The Meeting of the Board of Education as a whole was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Raymond Collins III, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond Collins, Vice Chairman  
Krista Pickering  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabrito  
Robert J. Guthrie  
Mark Palmieri  
Howard Horvath

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chairman M. Toni Paine

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**  
Kara Marcello  
Monica Senior

**B. PUBLIC PORTION**

Before beginning Raymond Collins requested that all cell phones be turned off in respect to anyone who should be speaking. Please turn all cell phones to vibrate or off. Thanked the public for their cooperation.

Vice Chairman Raymond Collins asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Kathleen Eamiello, 22 Cedar Road, Bethany. This is my 29th year working for the West Haven Board of Education as a school nurse. She has worked at many of the elementary schools and at West Haven High School. She presently works at Notre Dame. In prior years the nurses were required to cover three schools at a time. Presently there is great difficulty finding substitute nurses. Many nurses are looking for higher paying positions and are working at hospitals. The nurses we have are excellent and she is very proud of her unit. She doesn’t feel she has to remind you of the two teachers that were helped this year. She wonders what the situation would have been if there was no sub available. It is not acceptable to leave a classroom uncovered for one period let alone an entire day. Why would you leave it uncovered medically? She implores the Board not to eliminate the floating nurse.
The Board gave thanks.

Raymond Collins asked if any one else would like to address the Board.

Saundra McCauley, 86 Richmond Avenue, West Haven. Saundra McCauley, President of West Haven School Nurses, and a nurse at Thompson School thanked everyone who attended the first ever walk for Diabetes on Friday, May 5, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Thompson Elementary School. This was a tremendous success. She wanted to thank Winkle Bus for the free service, Shop Rite, Silvers, PTA and all others who have helped in some way. We have raised over $5,000. The children were great.

She, too, would like to request that the position of the floating school nurse not be eliminated. She knows there are budget constraints but would like to take a minute to explain the importance of this position. The floating nurse is able to provide, safe and appropriate care in the event of a the nurse being absent. The floater is familiar with policy procedures in the West Haven Board of Education and the School Health Department. She is also familiar with the students with medical needs. We care for many children with serious medical needs asthma, diabetes etc. If we loose this position we must rely on a limited number of substitutes who may or may not be available to work and for the most part are not familiar with the cliental that they will be caring for. She encourages the Board to give this serious consideration and she knows you will.

The Board gave thanks.

Raymond Collins asked if anyone else would like to address the Board.

Beth Denton, 82 Woodvale Road, West Haven. Beth Denton works at West Haven High School in the Library as a Computer Lab Tech. She passed out a packet concerning NASCAR DAY at West Haven High School. In the past Ronald Stancil, Principal of West Haven High School approved our school’s involvement in the selling of NASCAR Day Pins in celebration of NASCAR Day by the wearing of pins and clothing on a designated day to school. In November, 2005 a request was submitted to Ron asking for permission to have NASCAR DAY at the high school again. The request detailed everything that would be happening that day. A friend of hers offered to have a race car brought to the school this year. After the date was set and she went to work to make this a wonderful experience for the students. She has worked countless hours contacting national corporations that have anything to do at all with NASCAR. Through letters and phone calls to Triple A, Nextel Phones, Fritto Lay, Pez, Perkins Chevrolet and Mantilla Motors etc. she was able to receive free of charge many items to use that day. She went on to discuss the many items she was give for this event. She personally purchased special paper and designed and printed tickets which could not be duplicated. She limited the number to 50. All proceeds from the children go to charities. On Monday, May 8th she received a note from Ron Stancil written on one of her flyers.
Ron asked how students would go out and see the race car. He was told they would have tickets and would see the car during fourth and fifth period. He said he could not justify the students taking part in this. He stated he didn’t even know about the car. She told him it was in the request and she showed where this was included in the request. He then shifted fault to her stating she should have pointed out to him something out of the ordinary. Ron Stancil signed and gave it his OK and even corrected the typo for the year. She would have thought it would be his responsibility to read the request before signing it. She clearly stated her intentions in the request. This is the third activity Ron has backed ped on in the past few months. You can’t imagine how disappointed she, staff and the students were upon learning of this. A senior this year has been accepted to NASCAR Training School. She went on to mention numerous events which were held during school hours. So she asks how Ron can justify these events and not this event.

Fortunately she was able to move this event to City Hall and it will be held Thursday, May 18, 2006 the day before NASCAR DAY.

She read from the last page in her packet which was a letter from Ron Stancil to the faculty regarding accountability. Now she asks all Board Members who holds him accountable. She will no longer bring NASCAR DAY to the high school. She thanked the Board for listening.

The Board gave thanks.
No one else wished to address the Board.
Vice-Chairman Collins thanked all who attended the public hearing.
Public Portion was closed at 7:35 p.m.

C. REPORTS:

C.1. Status of Schools

Neil Cavallaro was brief because there are a couple of presentations in executive session that may take some time.

First he was very pleased to receive a notice last week from the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut naming Alan Belchak the Food Service Director of the year for the State of Connecticut. This is quite an honor. On May 18th there will be a banquet honoring him which will be held at Anthony’s Ocean View. Alan and his staff have always been there for us for any event to help raise money. He is very informative and is very active in both the State and National level. It is quite an honor to have someone from West Haven be named the best in the State. We are lucky to have Alan. If you can’t make the dinner on Thursday the people in the high school kitchen are planning an event on May 30th. More information will follow as Neil receives it.

Second, congratulation to Sandy McCauley and Kathy Barra for the Thompson School Walk for Diabetes. He had the opportunity to attend and it was well run and well
organized. The students were very well behaved and had a great time. In addition to all of this $5,200 was raised for a good charity.

He wanted to thank Frank Paolino and members of the Math Committee for the great work done. As everyone can see we have really worked hard to put together a course from the lower to the upper grades which will not only impact those individual grades on the CAPT but will also improve CAPT Scores. He is very proud of the teachers and looks forward to much better scores and good things to come especially in the area of math.

Finally on this evenings Board of Education Agenda we have an executive session where we will talk about contract negotiations and bargaining that is going on. He can’t get into this publicly but would like to thank all of the union leaders from all of the labor unions associated with the Board of Education. While we have no set agreement he wanted to thank them for their input, ideas and open dialog that has been going on back and forth.

Neil requested a motion to add to the Agenda under Executive Session a pending litigation which is a claim from Christina Ferrucci.

Gerald Calabritto made a motion to add a Pending Litigation Claim from Christina Ferrucci to the Agenda.

George Monahan seconded this motion.
Discussion: None
All voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

C.1.b. Board Reports

Gerald Calabritto wanted to congratulate Alan Belchak for being named Food Service Director of the year for the State of Connecticut.

He wanted to compliment Mr. Van Winkle who has taken the lead and incorporated the residency hotline number in his newsletter.

He also wanted to thank Neil for doing a great job with the curriculum work while still acting as Interim Superintendent.

He also wanted to commend the union leaders for coming forward and working with the Board.

Ray Collins stated he wanted to thank Mr. Tutora, Mr. Cavallaro and Mr. Sawyer along with all the union people for help in negotiations. He has now seen first hand what is involved and there is a tremendous amount of work that goes into this and they are all doing a fantastic job. Also, in the past the Board has received some bad press but he has talked to each member and this board is working as one to get through this budget. There
is no politics being played at all with this board. For the record we are working together to get through this.

C.l.c Committee Reports

Eric Murillo thanked Saundra McCauley for all her hard work in making the Walk for Diabetes a huge success.

He congratulated Alan Belchak and thanked him for all his help.

Ray Collins said that he had one from the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee regarding employee vehicles. They have met for the first time and have turned it over to the policy committee for further review and outcome.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of D.1.a. and D.1.b.

Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Mark Palmieri seconded this motion.
No Discussion
All members were in favor
Motion passed unanimously

D.2. Leave of Absence

Approval of 06-47 Correspondence from Gina-Marie Little, Special Ed Teacher, Blake Building requesting a Personal Leave returning in August 2007

Motion made by Howard Horvath
Seconded by Gerald Calabritto
No Discussion
Motion passed unanimously

E. New Business

Approval of 06-48 Correspondence from Beth A. Sabo, Commissioner of Public Works to Neil Cavallaro regarding proposed replacement of Scoreboard for Ken Strong Stadium

Motion made by Mark Palmieri
Seconded by Gerald Calabritto
Discussion:
Mark Palmieri stated he was happy to accept the scoreboard it will serve the City of West Haven well. People from out of town come to our games and are amazed at the beauty of our facility. If we continue to work together with the City as one team this City will be a place where people really want to stay and raise their children.

James Burns; Executive Assistant to Mayor Picard, addressed the Board about the replacement of the Scoreboard. The private sector wishes to honor Billy Irons by naming
the scoreboard after him. He was an educator and a football coach who touched many lives in West Haven. Still to this day he receives telephone calls from previous students and athletes asking how he is doing and his family.

We can accomplish something important for the City and the Board of Education and especially with no cost to the residents of this community. He passed out a brief synopsis of Mr. Iron’s biography and his accomplishments.

Beth Sabo did a tremendous amount of research on the availability of utilizing capital that will meet a certain criteria. Not all capital meets the necessary criteria but this is one that does. The scoreboard meets the criteria and would be eligible. More discussion followed. If we move forward the scoreboard will be in operation for the first home game of the 2006 football season. We have gained approval from Mayor Picard for support of this program. We are now putting this before the Board of Education for their review and approval.

He explained how the last page depicts the fully digital scoreboard which can be utilized remotely from the press box or the field wherever it needs to be done. On the second line you can advertise if you wish or mention upcoming events. On the lower line you can add the opposing team’s name which was not possible to do before. The bottom portion of the board will have the name of Coach William Irons if approved.

He thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them.

Beth Sabo, Director of Public Works then addressed the Board.

The City was approached to see whether or not there was any state funding available for this endeavor. Each year the City of West Haven along with other municipalities throughout the State receive State Capital for capital improvement. This money is used for specific projects if they qualify. If there is money that will not be spent on certain projects the money goes back into a pool to be reassigned. Some of this money can be reallocated to the City for this scoreboard. This is why it will be at no cost to the City and no cost to the taxpayer. Projects that our qualified by the State can be used by the City. She is more than happy to make recommendations to reassign this money for the scoreboard.

The Board thanked her.

George Monahan stated certainly this is good when the Board of Education and the City cooperate to make funds available and we appreciate this funding. He did want to remind the Board Chair as well as the Chairman of the Policy Committee that there is policy with restrictive language as to how the Board of Education facilities or any type of monuments are named. In fact in the last two years the previous board actually voted down nameing a property after individuals. He said we must proceed with caution. He has nothing against this particular nominee but he does suggest we look into this restrictive language and how we can proceed forward with this.
Ray Collins stated he can understand property or buildings but this is actually a scoreboard.

George Monahan stated that some of the currently named projects were old projects such as the softball field etc. be named after individuals. There was a proposal to name the press box after an individual. This was brought up and resurrected and voted on and approved. There was an additional plan to put up a monument with a list of honorees but that was voted down. It was proposed to name a library after an individual that was voted down. He is just letting everyone know that there should be some caution here and this needs to be looked into. The scoreboard itself doesn’t present any problem and there is a strong consideration for this nominee and he appreciates the request.

Mark Palmieri stated he didn’t know about the naming of the scoreboard but it was a great honor that the Cybercast Café in honor of Mr. Tutora. He had never heard of this policy. This is honoring people who have done well for the City.

George Monahan stated he too is in favor of this but wanted to make the Board aware of the policy.

There was no further discussion.
All members voted in favor.
Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 06-49 Correspondence from Jolene Barnes, Personnel Director
to Neil Cavallaro regarding Summer School Programs/Postings
For 2006.

Motion made by Gerald Calabritto
Seconded by Krista Pickering
Discussion limited to video photography
All members voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

Approval of 06-49a Correspondence from Washington School PTA
to Neil Cavallaro requesting to hold a Memorial Day Weekends Carnival.

Motion made by George Monahan
Seconded by Gerald Calabritto
Discussion: Neil Cavallaro stated the event went off without a hitch last year and we anticipate the same this year.
All members voted in favor
Motion passed unanimously

Approval of 06-49b Curriculum
Krista Pickering made a motion for the Board to accept the Math Curriculum for Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 in the Curriculum Minutes
George Monahan seconded this motion
All members voted in favor of this motion
Motion passed unanimously

F. Unfinished Business

Approval of 06-50 Unfinished Business (06-42) – Wellness Policy
Gerald Calabritto made a motion for the Board to accept the Wellness Policy
George Monahan seconded this motion
Discussion: The Board thanked Eric Murillo
All members voted in favor of this motion
Motion passed unanimously

Executive Session – Contract Negotiations
A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Gerald Calabritto
George Monahan seconded this motion
Discussion: Robert Guthrie opposed going into executive session at this time
Motion passed
Executive Session Began at 8:15
Executive Session Ended at 9:05

G. Informational:

G.1. Special Meeting – Student Expulsion Hearing, April 13, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. (enclosure)

G.2. Special Meeting – Student Expulsion Hearing, April 13, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. (enclosure)

G.3. Special Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearing, April 24, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. (enclosure)

G.4. Special Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearing, April 28, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. (enclosure)

G.5. Special Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearing, April 28, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. (enclosure)

Discussion limited to G.1. – G.5.

Howard Horvath was disheartened by the reasons for some of the expulsions. This is the second meeting in a row with a large number of expulsions. Should this be considered a
red flag? It is the type of expulsion and the offense that worries him. We need to think about being pro-active in some way.

Beebe Guns and facsimile guns are becoming quite a problem it is getting worse and worse. We are doing mandatory expulsions for drugs and weapons.

**G.6. Correspondence from Sgt. John P. Jarvie, West Haven Police Department to Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education regarding Mock D.W.I. Crash at West Haven High School**

**Discussion limited to G.6.**
Krista Pickering and Mark Guthrie were in attendance. The students were very involved and it was a good program. Hopefully if students think about the consequences on prom night this program will be a success.

**G.7. The Board Report – Summary of the March 1, 2006, and April 5, 2006, meetings of the State Board of Education (enclosure)**

**G.8. Board of Education Roster**

**G.9. West Haven Board of Education Committees and Representatives**

**Other Discussion:**
Howard Horvath was disheartened about the NASCAR DAY event. He wanted to know if protocol was followed. George Monahan stated that all fund raisers need to come before the Board. Not all board members were in agreement with this. This should be a court of last appeal. These problems should try to be solved internally first. Had the correct channels been followed before coming to the Board.

The new flags are in place and we have extras for a backup in each size.

Robert Guthrie hopes the Superintendent will follow up on the NASCAR DAY situation because of someone’s implied endorsement of this.

Robert Guthrie hopes the Superintendent will send some letters to Mr. Stacoffe and the organizations involved thanking them for their time and efforts.

He also stated he thought the Board was courteous in accepting the scoreboard tonight but feels there was probably a little oversight in sharing the information with all the Board members. The athletic league should have looked at it. Mr. Monahan was indeed right about policy in naming property or buildings. This should have started in a committee first. In the future we should have a committee research such requests before it is put on the agenda. This is not fair to the presenters or to the family in question.
Mark Palmieri thanked Krista Pickering for a nice job with the defibrillators.

Chairman Collins asked for a motion to adjourn
Motion was made by Gerry Calabritto
Seconded by George Monahan
All members in favor
No further discussion
Meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Clerk