The Meeting of the Board of Education as a whole was held at West Haven High School, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by M. Toni Paine, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:05 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**
M. Toni Paine, Chairman  
Ray Collins  
Mark Palmieri  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabritto  
Robert J. Guthrie

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**
Krista Pickering  
Howard Horvath

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

Before beginning the Public Portion Toni Paine requested a moment of silence for the Moriarty family. The father of James Moriarty who is a student at Thompson passed away last week.

Toni Paine stated that we are changing the order this evening. We have a lot of young students here and we will begin with the awards first.

**C. REPORTS**

**C.1.a Administration**

**Superintendent Awards**

Dr. Andrees stated she is thrilled to see some many in the audience to help honor some of our outstanding students tonight. The Superintendents Award is a result of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents. Tonight we are here to honor students in areas beyond academic achievement. This gives us a way to say way to go to students who might not have otherwise received recognition for their community service, service to other students and family. They may be students who have academic prowess relating to their abilities but they may still serve in leadership capacities in the
community and school. The students we are honoring today have made a difference in the lives of others. We are honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge them.

Each Board Member will call the name of the school and the principal will escort the student to the front and a Board Member will state wonderful things about the student. Each individual will come before the Board to receive their award and a picture will be taken. We will go slowly so you can catch this moment forever for your child.

The following students were chosen to receive the Superintendent’s Award from the Schools Listed next to their name.

Board Member Eric Murillo distributed the awards to the following students.

Pagels School - Chloe P. Biagetti is an outstanding student in many ways. She always looks out for the happiness of her fellow classmates. She often will hang up another student’s fallen backpack, help a friend to clean up a spill, offer to let someone go first in line, or tidying up a center when it was not her turn to do so. When she was asked to do her class work, Chloe worked diligently until she met with success. Chloe is dedicated to complete all tasks given to her. She has great tenacity. Chloe always greets everyone with a smile and spreads sunshine.

Carrigan School - Erin P. Dest helped to promote the Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation last year by selling bracelets to raise funds for medical supplies and services and continues to do so this year. She is a member of the Honor Society. Last year she was in the production of “Don’t Drink the Water” and is continuing with the Drama Club this year. Erin is also involved with CAPTivating Kids, an after school, inter-district Science program that emphasizes CAPT skills. She is conscientious and thoughtful. She always shows respect and is always willing to help.

Board Member Mark Palmieri distributed the awards to the following student.

Mackrille School – Leah J. Morrissey is a member of TAG and an Honor Roll Student. She was chosen because of her leadership qualities. She devotes time during the summer keeping the West Haven Beaches clean and inviting. For the past two summers she has been part of Relay for Life Program at Quinnipiac University for Cancer Research. She is willing to help others and is a trustworthy and caring person. Leah enjoys basketball and is a passionate Red Sox fan.

Board Member Gerald A. Calabritto distributed the awards to the following students.

Washington School - Mark W. Taylor is a mild mannered student who shows kindness to all. He is always pleasant and smiling. He is a conscientious, ready to learn and polite and has a smile on his face. He shows respect for other students, is a member of the school safety patrol and is a role model. He exhibits self control and has the drive and the ambition to be awarded the Superintendent’s Recognition Award.
Molloy School – Cameran D. Tucker excels in all aspects of his life. He is a good leader in and out of the classroom. Cameran takes the time to help other students and teachers. He is a gifted athlete and a fierce competitor. He is a member of the Meloy School Band and participates in West Haven Little League. He is extremely motivated. His assignments are meticulously completed. He was selected for the Talented and Gifted Program.

Board Chairman Toni Paine distributed the awards to the following students.

Savin Rock School – Alyssa G. Talamelli attended this Savin Rock School since Kindergarten and she is an A student. She exhibits excellent leadership qualities and is a friend to all. She is a member of the Savin Rock Community School Student Council. The Council collects toys for tots, eyeglasses for the Lions Club and money for the West Haven Animal Shelter. She is a cheerleader and belongs to the Connecticut Spirit All Stars and actively competes in competition. She loves dogs and is an avid reader.

Bailey Community School - Tim Hoffman has remarkable resilience and is a very quiet reserved individual who calls no attention to himself. For all adolescents the transition to middle school is a new and challenging experience which was compounded for Tim by a neurological disorder from birth. Through surgery Tim has faced this neurological challenge with courage and determination and focuses his energy on improving his studies at school. Tim enjoys reading, is a creative writer and an active participant in all his studies. Tim was unanimously chosen for this award at a recent team leaders meeting.

Ray Collins distributed the awards to the following students.

Thompson School – Patricia Molina enrolled at Thompson during the 2005 – 2006 school years. She made the transition and adjusted quickly and became one of the top students in the fifth grade class. She is a roll model in the eyes of teachers and peers alike and has developed many friendships. She is a well rounded student and takes academics very seriously. She is bright and respectful and is truly an asset to Thompson School.

Forest School - Brenda Lynch has overcome many obstacles and tragedies in her life. She has lost her mother and both her grandparents who raised her. She is now being raised by her maternal uncle. Through all of this she remains focused and well rounded academically and socially. She enjoys basketball and is a member of the Eagles Basketball team.

George Monahan distributed the awards to the following students.

Adult Education Department – Stephanie Brown entered the high school diploma program in January 2005 without any prior academic credits. While attending the program four evenings a week she was also employed full time and busy raising a family. In May of 2007 she will have completed the required credits mandated by the State Department of Education to receive a diploma. Her diligence and perseverance are the qualities that are make her deserving of this award.
Stiles - Patrick D. Phillips was not able to attend. Patrick is extremely deserving of this award based on citizenship and scholastics. He achieves high grades and contributes positively to class discussion and works independently to enrich topics covered in class. Helps others on a daily basis and welcomes new students and helps them in their assimilation to a new school. He is a two year member of the Stiles Human Club an animal club held after school. His enthusiasm was instrumental in forming friendships and alliances between the two programs at Styles. He saved a fatally injured cat by wrapping it up and bringing it to school so the teacher could bring it to the vet. He received a commendation by Dr. Claypool for this.

Robert Guthrie
Seth Haley – Daniel M. Schapira is a terrific student. He is a well-rounded boy who is academically as well as musically talented. He plays the piano and the trumpet. Community as well as academics is important to Daniel. He volunteers at the Clothes Close of Our Lady of Victory Parish. He helps his mom raise money for charity and along with his class brought a large number of turkeys to WHEAT in order to make the holidays brighter for more people in the community. Family is important to Daniel and he likes to spend quality time with family members.

WHHS – Harry Sears is a tenth grade member of our Unified Sports Athletic Teams and participates in Soccer, Basketball and Track and Field. Harry is an extremely dependable individual who always puts the team ahead of himself. Harry has a strong desire to compete at a high level while showing sportsmanship at all times. Harry is the man under the mask. He is our “Blue Devil” and his school spirit is second to none. He has been the “Blue Devil” since his freshman year and we hope that he will continue this role until his graduation.

This concludes the formal presentation and all administrators and students were requested to come up for a formal picture.

Dr. Andrees thanked all the parents, guardians and relatives for coming tonight to applaud the students for the great job they did. Photos of this event will be on the web site.

Refreshments were served.

B. PUBLIC PORTION

Toni Paine asked if anyone would like to address the Board. Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road wanted to speak about the meeting at 6:00 p.m. that was cancelled. It should have been cancelled within 24 hours of the meeting and if it wasn’t it should have been opened and then closed. She did not receive a notification so she was here at 6:00 p.m. This is the first time this has happened. Hopeful in the future this will be addressed.
The second article is about the hiring of the cafeteria person. She doesn’t feel we should hire someone who has been there only two or three months. She heard other people had more time in. She wants to make sure we are taking candidates from the sub list. She will do an FOI request and wants the other applicant’s names and to look at the sub list and the reviews that went along with the sub list. She thought seniority meant something and wants to make sure this is done fairly and suggested tabling the hiring of this person and to vote on it at the next board meeting after she this was investigated.

Mrs. Rossi went on to complement the fund raiser at Mackrille. It was very nice and a lot of hard work went into this. She won a tree. She also commented on the function taking place tonight stating it was very well done and hopes it is something that will be done on an annual basis. The time allowed to photograph the children was truly appreciated.

Harry Sears, Rock Street has a son who received award tonight and wanted to relay conversation he had tonight with the Superintendent. As parent of special needs child he was worried that his son’s school experience was not going to be a positive one. In the last ten years he has experienced nothing but positive experiences. The school system has worked very hard to place him in a program where he is learning and enjoys going to school. He thanked the school system for this.

Cebi Waterfield, 70 Seaview Avenue, PTA President from Seth Haley School wanted to let everyone know that on November 29th Seth Haley will have a Holiday Fair from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to raise money for educational supplies for the classroom. There will be many venders and food so come for lunch. She also wanted to thank Mr. Cavallaro for getting back to her so quickly with questions she raised at the last board meeting and hopes this will be resolved at the next meeting.

The public portion closed at 8:10 p.m.

C. REPORTS:

C.1. Status of Schools

Before Dr. Andrees gave the Power Point Presentation she wanted to thank the parents and staff at Mackrille School for the hard work that went into the wonderful event they sponsored on Saturday.

She also offered a special thanks to Margie Maher and her husband and the production crew of students. They made a great production of “I Remember MAMA.”

Tonight she is adding the additional strategic profile to the information already shared with you. She began with the vision statement and stated that the students presented to us this evening were well on their way with a passion for learning in an ever-hanging world.

District Needs
She began with District Needs and did a comparison between the 2000/01 year and the 2005/06 which is about a five year span. The student numbers eligible for a free or reduced lunch are actually down. The efforts made by Mr. Belchak this year will probably be reflected in next year’s statistics. We are in the same ballpark now with our DRG and yet we are much higher than the State in this area.

We are up a little over 4% for Students in Non-English Speaking homes in our District and DRG but about the same as the State. This will be the fastest growing area throughout the state of Connecticut.

We have made a gain in the % of Kindergarten Students who attended preschool, nursery school or Head Start. We have made a tremendous gain in this area and I attribute a lot of that to the School Readiness Council. We are in the same range in the DRG and have gained about 10 points from our DRG a year ago. Kudos to the community and Mr. Larry Frattini.

The percentage of students working more than 16 hours there is a significant difference now. Our figures are down and students now may be doing more volunteering in the community and perhaps are spending more time on their academics. This is a good thing. We are in the ballpark with our DRG and State statistics.

Student Enrollment
Elementary Schools have a decline of approximately 500 students. The middle schools are down a little and the High School is holding its own. The magnet schools and students placed in Special Ed Programs can account for some of these numbers (550).

Race/Ethnicity
We have had the largest gain in the number of Hispanic students and that number is continuing to rise throughout the State of Connecticut. Our minority population is up about 7% and growing. We are having teachers look at strategies to help us reach these students and enable them to meet the challenges that confront them. We provide support to our teachers for language problems they encounter with our minority population.

District Resources
The average number of years experience in Connecticut. We stayed in the ballpark with both our DRG and State. Over the last five years we have seen an increase of 6% in our teachers with a Master’s Degree or above and are moving closer to our DRG and State.

% of mentors that are trained in our district has met with success due to our BEST Program. Our staff is a mature staff and we will continue to see more new teachers.

We are in the ballpark for our kindergarten class size last year and we did a great job with our second grade and we are doing a great job in all areas. We will probably see a spike in some areas a year form now as a result of adjustments that we made in staffing this year.
An area that concerned us was our resource time and in our elementary schools we are in the ballpark with our DRG and State with the 900 hours. It appears that in our middle schools we have less instructional time. Our competitors seem to have more time in these areas. We want to see if this is accurate.

Students per academic computer. We are moving closer to being in the ballpark with our DRG and State.

We are in the ballpark with our Students per teacher Ratio.
For the number of teachers per administrator we have heard that we are top heavy with our administrators and it appears that we have one administrator for every 17.3 teachers as compared to one per every 14 teachers in our DRG and State.

Student Performance

Physical Fitness
Mr. Cavallaro stated we have to continue to work on Physical Fitness. We are a little below where the State is and we will work diligently in this area and look at wellness and physical activities around the nation.

Drop Out Rates
Dr. Andrees is quite proud of this number. About 5 years ago we had about 18% drop out rate now we are down to about 4.3 which is lower than our State numbers. We are doing a better job of running the Adult Ed Programs in the evening and finding places for students. We are running an Alternative program in the day and in the evening an Alternative II Program. This low number is good for the school and the community as well.

Students Pursuing a Higher Education

This number is not as high as hoped for in post secondary education opportunities and it appears as more of our students are going into the military. There was not an unemployment number available for West Haven.

Special Education

Out of 7,500 students about 10% are in Special Ed classes. About 121 are in out of district placement and 21 in private placement. We should be providing the best possible services we can for all students. We should be in contact with the state and tell them they are not providing us enough money to provide for these students. Out of an 80 Million Dollar Budget approximately 16 Million Dollars is spent on Special Ed. We are only receiving about a 30% return on Special Ed monies.

Students that are being served are being reduced not just in West Haven but in our DRG and throughout the State. We attribute this to early intervention and to inclusion.
programs. Some students are moving out of these programs due to the wonderful services provided. We are in the same trend in our DRG and with the State Numbers.

We will continue to analyze this data to improve student achievement. Dr. Andrees gave thanks to the teachers and administrators where we have seen gains by their hard work. She thanked the Board for continuing to support the children of this community.

The Board thanked Dr. Andrees.

Neil Cavallaro requested that item 06-147 under New Business be tabled as Karyn Doherty will come before the board to give a presentation at the Blake Building on the TOUCH A TRUCK EVENT at our next meeting.

C.1.b BOARD

Robert Guthrie had the enjoyable treat to be at the Thompson School Kindergarten Reading this week and wanted to thank the staff there for doing a wonderful job.

George Monahan stated that last year the West Haven High School Hockey Alumni Association along with the Hamden High School Hockey Alumni Association hosted an event at the Hamden Rink which honored two former staff members of the two schools; coaches Crouse and Astorino. The Hamden Education Department and Public Works Department donated ice time and use of the rink and allowed the organization to charge a $5.00 ticket fee at the door. There were over 35 members on each team and they skated for over an hour and a half; a full period game. The proceeds from this event benefited the American Cancer Society and the Parkinsons Disease Foundation. A request has been made that this be held again this year. It was a great success last year and the hope was that West Haven would reciprocate and would allow the use of our rink with a $5 charge at the door. They would like to hold this event on Friday, February 16, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. He asked his colleagues on the board to support his request that we ask Superintendent Andrees to send a memo to Harry Conlan the Rink Director to block out this time so that these organization be allowed to sponsor this event and honor these two good people from two school districts as well as two charities.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to add an item to the Agenda 06-148 that the West Haven Board of Education accommodates the West Haven High School Hockey Alumni Association and the Hamden High School Hockey Alumni Association at no charge. George Monahan seconded the motion

Discussion: Robert Guthrie asked if would not be better to check the date with Mr. Conlan before voting.

George Monahan stated that the only thing scheduled in that block of time is a public skate session. One public skate session cancelled this far in advance is not going to impact anyone negatively.

No further discussion
All in favor
Motion 06-148 passes and is added.

Eric Murillo wanted to thank Mackrille school personnel for the festival it was well organized and he was very impressed.

Eric also wanted to bring to everyone’s attention that Bailey School together with the West Haven Community House has an after school experience program which is a positive thing for kids to do. It is open for 7th and 8th graders. They can make new friends, hang out, learn issues about life and can communicate with teachers. This program runs from 2:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. This is something positive for kids to do.

There were no other Board Reports.

C.1.c. COMMITTEE

Ray Collins apologized to Mrs. Rossi about the cancellation of the Food Service Committed Meeting. There was a conflict of interest as far as time wise. We tried to get as much information out as quickly as possible and he did actually go to the high school to have a sign put out. This meeting will be rescheduled to December 11th.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. Approval of Minutes
George Monahan made a motion to approve the minutes
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

D.2. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

06-146 Rose Palmieri, 257 Kelsey Avenue, West Haven, CT
3 Hour Elementary Cashier at St. Lawrence School
Effective: November 21, 2006
Starting Salary: Per Contract – AFSCME Council 4 Local 1303-410

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve D.2. New Hire (Non-Certified)
Ray Collins seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

E. **New Business:**

06-147 Correspondence from Karyn Doherty requesting permission to have the Alma E. Pagels PTA host a Touch a Truck Event.

Bob Guthrie made a motion to table 06-147
George Monahan seconded this motion
No Discussion
Item 06-147 tabled

06-148 West Haven Board of Education accommodate the West Haven High School Hockey Alumni Association and the Hamden High School Hockey Alumni Association to use the Rink at no charge on Friday, February 16, 2007 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. to benefit the American Cancer Society and the Parkinsons Disease Foundation while honoring Coaches Crouse and Astorino.

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve item 06-148
George Monahan seconded this motion
All Board Members voted in favor
No one was opposed
Motion carries

**Informational:**

Nothing to add under informational

Ray Collins made a motion to adjourn
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

The meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Clerk