Prior to the beginning of the Board Meeting Mayor Picard swore Cebi Waterfield in as a board member. Board members congratulated her and looked forward to working with her.

Mayor Picard congratulated the West Haven High School Cheerleaders for competing in the National High School Cheerleading Competition in Orlando, Florida. He recognized the cheerleaders for their dedication and hard work and stated how proud they made the City of West Haven. March 7, 2011 was proclaimed by Mayor Picard as West Haven High School’s cheerleading Team Day. Pictures were taken of the Cheerleaders and cake and refreshments were served.

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 255 Main Street, West Haven, CT on March 7, 2011 and then moved to the Harriet North Room due to the large number of attendees. The meeting was called to order by T. Sean Maher, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:05 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
- Sean Maher, Vice Chairman
- Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
- M. Toni Paine
- Dorinda Borer
- Mark Palmieri
- Robert Saley
- Cebi Waterfield
- Patrick Egolum
- Howard Horvath Jr., Chairman arrived at 7:35 PM

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:
- Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
- Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance
Sean Maher welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for March 7, 2011. Because there is some information that will be given in the presentations that might be valuable for those who are planning on speaking he requested a consensus of the board to see if the presentations could take place before the Public Session. All board members present agreed to this. Sean then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Cavallaro.

C.1. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil thanked Sean and said the first presentation tonight is a returning student from WHHS who we are very proud of. A couple of months ago we honored her as a National Merit semi-finalist and we have since received news that she is now a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship which is quite a prestigious award. He welcomed to the board meeting Martha Jacobs. Applause followed. Neil stated it was wonderful to have her back and on behalf of the entire board we want to congratulate you and wish you well. He asked when she will find out who wins the scholarship and it was stated toward the end of March. Miss Jacobs said it was a great honor to receive this award and is thankful that the board decided to recognize her. Neil said we are very happy you are here. Applause. Mrs. Gardner, principal of WHHS, stated she was in high school education for 19 years and has encountered a lot of National Merit Semi-Finalists but very few who she has had the privilege of being in the high school with make it on to the finalist level. This is a really big deal and she is very confident that Martha is what they look for. She is very hopeful that she will do very well in the remaining parts of the contest and we are waiting to hear the results in March or mid April. She congratulated Martha Jacobs. Neil and the board wished her well and thanked her for coming. Patti Fusco took photographs. Everyone present offered their congratulations to Martha.

Neil said Ken Carney will be here but will be a little late so what he would like to do is introduce the new junior to represent the students at WHHS as a member of the Board of Education. Marum Majid is attending her first board meeting tonight and Superintendent Cavallaro welcomed her and read a little about the process on what it takes to become a student rep to the Board of Education. All juniors can apply, 18 students expressed interest and 5 completed the application and the essay. The faculty then expresses their views on the 5 students and based on the six pillars of character. The students are interviewed by faculty consisting of two administrators, two teachers and a guidance counselor and all five students were exceptional but Marum was the successful candidate and we want to welcome her here tonight. She is an active member of the student
newspaper, The Rostrum. She is a peer tutor, a member of the PRIDE Committee and Junior Class Council. She volunteers at the VA Hospital and works part time at Subway. Neil welcomed her. Applause. Neil said that our student reps over the past have been exceptional. Whether it was during the budget process last year or just making a statement about what things are really like at WHHS; things we assume but are not really sure. We want you to feel welcome here and if you have a question we want you to ask it and we want you to make comments and raise your hand and speak your mind and really represent the students well because you know sometimes better than we know.

Due to the large crowd a 10 minute recess was taken and the meeting moved to the Harriet North Meeting Room.

Neil said there are many presentations tonight and there is a sign up sheet for the Public Portion of this meeting which we will use for this meeting and then we will leave the microphone open to anyone who wishes to speak.

Neil stated as many of you know Pagels School has been trying to raise money for a Special Ed Playground. This has been a project for them for approximately the last year or so. Gina Prisco, Principal of Pagels School gave a presentation. She explained why they are looking for a universally accessible handicap playground. Pagels houses many children with very special needs. For equal access for not only the children at Pagels but for children all over the city we will be the only playground that would have access for wheelchair, for children with mobility issues and our area for play; the soccer field is utilized by not only Pagels School. The Catholic Schools use it during the Fall Soccer Season and the Community House uses it, West Haven Park and Rec uses it as well as West Haven Youth Soccer. It is used by all members of the community.

The idea was born by Mrs. Lori Nacca and her daughter Miranda was where our idea came from as a third grader she said why can’t everybody use our playground. We are fortunate enough to have an interior area where children can play if they can’t access the playground.

A pamphlet was passed out that outlined the proposal and gave updates as far as fund raising. This is a very expensive process. The project cost is approximately $140,000.00. A copy of the proposal is attached at the end of the minutes which states where donations have come from up to this point along with a form if anyone would like to donate. (Schedule A) Other fundraising events are listed on the website.

Alison McBride, the school psychologist said that 4% of the total funds that they have now have come from donations, 36% came from the PTA, and 31% came from the Movie Night which raised $3,000.00. They had a mini marathon which raised 2% and the grants raised 27%.

Rob Saley asked if they were holding a Touch a Truck Exhibit. Yes on May 22nd at WHHS. Alison stated that a band is hosting a benefit for us. They are meeting with Mind’s Eye Entertainment to set up that fund raiser and all the proceeds will go to the playground. The actual date has not yet been determined.
Rob asked if the playground will affect the additional parking that was requested two years ago. No it will not. The board gave thanks.

Neil didn’t see Ken Carney so Gina Prisco and Gary Palermo continued with a presentation on school uniforms. Neil said in his 25 years working in the Board of Education he has never seen something spread so fast and everybody seems to have an opinion. Gary and Gina have done a lot of the research and I want to make it clear that there have no decisions that have been made. This is the first night we are presenting something to the board. We will tell you where we are and the work that has been done and we will make a recommendation as to where we think we should go next but we are certainly open to any suggestions. Neil said that principals have discussed this with him for many years and parents and teachers have asked Neil and Anne if they ever thought about going to a school uniform. He added it to his agenda at an administrator’s meeting as something to talk about and it was enthusiastically received by the principals. I want to make this clear; this is not something that we said the board wants this done or that we are going to institute because I need to list it as an accomplishment or anything like that nothing could be further than the truth. I said if we are going to do anything with the school uniform it is going to be because parents have expressed the desire for us to move forward with it. It is not something that is going to come from the top down. If this is supported by parents we would do the best we can to support it and enforce any policies that we need to then have to enact. After the meeting a conversation was started with the PTA Presidents. I called Tracy Morrissey and said he represented the PTA Council and would like it brought up at her meeting and let everybody know and we want to see what the reaction is and if people support it and actually want it.

Gary and Gina were two principals that came to me and said we think based on our conversations with our PTA people we would like to try it. Neil thought that made sense as it was a school from the West Shore side of town and a school from the Center end of town and if there is support there maybe we can proceed on a Pilot basis.

Gary knew somebody from a uniform company and had a conversation to get some answers and we were proceeding. In the meantime because it seemed to have a lot of positive reaction some of the other schools took a poll. Forest did it through their PTA, Mackrille sent a quick note home, and Washington utilized the school phone messenger system to ask parents if they would or would not be interested in a school uniform and they all came back overwhelmingly positive. With the overwhelming support we didn’t know if we should do this on a small group basis or look at it from an elementary perspective. On Friday we had a meeting of our elementary principals and what we actually decided was it was something we can support and will support it if there is support so the best way to proceed is maybe do a school messenger and do a vote by school parents. If we come forward with an overwhelmingly positive response we can try to institute it on maybe a year pilot basis across the K-4 schools. Neil showed a copy of a letter that will be sent home if that is a direction they want him to go in and give everybody a specific date and time where they can actually expect a phone call from the school and they can do a vote. (Schedule B) It would be one vote per family.
Gary Palermo, Principal of Savin Rock, thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. He stated Neil covered a lot of it and on an informal basis Pagels and Savin Rock had a lot of collaboration over the years and last year when I was at Savin Rock we continued with shared programs and lots of different things. During registration many parents asked what the dress code was and what the uniform policy was. Gina said that is exactly what a lot of our new registrations are asking about at Pagels. We spoke to the Superintendent and really wanted to just put feelers out. Gina and I were able wear our parent hat and also our administrator hat to see how we felt and that is how the conversation started. Some of the schools actually did a survey. Gina will talk to you about the clothing. Please feel free to ask any questions.

Gina said when they met with Dennis Uniform Company we said we want something clean, neat looking but nothing elaborate. Samples were shown. Neil said that sneakers will be allowed at all times. Tan bottom, navy top – long or short sleeved but colored polo shirts. They also have multiple other items available. They have sweatshirts, quarter zips, jumpers and skorts for the girls. Shorts are also available. We asked what if there is a little bit of a financial hardship. They are comparable price wise. The boy’s pants cost is $16.50 with reinforced knees and very durable. She went to Wal-Mart and purchased a similar pair of pants and there is a $4.50 differential. Cost wise it is not unreasonable. There is an elastic waist on the back. If a parent was concerned financially this was too costly it’s $4.50 that is the difference. With a small child reinforced knees are something that many parents have asked for. They have also offered to us the uniform supply company days in the summer that would be strictly West Haven Days at the store where children can be fitted with clothing that West Haven is offering. They can have lots of customer service. They are willing to work with us on packages for parents and starter packages. As many of you know back to school shopping can be very expensive and this is very reasonable. We also discussed the PTA’s setting up clothes closets to pass down the uniforms or to sell them at a smaller cost to parents and siblings can now wear the same thing that their older brothers and sister wore. All pricing and packages will be made available through Dennis Uniform.

Gary said parents would be able to go wherever they wanted to purchase clothing if we went with the tan and dark blue. The school system wouldn’t direct people to a particular vendor. The superintendent made it very clear we would never pinpoint one vendor.

Rob Saley stated he was at Forest and they had a graph chart set up and if we are going with a pilot program he would like to see them included in it.

Rob asked what are you looking to accomplish; what are uniforms going to do in our elementary schools is what they have asked me. As a father of three that are out of the school system I told them what my views were so I would like to know what your views are on this. Before Gary and Gina answered the question Neil said it might be logical to say maybe we should start with the middle school which is maybe the most difficult and competitive but I think the consensus among our administrators was is that it is always easier to start with the lower grades and let it work its way up. Its not that we didn’t
think about Carrigan, Bailey or even WHHS in fact when we met with Dennis Uniform they went out of their way to say how enthusiastically Hill House High School has embraced uniforms this year and have added it to their Freshman Academy and will be working its way up.

Rob thinks it is a good idea but I want to hear what the administrators and teachers have to say so I think the parents out there would like to hear what you have to say.

Gary said speaking for the administrators school climate is a part of the CALI Wheel and historically data teams and academics were put in and then school climate would follow and I think the state is actually looking to put school climate issues first as a precursor to academics. I’m not going to stand here today and say the sole use of school uniforms is going to have a direct quantitative difference. I can assure you myself and my four colleagues at the elementary school level, one I haven’t spoken to, definitely feel that school uniforms will decrease certain negative behaviors in schools. You can feel the difference on picture day when the kids come in dressed up. I can give you lots of reasons as a Dad where fewer choices are better for little kids. I can’t think of many negatives about school uniforms except for maybe an economic situation for certain families. We have definitely been brainstorming on how to support all families. This is going to be all families or no families in our schools. Just like field trips all kids go. All kids get pictures. We have a way that when you do things to make sure it works. The principals are all in unison.

Gina said when you walk into the building it is a sense of community. Her staff has also embraced this and has expressed interest in and said we would like to be part of that. On the first day of school when everybody has their Pagels tee shirts on everybody feels they are a part of something. If you have your school uniform colors or your school uniform clothes on you are a part of that community and have Westie Pride.

Dorinda asked Neil if his letter is a recommendation on how to move forward or a letter to parents. Neil read the letter which is attached as Schedule B. Neil said he has spoken to some people who are not for this but there has been more positive feedback than negative.

Gina stated what a package would include and idea of what it would cost per year. A starter package would include two bottoms and 3 shirts either long or short sleeved polo shirts and that would be $85.00 for five pieces of clothing. They can do an all weather which would get them through the year which would include two bottoms, two short sleeved shirts, one long sleeved shirt, and the sweatshirt would be $100.00. You can add on to that a full year with 3 bottoms, 3 short sleeved shirts, two long sleeved shirts and a sweatshirt and that would be $150.00. They call that their full year package. This is just a sample and we can create other packages if you wanted shorts to be involved they offer shorts for both boys and girls. Neil passed out the Waterbury School Uniform Policy which is just a sample of what we could work off of and then if we were to proceed use it to develop our policy. Again we are trying to be open and listen to the concerns to tailor
it to meet West Haven’s needs. We have not moved forward with this yet and would love to hear your comments tonight. The board gave thanks.

Dorinda said she was asked if Board of Education funds would be used to subsidize the cost of uniforms for families who have difficulty paying for them. She asked if Neil could talk to Bridgeport, Hartford and New Britain and some of those cities that have mandatory uniforms to see how they handled that. Yes, Neil said yes. We do have our student activity accounts and believes it would be reasonable to use that. We might for the first year say put some funds aside just to get people started. What we heard is once it begins there isn’t a problem because there is a lot of trading among families and PTA’s setting up a second hand type store where they can raise some money and things like that. I think we can work around this and will look into it.

Rob said some of the PTA’s said they would help out if they had the money. Dorinda said she thinks we have to determine what that threshold will be because there are going to be families who say they can’t afford it and we are going to need to determine that threshold whether it be free and reduced lunch. Let’s look at what other schools do rather than reinvent the wheel. There are already programs out there we can look at. Neil said our administrators are great and know their families and we can certainly work things out with this if we needed to. We will look at it.

Cebi asked if we had any examples of other towns other than Hartford, Waterbury and Bridgeport that are more similarly situated such as East Haven or Milford or are there any other towns in Connecticut that are not large, urban cities that have this policy. Dorinda said Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, Norwich and Waterbury are some of the main towns that have mandatory. New Haven is select schools. Neil said a lot of the school districts don’t do it uniformly across the school district; a lot do it by schools. Middletown has some of their schools who do it and they are very comparable to West Haven. Naugatuck has some of their schools use school uniforms. A lot of schools have instituted them by school and not by district.

Cebi asked what would be the benefit or what would be the outcome that we were looking for from a Pilot Program. What would be the goal or the measurement where we would say this is successful or something we want to continue with it or is it going to be a phased in rollout of the uniform. Neil said we would like 100% compliance as close to day one when they come into the school. Cebi asked would there be something as well to measure what changes you see in the student body or the climate at the school. Something you can see such as much less arguing on the playground. Gary said we do keep data on everything so we would be able to compare next year with uniforms vs. this year with no uniforms and correlate this with simple discipline and correlate one with the other would be one piece of the pie. Last week at Savin Rock School we had eight new registrations that came in from all over the state, country and world actually. Those would be the bumps the first year how to get them up and running and make them feel comfortable as part of the school community. Neil said we can certainly incorporate this into our surveys used to develop base line data for school climate in general.
Toni Paine stated the handout on Article 5 School Attire was pretty comprehensive and it speaks of clothing assistance, religious and health accommodation so it is really good and I think it would be good for all of us to read this. (Schedule C). Neil said Floyd referred him to the Waterbury Board of Education Policy which he received on line. Neil thanked Gary and Gina for all the work they put into this.

A brief recess was taken for a picture of the board members for the WHHS yearbook.

B. Public Session

Public Session began at 7:55 PM

Christine El-Bakrri, 335 Captain Thomas Blvd. is here to help figure out what can be done to better feed our students. She has been a lunch aide at Mackrille School for three years. There are very few things that come out of our food kitchen at the high school that are fresh. The menu for the elementary schools are all the same and it seems like the only thing that comes out of the kitchen there is the tuna fish. That is the only fresh thing that is made at the school and it does come on a hot dog roll not with bread. The other things come from a couple of different companies. They are Preferred Meal systems Inc. out of Berkley, IL and another one is Preferred Meals Marymount Companies out of New York. There are some bulk things that are put into containers at the school and brought to the different elementary schools. We have no nutritional facts on any of these boxes that the food comes in. We do have ingredients but that is it. There are a couple of allergen foods that comes in most of the foods from these companies; soy being one of them in the top 3 to 4 ingredients in everything that we get. Soy is a big allergen and we are lucky that at Mackrille we have no student that is allergic to soy but she is sure at the other elementary schools they do. She showed examples of some of the food that has been served at her school. The reason she really started this was a cheeseburger they were getting which had 790 mg of sodium in it. A salt container she showed had 660 mg of sodium per serving so the cheeseburger has more sodium than a serving of salt. Add a chocolate or strawberry milk, add two tablespoons of ketchup and you have about 1300 mg of sodium in just that. The cheeseburger was produced on August 30th and frozen until we served it on January 31st. That is five months that it was frozen in packaging that she doesn’t believe is freezer safe for that long.

She went on to list other items grilled cheese (two types) one that is cooked and has been in her refrigerator and has no mold on it and one type that has not been cooked yet. One has 4 – 5 slices of cheese on it and thinks that is excessive. One of the grilled cheese sandwiches was served on January 24th and was produced on July 12, 2010. It was frozen for six months. She discussed macaroni and cheese which they call Soupy Mac which comes from Preferred Meal Systems in Berkley, IL and there is very little pasta or macaroni in it and this is what we are feeding our children. Our vegetables are another concern and it seems the vegetables we serve the most of are corn, potatoes of some sort and green beans on occasion. A pebble was found in the corn we served so we coined the phase pebble corn. The juices are another concern. Orange juice is the best that we serve and that comes from Florida. Blue Berry Juice has apple, pear, and pineapple juice and
Blue 1. She is not sure why we have to put food coloring into our juices. Apple juice is 100% juice however the concentrates come from 5 different countries; Poland, United States, Chile, China and Argentina. Connecticut has a slew of orchards we can’t find apple juice from one of them. There must be some other form of apple juice we can get. A further discussion took place about fruit mostly apples and oranges. Nectarines, peaches and bananas we rarely see. We need a bigger variety. Other items discussed were the chicken cutlet with a dark color and she was told it was dark meat, chicken soup has 47 ingredients, and the Beef Salisbury Patty has 92 ingredients. It seems like an awful lot of ingredients to put in anything. The menu is constantly changing and this presents a problem when the kids find out. The cookies come from as far away places as Hawaii and El Salvador. Students are allowed milk, milk and a juice or two juices but are charged 50 cents for water. The equipment doesn’t work well, the convection oven is broken 50% of the time the food is burned, and the breakfast items are full of sugar. We should grow our own vegetables and fruit. It would be great to have kids involved and New Haven does this. Would you want your child to eat this. The board gave thanks.

Michelle Caprio, 14 Middle Field Road invited Mr. Belchak to come to a meeting but he never responded. There are not enough trays in the schools and when they are used they are only wiped down not washed thoroughly. A discussion about the amount of sodium in hamburgers took place along with things previously mentioned and vending machines. School lunches are purchased through food surplus. Fruit and vegetable gardens are an excellent idea. 31.7% of our children are obese and there should be more exercise during the day not just 10 minutes. She stated the board appears to be listening but does nothing and would like to see changes made.

Lea Caprio, Michelle Caprio’s daughter said she would not like there to be uniforms. She would like to express herself with true colors. Other kids may want them but I know that some other kids do not want uniforms but it is your decision. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Rosemary Russo, 115 Phesan Road congratulated Cebi Waterfield for becoming a new board member. She felt that the budget meeting which took place on January 24th that began at 6:00 PM and ended at 6:45 PM was too brief. Mrs. Borer and Mr. Saley asked questions and Mrs. Borer was interrupted and a vote was taken. Seeing that an extra three million was requested we should have more questions. More time should have been spent discussing the increase in salaries for coordinators, bus aides and other personnel. Why was there no increase in textbooks etc. The board should hold this to checks and balances. She didn’t understand why they didn’t. Mrs. Borer’s idea was great about the garden and should be explored after the presentation tonight.

Sheila Krajcir, 2 Park Ridge Rd. discussed school uniforms. She is a 7th grade computer teacher at Bailey. Both of her children are wearing uniforms. The cost savings with uniforms is much better than purchasing clothing from stores like Abercrombie and Fitch. People should not be judged by what they wear. You wear clothing to protect yourself from the elements. Judges, police officers, fire fighters, nurses etc. all wear some type of
uniform. Start this in the kindergarten first. There should be academics first in schools not a fashion show.

The Board gave thanks

David Hall, 78 Ocean Avenue commented on the missed board meetings due to lack of a quorum. He stated board members shouldn’t be on the board if they can’t make a commitment to be there at meetings. He asked board members to please live up to their commitment.

The Board gave thanks.

Erik Brown, 31 Molloy Road presentation follows on the next page.
In course of the past year after closing the schools and moving board of ed. The scheduled meetings have been cancelled without notice. Just a note on the door stating it has been cancelled. The board is lacking mutual respect by the community being in the paper. No public input on the canceling days on winter vacation. It was just implemented. I went to drop off my kids several times last month to Haley school. Problems with the bus still arriving to school late and coming home late. Seeing a person outside the school with a clipboard checking on the busses. Problem is still happening. Last week my kids came home past 4:15 pm.

Now we don’t know if the school budget will be approved by the mayor or city council. What will the district do if the budget isn’t passed? Our schools are ranking towards the bottom of the state rankings. The attention should be improving the curriculum. Then worrying about school uniforms. Teasing and bullying is an event that just doesn’t happen at school it will just follow the person home. We know Pagels and Savin Rock had an increase enrollment from a school that was closed from Molloy and Thompson. I know I requested earlier this school year to have my kids relocated to Pagels. This could be one of the reasons why teasing at those schools. This wasn’t a problem seen at Molloy. For the few that created the problem will be penalizing everyone.

Reasons for not implementing school uniforms. As a parent like myself have problems with it. Studies have shown it has not work. The School system have bigger problems then paying attention of what people are wearing. They don’t know how to enforce the dress code that they already have. I don’t know how many students were sent home because of the policy that is in place. More school districts change the policy back to no uniforms. Like Richmond County Georgia. The reasons, teachers are more worried about the policing of uniforms then imposing the curriculum. Do we want to follow in the footsteps of Bridgeport and Hartford school system. State testing scores show no improvement in testing.

Facts from studies have shown students that were forced to wear uniforms have shown lower standardize test scores, no reducing of gang or school violence. Florida DOE in 2007 stated that it showed no decrease in some areas it has shown an increase in violence. Other studies it has also shown no decrease of drug use in schools. It has also shown no increase of academic achievement, no direct effectiveness on attendance. Same finding were found by Norte Dame university study.

School moral or spirit it is done within the person and not through clothing being worn. Some studies state children are fighting an uphill battle to survive socially in a educational environment. A uniform policy is likely to make them feel a lot worse. We have enough regulations in place.

Some people it will be economically effected. People thinking it will be cost effective are wrong. As school professionals as we like to call you. You should be aware that children grow not just educationally. Children have growth spurts in the course of the school year. This would mean we as parent need to spend an additional $120 - $150 for
clothing on top of the clothing that is spent at the beginning of the yr. Without or no financial help for the economically challenged. The money that may be spent by parents for students to going into your classroom will be approximately just under $2,000,000 if you multiply students and cost for purchasing of and replacing uniforms. 6100 X 150 = $915,000 multiply that by 2 for replacement in course of the year. Will be 1,830,000 dollars that could be better spent. Students were polled that may not be attending Washington next year. This may create stacking the deck for uniforms. When parents know that their kids won’t be attending next year. How about polling the hole school expect the out going seniors.

The additional money can be aimed at paying for property taxes, paying off utilities or putting food on the table for some people. It is almost like being penalized for having a child going to public schools. Not saying this is a tax. Money can be better spent by the parents. Now as a parent my if children first goes to school dressed up in a penguin uniform then comes home. First thing they will do is change into street clothes. Still having to stress on what they may look like from being away from the shelter of the school. This will create twice the load of laundry that a person will have to do.

This would not stop teasing by students. They will tease them about something else maybe their shoes, they get reduced lunch, house they live in or what side of the street they are located at. It won’t stop the outside environment they will still have the brand name label when they are outside of school classrooms.

The only money to be made is by Dennis uniform and other outlets that sell the uniform We have no guarantee that big boxes are able to carry the uniforms that will be questioned. A Bridgeport firm stated how elated he was to able win the Hartford school system. He stated sales will be over a million a year for his company from Hartford parents. Money should go into the school system rather than the clothing companies.

Some parents won’t go out and be able to buy the uniform from Dennis uniforms they would go out and buy some lower brand name and their child will still be made fun of because of that brand name that was bought. Uniforms are known to fade quicker than others in midseason of the school year they are claimed not to be acceptable, some don’t last as long as others. Then there is a different interpretation of color blue by different companies, it can be considered as Black, dark blue, navy blue. Don’t say it isn’t happening. It has happened number to times across the country. Some school districts in the country. Students have been pulled form classroom. Teachers and educators were sidetracked in the school uniforms shirts being tucked belts being worn and shoes being not being clean.

Honor students have been known to loose scholarships, suspended and having a permanent mark on their record. Because of they clothing that have worn. School administrators should be more worried about education then the knit picking that on clothing. They would rather have children be out of class and sent home. Pulled out of a line from classmates and made to wait while other classmates are able to enter there class. This would cause an undue hardship on the child. That may cause them to feel humiliated in front of their peers.

It costs me less going to a big chain store to buy clothes. When the have a clearance sale, or me going to a thrift store to shop regular clothing. I can dress my whole family for less then $120 a yr. The only one making money is the uniform companies that
provide the service. There is no guarantee that the store will have the uniform in stock causing us to drive store to store. With cost of energy going up will also chew a hole into our pockets.

There are a few people at the PTA level making decisions of the whole. There is no impact study that it would create for the parent or of the students. They say their will be a poll. I have been told a poll was already taken at Washington school for colors to be worn. I heard about this program by NHK and word of mouth by some other parents. It looks like the decision is made. It will be like all the students like robots.

We didn’t have that problem last year. The reasons are because administrators are passing the buck passing on to the parents of the students. Some administrators now how to stop and not allow it to happen. You the BOE and mayor decided to close the two schools. Your administration needs to take the bull by the horns rather than passing the buck on the parents. This year has been stressful for both parents and students of the closed schools. It was also stressful for the teachers and students. With new faces teachers, and building. School need to face the problem of bullying. Students need to be able to express individuality, and not to limit our cultural expression.

Now for the farm. The city may have missed filing for the grant from the feds. The forms should have been filled out by November and a new round needs to be done by Mar 15th. Then it would have be reawarded in September. After the growing season. We as citizens of West Haven would have to fork out money for irrigation, security an several added expense that will not be covered by the grant. The money can be better used in the schools as teachers, books, and transportation.

There maybe a higher influx of students coming into our schools next year. The Board doesn’t want to be caught short. It will be harder to gain back control of the building if they given back to the city. The board needs to wait for judgment from OCR complaint that has been filed. Molloy was rank towards the top last year. The other schools may have performed worse. The Board has a full deck and needs to play one card at a time.

Erik Brown

The board gave thanks.

Nancy Rossi, address welcomed the new board member Cebi Waterfield and new student Rep Marum Majid. She understands that it is not always possible to come to every board
meeting. Things happen in people’s lives. She has missed meetings also but there is no record of who could actually come to the meeting and who couldn’t if the meeting was cancelled for no quorum. She feels that people should show up for the meeting and if there is no quorum then cancel it.

She then spoke about uniforms and said they may have a financial concern for some families. She liked the idea that the cost will be explored. She is not against uniforms but hopes if implemented it will be on a fair basis if families can’t afford it. $150 may not seem like a lot of money but to some it is.

She then spoke about FOI requests stating that anyone who requests documents has to pay for them. She made some FOI request to show there were inequities in discipline and needed documentation to prove this. Mr. Horvath is aware of what I am talking about and was a member of the board committee at that time. The provost was hired to have equal discipline and Mr. Ogren has done a phenomenal job. That change was necessary. I was also FOI’d five times for various requests.

She asked who was paying the utility bills at Blake and Thompson and felt that the farm at Molloy should be looked into. There is a need to see figures and what it will entail. The same thing is being done with the Community Garden in Allingtown. She look forward to the next phase which will be exploratory where you look into all of this and report back to the Board of Ed and the public and see if it is a worthwhile venture. She was extremely impressed. She has come to Board of Ed meetings; this is my 11th year and I love the parents to be passionate about their children doing their homework and doing the research. I have to say they have done an absolutely wonderful job. I want to know if anyone has read the article in the paper about the evaluation of the Superintendent. I have asked Mr. Cavallaro’s office because it has been stated that no one has done an evaluation here in four years. That is not the information I am getting but I do not have a document to disprove it so I have asked his office to go back since Dr. Onofrio and go forward to see if there were evaluations done on any other superintendent.

Last but not least I do want to say I was taken back by the idea that I have a grudge. If I had a grudge with someone I would have never supported him for the Superintendent’s position. When Dr. Andrees announced her resignation and there was talk on the board at that time to do an outside search and I didn’t agree with that at the time. I believed Mr. Cavallaro deserved the position and that he should get the position. I never spoke against it in the minutes.

Do I have a problem yes I am very upset with Molloy School being closed. I go by that school everyday and yes there are people there because the Community House is there however I would love to see it re-opened as a school. I’m concerned because they are saying now that Living Word is going to close their K-8 or K-12 she doesn’t know exactly what they have there but if that happens where will these children go. I think Molloy School was wonderful and as far as somebody here or anywhere telling me to
mind my own business if the 7th District isn’t my business whose business is it. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Tracy Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive wanted to clarify things about uniforms. Somehow it is getting out there that PTA Council is endorsing uniforms. I want to set the record straight. It was a dialog the Superintendent opened up with PTA Council. I had presented it at one of the meetings and asked if there was anybody interested in it to go back and tell their schools and PTA Presidents and do some surveys. Out of the 9 schools 3 came back to PTA Council and presented. That was Forest School which was in favor of it and did a nice job presenting, Washington School did a home poll and Mackrille did a paper ballot. What concerns me are the three large schools that have not been polled at all. Seth Haley, Savin Rock, and Pagels. The principals are excited about it but I need to make sure that the parents are included in this and have a say. The children have not been polled. Some of the parents have said khaki pants will get dirty what about blue pants. I have heard questions about plus sizes and the cost. Again these are tough economic times and kids wear hand me down clothes that people can’t tell are hand me down clothes. Parents ask if the board of education going to pay for my children’s new clothes $500 - $600.00. These are real questions that need to be answered. If the letter goes home I think a pricing package should be included with that so parents know exactly how much they have to dish out of their pocket. The other things are Freedom of Information. Other parents are upset that the whole district is not being polled; it is just being polled at the elementary school. I hear that you can’t get the kids to conform to the policy codes at the high school and middle school what makes you think that you will with the uniform. What about young children coming to school who are four and five whose parents don’t dress them in a uniform. Is it there fault? How are you going to discipline them? The PTA’s are willing to help; they don’t have any funds they are having enough problems raising funds for end of the year trips, parties and that stuff I don’t see anybody being able to come up with money for uniforms.

As I said it is open dialog and I was told that it would be piloted in two schools to see how it goes and then the next thing I know is it was taking on legs and running. So the PTA Council is not endorsing it. They have opened up the dialog and we would like to see a lot more of these schools polled and see where the numbers come back. We would like a pricing letter included and I do have a couple of parents that would like to be representatives on this uniform committee and some children also would like to be involved in the process.

Founder’s Day is March 30th and you should have received your letters in the mail; it is a great night. All the money goes toward scholarships for the senior children from the school system. We hope to see you there. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Karyn Doherty, 28 Woodvale Road came here as the voice of the West Haven PTA Council. They are disappointed in the number of cancelled meetings due to lack of quorum. This leads the public to wonder what is going on behind closed doors and what is the true motivation of most of the board members. Regardless of what is on the agenda
it is there for a purpose. Although you may not feel it is important others in the community do. The board member that stated publicly that he doesn’t find the need to attend meetings when there is nothing very important on the agenda should be ashamed. If that is not what was stated it should be publicly clarified as to what was said. Whatever your motivation you ran and were elected to work in the best interest of the children in our education system. You know the commitment required of this position and it should be taken seriously. It is a total disgrace that a number of you do not take this position seriously and truly for the best interest of our education system. There are people on the board that really do take the position seriously, get to the heart of the issues and are extremely visible and active. That is what we would expect from every member that is elected. We ask that you really ask yourself why you are here and accepted the position. We also ask that you truly work for the best interest of our education system. We face serious situations and ask that you keep the meetings scheduled and attend them and give the necessary support needed and required to make our system work to its utmost potential. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Toni Paine, 7 Woody Crest temporarily at 704 Ocean Avenue as I was flooded out of my house. I really was not going to address or answer to what was in the paper about people not attending. In the ten going on eleven years I have been on the board I have only missed a meeting, and by the way I was one of the people not at that meeting and I am not afraid to say that. The only meetings I have missed were due to medical reasons. It was either medical or I had surgery which is also medical. The last meeting I wouldn’t wish what I went through to anyone during those few weeks. On Friday I finished up with my last chemotherapy session and I Monday had to have two root canals so if any of you here could have attended a meeting with that you are to be commended. I wouldn’t wish what I went through on anybody.

As far as to why people are sitting here the last woman who came up in 100% right. You need to say to yourself why am I here; why am I sitting here; why am I on the Board of Education. That leads me to this and this I am alluding to welcoming you (Cebi). I too would like to welcome Cebi Waterfield. Actually it is Cebi Miller Burns Waterfield. I know she will be a great asset to the West Haven Board of Education. This isn’t because she has been part of the PTA although being a part of the PTA will enable her to see some of the information a bit sooner and first hand. Rather she will do a great job because she brings with her an ethical view on all matters. I have known Cebi for many years and I am fully aware of the fact that she comes from a civic minded family. I know her siblings, her parents, her dad is retired from the West Shore Fire Department. I know her aunts, knew her grandmother and grandfather. Her grandfather is a retired policeman. Her grandmother cared for so many children through the art of dancing. Yes she will do a great job because she is doing it for the right reasons. She is not using it as a political platform for advancement. She is not doing it because she is looking for employment for herself or her relatives and not because of a situation that she didn’t like that would lead her to make her life’s sole purpose a vendetta to disparage or denigrate. She will do a good job and make the right decisions because it is the right thing to do and she is doing it for the right reasons; all 6,100 of them so Cebi welcome! Applause. The board gave thanks.
Shayleen Morton, 76 Platt Ave had three things she wanted to say about the school uniforms. She went to Laurelton. You can make a uniform look as classy or as trashy as you choose to it is not a problem. I haven’t decided whether I’m for it or against it. It would be easier but I’m not entirely sure because if we could enforce the dress code we have now that is what we need to work on. Enforced rules we have don’t change the rules because the kids aren’t following them. They need to follow the rules that are already there. Girls coming in with halter tops should be dealt with now. There is no reason why kids can’t get their clothes from any store. If we make them follow a standard now that is what is going to help them. They need to go out in the world and they need to know how to go out and present themselves. There are no life lesson skills being taught in terms of if you walk into a room and you look at people and you shake their hand that is more important. I have seen guys going to Notre Dame in West Haven with the pants down and their shirts untucked and they look like slobs. A uniform is not going to change the character of the person. That is another piece we have to worry about.

In terms of the pricing everybody keeps alluding to the package but that is that one uniform company. I have a big concern about putting an emblem on the shirts. Neil said they talked about it and it may be optional. That would really limit where you bought it. She asked where the uniform company was from was it West Haven. Orange, CT was the response. We are not even promoting West Haven business. If we are going to spend money at least do a local business. Keep the money in town. You have to look at the Wal-mart option and other options. Putting a child in one outfit will not change the kid’s actions; work on the actions first. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Sandra LoRusso, 75 Tuthill works at Carrigan and would like to talk about uniforms. At Carrigan four years ago we had a young lady who was taken out and placed in a state home. I would see her everyday and she was transported back and forth to Meriden. I felt bad for the little girl and convinced my sister Debbie to take her in as a foster child. When she came to us what she brought with her you could put in a duffle bag and what she did have was threadbare, dingy and not the latest style. Her friends like her were poor kids that were the have not’s. They spent most of their time in Mr. Morrissey’s office being disciplined. I watched this young lady blossom. Now she has many outfits and shoes thanks to my sister’s generosity and it made a big difference in her life. If you asked her if she wanted a uniform she would probably tell you no. But I can tell you just watching what this child went through I think that uniforms are a wonderful idea because to children who are have not’s it does make a difference in their education. Maybe to those of us who can afford to give our kids things it doesn’t make that much of a difference but for those children whose parents can’t afford it or who don’t care I’m very much in favor of uniforms.

David Orio, 375 Captain Thomas Blvd. is a long time food service employee. He felt he needed to respond to the presentation. Mr. Belchak caters to all the schools and listens to all their needs. He could probably talk for an hour but will keep this very short; just a couple of issues.
The hamburgers and cheeseburgers were something new that Mr. Belchak tried and realized they didn’t work out and being the store keeper there I know they are gone – never to be served again. We try to come up with different items on the menu. The macaroni and cheese kids love it. Our accounts go through the roof when it is on. It is a big item on our menu. Every Tuesday we have fresh fruits and vegetables and we serve salads a couple of times a week all fresh. There are a lot of things I can go on and on about like government requirements for each meal which all our meals meet. I know Alan works with some of the school nurses on what the meals are made out of and sodium and all these things. We really try to bend over backwards for what the kids want. We are working on a budget and I am sure we can give them a little better food but obviously the price of the meals will go up. We are working on a budget here. I had to get up and respond because I know our department works very hard and I take offense that it is being attacked. Do we make a mistake occasionally; of course. We serve about 4,000 meals a day and not everybody is going to be happy with their meal but if you serve ten people in a regular restaurant I’m sure somebody will not like their meal. We are serving 4,000 a day! I would just like to leave it as before you have an opinion on our department, I know Mrs. Paine has been in the kitchen and Mr. Saley spent the better part of a day down there and I think he learned a lot when he came, I would urge you to come and spend a couple of hours to see our operation and what we serve and take in before you come up with any decisions. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Margaret Krystynsky, 1 Robart Street didn’t agree with what the last speaker said. She knew that most of the kids at Carrigan throw most of the food away. They won’t have anything to do with the food. If food comes from out of the country and is not made in the United States I won’t let my children eat it I won’t even cook with it. How dare they give the kids something from El Salvador and Poland. I want American made food. I don’t care if they only have a certain amount of money. You produce food right here in this country what is wrong with you that you have to go out of the country.

The kids charge too when they go through the line and don’t have money. One child has a bill for $40.00 and his parents do not have the money to pay and they have been told that they have to feed that child. You want two million something added to your budget and where are we going to get that in West Haven we don’t have it. You are giving students things made with 790 mg of sodium. I wouldn’t touch it with a 10 ft pole. I look for the sodium content in everything I buy. No wonder Mrs. Obama is stressing obesity and that is why our kids are so fat. I’m glad I came tonight because I heard a lot. I’m sorry for the kids in this community right now after listening to what they are being fed. I’m not getting much for my tax dollars in this community. The roads are horrendous and you get 81 million dollars from the city last year and this year you want almost 3 million more. I don’t know if you are going to get it.

I’m for school uniforms because the kids look a lot better off in a uniform and the parents don’t have to worry what to put on that child. As far as that package you can go to Wal-Mart and get the pants cheaper and her grandson doesn’t complain about the uniform. She would donate to any parent $150 out of her own pocket to anybody that needs that money and there are a lot of other people including the administrators that can take it out
of their own pocket because they make the money to pay for someone who doesn’t have it. You see I put my money where my mouth is and I’ll donate it to somebody who doesn’t have it. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Eric Reynolds, 71 Bluff Avenue said it was an interesting meeting tonight. The lack of standard I guess is what is happening here. The food stinks and the clothing is not that great. I will let the collective wisdom of the board, teachers, principals and let this play out with what they think is best. But I’ll add my two cents. I’m the parent and it is time now that we become the parents again. I’m the boss in my house and what I say goes. If I don’t like what you are wearing you are out that is it. With school uniforms and the lack of manners and etiquette and you name it in children today because most of you know what I deal with on a non profit basis. I see it all. The kids suffer because there is no control in some families. We need to control the situation again the rich will suffer the ones that work harder and provide more have to step back and allow the others to fit in. If you are truly a person of education and wisdom you will allow that to happen because that is how you learn how to share. Take a look at China and the way those kids are performing because they have a standard. It is time to go back and start all over again we are the parents and we are the boss. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Patti Rosette, 16 Harding Avenue has an issue with uniforms because she has a child that has external issues with wearing clothing. To buy a pair of socks is a nightmare. Putting him in a uniform especially a pair of khaki’s just is not going to go. That would be more of a physical problem for him. Let your kids pick from the options that are appropriate the night before and in the morning there should be no problem. If there is a problem that is an individual household problem. You are the parent work on it if you need help I’ll give you my number. As a taxpayer my biggest concern is the cost. It won’t be a one time shot and not everybody can afford a uniform. This will be an on-going cost that I know the Board of Education can not handle. If you are going to take from student activity funds or other funds that are needed in other areas that is not right; buy books, get resources, teach children about character how to accept and tolerate other people for who they are not what they are wearing. I don’t want to see money pulled from anywhere else. We are already short 3 million this year what are we cutting this year. I don’t like arguing with you last year I spoke very loudly about the closing of the schools. It had to happen we lost the battle you did it. Now there is three million short what are we cutting? What are we going to take money from to buy uniforms. It should be an enforced dress code. If my child ever walked out of the house with their pants hanging down they wouldn’t make it out the door. That family should be called and that child should be removed from school. So if you are telling my uniforms are put into force next year and my son doesn’t show up to school in a uniform and he is going to be sent home. Not going to work. But if my child went to school and he is being sent home for wearing his pants too low or the wrong shirt I can understand that those are guidelines and are rules that are already written down. Let’s live with those. It is not a time that we have the money to go out for this luxury of a uniform we don’t have the money for it right now. Please don’t dig and find money for it dig and find money for education. I don’t see how this is ever going to bridge the gap between the have and have not’s. People still bully each other for other reasons. My son didn’t get popped in the head Monday on the
bus because of the clothing he was wearing. It was a very serious issue nothing to do with clothing. I want to know how a uniform will increase math scores, literacy and morale in the school. We need to look at the real issue about what is going on inside. Let’s open our hearts and teach kids about character rather than you have a blue shirt and tan pants. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Kenny Cox, 70 Hine Street asked if there will be minutes on this meeting tonight and if so when will they be available. Chairman Horvath stated it takes about a week or a little less. He asked if they are charged for copies of the minutes. Neil said you can get them on the website.

He believes the food guidelines at the federal government level should be changed and asked everyone there to write their legislators; Rosa DeLauro. There are bills in Washington now that can change the food guidelines so I believe we could start from there at the national level and then the guidelines will increase and help our kids out. Thank you. Applause. The board gave thanks.

Public Session closed at 9:30 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration/Status of Schools (Continued)
Neil stated we have talked about if we don’t get the amount requested in the budget of reducing staff; that is a possibility. He is hopeful that can be avoided. We discussed with the teachers union getting teachers to pinpoint retirement that would help us tremendously if we can get people to commit to retirement prior to us doing our operating budget that will help. By next meeting we usually hand out layoff notices and there are ideas where maybe we can do a trade off with the union we will hold back on the layoff notices if we can get people to commit to retirement. These conversations just started and can significantly affect how we operate next year.

Rob said doesn’t the new contract state they have to let us know a couple of months before they requested retirement. Neil said no it is not in the next contract.

Neil knows that Ken Carney is here and he will make a presentation but he wanted to say that Alan Belchak will make a presentation during the next board meeting with answers to questions raised at tonight’s meeting.

Ken Carney Chairman of the Building Oversight Committee passed out booklets to board members and updated them on the Government Center Project (the renovation of approximately 13,000 targeted square feet for the BOE offices). He also spoke about the façade repair that was just completed. There was a copy of the contract in his booklet and he stated that what is important about this particular contract is that it represents the first substantial contract of construction under the new contract guidelines adopted by the city and presented by the Building Oversight Committee. It has in it a lot of teeth for the city to penalize the architect if in fact he does not deliver. He has 90 days to produce bid
documents. He gets billed $100.00 a day for every day he fails to achieve this. There are individual items that were negotiated into his contract in this contract. In the past on these larger projects standards contracts provided by the city do not speak in architectural terms to the nuts and bolts to what the architect’s are supposed to produce. In this particular case the Building Oversight Committee negotiated 23 additional items to make it very clear that there would not be any change orders, there would be a time line, and every single thing needed for the BOE’s new office space would be included in that design. This has been challenged already and we have proven to him that this work is included under the one lump sum price.

Presently City Hall has two outdated boilers we have awarded the installation of two 93% efficiency gas boilers that will service both the new BOE area and the remainder of City Hall. He discussed poster boards that show the public every step that is taken. They can see what is being done, why it is being done, cost and what is involved. These will be placed in City Hall and on reports to the BOE and City Council. He showed the report on asbestos for the existing boilers. This particular case it came back negative for asbestos in the boiler room with the exception of a very small tank hanging from the ceiling. Instead of spending $30,000.00 like we did in other building with asbestos we only spent $400.00 so our numbers were reduced. Pictures of anchors going into the building were in the booklet and the entire façade has been restored to its original design. The process went very smooth. A further discussion ensued about the tests done on the façade and that façade is now done for a cost of roughly $37,000.00.

Mr. Saley asked if drilling through the grout lines is more durable than the brick itself. That is correct it is. The brick is what actually failed on the façade so we are trying to reattach the brick would put you in the same problem we had originally. The grout line is the way to go. He discussed some additional deficiencies throughout the city hall and they were explained in detail in the pictures in the report such as flashing issues etc.

The low bidder for the City Hall Boiler Contract which came in at $224,000.00 for two boilers was rejected. After an interview process they discovered that the particular job for this low bidder represented about 30% of his entire income for the year. He was extremely short on experience and short on manpower. We then went to the next highest bidder who was $230,000.00 and he passed the interview with flying colors and then we asked him to reduce his price to the low bidder’s price and he did that.

Rob Saley asked who the second lowest bidder was. Ken Carney said I can tell you who won the job it was Crest.

Mark Palmieri asked if those boilers were being replaced because the boiler that heats the room we are in hasn’t shut off all night. Ken Carney said that is not your boiler that is your fan. Mark said that is part of the heating isn’t it. It is yeah but the reality of it is over the past 15 years or so there have been various plans to tare city hall down and to repair city hall so there hasn’t been budget dollars applied to the mechanicals and the mechanicals are a mess. There is only one boiler working, the AC system is completely defunct and if they want to change temperatures they have to climb up into the ceiling
and start changing vents manually. There is one electric 40 gallon hot water providing hot water to the entire building; there is no hot water on the third floor.

Mark said his question is can you do that work now. Ken Carney said what happened in that case is the boilers are part of the over all project as are all the other mechanicals OK. The reason we broke the boilers out separately is we benefited from a Department of Energy Grant of $125,000.00 but we had to sign that contract before February 28, 2011 or we would have lost that money. The boilers are being treated as a separate project but still part of the overall umbrella. He said they are still in the inventory stage of city hall as far as the part of the project that concerns the BOE. We are measuring, inventoring and checking things out. We are going to end up with the Building and Zoning Department on the first floor. Residents who come to city hall do not have to go to the second and third floor. We will have his and her handicapped bathrooms on every floor. The office space for the BOE will be new, clean and efficient. When the BOE moves into this facility the heating costs will drop. A further discussion about meeting rooms and size took place. The board gave thanks.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Howie said we will now hear from our student reps. He said this was quite a baptism wasn’t it. He said we were fortunate to be here with Brandon who has been a tremendous example of the very best and brightest from West Haven High School. We are very happy to have him here and we are glad to have Marum join him as well.

Brandon and Marum Majid were present at this meeting. They discussed the following: West Haven High School was selected to participate in ABC’s "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" in honor of the Remember Alex Brown Foundation, a nonprofit organized after 17-year-old Alexandra Brown rolled her pickup truck and died on her way to school. She was texting and driving. "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" selected one high school in each state to kick-off the Brown Family’s mission to travel to schools and educate students and adults about the dangers of texting and driving. More information can be found at www.rememberalexbrownfoundation.org. The show aired on January 30th. West Haven High School plans to kick off a school-wide initiative on this as soon as more information is available from the Brown Family.

Congratulations to seniors Lauren Lowell and Shana Gray on their selection as WHHS CAS Arts Awards recipients. They will be honored at the Aqua Turf.

Congratulations to Samantha Garcia, WHHS’s nominee for the Governor’s Scholars Awards program. Good luck, Sam.
Seniors Shannon Connor and Mike Binkowski will be honored at the Aqua Turf for their selection as CIAC Scholar Athletes from WHHS.

James Flynn and Caitlin Morrissey are spending the spring attending classes at University of New Haven as part of the Outstanding HS Senior Program.

Congratulations to senior Stacey Matakaetis who was named Rotary Student of the Month.

Congratulations to the Mock Trial Team who made it to the semi-finals against Westhill High School. They made WHHS proud.

Congratulations to the Cheerleading squad who competed in the National Cheerleading Competition in February in Disney World. Senior Paige Sherman was named ALL STATE in Cheerleading.

Tomorrow marks the first day of CAPT testing at WHHS. All sophomores and juniors will be CAPT testing on March 8, 9, 10 and March 15, 16, 17.

Thursday night is the Junior College Planning Night. This is a great night for our juniors to hear from College Reps about the admissions process and how to plan for college.

GRAC is selling St. Patrick’s Day carnations for $2 if you would like to buy one.

The Blue Devil Marching Band and Guard will be marching in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Sunday.

Don’t miss out – You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown opens this week – come see the play on Thursday, Friday or Saturday at 7:30pm. There is also a 2pm matinee on Saturday.

Mark your calendars for WHHS upcoming Events:

- Fundraiser for Project Graduation – Wednesday night at Five Guys in Orange
- VolunTEEN is hosting a Community Service Day for WHHS on March 19th which will focus on beach clean-up, campus clean-up and Painter Park clean-up.
• Mr. Westie Pageant on Friday, March 18th
• The Lil Miss Westie Pageant on Saturday, March 26th at 11am

Brandon wished Marum good luck next year when he and Gypsy won’t be there. She is a great example of West Haven High School and will leave a great mark. She will add universal opinions to the board and will be a good example for the next two student representatives who will be selected next year. The board gave thanks.

C.1. c. Board

Neil had a few items he wanted to let the board members know about. He stated that the Office of Civil Rights came and interviewed our elementary principals but didn’t tour the buildings. He doesn’t know what the next step is. He will keep the board informed but doesn’t have any additional information at this time.

The one item in the NEASC Accreditation Report that hasn’t been addressed is the physical facility. His guess is that they will have to ask for an extension. Mrs. Gardner and I have spoken to the Mayor who does support the project but has not given us a timeline so we will probably have to go forward with an extension. We had two years from last June to actually put a shovel in the ground and we don’t see that happening at this point. The Mayor does support the project and hopefully no later than a year after we will be moving on this.

Toni Paine asked if this later date will affect the reimbursement. Neil said from everything he has been told no. You are allowed one extension without affecting the reimbursement.

Yale and the Mayor’s Office have scheduled a press conference for 2:00 PM on Wednesday to announce a donation that they will be making to our portal system.

Dorinda said the budget is coming out March 17th what are our plans. Neil are you already looking at some alternative options assuming we are not getting the full amount. Neil said he has looked at different options. Dave Orio from the union has been very receptive to at least listening to some of our concerns. We are in negotiations which could affect our budget.

Eric Murillo said there are a lot of issues here today that I can talk about. I know that Food Service does have issues. I have been to the high school and seen the work they do. They do try the best they can but they are under the limitations of the budget we have to live by but I think it is a bigger issue we have. The bigger issue is that how are we going to change the whole country. We are talking about processed foods being distributed by four or five of the largest food distributors in this country. 47,000 items sold in supermarkets are produced by those companies. Most of them are these products in here so we are going to have to stop eating completely. What do we do? We have to educate ourselves and fight for us and our families and make this know to our government. We
must tell them that we have to change standards. We are at a loss right now because most of the companies have lobbyists and they even have their own politicians and state senators, judges and they are a part of the food companies. They work for them. This is an epidemic that is going to continue if we don’t stand up not only for West Haven but for the full company. There is a major company that generically alters soybeans and everything you eat has soybeans. They use pesticides. They use growth hormones and genetically altered things in to make chickens grow faster and cows get fed corn; we need to change ourselves and say we want to eat healthier. Yes, it is more expensive but we spend a lot of money on our own personal pleasures, cell phones, cars, whatever and we can’t even find something good for our health. I am learning this and am teaching my children this and when they get married I hope they teach their children that we need to eat better. 98% of the meats produced by the fast food restaurants are processed foods with additives such as coloring and flavoring so how are we going to address issues. Dorinda has a great idea about the farm. I think we need a committee involved with this and the whole city should be involved, the politicians should also be involved in it and it should be organic. We have to use organic seeds that have not been tainted by chemicals and other products. 98% of the seeds distributed are patented by one of the largest distributors. You have to buy from them or use Mom and Pop’s small farms that have clean seeds that they would be utilizing for the next season.

Eric then talked about uniforms. He thinks it is a good idea to do research on this but my most important thing is the taxpayers; the parents who send their children to the schools; what do they want. That is the ultimate goal because that is what we are here for. We must see what they want.

Rob wanted to piggyback on what Mr. Murillo just said food wise. He had the opportunity to go over to Bailey three weeks ago and the ladies over there showed a 20 oz. coke and they showed him how much sugar was in it. Since then he cut his sugar consumption almost in half and it is killing him but he is doing it and that is what we have to do. We have to look at what we eat. We have to re-evaluate what we are doing with food. Last year I was with Mr. Belchak and Mr. Orio at the high school and the food looked really good; the same at Seth Haley and Bailey. My daughter loves macaroni and cheese but that wasn’t macaroni and cheese and I know you guys sell it but I’ll eat anything but I wouldn’t eat that. We must have a dialog on where we are going with food and what we want to do and what the costs are. Thank you.

Eric stated there are some really good videos about food that would be a good idea to view (Food Inc and Food Matters). It is definitely an awakening to what is going on.

Sean Maher thanked the parents for the research work they did on the food. He is kind of astounded. Hopefully they can sit down with this information and work things out. It is very important that our children are fed well because if they are fed well they will learn better. It is plain and simple.
Charlie Brown is this weekend Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Saturday there are special prices for children $8.00 and senior citizens on Saturday are free. This is something the theatre department does every year.

He congratulated the AV Department on being chosen as one of the finalist for the DMV Scholarship Contest they are a U2 selection. The first one to get 5,000 hits they will win $1,000. They are also in the contest for winning first, second and third place which is $4,000.00, $3,000.00 and $2,000.00 based on a student created video. Please go to www.u2.com/teensavedriving 12 and check this out. Sean said it is a great video very poignant and moving about its message on texting while driving.

Dorinda wanted to talk about the Farm idea and asked what committee it belongs under because we need to discuss it in a sub committee because there are a lot of details to go through so what sub committee does it belong under. Does it belong under food services or facilities because we are talking about using the field in one of the buildings?

Mark Palmieri would say education because we want to educate our children. We just had four people bring it up and I would recommend we educate our children on eating properly so I would say curriculum. That is my opinion.

Sean Maher said I would be happy to call a curriculum meeting to discuss it more in depth so we can come to a meeting and report.

Toni Paine said she agrees with that 100%. Obviously we couldn’t grow enough food for the school so it will be an educational tool and it is a noble idea but it definitely would be under the under health curriculum and/or science or both probably; Sean is sure it is multifaceted. Dorinda said so we can start with your committee Sean you will call a meeting. Yes it is a place to start. Neil said we will talk and can invite from our administration who we think should be there. Dorinda said she is glad we are having this conversation and thought it was a great presentation by the parents but it is not just about the farm and food services. It is really the whole health and wellness of the children in our system and I think that it would be nice if we have a health and wellness committee and they come forward and we talk about what we are doing and we communicate our policy to the parents. I’m glad we are setting a foundation for the children because we want them to think differently than we did when we were young.

Mark Palmieri said he would like to reiterate again about the accreditation for the high school. What is our next move on that? Neil said our next move would be to get an extension; at least a one year extension. Who does that? Neil said he has to write the letter asking for an extension. Mark asked if we need to go through facilities or are you just going to do it. Neil said it is timing the next step would be for the mayor and council to initiate the bonding process if that doesn’t happen we would have no choice but to write the letter. If we don’t put a shovel in the ground by July 1, 2012 we are at risk for losing our percentage of 75% which we are locked in at.
Rob Saley said Berlin High School put a referendum out and they went in for 84 million dollars and the news showed a camera going through the school. The school is in bad shape but it did not pass the referendum by 200 votes. They are now putting it back out to referendum for 64 million dollars. Their reimbursement is only 32 cents on a dollar. I know it is a large percentage of debt 30 million I know I’m preaching to the choir here but if you know your council person you really should talk to them and educate them on this.

Mark said we are leaving 79 million dollars on the table. Rob said you will pay for it eventually it is not free money. Neil said it is not free money but I know that Mrs. Gardner is going to have a PTA Meeting dedicated on April 4th just to discuss the project and I will attend. Board members are welcome to attend. Neil supports the project and was one of the initiators of the project. Roughly 25% or 20 million dollars would have to be put into that building one way or the other over the next 20 years. It seems simple to me but I am very biased. Mark wanted to welcome Cebi once again and wish her the best of luck and Marum and thanked Brandon for all his help.

Brandon said for anyone who is looking to see the UTUBE video for the contest it is www.u2.com/teensavedriving 12.

Mark said there was a bad statistic on texting from young kids today. 70% believe it is not dangerous to do while driving and that is a pretty scary statistic.

Patrick Egolum said when it comes to whether we should build or renovate the high school I have objectively and subjectively collected all the facts and analyzed them. It simply makes a lot of economic sense that we build a new high school instead of simply dumping money in a building that is almost 50 years old. I don’t understand why people don’t understand the economic sense of this; it beats me.

Patrick talked about school uniforms and stated he wore a uniform for his primary and secondary education. It makes a lot of sense. Parents don’t have to worry about what their children will put on it is a form of regimentation for the student. It is a form of discipline and that I definitely support.

Toni Paine commented on the school uniforms. She doesn’t think it would be more expensive to have uniforms and at some point when they look for prices I bet if they approached Wal-Mart which is in West Haven and said this is what we are contemplating and will have a pilot program they will come up with a package deal as well. I find uniforms to be an equalizer in a classroom. It avoids competition and it takes the focus off of the surroundings and on to the work at hand. She congratulated and welcomed Marum and Cebi.

Cebi Waterfield said on the issue of food in the schools I think part of the problem with the wellness policy from a PTA and parent perspective is that there is not a lot of buy in and people don’t have faith in it because of what they see being served. Not that there is anything wrong with the breakfast in general but there is not a lot of nutritional content
difference between the honey buns at breakfast and the cupcakes they want to have at celebratory times. You need to have buy in from your stake holders and in this case your stake holders are your parents because they make decisions for the kids. There are really no cupcake parties at the high school. Those kids are past that but the stake holders in the elementary level are your parents and if you aren’t showing them a benefit for the policy you won’t have people willing to support it. If you change nutritional content across the board you might have better participation and more people willing to follow along with the guidelines when they see that there is a consistent standard for everyone to meet.

Howie did get to attend the Pagels talent show which he though was great. All the young kids had an opportunity to get up and show their stuff. It was a great event.

C.1. d. Committees

Eric Murillo congratulated Marum and Cebi.

Rob said they had a facility meeting a couple of months ago and we talked about a facility study and thought it was the right thing to do. There was no cost and we were going to put out an RFP to see what they could bring back. There were some issues. He mentioned an email that he sent and stated he feels they should go forward with the RFP with AFB. They will put together a request for proposal for us to put something out to bid so we can have a facility study done on our schools. It doesn’t cost us anything and the people who do this can ask us what we want done. I would really like to see us do that going forward. Neil said there is no cost for the RFP but there is a cost for the study which is about $20,000.00 a building about $200,000.00. Rob said there is no cost for the proposal and I would like to see that go forward and I think we said we would. Neil said we can do that but their issue was we will easily come up with millions of dollars worth of capital improvements and where is the study going to go so is it worth at this point putting the $200,000.00 in. We can do the RFP at no cost and come back to you and say here is what the study says it will cost. Rob thinks we should go forward and develop a plan and tell the council we need X amount of dollars.

Rob sent an email about the energy savings with the boilers and windows at Washington and AFB is looking to propose to us some ideas on how they can continually monitor our energy. He passed out a list of kilowatt per hours that we use and everything was pretty even and then one day it spiked. No one knows why and we paid this. We had nobody really monitoring that area and it could have been a mistake. They could have just made a mistake and that is something we need to address.

Workman’s Comp is an issue for me. We have 10 or 12 guys out on workman’s comp. We need to sit down with the City and I would like the superintendent to get a meeting together with CIRMA, our HR people, the union, the city HR people and sit down and see about responsibility. Some of these people have been out. New Haven is trying to reduce their costs and that is not my intention here to lay off people. I want to see what our policies are that are in place to deal with people that are out on Workman’s Comp
whether it is really work related and if it is and they are getting surgery they can come back on light duty. I would ask that you put together a meeting.

Neil said we have had some meetings and we met today with the new Finance Director to talk about a couple of issues and that was one of them. Dave Orio’s union as far as light duty and getting guys back to work has always been very supportive and helped us with the policy to institute a light duty policy where we have been able to bring some people back. We will get no beef from the union as far as light duty and getting guys of Workman’s Comp and transitioning them back to work. New Haven’s program was mentioned in our meeting today and seems to be pretty successful and Dave Cappetta has some contacts and worked with a gentleman who they specifically pointed out. It was mentioned that East Haven has done some creative things to try and reduce their Workman’s Comp. We are working on it and it is an issue with us because when guys are out we have to move people around and put them in jobs that is not easy for us to manage.

Dorinda thinks it is great that Dave helps out and the union is on board but that is not Dave’s job. So who manages our Worker’s Comp on the board side; does the city? Neil said it is the city. It is their policy that we follow. Rob said Jolene’s job description says she manages Workman’s Comp claims. Neil said she does and does a pretty good job. Neil could see this being an area where if we were to take what we consider personnel and human resources and some of our employees and merge them with the city since we are under the city policy that might be an area where we could more effectively utilize the manpower that we have in order to monitor those claims. It is a difficult job for one person.

Dorinda thinks those positions are big enough where we have to have our own. I have worked for Bridgeport and Stratford and those are big jobs and take a lot of time and energy. If we share with the city on areas like worker’s comp and health benefits we get shortchanged. If anything I would like to see more resources put into this rather than sharing. Neil wouldn’t disagree but if you look at how we are using everybody on both ends we could probably create more specialists.

Rob said that was his request he wants a meeting with Jolene, Dave Cappetta, Neil, Dave Orio and anyone else so we can sit down and say this is where we have to go we have to find out are these things work related, not work related, how long are they going to be out; I mean we have to manage our people a little better with this. I’m not sure if AFB would be part of this but they should be in on the meeting. He would like to see some teeth get put into this thing.

Sean Maher said he will be calling a curriculum meeting to discuss the farm Fresh Link.

Eric was thinking about bringing it up with your committee and also food service. Rob said he is going anyways. Sean doesn’t think a combined meeting is a wise idea. I think if the three committees meet to discuss it we are in the business of education and we do have to make sure that everything ties into that somehow. Eric agreed with this.
Toni Paine said Mr. Belchak will be making a presentation at a future meeting.

**D.1. Approval of Minutes**

**D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting** held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on January 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM

**D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education (ERIN) Education, Reform, Innovation & New Grant Monies Committee Meeting** held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on January 3, 2011 at 6:30 PM

**D.1.c. West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting Board as a Whole for Finance** held at City Hall, Harriet North Room, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on January 24, 2011 at 6:00 PM

**D.1.d. West Haven Board of Education Facilities Committee Meeting** held at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on February 7, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Howie Horvath stated given the time would his colleagues be amenable to approving the minutes all inclusive D.1.a – D.1.d.

Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve D.1.a. – D.1.d. inclusive

Dorinda seconded the motion

Discussion: Toni Paine stated for item D.1.d. West Haven Board of Education Facilities Committee Meeting she was not absent. She is not on the committee so she was not absent. She wasn’t in attendance but thinks it should be reported as whoever is absent is somebody from the committee. Howie stated yes that is correct. Toni said if a board member attends they can be put down as in attendance … and then the same for administrators present. Patrick Egolum said the same applies to him. Howie said going forward it will just be the committee members who will be marked absent. Board members will not be marked absent. You can put present just not absent. The board secretary said it will be recorded this way for all future committee meetings.

The Facility Committee Minutes from February 7, 2011 at 6:30 PM were changed to reflect this new way of posting attendance.

All board members were in agreement

Items D.1.a – D.1.d. inclusive are approved

**D.2. Resignations: (Certified)**

11-05 **Kathleen Cassell**, Director of Pupil Services – Blake
   Effective: June 30, 2011
   Reason: Retirement

11-06 **Albert Siclari, Jr.**, Dept. Head & Physical Ed Teacher
   Effective: End of School Year 2010 – 2011
Reason: Retirement

11-07 Jeffrey T. Charles, Math Teacher, WHHS
   Effective: February 17, 2011
   Reason: Personal

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

11-08 Tricia Gallucci, Medical Para – Forest
   Effective: January 5, 2011
   Reason: Personal

11-09 Rita McKeon, Title 1 Math Aide – Savin Rock
   Effective: February 3, 2011
   Reason: Personal

11-10 Andrea Santamauro, Secretary – Washington
   Effective: February 14, 2011
   Reason: Personal

11-11 Daria Lewis, Paraprofessional – Mackrille
   Effective: February 15, 2011
   Reason: Personal

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

11-12 Stacy Antonucci-Sturges, English Teacher – Carrigan
   Effective March 21, 2011 – May 13, 2011
   Reason: Child Rearing Leave

Howard Horvath requested a motion all inclusive for resignations and Leave of Absence D.2. 11-05 through D.4. 11-12.

Dorinda had a comment on one item. Howie stated she would have a chance to comment during discussion but the question is do any of them have to be done separately. Dorinda said if I want to discuss a resignation do we do it all inclusive. Howie asked discuss it as if you want to vote for or against it? She wants to discuss it before the vote. It was decided there would be no vote taken at this time on Item D.3. 11-10. The motion was for approval on all items D.2. 11-05 through D.4. 11-12 but excluding item D.3. 11-10. Dorinda Borer made the motion to approve Sean Maher seconded the motion to approve
Discussion: Neil Cavallaro said he knows it is late but he must comment on Kathy Cassell who is retiring after 34 years. She is someone I taught with at Washington School and Carrigan Middle School and came up through the administrative ranks with and feel she is one of our biggest assets up at the Blake Building. She does a tremendous job with Pupil Personnel and that may be the most difficult job in the State of Connecticut to replace given what I know as far as openings. She will be sorely, sorely missed.

I would certainly be remiss not to mention Bert Siclari who is a legend at West Haven High School with all of his teaching responsibilities and all of the other jobs he has done including coaching and mentoring kids after school and working in the alternate program for many years. He has helped many kids in West Haven get back on the right track.

These are two big losses for our school system.

Rob Saley asked if there was reason why they were leaving. They are retiring.

All board members voted in favor of approving all items D.2. 11-05 through D.4. 11-12 but excluding item D.3. 11-10.

Motion passes

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

11-13 Marilyn Halligan, 220 Richmond Avenue, West Haven, CT
    Title: I Math Aide – SRCS
    Effective: February 14, 2011
    Salary: $16.09 Hourly


Sean Maher made the motion

Dorinda seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

Motion passes

D.7. New Business

11-14 Turn vacant school buildings: Thompson, Stiles and Blake back to the City

Dorinda Borer made the motion to approve item D.7. item 11-14

Eric Murillo seconded the motion

Discussion: Rob Saley said the reason for this is that obviously the education law says we should make a protocol poll and do this. We were a little remiss on the Stiles building so I would like to get this accomplished. I know we are still paying for the electric and all the other stuff; it doesn’t matter if we pay for it or the city pays we are ultimately paying. Neil said he thinks that is a good point in something that was brought up tonight. Neil
will speak with David Cappetta and see if we need to adjust or can adjust our budget as far as savings for next year and how it was put in.
Howie asked if there were any other comments or questions. There were none.
All board members were in favor
Motion passes

11-15 Removal of the WHHS Pool Name

Howie Horvath asked for a motion
Toni Paine made the motion
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
Discussion: Rob Saley said the person obviously was caught and admitted it. Is this something we could have done a little quicker? I mean do we need a vote by the board to take his name off the pool? Neil said yes because a board named the facility in the past. This is something the board has to do. Toni Paine said the prudent thing would have been just to take the sign off the building until something was done and we could have voted on it tonight. Toni said plus the fact that you had to wait for either an admission or a verdict. Neil said logistically that sign with all the snow and all will come off ASAP now that the snow is gone and the weather is better.
All board members were in favor
Motion passes

11-16 Correspondence from Cassandra Marcella requesting permission to take approximately 24 students from the WHHS Band on a Field Trip to Virginia and Washington DC leaving on June 28th and returning on July 3, 2011

Howie Horvath asked for a motion
Sean Maher made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
Motion passes

11-17 Agreement between the West Haven Federation of Teachers and Administrators regarding a change in the school calendar due to snow days

Howie Horvath asked for a motion
Dorinda Borer made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: Sean Maher had some people call him with a few things that he needed explained. Is it possible to tie down to a specific month February vs. April so people can make their plans? Neil said his belief is that would be subject to collective bargaining. Right now the way it works is that teachers are mandated to work that many days and it our advantage to not have it pinned down but if the teachers were to approach us we
would be receptive to meeting and talking. They were very good; their primary concern about getting the three days in were the continuity of instruction and the number of days the kids had missed at this particular time of the school year. I would certainly sit down and bargain with them if they approached us.

Sean had two other small issues. He asked if it was possible to have a policy regarding the $70.00 reimbursement. Neil said no but let me explain the $70.00 reimbursement. There was no impact bargaining when we negotiated the terms of the agreement. It certainly would have been within our rights to say you are contracted to work 180 days; because you didn’t meet your obligation we are going to dock you for those day’s pay. We took the approach that this was an anomaly this winter; it is not something we anticipate happening every year. People book trips and we didn’t want to put them out. Most of the unions came to the agreement that we would be able to work out coverage without getting substitutes so it didn’t cost us any additional money. The one area we could not run without substitutes were teachers. By working out the agreement early most of the teachers especially at the elementary level were able to work out their own subs and at the high school they were also covered for those three days and it worked very well. As far as the $70.00 I think from the teacher’s point of view that is a homerun for them given what other districts imposed on their teaching staffs. It was fair.

Sean Maher said lastly he wanted to express his disappointment in the fact that it wasn’t brought to the teachers for a vote and it was just done. He had quite a few teachers call him up to show their disdain at the fact that it wasn’t brought to them for a vote when it affected them so much. Neil said we talk about impact bargaining and I’m not going to speak for Patti but I think that is what she was under the assumption of she knew what could have happened if they didn’t make that agreement. Oh sure.

Dorinda said so if we approve the calendar and then you want to go back to the teachers to talk and then do we revise the calendar? Neil said it would not affect the calendar because we would be scheduling those days anyway. What it would affect would be the actual contract where we would then say do we take the days from the April vacation first or the February vacation. Dorinda said the sooner you can do this the better because it doesn’t just affect teachers it affects all the families who are trying to make plans for next year. If you know you will take away days in February before we take away days in April then families will make plans for April. Neil thinks that is fair. Neil said the week that we made that agreement which was two weeks prior to the break we were scheduled for another 30” of snow so we said the sooner we can make the deal the better.

There were no other comments or questions
All board members were in favor
Motion passes

11-18 Approval of the new school calendar for 2011/2012

Discussion: Neil Cavallaro said before there is a motion there are two items I have to bring to your attention that don’t impact this at all. There is just a clerical mistake
Election Day is November 8th, not November 1st, and the Non-Certified Union has chosen to take Wednesday, November 23rd, the day before Thanksgiving, as one of their floating holidays and we are not having a school day anyway so it doesn’t affect school at all.
Howie said with that amendment may I have a motion
Sean Maher made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
Motion passes

F. Informational

Nothing to add under informational

Howard Horvath requested a motion to adjourn.
Sean Maher made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola,
Board Secretary