The Meeting of the Board of Education as a whole was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by M. Toni Paine, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:03 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**
- Ray Collins
- Krista Pickering
- Howard Horvath

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:**
- Kimberly A. Barnes
- Yvena Philbert

Before beginning the Public Portion Toni Paine requested a moment of silence for the Bradshaw family. Two children at Carrigan a boy and girl who are twins lost their mother. A 4th grade student at Washington School lost her father. A moment of silence was requested for the Lowry family.

**B. PUBLIC PORTION**

Toni Paine asked if anyone would like to address the Board.

Tracy Morrissey, 305 Country Hill Drive, West Haven had the opportunity on Monday night to attend Carrigan School’s Murder Mystery Night with her daughter. It was fabulous. There were over 200 families that participated. It was nice to see the teachers, faculty and parents with their children. This was a nice alternative to mischief night. It was very well done and we enjoyed it.
The Board gave thanks.

Toni Paine asked if anyone else would like to address the Board.

Pat Libero, 146 Connecticut Avenue, West Haven who also is the Principal of Carrigan Middle School brought some of her students to the meeting tonight as they have a request of the Board. Nikki Liberty will be the first speaker.

Nikki Liberty, 10 Hemlock Street stated she is a 7th grader at Carrigan Middle School and would like to have sports at Carrigan because many of the students like sports and were looking forward to joining one of the sports teams this year. She was looking forward to it this year. Many of the kids in 7th grade have a very strong interest in sports especially baseball, soccer, and basketball. If there is a way to bring back sports the students would be very grateful. She brought a petition with her signed by 114 students in Carrigan School.

The following students addressed the Board: Nikki Liberty, 10 Hemlock Street, Ralph Russo, 20 Yates St., Kelvin Toledo 114 Yates Street, Destiny Mystique 149 Anton Street, Apt 29, Tiffany Mut, 100 Yates Street, and Fallon David, 20 Ardale St.

They stated that they would like sports brought back to school for the following reasons:

Sports keep kids off the streets after school and out of trouble
Sports give students something to do after school
Sports helps build high self esteem
Sports gives students the incentive to keep their grades up in all the way through high school and college in order to participate
Sports keeps students active and healthy
Sports keeps students focused on being alert because of many activities and keeps them off of the computer by doing active and fun things
Sports keep you healthy by keeping you active and not overweight

Pat Libero said she is really proud of these students because this was brought up in Mrs. Ferraro’s class and the students were told they should write a letter to the Board and they followed through on it and presented it to the Board.

The Board gave thanks to each student.

Gary Donovan, 254 Blohm Street applauds the students for what they did tonight. If they had gotten to the whole school they would have had about 300 signatures. He stated that the Board of Ed actually allowed this to happen because if they didn’t want it to happen it wouldn’t have happened. Sports have always been big in West Haven and the kids need something. There is nothing for them to do after school and they may go down the wrong path so to speak. He has been involved in West Haven Little League about seven years. If money is an issue ask the teachers to volunteer their time and if they don’t want to there are plenty of people out there who will. He wants sports put back into this school.
system. He was hoping the Mayor would be here tonight because he plans on speaking to
the Mayor to put sports back into the school system. This is not the last we will be
hearing form him on this subject. Parents will probably have no problem paying a few
bucks extra for the kids to stay in sports. He plans on having a rally down on the green
for support of this. He gave out his phone number if the Board needs help or wishes to
discuss this further. He asked the question why was sports taken out from the schools?
The board stated they couldn’t get into a discussion now but would be happy to speak
with him after the meeting. Public Portion is for comments.

The board gave thanks.

Cebi Waterfield, 70 Seaview Avenue, West Haven, PTA President from Seth Haley
Elementary School wanted to discuss three issues. Several years ago the PTA installed
the playground with the understanding the equipment would be maintained by the PTA
and the fence and grounds by the Board of Education and/or Park Rec. The surface of the
playground is nearly non-existent when it rains the ground is muddy for days making it
impossible for the kids to use the playground. The corrosion under the swing set affects
the height of the swings. The second graders can’t even get on the swing set and the fifth
graders don’t really use the swing set. The bottom part of the large slide is missing and is
so high off the ground it is dangerous. She was told the Park Rec Dept. removed it
because there was a whole in it to prevent injuries. The graffiti is out of anybody’s
control at this point. The fence has been removed which I think is a good idea because it
is now visibly accessible if the police are driving by they can see into the playground.

The suggestion for a Parent’s Night for Holiday Shopping drop off was raised at their last
PTA Meeting as a fund raising opportunity. This was discussed with Mrs. Pepe and
several teachers have offered to supervise and volunteer for this event. Today she was
informed that the Board Members decided this was not a good idea because of liability
issues. I want to bring to your attention that the PTA holds its own liability insurance as
well as having several licensed volunteers besides the teachers and she is a registered
nurse. She doesn’t see where this would be any different from the basketball teams and
the Boy Scouts, Community House, and the Pop Warner Cheerleaders who use the school
after hours for their own purposes. She would like the Board to reconsider and if it is
denied she would like to know the issues are that makes this not an acceptable fund
raising activity. The PTA really needs the money. The Board will speak with her.

She works at Bridgeport Hospital and they have disaster drills all the time. She is
concerned that there are not enough supplies on hand should the schools have a lock
down. There is no food for the kids except for just that day as well as medical supplies
and medication. These items should be on hand in case there is a lock down for any
reason; weather conditions or if there is an intrusion in the building. She wanted to make
the Board aware of this for their disaster plan.

There is a new study out on the AP Wire today stating there are 17,000 children hurt on
school buses every year. Only 42% are from school bus accidents the rest are from quick
turns on the bus, rough housing on the bus, getting on and off the school busses, and lack
of supervision. The American Academy of Pediatric recommends having lap shoulder belts on all school buses and supports having adult monitors on buses. Five states now require them to be on all buses California, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey and New York. She left reading material for board members.

George Monahan asked Mrs. Waterfield to provide the board through the Superintendent’s Office with whatever request was made. Mrs. Waterfield stated she would.

The board gave thanks.

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven President of the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses. She too is very upset about the elimination of middle school sports also. We are lacking a lot of things in the schools this year. We have kindergarten classes at 26; we have 70 kids being serviced by one ESL Teacher and one Para Professional part time. We have large classes everywhere. She would like to see sports put back but would also like to see some of our educational programs funded adequately. If the parents in the room and the children would make sure their concerns are known to the City Council and to the Mayor this would be very helpful. Although the Board would like to fund everything but you can only do what you can with the amount of money you have. She knows the Board agonized over what cuts were made and you tried to make the ones that would have the least impact on the educational program. She knows sports are important but if students can’t read they will have big problems. We need to work very hard to get the City Council and the Mayor to fund education adequately. We were cut $587,000 from what we had last year plus what the state gave us as an increase and that is a lot of money especially considering that everything went up not just salaries but UI bills, phone bills etc. Everything went up and we got less money than last year. She felt this needed to be said and knows the Board can’t address the crowd during public portion so she is taking the privilege.

The Board gave thanks.

Lisa Marini, 180 Hemlock Street, West Haven. She has some concerns about her nephew who is a senior at the high school and played sports. He was going to get 2 F’s and a D+. She spoke to the athletic director and he would relay the message to the coach. She stated she wanted him to catch up on his school work and she asked if they could work something out. She was disturbed to find out that they allow him to play with 2F’s and a D because CIAC regulates sports throughout the state. As long as they get four credits they can play a sport. This can be four credits in any course and these four credits will not allow him to pass to the next grade. In her case her nephew is a senior and this would not allow him to graduate. She thought the coach would work with her and give her nephew a little time to bring his grades up. She was told if she takes him off the team then he is off. She felt bad to make a decision like that and it was disappointing to find that the priority didn’t lie in education. She wanted to bring this to the Board’s attention. It is her understanding the West Haven High School is being looked at now with the CAPT scores an things like that. This might be one of the reasons why because
education is not priority. She also wanted to add that her nephew did spend two weeks and brought his grades up and wanted to get back on the team but they wouldn’t let him back on.

The Board gave thanks

The public portion closed at 7:25 p.m.

C. REPORTS:

C.1. Status of Schools
Dr. Andrees presented the final document of the Vision and Mission Statement for the West Haven School District. These will be displayed throughout our district. This document was done by our own West Haven Advanced Printing Class under the direction of Mr. Hoffman and we want to thank them for the great work that was done. Thanks were also extended to Mr. Murillo for framing this for us. We really appreciate it.

There are a lot of wonderful things that you will want to hear about our students so my report will be brief tonight. The first thing I want to do is to acknowledge that we have a young man in our audience this evening by the name of Steelsen Smith. Steelsen is a member of the senior class at West Haven High School and has been recognized by the College Board of National Hispanic Recognition Program as announced by Mr. Ron Stancil. This program was established in 1983 for exceptional academic achievement for Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for post secondary institutions. Steelsen will be inundated with mail from colleges because of his exceptional test scores on the PSAT. This year more than 175,000 students took this test nationwide and of those only 4,700 are receiving the distinction that will be given tonight to Mr. Steelsen Smith. On behalf of the West Haven School District and President of the Board of Education we congratulate you.

Academics are very strong, alive and well in the West Haven School District. Hopefully some of you have seen the video highlighting West Haven High School which ran Friday and again on Saturday evening. This was a wonderful production which let the community know about the exceptional programs and opportunities afforded to students of this community and academic is our focus along with the other types of activities that helps our students and we are quite proud of the academics of our students.

On our agenda tonight will be a presentation from Pitney Bowes, if you need information, helping us to take a look at the students who are in our schools who are not residents of our community. We keep hearing this over and over again from residents of our community. Pitney Bowes is working with us and we believe that it is probable that within the first two months of having this system installed in our school it will be possible to check addresses through the national registry. One will not be able to camouflage their address because they will show up with an address some place else.
This allows us to not rely on members of the community or neighbors to call us on the hot line to say there is someone being dropped off who should not be attending school in West Haven. This will be on the agenda tonight for your approval.

The Board of Education along with Tracy Morrissey who is the liaison to the Board of Education is visiting all the schools in the district. This has been a wonderful experience. Every other week Board Members and Council Members are inviting to come in a visit a different school. We are quite proud of the wonderful things that are happening across the entire district. During the next three weeks we will have the opportunity to see the Points of Pride at Carrigan Middle School and immediately after that we will see the Points of Pride at Bailey Middle School. We want you to see the things that we do that you don’t hear about through the grape vine. Dr. Andrees then turned the meeting over to Neil Cavallaro.

Neil was asked to speak about four initiatives. He passed out paper work on these and asked anyone with questions to give him a call after reading through them.

The first handout that you have is on making data-driven decisions. This initiative is coming down from the State of Connecticut. This involves making educational decisions on teaching strategies on how we teach kids and what the kids are actually taking in from how we teach them based on the information and data we collected and analyzed. This is particularly being done at West Haven High School in the Math Department and Thompson Elementary School has done some extensive training. We do quite a bit of assessments especially in the area of Language Arts and Mathematics and have so much information how do we now sit down in small teaching teams at the classroom level and make decisions based on how we should modify our instructions. We spent three days at a work shop learning how to do this. A lot of school districts are dealing with the same dilemma. What we decided to do is have our administrators bring in evidence of how kids are performing in areas where we are strong and where we are weak and to change and adapt our teaching to those strengths and weaknesses. We plan on spending a lot of time at Thompson School to see what they have been doing over the last couple of years with their extensive training in this area. Thompson School has found it very successful and states if you have the data in front of you the data doesn’t lie. It becomes so obvious and now you are able to make the modifications. We are going to be spending a lot of time making data driven decisions.

Neil stated in the handout he gave out the introduction to the book and hopes that it can be used as a tool to help improve the instruction throughout the school district.

Neil enclosed a letter that was sent to ten teachers that consist of reading teachers, literacy teachers and ESL teachers. Teachers throughout our district are frustrated because there are so many non English speaking students coming into our district as well as districts throughout the state. We are sending these teachers to a work shop to make a connection between teaching these kids literacy and English skills while we are teaching them the English language.
A page from the table of Contents of the eighth grade math book was looked at and we want to give all of our kids in our district the opportunity to take higher level classes both at the middle and high school level. We are trying to get all of our eighth graders ready to take algebra classes by the time they get to ninth grade. We want to give them the opportunity and introduce them to the material that they need in order to be successful on the CAPT test. We will try and eliminate the remedial book from the 8th grade and put all of the kids into our basic textbook series. This series covers a lot of pre-algebra and basic algebra concepts.

Lastly, we must keep our administrators up to speed on educational issues that we need to deal with everyday. Jolene Barnes has set up a workshop on sexual harassment and how to deal with it as a total school perspective. This will take place on Thursday, December 7th at the Savin Rock Conference Center. We are also working in conjunction with the City as they have employees who also need to attend which are mandatory in most management type positions.

Our elementary science program will be discussed by Raffaella Fronc at an up-coming board meeting.

We are really trying to move the district forward and be pro-active and address a lot of different needs of an ever changing community.

The Board gave thanks.

Dr. Andrees also wanted to thank the students and teachers from Carrigan stating that it is a wonderful way to learn how to access the system with their concerns. She is quite proud of them for having the courage to do this. (Applause ensued)

Ron Stancil, Principal at West Haven High School stated that they are a little late this year in doing their recognition session for Project Graduation however it is an important part of the process and they will be giving out plaques to recognize people who have helped them with the 2006 graduation class. For the most part these same folks will be around for this year.

Awards were distributed to the following:

West Haven Board of Education
West Haven Federation of Teachers &
West Haven Federation of School Nurses
Superintendent of Schools and the Blake Building
Mayor John Picard
GIST & Herlin Press
Class Advisors Tracy Acquarulo and Dana Clifford
DECA President
West Haven Fire Fighters Local 1198
Super Stop and Shop of Orange
West Haven Drug & Alcohol Task Force
West Haven VOICE
P-Dawg Production
Winkle Bus Company
Rotary Club
Shop Rite of West Haven
American Medical Response
West Haven Police Union – Local 895
West Haven Parks & Recreation
West Haven Food Service
Paul’s Service Center

Ron wanted to thank everyone for their help in Project Graduation and that without snow days graduation is scheduled for the June 15th which is a Friday.

We will have some presentations from PTSA that will be coming to the Board of Education for a fund raiser this year. Hopefully there will be a golf tournament and as soon as we get more information we will bring this to the Board for their approval.

Toni Paine wanted to thank all who contributed or worked and for their moral support and monetary support and food this was a huge success.

Dr. Andrees stated that the names we are seeing tonight are names that are seen many times and again we want to thank you for your continued support in all areas we appreciate you.

C.1.b. BOARD

Bob Guthrie wanted to thank Mr. Palmieri and everyone involved with the Homecoming and if will be an annual happening hopefully the weather will cooperate the same way it did this year.

Toni stated it was a fun night.

Mark Palmieri stated he attended the Mackrille School visit along with Mr. Monahan and Mr. Cavallaro was there and it was nice to see how everything is falling into place from grade to grade and how everything is progressing. Students were receptive to all the programs and very active. He can’t wait to see the school again in the spring.

Secondly he applauds Nikki Liberty and the students from Carrigan. He asked Superintendent Andrees to recognize them and send them a letter of thanks and tell them that when the budget comes they do need to go before the City Council. Hopefully then they will find the money for us to continue middle school sports. He stated this was an excellent job done by the Carrigan students.
Eric Murillo thanked Mark for the great job on Homecoming and stated he was happy to see the many families come together and enjoy themselves. He also stated that an ESL teacher was named Teacher of the Year from Forest School. Her name is Lizabetta O’Leary. Toni Paine asked if either of the two student reps had anything to add.

Yvena Philbert reminded parents that Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. all eighth graders and their parents are invited to attend West Haven High School.

Kim Barnes stated that the Rostrum will be released before Thanksgiving at a cost of fifty cents and if anyone is interested they can contact her or the advisor.

The Mock Trial Team has begun their meetings and they are working hard. The case is on line if anyone would like to read it you can access it under highschoolmocktrial@cclce.org this is a pretty long reading so if you want to get underway we are eager for your support.

DECA has many events going on and marketing students are just returning from SONAR in Washington DC. We are underway with our winter formal and would like to invite the board members. This will be held December 1st from 7:00 to 12:00 p.m. If you wish to attend please let Mr. McKee know so we have a food count.

The Board gave thanks.

Toni Paine also wanted to thank Mr. Palmieri for a wonderful Homecoming Festival which was very well attended. It was really neat to see something like this and the kids had an absolute ball with it.

She also was able to attend Mackrille School and they went from K through 5th grade and it was absolutely wonderful. Each class did something a little different and each and every class and hallway had something posted that had something to do with science form kindergarten up. Each class was in the process of doing something even the little guys had an interactive class with minimal amount of direction. It just was wonderful a beautiful experience. She was so proud of them.

There were no other Board Reports.

C.1.c. COMMITTEE

There were no Committee Reports

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a West Haven Board of Education Meeting, October 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building
D.1.b. West Haven Board of Education Special Finance Meeting, 
October 16, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Blake Building

D.1.a. and D.1.b. Approval of Minutes Inclusive
Bob Guthrie made a motion to approve D.1.a. and D.1.b. Inclusive
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

D.2. New Hire: (Certified)

06-141 David Soler, 2 North Main Street #172, Beacon Falls, CT
   Special Education Department Head at WHHS
   Effective: November 7, 2006
   (Step 10 B.S. + 60)
   Stipend Per Contract $4,800.00

George Monahan made a motion to approve D.2. New Hire (Certified)
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

D.3. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

06-142 Dawne B. Nolan, 1 Cleft Rock Lane, Woodbridge, CT
   Part-time Title One Math Aide at Our Lady of Victory School
   Effective: October 30, 2006
   Starting Salary: $13.89 Hourly

06-143 Kelly Kavanagh, 100 Martin Street, West Haven, CT
   6 Hour Production Worker at WHHS
   Effective: November 8, 2006
   Starting Salary: Per AFSCME Contract

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve D.3. New Hire (Non-Certified) Inclusive
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

06-144 Maura Callahan Izzo
George Monahan made a motion to approve D.4. Leave of Absence (Certified)
Mark Palmieri seconded the motion
No discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

E. New Business:

06-145 Letter from Garth Sawyer to Dr. JoAnn Andrees regarding the Pitney Bowes Proposal

Bob Guthrie made a motion to approve 06-145
Jerry Calabritto seconded this motion
Discussion:
Bob Guthrie asked Garth Sawyer if he would like to come forward and discuss this proposal. He asked if this was part of a State Contract and asked how long it was for. Garth responded yes this is a state contract and it has been in existence for ten years. Garth asked how many school districts are involved. Garth responded that about five currently utilize this program and they are West Hartford, Newington, East Windsor, Stamford, and Greenwich. They are very pleased with their success.

George asked for a point of clarification. The proposal was in two phases an initial response and then followed up with another one; the tabber device and the more elaborate program regarding address verification etc. were mentioned. He knows we must be using something right now and wonders if the first phase was just basically up-dating and to stay with what we have and then the second part is to up-date it to this more sophisticated system?

The first stage is an implementation solution that allows you to take advantage of the postal discount and also verify the address of students. The first stage allows you to save money on postage and to verify addresses of students enrolled in this district. The second part the tabber is a complimentary product that allows you to take even more postal discounts because some of the mailings namely the Newsletter is automation compatible only with a tabber. Automation compatible mail is the most discounted mail. Because this piece of mail is folded it needs to be tabbed. You save an additional four cents per piece on the Newsletter.

Jerry questioned the cost of the two bids being approximately $700 per month for this product. How much is the calculated anticipated savings in postage per month.

Garth took a look at just the volume for Superintendent’s mailing and the high school we actually didn’t incorporate the middle or elementary schools. The tabber would pay for
itself with an additional $300 savings during the year and then there would be a net cost for the Veri-Move System for postage only for about $3,000. so basically you will save about ten cents per mail piece. But with the residency piece if do a residency check and find one student it would pay for this alone.

Jerry stated so basically it will cost us $3,000 a year more than we pay now to mail but we are picking up the residency piece.

Garth stated that any additional mailings we incorporate into this will save us ten cents a piece.

Jerry stated so we really aren’t saving anything on the mailing cost the only benefit that the administration sees is the residency piece. Once you do one mailing you check on those addresses and can check all 7,000 students for that month.

Toni Paine stated that if you pick up one student you save money. Jerry understands that but wanted to point out a misconception here that you aren’t saving any money on postage for doing this but if we pick up one out of town student fine but there is no savings.

Bob stated stated that there will be a per piece savings on the mailing. The residency piece is probably more significant for the Board but then the mailing cost per say but one is going to allow the other to make savings. Jerry stated again that this is no savings in postage to this Board. Toni Paine and George Monahan stated concurrently yes it is a postage savings. The expense is the purchase. Jerry stated he just asked if there was a savings. Garth said for the system itself we are looking at about $7,500 for the purchase for a year. We realize about $4,500 in savings just in the high school and the Superintendent’s mailings. Once we incorporate the mailings from the middle schools this will lower the cost to us to wash the cost out. Jerry stated this is the question he asked originally.

Mark understands about the printer but as far as Veri-Mode this is a software program. Don’t you purchase a certain amount. Every time you send out 7,000 you buy a block of say 50,000 and you can keep it for five years and every time you send out 7,000 you subtract it from the total left. Are we doing that here. Yes, we have been given a block of 360,000 records you can check over the term of 35 months. Once we run this we will have a pilot that we can utilize for our mailings for the middle schools. We will double check this on a monthly basis. Mark just wanted to make sure we wouldn’t go through 300,000.

George Monahan asked the Pitney Bowes Reps that in the five districts you cited that are currently using this product and are using the Veri-Move feature as well can you tell us if they have had it for six months or a year what kind of success they have had with identifying non-qualifying students.
West Hartford is a good example to start off with. Every September they do an initial sweep and catch about 175 non-residents and six weeks later do another sweep and those usually ends up netting 20 to 25 as time goes on. East Windsor is a little bit less but is substantial. George stated that if we fine one non-eligible student it more than pays for the program.

This is based on the United States Postal Service Delivery Records. If you file a change of address and are not receiving mail at that address you will get the new address back. Eric Murillo understands this part and will save us 23% in postage. The gentlemen from Pitney Bowes stated as of this time you have no systematic way to do this. Bob Guthrie said it will red flag addresses then our Assistant Superintendent can check it out and stay on top of it for verification and proof. More discussion ensued.

Toni Paine asked if we were ready to vote and the Board responded yes.
All Board Members voted in favor
No one was opposed
Motion carries

**Informational:**

Nothing to add under informational

Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn
George Monahan seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion carries

The meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Clerk