third place in the first annual high school Step Show on February 10, 2007 in Bridgeport, CT. They took home a trophy for Third Place and Ron Stancil has placed this trophy in the showcase at WHHS. Jackie stated this has been written up in the newsletter and she wanted to share this with everyone. The Board gave thanks.

Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, West Haven thanked all the Board Members who attended the West Haven Black Coalition Dinner. The proceeds from this event go to Scholarship Funds and aids students who might otherwise not be able to go to college and need assistance.

She is pleased to see on the agenda tonight under New Business 07-23. She had gone on the tour of the schools in October and thought it very important to address the issues at Washington and Pagels School and I’m hopeful that this is what it will do. Children need the computers and she thought that the bonding money was coming to do this and is still inquiring about this because she hasn’t received answers as to what the situation is. Nancy stated she is happy to see that this is going to be approved.

The Mayor has told her that the budget will be released to City Council on March 15th around 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. She advised anyone who can make this to come to get a first glimpse of the budget; what was cut and what may have been added. This will then be addressed in public portion. The Board gave thanks.

Timothy Van Winkle, Principal of Washington School, 369 Washington Avenue, West Haven stated he was extremely pleased to see the purchase of computers for two labs in disrepair. He was not sure if this was for Washington School and therefore decided he should attend. Some board members, as well as Nancy Rossi and the Superintendent have visited our school to look at the condition of our computers. Washington became a magnet school in 1988 and he was the Language Arts Coordinator and very involved with the development of Washington as well as Mackrille. These were the only two schools in West Haven that had computer labs. Ten years later we had another round of computers. I don’t think our computers are up to date after ten years. Therefore our computers now are a good nine years old. We don’t have new computers because we were one of the first schools to get them and it was only fair that all the other schools in West Haven had them. Mackrille got a new lab because they also had the new addition. Washington is still waiting for an addition - like an elevator or an intercom that would work in case of an emergency. Anyway we were the last on the list because we originally started with computers. He is here to support the fact that we really need new computers. Computers are like textbooks and are an integral part of learning. When students go to the computer lab he and the staff work very hard to help students to learn, write and to go onto the internet. They do not play games. Our second graders are learning how to do PowerPoint as this is how we are going to present in the future. The computer helps us to make our work get done faster. Penmanship will go out the door – cursive writing will go because we will be typing everything. Kids need to learn how to touch type. Our computers only work from day to day. The tech team of three women came in to help us
fix our machines and they work for a day or two and they break. Teachers are still learning how to use the computer as a tool to educate our kids. He encourages the entire staff and about 18 teachers have agreed to volunteer to come for two hours a day each month to help other teachers learn how to effectively use the computer. We communicate to parents through a monthly newsletter from the teachers. Teachers have been teaching other teachers how to use the software for this. These are some of the reasons why we need a new computer lab. The board gave thanks.

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven came forward to speak. Patti is President of the West Haven Federation of Teachers and will be speaking as the President this evening regarding some issues.

The first thing she wants to talk about is the non renewal of non tenured teachers. Our lawyers are going to tell you that by April 1st you must send a letter to every first, second and third year non-tenured teacher to tell them that they may be non-renewed. She told the board that they don’t have to do this. Last year they send 70 plus letters and lost a lot of people. Take a look at your staff and look at who you actually can afford to loose. If someone is not doing a good job non renew them. Try not to set that panic off because we have positions we couldn’t fill as of this moment. We have teachers teaching a 6th class and we don’t need to loose any more people especially in the shortage areas. Morale is at an all time low in the district and these letters will make it even lower. Only send them to people that you know could loose their job such as those who are not meeting the mark; this is fine. People you can’t afford to lose you don’t need to send a letter to only send them to people who might have to be eliminated for class size reduction or something like that.

There was a beautiful benefit Saturday evening for a family in West Haven who lost their mom tragically and it was nice to see some board members there. On Saturday, March 24th there will be an event for one of our teachers, Stacy Farnen Hawes. Stacy was diagnosed in August with non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. She is 28 or 29 years old and is a third year teacher and does not have enough sick time to be paid. She has not been able to work as she is too sick. A benefit in her honor will be held at the Italian American Club on Chase Lane from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. Proceeds will be donated directly to Stacy to help her pay her medical expenses and some of the money will go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Tickets are $30.00 a person. We are looking for donations and raffle prizes from business owners. We are looking for money to help offset the costs. A flyer was passed out. The Board gave thanks.

Beth Denton, 82 Woodvale Rd., West Haven, CT works at West Haven High School. A student came to her yesterday and thought we were recycling plastics as well as paper. She is here to ask if they can implement aluminum, plastic and newspaper recycling in the schools; if just the high school alone. She also asked if we would save money doing this. We have recycling in the City but not in the schools and we have tons of newspapers delivered every day that are thrown in the trash. Can someone look into this? Would it save or cost us money? There are clubs and organizations in the high school which I am sure would help out and we have a Pride Committee. The adults in the school
would help coordinate this. In the cafeteria the kids use aluminum cans all the time for Snapple and we have water bottles. We encourage recycling at home and should encourage it in other parts of our community. She would be willing to help. The Board gave thanks.

Public portion closed a 7:25 p.m.

C. REPORTS

Administration

Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools stated that you challenged us to have staff and people in our educational community be creative in terms of how we fund things and how we get things that might benefit our school district. The chair sitting in front of us is another one of those initiatives where staff have come together to make our auditorium environment better at WHHS. Margi Maher is here to share with us what Take A Seat is all about and to answer any questions you might have.

Margi Maher came forward and stated if you have been in our auditorium at WHHS and have seen it in the daylight it is terrifying. Our chairs are over 40 years old and look older than that. They are dirty, tired and dangerous. Last year during the performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat a gentleman sat down in what he thought was a very nice chair and he landed on the ground. Luckily he wasn’t hurt. With your permission I would like to spearhead a fund raiser throughout the City with alumna and current teachers and students to raise the funds to refurbish these chairs to remove some of the economic pressure from the school system itself. By word of mouth I have already sold over five full rows. People can’t wait to help. The chair you see before you came from our auditorium; the gum and graffiti was removed and 40 years of history was removed from the chair. They oiled it etc. and it certainly is beautiful. It is comfortable and safe. The company did a beautiful job. With the permission of the Board she would like to continue to fix the auditorium. She is looking to get an appointment with the Building Committee.

Dr. Andrees stated that since Mr. Guthrie is the Building Chair for the Board of Education I would like to have you take a look at their project and then direct us from there.

Bob Guthrie asked if you projected collecting the money for a row at a time and if there was any advantage to that?

Margi stated that they are just trying to give people a starting place of what they can pay for. We are hoping to do such an incredible job as to have this done over the summer. She hopefully has 2,400 people coming in for By By Birdie at the end of this month and would like to put this announcement in their flier.
Jerry Calabritto stated then your intent is to do the entire auditorium at once OK. Margi stated that economically speaking the best price would come by doing the whole thing at once. Jerry Calabritto wanted to know the number of seats. There are 784 chairs. Margi stated that probably 710 are able to be used. Toni Paine asked how much is it per chair? Ron Stancil stated probably $150 per chair because they will rip up the old carpeting and paint the floor and fix the chair. We didn’t want to put in new less expensive chairs because they are not of the same quality.

Dr. Andrees asked if there will need to be a Board action on this.

Robert Guthrie said he thinks the Board certainly supports this and his concern is with the printing time for the program. Our next Board meeting is March 19\textsuperscript{th}. Margi stated this would be separate and it would be an insert to our program and wouldn’t hold it up.

Dr. Andrees said so we will bring this back and put it on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.

George Monahan said I think we can just approve this.

Ray Collins made a motion to add it to the agenda tonight for approval. George Monahan seconded the motion
No discussion
All members were in favor
Motion carries

Under E. **New Business Item 07-27** will be added to the agenda tonight
Margi thanked the Board.

Dr. Andrees thanked the Board members very much. She has been seeing teachers going after resources. She had another meeting today with members from the City and athletic department who are looking for resources to fund a track that they are looking at. People are looking for funds to enhance our school facilities and programs for our schools. Dr. Andrees thanked Margi again very much.

Dr. Andrees stated that DECA is requesting the Board to approve a group of students to attend international competition on April 27\textsuperscript{th} through May 2\textsuperscript{nd}. We are hoping you will take a look at this tonight.

Dr. Andrees held up a T-shirt. This is the result of parents who chose to reward students who have taken the CAPT Practice Test. Students have gotten up on Saturday morning to practice so they may do well on the CAPT test. The parents from the PTA group supported the students who have taken at least three or more of the tests. Each of these students received a T-shirt and some students actually wore them to school today.

Parents are choosing to support us in our academic effort to get our students to take the testing very seriously. There are over 147 students identified and it appears that about
80% of the students did actually participate on Saturday mornings with administrators and high school staff who provided additional support and encouragement and enrichment for those students. We hope this will result in higher test results for the students.

Recycling has been presented to our Board of Education by the students from WHHS and Mr. Liam Leapley. Members of his club have already begun that initiative so those in the audience who are interested in participating might want to speak with Mr. Leapley and his students who have already begun recycling at the high school. This has the support of the administration and the custodial staff. Dr. Andrees is really proud of them for coming to us and moving that initiative forward.

We will be bringing before you at our next meeting the names of teachers that we will be sending non renewal letters to. Certainly we will be looking at how we identify those teachers to whom we will need to send letters this year. As we have an unknown of what the budget will yield to us this is an action that is important we take at this time. A letter is being sent to the entire faculty during the course of this week giving them the time line by which things happen and the process involved. We will let them understand that we will be supportive and sensitive to what it feels like to receive one of these letters. We will be giving the informational portion to them this week and after the next board meeting we will send out the letters to those teachers who it may concern.

Tonight you are being asked to add to the agenda the opportunity for our students to participate in the New Haven-Yale Seminars and Summer School. The opportunities are absolutely free to the students of this community. About fifteen of the students at WHHS participated in a chemistry class on Saturday mornings at Yale and they are recognized for their participation. With students grades 9 through 12, this is an opportunity for them to be involved with students from different academic experiences from around the towns. If you choose to approve this tonight our students will again have the chance this year to be a part of these wonderful experiences.

Dr. Andrees is also asking tonight to add a new teacher to replace the teacher who is leaving Carrigan. We are looking at a Science teacher in a shortage area. We were able to get our hands on an experienced Science teacher who wants to come to West Haven. There are those who are saying no one wants to come here every one is leaving but there are wonderful things going on in this town and we have to keep reminding people of the things that are happening. We might be in financial difficulty but we have a wonderful student body and educational staff and good support and resources for our children.

Dr. Andrees again offered congratulations to Mrs. Grady and the Steppers for a job well done.

Neil Cavallaro has been asked to point out a correction on the agenda. Under non certified resignations D.3 on Item 07-19 the effective date should be February 11, 2007 not July 1, 2007.
Secondly, I have been contacted on Friday by the Registrar of Voters Office from the City. As many of you know it is required by law that each year the Registrar’s office come to the City to do a voter registration drive. This year it will take place on May 2, 2007 and the Secretary of the State will be here on that date to show some of the new voting technology. As we get closer to the date I will be sure to let all the Board Members know. It is an annual thing and they will add something this year.

CMT and CAPT testing begins this week. We are hopeful that our scores are going to improve.

Last Wednesday he had the privilege to represent the Board of Education at the Black Heritage Celebration which takes place annually at City Hall. It was the 12th event and 24 of our elementary students were honored. A representative from each school was honored for the most improved in the school. Someone who has perfect attendance and those with a positive attitude were honored.

One of the things about these types of awards is that it is very easy to honor the brightest or the person with the highest average or the best athlete; these are really hard working kids who make the most out of their educational experience and it was very rewarding to be a part of that ceremony.

On Thursday of this week we will start a series of staff development programs in the area of English as a second language. We will be doing another workshop for administrators which will take place at 11:00 a.m. We received a preliminary report from the presenter who made a tour of the high school and we are working off that report in order to do more staff development in that area. It is certainly an area where we need to do more work as our non English speaking population grows.

Dr. Andreees stated that those strategies and techniques that teachers learn in terms of focusing on these students also help teachers be able to help other students as well. We are trying to create a greater coordination between the ESL teacher and the reading teacher. A lot of those students over lap and if we are using common strategy we figure we can get a better bang for our buck in terms of how to help those students be able to transition and learn.

Neil stated that Friday of the February vacation Dr. Andrees and he attended a round table discussion in Hartford conducted by Sen. Lieberman and members of the State legislature in attendance with regard to No Child Left Behind. There were various superintendents present and representatives from Teachers Unions and the AFT and the CEA. This was really very informative. As most of you know that law is up for renewal this year and there is going to be a lot of debate in Congress. Senator Lieberman is making it a very high priority and is going to be conducting several more meetings throughout the state before it becomes time for renewal. These are some of the things that I took out of the workshop.
1. It is good we are in Connecticut and our standards are so high. Compared to other states our test scores don’t come out as high. This is because when the law came into effect we chose to keep our standards where they were when we were just testing at the State level. The question is there a need for a national test with national standards came up at this meeting. If there were, Connecticut would definitely jump to the top of the list. Most people there were in favor of not watering down the standards.

2. Rather than AYP and having to meet certain targets one of the points raised was we need to show some type of improvement rather than to just hit a targeted goal. We see kids making improvement but not making it as fast as the standards would have us meet. There is a need to show improvement. You do run the risk of not pushing kids and teachers far enough. This is something I think we need to look at in the district. We do see growth but not at the rate we would like to see them make it at.

Dr. Andrees stated there are models already out there. Some states have already submitted the growth model process to the legislature to ask them to take a look at that. Unfortunately Connecticut’s has not been approved so they are continuing to go back and fight for this.

Neil stated that finally where changes are most likely going to have to be made are with ESL students and with Special Education students. Unlike the IDEA Laws which were just passed for Special Ed students they are really are in direct conflict with No Child Left Behind. IDEA says that we are to education kids at their grade level and capacity level. However when we test them we are required to test them at their grade appropriate level. These are the two levels that must be addressed in the legislation when it comes up for renewal.

Dr. Andrees stated that Patti Fusco was one of the people who spoke at one of the hearings to address some of those concerns. This is quite a compliment for us to have her been able to have a voice.

Neil stated he will keep us posted as we hear of possible changes as congress starts that debate.

We ran our first Pitney Bowes mailing and we have received 15 hits on residency. Nine students were non residents and have been removed from the school system. Six were confirmed residents. We think this is the beginning of a good process. When we do it more often we will be able to get the students who do not belong in our school system removed much faster. At the beginning of every year we get very backlogged with registration and the police department can’t get out and do the residency checks. This will help us in that area. We will also do a summer registration for our elementary schools which will allow us to scrutinize those registrations that are taking place. We have heard loud and clear from city taxpayers that if students are receiving a free education and are not entitled to it they should not be in our school system.

This is a sign of good things to come. We are talking about nine students at the tune of
$8,000 per tuition so that is a good savings right there.

Mayor Picard asked Neil to send this information over to the City Council as they would be interested.

Bob Guthrie asked how the phone system that was institute was doing this year – the Hotline. Neil stated we followed through on a couple of leads and have removed a few students but they are far and few between.

Jerry Calabritto asked that was nine out of how many letters were sent out? Neil stated we sent one out to every family to students enrolled in the West Haven School System; 5,500 families.

BOARD

Bob Guthrie said the Black Heritage Celebration was a wonderful event and I thank the committee for continuing to run it. I had the opportunity to attend and it was nice to participate in the day and to see the students recognized.

George Monahan has three items. He stated that everyone on the board has acknowledged their appreciation for the quality of staff we have from top administration to building administrators, teachers, paras, maintenance and custodial staff.

Last month before the opening of Pagels School there was a frozen pipe that ruptured and upon thawing resulted in some water damage in the building. Dr. Andrees was at the building very early as soon as she became aware of the problem. I want to recognize the custodial and maintenance staff and the exceptional job they did at that school on very short notice. School opened on time with literally no disruption to the school day.

This past Saturday the NECA held an inter competition at East Haven High School. West Haven High School was represented by both their Jr. Varsity and Varsity Stats. The Jr. Varsity Squad came in first place. The Jr. Varsity Stunt Squad also came in First Place. The Varsity Stunt Squad also won their division and the Varsity Cheer Leading Squad also came in third. All three teams that won first place were granted bids to not only compete but to also put on demonstrations at next year’s Pro Bowl in Hawaii. We are very proud of those squads for the hard work and the rewards that came from the hard work by winning the competition and representing West Haven.

The rumor mills are alive and well and there has been some misinformation in the circles of schools, PTA’s and parent groups with respect to some information regarding our current operating budget, site process, and the process of going forward with how you prepare a request and deal with the new budget. I know the Chair was equally frustrated about this. He would like to request the chair to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee maybe three or four members to reach out to the individual school communities and make sure that the information is accurate from the Board of Education perspective on how we are
handling our current challenging budget as well as moving forward and dealing with what we are going to be dealing with. I certainly would volunteer.

Robert Guthrie stated to Toni Paine that in order to have all the Board Members participate perhaps you could come up with a calendar and invite three to attend each of the various meetings.

Mayor Picard stated he was at the Black Heritage Celebration also and stated that the students were fantastic. Neil actually got them all to stand up and sing and they did an excellent job and we were very proud of them. There are a lot of good things that happen in West Haven. Principal Van Winkle had a talent show at Washington School which was wonderful. It was incredible to see all the students and to have one young lady holding the American Flag singing God Bless America. He saw about eight of the acts and they were all very good. There are many good things happening. DECA also had a fashion show the same night that was outstanding. Mackrille also had International Night. We do have a great group of people here in West Haven. There are a lot of positive things are continuing to happen. Take A Seat is just another example of how we can do things differently and not only do them differently but do them together and do them better. Mayor Picard went on to thank everybody for doing their part.

Mayor Picard stated that the Board of Education was helpful last year when we had the American Heart Association Municipal Cup Challenge which West Haven won. It is starting again and we are going to have our first meeting this Friday but it will be in May and they will do it in honor of Robert Fumiatti. It will be nice if we can get everybody to participate. You can raise money or walk or do whatever you can. Last time the Board of Education and Superintendent’s Office and the faculty were very supportive and I am asking you to do the same again. It is for a great cause and we all know what Robert Fumiatti and his family have been through. We will have a meeting this Friday in the Mayor’s Office just to get the challenge going but it is for everybody through out New Haven County and the City. Any help you can give with this will be appreciated.

Howard Horvath stated that in speaking about the benefits of living in West Haven, he is always most proud of West Haven when the citizens come together to support those in need. This is something that I saw the very first time I stepped into the town in my home eighteen years ago and it continues on today and this is certainly one of the very best things about our town.

Eric wanted to change the subject a little. He appreciates Mr. Monahan’s bringing up the subject of being informed about the budget. He wants to find out if it is possible to get a complete line item of all the expenditures the Board of Education has so we can get familiarized with what it is that the Board should spend the money on. Besides getting the regular work sheet that we get is it possible to get these line items? Toni Paine stated that Garth would have to handle this and Garth stated that he will discuss this with Eric. Eric has a letter written out for him with this request.
Eric also stated that he wanted to clarify something that took place during the February 27th Technology Meeting, he had mentioned that he wanted to see a line item in the Board of Education Budget for Technology. He didn’t think he made himself clear to the board members. We need to have a line item of expenditures in there every year so we know that we have that money allocated for computers which we must maintain if we want to have our students be successful in that field. So I suggest we put in a line item in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Howard Horvath is very excited that we have agenda item 07-23 which will help us move forward and catch up in the area of technology. I also want to say thank you to the people on the committee, Lenny and Tommy as well as all my colleagues on the Board as well as Superintendent Andrees all of them showed up to put together an outstanding and comprehensive plan that allows us to move forward tonight. He wanted to thank everyone for their hard work and extra effort in a short time frame.

Jerry Calabritto stated they had a Finance Committee Meeting and they approved a very modest Capital Improvement Budget and he wanted to reiterate what he said at the end of the meeting. It disturbs him that we had to take out the Homeland Security School and the fact that New Haven is going into cooperation with UNH because of the financial straits that our city is in. He would hope that some day when this city does get back on its financial track that it can consider investing in the future of our children like New Haven does. Hopefully we can get back on track and get some schools built and take care of our children. It really disturbs him that it is going to be New Haven building a Magnet School in our town because we didn’t have the funds available. New Haven is willing to expend these funds and it is going to be in our town and this really disturbs him. Let’s hope that down the road things will be better.

Eric Murillo stated that Agenda Item 07-23 should read Committee Chair Request (not Board Member) Howard Horvath agreed and said that is correct and asked if he was saying the language needed to be corrected. George Monahan stated the language should say Committee Chair. The minutes will reflect the change in the language to read Committee Chair rather than Board Member.

He also wanted to thank the IT department for doing such a wonderful job in their presentation and also Mark Palmieri for bringing up some of the names and references that we needed for some of this information to get this passed for us.

D.1. Approval of Minutes:

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting, February 5, 2007 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building

D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Technology Committee Meeting, February 5, 2007 6:00 p.m. at the Blake Building
D.1.c. Special Meeting West Haven Board of Education of the Whole, Finance – Capital Plan, February 27, 2007 6:00 p.m. at the Blake Building (enclosure)

D.1.d. West Haven Board of Education Technology Committee Meeting, February 27, 2007 6:30 p.m. at the Blake Building

D.1. Approval of Minutes all inclusive
Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve D.1.a through D.1.d all inclusive.
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No discussion
All members were in favor
Motion carries

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

07-17 Paul R. DeFonzo, Assistant Principal, Carrigan
Effective: July 1, 2007
Reason: Retirement

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

07-18 Michael Gilbert, Driver/Custodian – Food Services Dept.
Effective: February 28, 2007
Reason: Personal

07-19 Ellen Williams, 10 Month Clerk, WHHS
Effective: February 11, 2007
Reason: Personal

D.4. New Hire (Certified)

07-20 Robert Franklin James, 310 Jackson Ave., Stratford, CT
Science Teacher, Carrigan Middle School
Effective: April 23, 2007
Starting Salary: $52,996.08 (Step 9 B.S. + 30)

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve D.2. through D.4. inclusive
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No Discussion
All members were in favor
Motion carries

E. New Business
Approval of Field Trip for ten students from Grades 11 and 12 to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference Competition in Orlando, Florida on April 27th – May 2nd

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 07-21
George Monahan seconded the motion
No Discussion
All members were in favor
Motion carries

Correspondence from Chris Everone Requesting an increase of rental fees for the Concession Stand - Fitzgerald Complex

Ray Collins made a motion to approve 07-22
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion
Discussion:  Eric Murillo stated that in June we will have a new contract and I think we should start thinking about what we will do with the Concession Stand regarding if we are going to give it to the stadium or my suggestion is to bring it over to Food Service to have them manage it and we will find a way to transfer some funds from Food Service to the stadium.

Chairman Paine said this suggestion is duly noted. Everyone give this some thought.

Bob Guthrie said the motion here is to put the item out to bid and it would stay in the Fitzgerald Complex. The problem we had before and Mr. Sawyer is here, I believe, is if the bid goes out perhaps it could be specific about when payments are due so it doesn’t become in the arrears as it has in the past. Again, we don’t get to draw up the bid but it certainly would be the Board’s prerogative to make sure payments are in a timely fashion.

Jerry Calabritto asked where is the comparison from the current rates and what we are increasing them to.

Garth stated that the item is misleading because this is not a request to increase the rental fees this is a request to put the concession stand back out to bid because the bid expires in June of this year.

Jerry stated his question is that item 7-22 is requesting an increase of rental fees for the Concession Stand but my back up shows the rental fees for the field. Where is the back up for the concession stand? There is nothing here; this is the request we asked him to do at budget time to find out what the rental fees in surrounding towns were.
Chairman Paine said during budget time we already pre-OK’d this in case it did have to be increased. Jerry said we did not do anything at the Field. We are going to increase the rink and we did nothing at the stadium.

Chairman Paine told Mr. Calabritto if you want this information we will get it for you.

Jerry Calabritto stated he though we should table this item until we get it.

Bob Guthrie stated that on item 07-22 the Concession Stand Rental Fee Payments are up to date. A check of $9,000.00 was deposited on January 8, 2007 leaving a balance of $1,000.00. This is on the first page so therefore I believe it is a two year contract. It would be $5,000.00 per year. He is requesting to put that out to bid.

All members were in favor
No One was opposed
Motion carries

07-23 Request from Committee Chair Howard Horvath Jr. to

- Purchase computers for the two Labs in disrepair
- Receive a proposal for what it will take to support Power School on the network for the high school and middle schools
- Move forward on the District Wide Plan

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve 07-23
George Monahan seconded the motion for purpose of discussion.

1. George stated we were all briefed at the technology meeting and went through issues in great detail. I would like to request we consider modifying the motion to the extent that we agree on the power school point that some upgrades to the system are required to handle what it is currently being asked to do. We will also be expanding to the middle schools and beyond and the hardware definitely needs some upgrades and additional equipment to be effective.

2. Everyone agrees that the two computer labs that are proposed which involve about 60 work stations are sorely in need.

3. What he would like to do now is to expand this motion to empower Dr. Andrees and her staff to take whatever monies that may be left over beyond these action items and upgrade as many additional schools as we can. Since the recommendation is that we should upgrade entire schools at a time whenever possible we know we can do two maybe three additional schools with the money allocated.
Jerry has no problem modifying his motion if George will withdraw his second. George will do this.
Chairman Paine thought all of this was part of the District Wide Plan and we could just vote as stated. George said for clarification, the district wide plan involved lots of long term issues that would not be done this year. The additional enhancement of complete computer systems in schools would be done this year and I am trying to make the motion to authorize Dr. Andrees and her staff to do this with the monies that are available.

The motion to be voted on will now read:

1. **Purchase the computers for the two labs in disrepair.**
2. **Make the system changes to support the Power School Piece.**
3. **Add as many additional school new computer workstation roll outs as funding will allow.**
4. **Continue to look at the District Wide Plan which is a multi or long term issue.**

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve motion 07-23 with the new wording above George Monahan seconded this motion

Discussion:

Eric Murillo understands that we need computers at Washington and Pagels but spending all the money on computers without looking at the leasing program would not be feasible it would be wasting a lot of money. We should find a contract with the State to get the computers through a 3 year program and use the difference to implement all the other important things mentioned; network infrastructure, servers, network, switches etc. all the things we need in order to make this plan work long term. If we take the $300,000 and put it towards the computers I don’t know if we will be able to get it all done. This is my suggestion.

Mark Palmieri asked if we were going to continue to move forward on all the other hardware issues that we have that need repair.

Patti Fusco said what we discussed is rather than doing one school at a time which is what the consultant suggested we felt it would be more equitable to do one grade at a time so that all 5th grade machines are the same, all 4th grade machines are the same so that every child in West Haven has an opportunity to see some new equipment. We will be doing the switches and so forth as we do each school. We have a plan to put those in as well.

Mark asked about passwords for everyone.

Patti stated they looked into active directory and will be instituting that at the high school and middle schools. This has been costed out and the decision as to whether we will be doing it or someone else is pending. We are looking to do it ourselves as it is expensive to outsource.
Mark asked what is falling under the district wide plan; are we addressing all the needs the gentlemen who were here last week mentioned under their plan.

Dr. Andrees stated they brought up some really great points and some of the things that are coming out of that is:

1. We are looking at the Help Desk which gives us an option to track where our machines are and where our difficulties are and gives us a chance to plan with some data to make those decisions.

2. Parent Portal has been very popular. This will give us the opportunity to continue to implement this at the high school. This has shown the most parent support as anything in a long time and we are excited about this and want to keep that moving forward.

3. We spend a lot of money on printers. A lot of our staff’s time is spent on repairing old printers. We are now looking at how to network printers so we can save on cartridges and save time and efficiency. They would be placed in strategic places in the buildings as opposed to a building where you have 43 classrooms you might have 60 printers with different cartridges etc.

We have tried to follow that plan as closely as possible. Some of the things are not going to work for us. We talked about doing one school at a time. We are fortunate to have some money today and if we did one school at a time by the time we got to the 8th or the 11th school eight years from now the hardware is no longer effective. The plan we looked at is how to make sure every school gets something. We have gone from an A to Z process based on the information from Network Corp and others we have had discussions with including Paul Tortora. As money comes in we will continue to go down that list and continue to add whether it is software, infrastructure or hardware whatever it is that we need to continue to do and that is part of our plan.

Mark Palmieri stated he is all for this. He thinks what Mr. Murillo might have been stating, and I agree with, instead of putting it in our Capital Plan we need this. Just like having fuel for the schools we need this money. As Mr. Van Winkle stated this is not going away and we need this money every year for our children in this district and we need to add this as a line item in our yearly budget not a Capital Improvement.

George Monahan said what the point of this motion is that we are very confident with senior administration as well as our IT staff to understand what the long term plan is. We have $300,000 allocated for computer technology upgrades. The motion states spend the $300,000 in the most effective way to knock off as many of the action items as we can.

Neil Cavallaro stated that one of the things that Dr. Andrees alluded to is by implementing at grade level it allows us continuity in staff development which is very critical especially now when we are just starting to plan our staff development for next year. When the Board Members went to the schools they were most impressed with this.
Chairman Paine asked if we were ready to vote.
All Board Members were in favor
Motion Carries

Chairman Paine asked for a motion to move into Executive Session
Mark Palmieri made the motion
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion
All Members voted in favor
Motion Carries

Board Members moved into executive session at 8:20 p.m.
Board Members returned at 8:40 p.m.

E. New Business (Continued)

07-24  Action taken on Assistant Superintendent’s Contract

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve item 07-24 Approval of Assistant Superintendent’s Contract as presented to this body
Mark Palmieri seconded this motion
No Discussion
All Board Members voted in favor
Motion carried

E. New Business (Additions)

07-25  Board Action on Paraprofessional contract

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve item 07-25
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No Discussion
No Board Members opposed
1 Board Member abstained (Ray Collins)
Remaining Board Members voted in favor
Motion Carries

07-26  Board Action on participation in the New Haven-Yale Saturday Seminar and the Yale-New Haven Summer High School (Inter-district Cooperative Grant proposal)

Robert Guthrie made a motion to approve item 07-26
George Monahan seconded the motion
No discussion
All Board Members voted in favor
Motion carries
**07-27 Board Action on Take A Seat Program**
Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve item 07-27
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No discussion
All Board Members voted in favor
Motion carries

**F. Informational**

Bob Guthrie stated we have a letter from our colleague Mr. Murillo and he would ask if he would have the time to stop in and work with our staff if he had specific items. We will certainly be generating a lot of paperwork and staff time for accounting. I don’t know if you have something particular if so I suggest you come up here.

Eric didn’t know what type of summary he would be able to get so he will talk to Garth about this.

Mark Palmieri stated that the West Haven Basketball Team lost tonight to Bridgeport Central.

Eric Murillo wanted to thank Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro on behalf of the Board for all his help and stated that he did a great job while he was acting as the Interim Superintendent.

Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn
Jerry Calabritto seconded the motion
All voted in favor
The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Clerk