The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on November 2, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Mark Palmieri, Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**
- Mark Palmieri, Chairman
- Gerald A. Calabritto, Vice Chairman
- Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer
- Patrick Egolum
- T. Robert Saley
- Howard Horvath Jr.
- M. Toni Paine
- Sean Maher

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**
- Andrew DePalma

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**
- Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
- Dave Cappetta, Director of Finance

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**
- Mayor John M. Picard

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**
- Eric Pang

Mark Palmieri welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for November 2, 2009 and stated that before starting the Public Session there would be a few presentations that would be done first.

**C. REPORTS**

**C.1. Administration**

Superintendent Cavallaro called on Patti Stevens, Executive Director of the West Haven Community House who invited Board of Education members to the “Lights on Afterschool” event on Wednesday, November 4th. Every fall agencies involved with the Connecticut Afterschool Network have a celebration to bring attention to after school programming and the importance of these programs to families in the community. The Community House has several programs. Our closed chapter program serves about 240
Our Kids in the Neighborhood Program serves about 80 – 100 children in each of the two sessions. We have a very small program that is starting at Carrigan Middle School. This year we would showcase our Kinder Club Program which is before, after, and all day kindergarten. We have about 90 children that go in and out of this program. They do a lot of learning and the theme this October was circus they added experiential things they learn on a day to day basis and they did clowns and acrobats etc. They board was invited to the day of the circus on Wednesday, November 4th. On Thursday they are having Family Night at the Circus where the parents can come in and experience some of the things the children have done.

The board gave thanks.

Before Dr. Michael Donoghue spoke, Mayor Picard stated that the relationship with Yale University over the last few years has really grown into something spectacular for not only West Haven and the school system but for the entire region. They volunteered time to sit on the Economic Development Board, helped us with many projects, donated money to the Art Center and Take A Seat Program along with so many other things. The knowledge that they have and their willingness to work with us is really an outstanding benefit. Mayor Picard gave Dr. Michael Donoghue’s bio and stated that he is eminently qualified and has become a good friend of West Haven and asked how else can he help our children and help our region grow. Mayor Picard wanted to publicly thank Dr. Michael Donoghue, Vice President of Planning Yale West for his commitment to all they are doing to enhance our learning development for our children. He also has Lisa Maloney who works very closely with him. Mayor Picard is very confident that after the presentation tonight our relationship with Yale will blossom even more.

Dr. Michael Donoghue stated he is delighted to be here and is the Vice President in charge of developing the new West Campus which is the former Bayer facility. He offered tours to anyone interested in seeing the campus. They are developing programs on the West Campus having to do with the sciences and arts and other things. They are excited to be part of the West Haven community and to be involved with K-12 education initiatives. They have talked a lot with Neil Cavallaro and Mayor Picard to find out how they can get involved with the school system and be helpful in terms of teaching, training, and actual contact with kids in the school system. They are developing programs that have to do with outdoor education for kids. They are hoping to get our kids out to look at woodlands along the Oyster Creek etc.

The idea of locating the West Haven Board of Education on the Yale West Campus for a couple of years while renovations at City Hall take place has been discussed. They are excited about building the relationship with West Haven and think this building is the perfect location. They see a lot of advantages of having the board directly connected on the campus for awhile. There are positive benefits for both sides by doing this and some benefits follow:

- Brings us closer to the BOE, teachers, and kids in the school system
- They will learn more about what is going on in our school system
- We will learn more about how to take advantage of what is happening on the West Campus
- Rent will not be charged just an charging for some of the operational costs for operating this building which is a good financial deal
- They would provide all the maintenance of the building and the maintenance of the grounds and all the other stuff that has to be done around the building.
- The building is nicely appointed right near the entrance
- There are several options for entry: come in through the main gate of West Campus or there is a potential of fencing off an area around the building and having a separate entrance
- It is easy to get to and easy on and off the highway
- Handicapped accessible

He stressed that there is nothing they would like more than to enter into this deal. Beyond this arrangement there are many other ways that we can be useful. Yale wants to be a very good neighbor to everybody in West Haven.

He has talked to Joe McDonald who is in charge of Economic Development for Connecticut about how they can leverage some of the very high tech science activities they will have on the West Campus to help out in West Haven to help develop industry here. There are a lot of ways we can be useful and we desperately want to be.

Mayor Picard said the board’s public meeting would be at City Hall. The state has approved reimbursement to move the board there to 39% so a project that was going to be fully funded by the City is now going to be reduced by the state’s reimbursement. The benefit of being in close proximity to Yale for two years will bring some great results to the teachers, administration and children. It will also save us some money. A further discussion ensued and it was stated they will come back to discuss this and asked board members to arrange a trip to view the entire facility. They have a Day Care Center and a Community Education Center that will be running K-12 programs. There will be a newly hired educator from the Peabody Museum who will be located at this center which is located right next door.

Chairman Mark Palmieri asked if there were plans available tonight. Yes he showed the board a map of the campus. He said some Bayer employees remain and will be out by January 1st and will leave a lot of good furniture. Mark said we can schedule a group to go and check out the campus is anyone would like to do this.

Lisa Maloney was also introduced; she works with the details and operation of the West Campus Planning.

The Board gave thanks.

Chairman Mark Palmieri said that next we would have the students from West Haven High School who performed at the advanced level on all four of the subtests for the 2009
Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). He handed out plaques and pins for those students who were present. He read the letter from Commissioner Mark McQuillan the Commissioner of Education which was made into a plaque for the students. The students who were acknowledged by the Board of Education were: Michael Binkowski, Stacey Matakaetis, Kevin Murty, Puja Patel, Gypsy Garcia, Diana Pimer and Martha Jacobs. Neil stated that unfortunately Puja, Gypsy, Diana, and Martha were not able to attend tonight’s meeting due to their attending swim meets and soccer games. In addition to being great students they are very well rounded students and are a big part of the entire high school community.

The board gave thanks.

Chairman Palmieri stated that we have some administrators from WHHS here to present the two year NEASC Report. Trish Robles, Paul Cavanna, and Crystal Fanelli who are the tri chairs of the accreditation committee will give the report along with Pamela Gardner, Kurt Ogren, Scot Shand and Marilyn Lynch.

The NEASC report was given to board members. Before starting the report a heartfelt thank you was given to Dr. Druzolowski and Superintendent Cavallaro for all the help and support that was given to this endeavor over the summer.

Trish Robles stated in September of 2007 NEASC came to WHHS for a four day visit and looked at everything done in the school, interviewed students, teachers, reviewed our self study and came up with their report; we had 18 teachers from other states come in to review us and their report is sent to the commission and then the commission sends a report to us about commendations and recommendations they think we should make to help our school become a better place for students to achieve higher standards.

The state was happy about everything we changed and things we put in place when we sent our special progress report to the state in February. We are now waiting for their response to our two year report which was due October 1st. We will probably hear from them in the spring.

Co-Chair Paul Cavanna talked about the completed and in progress areas of the report. All the recommendations that we sent in our interim report are completed and in progress right now. The definition of completed – the recommendation has been implemented fully or there is an on-going process to insure the implementation. The definition of in progress means steps have been taken to carry out each recommendation but there needs to be more done to ensure full implementation. From this section we are in really good shape.

Kurt Ogren talked about the increase security at WHHS and the use of cameras. There are 87 doors to get in and out of the high school and all doors are locked with a buzzer system to get in with only three entrances; badges are worn and visitors must sign in and out. Students who are late are met by department heads and escorted to their classroom.
Mrs. Lynch thanked the Board, Neil and Anne for expediting the trouble shooting necessary to get technology to our teachers so they can do their job and integrate the technology. The Help Desk has been a big help. The curriculum overhaul and the collaboration that is now available in their schedule is very beneficial and helped teachers integrate the technology. A further discussion ensued.

Pamela Gardner, Principal of WHHS stated she has taught at four different high schools and has been involved with NEASC in four different locations and co-chaired the accreditation report and has been out on accreditation visits. One of the most amazing things when she started on July 1, 2009 was that people in the school were already working on the two year report and a lot of progress had been made and committees were in place. Things were already happening to make sure that WHHS was moving forward and this is a strong testament to the staff that we have and the team that was put together for NEASC. There was a draft for her to review when she arrived on July 1st so she wants to publicly thank the co-chairs and the committee for all their work. A further discussion about district wide professional development and common assessments took place. Long term and short term plans for improvements to the science rooms along with the six outdated classrooms were discussed. The City Council and the West Haven Board of Education has approved the West Haven High School Building Project and we have sent out the plans to try and get the funding (75.36%) from the state.

Pam thanked the maintenance department and everyone involved at WHHS for the attention to the grounds and improvements made inside the building this summer.

The entire presentation given at the board meeting is available on our website.

The board thanked all the presenters for a very informative presentation.

Rob Saley asked if we would be looking at a security team at the high school or is this not a viable thing to look at. Neil said we have a meeting coming up with a firm that does this. Questions have come up about this in the past as to whether it would be to our advantage to hire the employees and make them part of our school system or subcontract with the agency. We are looking into this and it is an option and I will share the results of the upcoming meeting.

Neil Cavallaro met with Dave Wedge in Hartford to answer some questions on the high school. It is his understanding that we are being placed on the priority list to be sent over to the legislature for recommendation for funding at the new high school. Once received, this letter will come in handy with NEASC.

B. Public Session

Public session began at 7:45 PM
Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Rd., West Haven. Mrs. Rossi stated she is sorry to see Les Hawley leave as he has been an excellent administrator to the school system. It is a sad day for West Haven to have one of its finest leave. He deserves retirement as does everyone but he will be missed. He did a great job at Stiles and prior to being there and I’m sure he is doing a great job at the high school.

Stiles came on our agenda and I don’t know who dropped the ball; the City or Board of Education. It needed to come before the City Council. The only way the ball started rolling is when I contacted Neil and he told me to contact the Corporation Council and that is when it appeared on our agenda. We have rules and regulations for students which we expect them to live by and there are consequences. There are also rules and regulations for the city and it never seems like there are ever any consequences for those actions when things fall through the cracks. I’m hoping if we rent out anything else it should come before City Council and Planning and Zoning before someone comes there. The Community House is a great organization and no one is questioning that but we have a set of rules in place and those rules were not followed and someone is in there before it came to the city council.

The extension of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent’s contract was discussed. This is in no way a reflection on the performance of either of the individuals. I question the timing of it on the eve of an election. I would like to think when I vote for board of education, if there is a change, that those people were put in place in order to make decisions going forward. If this is approved tonight it takes their voice away. Saying that it has always been done and is nothing out of the ordinary is not a good answer. There is no reason not to wait until the new board is seated; neither contract is running out in the next couple of months.

The board gave thanks.

Sandra LoRusso, 75 Tuthill Street, West Haven spoke on the extension of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent’s contract. She disagrees with Mrs. Rossi. This board was elected by the people of the city to make decisions and if you feel you should make this decision tonight you should go ahead and do it. She has been a prior board member and knows how difficult decisions are. We have two individual here who brought in a no increase budget that did not cut services and did not cause any layoffs. In her recollection over the past 30 years this has never happened. I think this board should not only extend their contract but also thank them for the leadership they have given to every one of you and the dedication they have shown to the citizens of this city because we certainly appreciate it. (Applause)

The board gave thanks.

Patricia Libero, 146 Connecticut Avenue, West Haven, Principal of Carrigan Middle School. Has been an educator in West Haven for over 30 years. I can call or email the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent anytime of day and get emails back. I like the direction they are taking - they are making change; but not just to make changes. I don’t
hear people saying this will all change in a couple of years. This one will leave and so will this one. People like the curriculum and the standards. The teachers are excited. We have collaboration time every single day and this has enhanced what we are able to do. We get back up from both Neil and Anne on the issues we have and I commend both of them for their work.

The board gave thanks.

James Burns, 86 Honey Pot Rd., West Haven stated he usually does not attend the public sessions of the Board of Education but with the activity that occurred last week I thought it important for me to express my thoughts before the board and to also give you an overview on this. He is a lifelong resident of West Haven and is one of the first graduating classes ’64 of WHHS. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Administration and a Masters in Occupational Safety & Health and is also certified by a national organization in the Homeland Security and a graduate of National Fire Academy in MD. He was a career firefighter of the West Shore Fire District serving as Fire Chief for 17 years from 1980 – 1997. A further discussion of his credential followed. He currently serves as Mayor Picard’s Chief of Staff responsible for the administrative duties of that position as well as the emergency management coordination for the city. In 2006 he was the interim Emergency Management Director serving until 2008. The emergency plan and emergency operation set up for the City of West Haven were part of his responsibilities. We built a new Police Station and immediately brought forth an Emergency Operations Center through the generous donation of the Bayer Corporation. We now have an operating center at City Hall for emergency communications and operations. I worked as liaison with the board of education for emergency preparedness and management.

We had our first bomb threat at WHHS on September 25, 2006. This was a posted notice on one of the 87 doors that was mentioned in a presentation tonight. That day was very chaotic; a lot of things were not right and not going well. The Superintendent at that time, Dr. Andrees, immediately held a meeting with the Assistant Superintendent, Neil Cavallaro, Ronald Stancil, Principal of WHHS, Police Chief, Fire Chief and I. That day we immediately changed some things that were in place. The City’s emergency operational plan (2 ½” thick) had no appendix in it for the board of education. We reached out to the administration at the board of education and immediately set up meetings to design this plan. The very next day we had another bomb threat (a call in). Fortunately we were able to make an arrest. The following things trouble him most as an emergency management director:

- Life safety (first and foremost)
- Life safety for the students
- Life safety for the faculty and visitors to the school district

He encourages the board to work with the school principals and PTS and have a series of meetings so parents understand first hand what happens when your child is arrested for doing things of this nature. Those charges brought forth to those two students amounted
to Class D Felonies. A Class D Felony stays with you for life it doesn’t go away after 30 days; it doesn’t come off of your arrest record it stays with you if you want to go to college, it stays with you if you want to obtain a job and stays with you if you wish to have a career in the military.

In 2006 we developed an emergency action plan that every school and teacher has in place. Of the 27 categories listed it is not a catch all for every single incident; no two fire or bomb threats are the same. You need at look at different things in each case. At the beginning of the year every teacher is given a review of this.

There was a comment made in the paper that there was no plan in place or they didn’t think there was a plan in place. That plan was approved and in place by 2007. In 2007 we applied for a Homeland Security Grant and we were asking for three schools: WHHS, Bailey and Carrigan. WHHS was the first and Bailey and Carrigan were second. The money from Homeland Security was not available for all three schools but this administration is working to get those additional funds. Every year we are required to review our plan as you do at the beginning of the year. I know staff at the BOE looks at the plan every summer and if there are any corrections or changes they are made. A plan was approved on October 15, 2009 by the Commissioner of Homeland Security and it is due for renewal in October 2010. This is further documentation that there was a plan in place. A further discussion ensued.

It is our goal to continue to review and develop emergency procedures and to be proactive in accessing all types of emergencies and respond accordingly.

The board gave thanks

Public portion ended at 8:30 PM

C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration

Neil stated we do have a meeting with several of the key people including the Chief of Police and others to review our procedures and make sure they are going forward. We are up to date and aware of all the rules that are currently in place. There are no two situations that are exactly alike but we do try to work through it and improve the procedures. I want to thank all those involved.

C.1. a. Status of Schools

Dr. Druzolowski said that a newsletter on Curriculum Update will be emailed to you that was put together to communicate with staff to update them on what is happening at the elementary and secondary level. We will also be working on a letter from the Superintendent to the community which will go out three times a year. We have applied
with 14 other communities for a competitive math/science grant to train coaches to support teachers in mathematics.

Mark Palmieri stated we had a get together earlier this evening for Eric Pang who has been accepted into the United States Marine Corps after graduating. He will head on to boot camp and directly to college. He has brought a lot of information to the board and has been a loyal and active member. I wish him the best of luck on behalf of the board and I’m sure he will make us proud. (Applause)

**C.1.b. Student Representatives**

Eric Pang said that last week WHHS was very busy.

Over 300 eighth grade students and their families attended WHHS’s open house and were welcomed by the senior class president and freshman class president. They listened to a presentation and received a tour of the school.

Over 400 parents and students attended Carrigan’s Murder Mystery Night. He was there with the children’s theatre and Mrs. Garner received a letter of thanks from Carrigan.

Many of our Blue Devil teams had their senior nights and won. Girls swimming defeated Foran, Girls Soccer defeated East Haven, Boys Soccer defeated Notre Dame and Volleyball defeated Career High School and our football team defeated Cross.

Members of the Academic Integrity Committee spent the weekend in Washington, D.C. and attended a luncheon which featured former General Colin Powell who received an award.

Halloween was a busy day for the Westies. Children’s Theatre had two performances of Harriet’s Halloween Candy followed by Trick or Trunk sponsored by the Blue Flame Year Book. Harriet’s Halloween Candy was a great selection for the holiday season and taught the young audience that sharing is not only the right thing to do but can be fun as well. Special thanks go to the teacher at Thompson, Trish Carey and year book advisor Debbie Suraci for the wonderful new event. It was great to see the community and school groups participate in giving candy to the kids at Trick or Trunk.

DECCA sponsored a Halloween skating party at the rink in the late afternoon.

The West Haven Police Academy met at the Police Department this past week and was presented with a tour of the facility by Officer Moscato and Sgt. Garcia. This program provides benefits to our students and 36 Westies participate. The West Haven Rotary was thanked for their support of West Haven High last Wednesday. Students will participate in job shadowing day on Saturday and will be visiting the United Nations.
The WHHS marching band performed their field show on October 16th in memory of Anthony Crouse Jr. ‘2004. Approximately 30 family members, alumni, and friends were able to attend. It was a very touching tribute to the former marching band alumni.

The Blue and White Up All Night Committee has been meeting and is working towards another great graduation event for the class of 2010.

The Little Miss Westie and Jr. Mister Westie Pageant are slated for March 24, 210.

Special thanks to Westies Care which sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive today at school.

An invitation was extended to board members to come to the dodge ball tournament on November 10th and participate.

Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night is on November 20th and 21st

Please participate in our winter coat drive sponsored by the class of 2011.

The board gave thanks.

C.1. c. Board

Mark Palmieri stated that regarding extending Superintendent Cavallaro and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anne Druzolowski’s contract here are a few different things on the history of this. When I first joined the board Dr. Andrees position was already a done deal. She was supposed to start in January but she started in July. I had to believe that board was doing the best for the children and I believe this board is doing the best for children. This has been going on and there has been discussion and intervention between this whole board and we worked it out. I’m very happy the way this board communicated. We have gone through four superintendents over the past six years. We need continuity for our children and I believe Superintendent Cavallaro has been a team player. The big thing I give Mr. Cavallaro credit for is the fact that when Dr. Andrees came here he could have gone in the tank but he helped her he was a man and I saw that and gave him a lot of credit. His contact was extended one time during January so there is no set time; it is in the contact that it should be July and as a member I will make sure that from now on in July we do it. Superintendent Cavallaro’s goal is the curriculum – professional development and there were a lot of changes going on in July – Pam Gardner came in and we were having Dr. Druzolowski change the curriculum. I see by this crowd tonight of administrators that he is a great leader and doing a great job and with Dr. Druzolowski they work well together. I believe in what they are doing and even the gentlemen from the union are here this evening obviously it means a lot for these two to continue in our district. You can throw politics out the window. I don’t care if it was Christmas Eve I would make this decision. I really believe in what they do and I think it is definitely for the children, the continuity, the curriculum – they have a five – ten year plan and I would like to be a part of it.
Patrick Egolum attended the Carrigan dance last Friday and really wanted to start dancing himself. The children were very well behaved and had a wonderful time. I had a walk through with Mr. Morrissey the Assistant Principal. From when my children went to that school the library has changed drastically I must commend the principal and the assistant principal and Neil Cavallaro for what has been accomplished at Carrigan School.

Howie Horvath thanked Eric Pang for coming so well prepared to every board meeting and stated he must make his parents very proud. Howie commended Mrs. Gardner and her team for a very impressive presentation about what is happening in general with the curriculum. It is great to hear that the teachers are excited about this and are doing wonderful things for the school system. He asked Neil to give an update on Race To The Top.

Neil said they are developing a plan and hiring a grant writer who will submit the application. All is going very well on the education side. As far as the educators are concerned we are full speed ahead and we will have a very good plan in place. The next meeting will be a week from Friday and I will keep you all updated. Howie asked if New Haven was part of this meeting. Yes, New Haven is part of this and the new assistant superintendent was at the meeting and is very familiar with the actual application.

Howie stated that these are pretty significant grants and knows that one at least is one million. Neil said they talked about what must happen through the legislative process to make things easier for reform. Our Attorney, Floyd Dugas, will do a workshop on some of the things that happened in New Haven and how it led to the point where they would sign an agreement.

Sean Maher attended the tours of the following schools: Savin Rock, Haley, Carrigan, Thompson, and Bailey. He sat with members of the data teams at some of those schools and it is very interesting to watch the change that happens on the data boards. Miss Bonaldo at Carrigan gave a great demonstration. It is very encouraging to see everybody on board with this. He attended Murder Mystery Night at Carrigan and it is an incredible event and it was great to see how the teachers at Carrigan work together as a team. He thanked the NEASC people who gave a very impressive report. It is good to see that this report is not only on paper it is in the building itself and you can see it.

Jerry Calabritto had two things he wanted to talk about but said he will make it simple and concur with everything that was said and Chief Burns covered the other one. There was a plan at the time that Dr. Andrees was here and we put that plan together. During that time I attended a number of table top exercises and we talked about school situations. One of the things talked about was you have to have control. They had to shut down the area. If an emergency vehicle needs to get there and if the parents were coming in to get the children it would be impossible. The other thing is that you don’t publicize your plan. The Chief didn’t mention it but there is something called a secondary explosion. If you publicize your plan and everyone knows what you will do then they know where you will end up. From the training and table tops I have attended our plan was executed perfectly.
I want to concur with everything said about the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and I am glad to have the opportunity to be able to vote on their contracts.

Mayor John Picard stated that concerning the bomb threat he knows we have a plan in place and any council member or board member who hasn’t seen it we are more than willing to take them through it. The safety of the children is paramount. I understand a few years back parents were going into their child’s locker and God forbid something really happens; the same people who complain because they couldn’t get something to the kids would be the first to complain because something happens. We all know it is the Chief of Police who takes over at this point not anybody else and if anybody has an issue they can always call the Mayor’s Office, the Superintendent’s Office, or the Police Department to know what the plan is and what procedures are in place. We can not have people going into the building or going into lockers or anything of that nature. I know there is a plan in place a commend all the departments for working together to always fine tune this plan.

Eric Pang has done an excellent job and it just goes to show you what the kids in West Haven High School are doing and what West Haven is about. We are always in there helping other people and doing different things. I happen to have been fortunate enough to attend most of those senior nights if not all of them and there are so many things we are doing. I did stop by Saturday for Trick or Trunk and it was a great event; there are so many good things happening in the city and at the high school and school system. What is happening here with everyone working together is exceptional.

During the school tours I participated in the students had their badges and there wasn’t a piece of paper on the floor. I want to compliment the custodians in the schools and the students who always help each other out. Lastly I want to thank Neil and Anne and I think they work very well together and they do a fantastic job. There performance has been exceptional; you don’t want to lose good people and these are two of the best you could find. These are very tough fiscal times and we didn’t have to raise taxes, we didn’t have teacher layoffs, we didn’t cut services – this is a reflection of all of us working together. Let’s not lose this. I said in the paper to lock in Neil and Anne and let the teachers, administrators, board and residents know that we have two people in place for the future and I think that is very important. It isn’t politics it is the right thing to do and I am very confident we will extend their contracts tonight.

Mark Palmieri stated that Nicole Pacapelli will be here our next board meeting. There was a nice article in the newspaper last Monday about our Field from this young woman and about how grateful they are to have not only the football field but this whole facility. Mark read a letter from Larry Ainsworth to Deena Pacello commending her efforts. Neil had Mark read from the Middletown Press a reporter’s reflection from going around to different stadiums and schools in Connecticut where we had very good reviews.
D.1. Approval of Minutes
D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held October 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blake Bldg. (Enclosure)

Toni Paine made a motion to approve the Board of Education minutes D.1.a. Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present voted in favor
No one was opposed
Motion Carries - Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

09-143 Lester Hawley, Assistant Principal - WHHS
   Effective: January 2, 2010
   Reason: Retirement

Jerry Calabritto made a motion to approve item 09-143 and accepts it with regret
T. Sean Maher seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present voted in favor
No one was opposed
Motion Carries

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

09-144 Joany M. Guzman, 255 Main Street, Apt 19, West Haven, CT 06516
   Spanish Teacher, WHHS
   Effective: June 26, 2009 (Effective date given on certification)
   Salary: $41,660.30 (Step 5 BS+30)

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.5. New Hire: (Certified) 09-144
Sean Maher made a motion to approve D.5. New Hire: (Certified) 09-144
Rob Saley seconded the motion
Discussion: Neil said the person has been there and the certification was just received so we have backdated it to that date.
All board members voted in favor
Motion passes

09-145 Bradford C. Williams, 56 Saddle Road, Norwalk, CT 06651
   Special Ed Teacher, Carrigan
Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.5. New Hire: (Certified) 09-145
T. Sean Maher made a motion to approve D.5. New Hire: (Certified) 09-145
Rob Saley seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members voted in favor
Motion passes

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

D.7. New Business:

09-146 Correspondence from Robert Mikenis, Science Teacher at Carrigan requesting approval for himself, four teachers and 70 students to visit Washington, DC from May 18th – May 21st to observe things that are part of the 8th grade curriculum.

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business: 09-146
M. Toni Paine made a motion to approve D.7. New Business: 09-146
T. Sean Maher seconded the motion
Discussion: Anne Druzolowski said they went out of their way to make sure, after the questions asked last year, to ask the same question for each of the applicants for field trips. One of the pieces we were concerned about as was Howie was what arrangements were made to make sure all kids who want to attend these trips have that opportunity. Fund raisers are in place for this and any kid that wants to go is going without a problem. Bailey has also assured her that this is part of their regular routine. We do see parents not allowing kids to go; it is a sign of the times, parents don’t think kids are ready and some kids chose not to go. All kids do have the opportunity to go. Howie asked how it would be subsidized. Parents pay for the trip and there are a variety of fundraisers to offset the cost. There are also payment plans set up to contribute to the dollar amount needed. Howie asked the cost of the trip. The cost is around $500 for each student. Washington is a four day trip and New England is three days. Howie thanked Anne and said the proof will be in the numbers but if the same percentage doesn’t go I want to investigate that more. Absolutely.
All board members present voted in favor
Motion passes

D.7. New Business (Continued)

09-147 Correspondence from Valerie Bruneau, Assistant Principal at Bailey requesting approval for eighth grade students and chaperones to participate in an educational excursion to Rhode Island and Massachusetts from June 2, 2010 to June 4, 2010.
Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7. New Business: 09-147
Rob Saley made a motion to approve D.7. New Business: 09-147
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present voted in favor
Motion passes

09-148 Extension of Superintendent of Schools Contract

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7. 09-148 Extension of Superintendent of Schools Contract
Jerry Calabritto moved we extend the contract as agreed to by the parties
M. Toni Paine seconded the motion
Discussion: Howie asked if we will have a final copy. Yes. Neil would like to see it also.

Rob Saley thanked this board for the communication that has taken place. I grew up with 7 brothers and sisters and realize that everything is a compromise in life and I want to thank the Chairman, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for listening to probably a very recalcitrant person on the board but not transcendent so I think everybody has to understand compromise and I think we did that tonight.

Eric Murillo stated that as a board member as mentioned earlier when Dr. Andrees was Superintendent we did inherit a Superintendent from the board members who were previously there and eventually we did have the opportunity to vote for her. I totally support the extension of the contracts because I believe the communication that has taken place the last couple of weeks has been unbelievable.

We as board members are fiscally responsible to watch the pennies in this district. We did the right thing by working hard together and I want to thank my board and my chairman and everybody for really working together.

Mark Palmieri wanted it know that both Neil and Anne will be taking a zero % increase this July.

All board members present voted in favor
Motion passes

09-149 Extension of Assistant Superintendent of Schools Contract

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve 09-149 Extension of Assistant Superintendent of Schools Contract
M. Toni Paine made a motion to approve D. 7. 09-149
Rob Saley seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present voted in favor
Motion passes
Applause

F. Informational:

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
T. Sean Maher made a motion to adjourn the meeting
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
All members were in favor
The meeting ended at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary