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 7:05 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**
- Ray Collins

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**
- Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools
- Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent
- Neil Stancil, Principal WHHS
- Kurt Ogren, Provost
- Les Hawley, Director Alternative School
- Paul DeFonzo, Assistant Principal Carrigan

**CITY ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**
- Hon. John Picard, Mayor
- James Burns, Chief of Staff
- Ronald Quagliani, Chief of Police
- John Serra, Captain Uniform Division

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:**
- Yvena Philbert

**C. REPORTS**

**C.1. STATUS OF SCHOOLS**
Chairman Toni Paine welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that in light of what has happened last week we are going to have the public portion after an over view of what went on last week from Chief Quagliani and Mr. Jim Burns.

Dr. Andrees took a moment to state that this has been an opportunity for us as administrators in the school district to work closely with the police department, fire department and City Hall this week and I must say I was very impressed with the
professionalism displayed and the cooperation that existed. Tonight rather than my giving a report in terms of what the police did we are very pleased to have the chief and Mr. Burns and Captain of Uniform Service Division John Serra here this evening to give us an update from their perspective how this week went. Dr. Andrees turned the meeting over to Chief Quagliani.

Chief Quagliani briefed all on the incidents from the week of September 25, 2006 and introduced Jim Burns, Chief of Staff to Mayor Picard and his Captain of the Uniform Service Division, John Serra. This will be a bulleted point overview due to confidentiality, youthful offender, and the investigation still has not gone through the court process so we can’t get into detail. On Monday September 25, 2006 a threat by note was received at West Haven High School at 6:41 a.m. The police were notified immediately as to the threatening note that was left. We in turn activated our emergency response plan for this type of threat. We have a policy and procedure in place to deal with a situation such as a bomb threat. The high school was evacuated and searched per our plan and cleared. Students re-entered the building and finished out the school day. Simultaneous to this exercise an investigation led by our Investigative Services Division. Through their investigation it was determined this incident was a hoax. The parties responsible for this hoax were identified. There were nine current WHHS students and one former student and all were charged and arrest warrants issued for all of them.

Tuesday, September 26, 2006 WHHS again received a threat by telephone around 10:50 a.m. We were notified immediately per the Board’s plan. We activated our emergency response plan again. The building again was evacuated. The building was searched and subsequently cleared again. Students entered the building and again finished out their school day. Our Investigative Services Division again instituted a simultaneous investigation. Once again it was determined to be a hoax. The parties responsible were identified. Five current WHHS students were charged and arrested. Wednesday we had the day off. Thursday, September 28, 2006 Carrigan Middle School received a threat by note at 12:52 p.m. Carrigan immediately notified the police and we immediately activated our emergency response plan. Carrigan was evacuated and the building was searched and cleared. The students again re-entered the building and finished out the school day. Again Investigative Services Division led an investigation and determined that the incident was a hoax; identified the responsible party to be a current Carrigan Middle School student. The student was charged and arrested. After these incidents as part of the process we all meet as part of a de-briefing. Normally the interested parties would be the school administration, the Superintendent’s Office, the Police Department, the Mayor’s Office, the representative from the fire department, the PTA and concerned parents. Two issues were identified that we could improve upon as a whole and I am happy to report that we have. The first incident on Monday at WHHS was an interesting situation. Normally we prepare to evacuate a building when it is occupied. This threat came in as students were coming to the facility and offered an interesting set of circumstances where we needed to get them off the bus or from their cars and bring them to a safe location other than the school. The administration did do that but in our after action plan we realized we needed to have a specific plan in dealing with bringing the kids and staff to a safe location prior to entering the school. We had a discussion and
amended our policies to account for this particular scenario. Another issue which surfaced was timely communications with parents and guardians. No matter how quickly we tried to get the message out, the message is not getting out any quicker than their child with their cell phone. The important part for us is to make sure the correct message gets out. The message may not get out to the parent exactly as what is occurring and really causes a more chaotic situation for us. This situation was discussed and there have been ongoing discussions on the City side and the City through Homeland Security Initiative is going to implement an emergency notification system. This can be used for any emergency circumstance throughout the City whether it be an impending storm, missing child, or a bomb threat. It has the ability to dial thousands of numbers in a matter of minutes and give the parent or guardian the information needed. This keeps the parent informed so they don’t have to come to the school and cause more chaos than is already taking place. We are close to having this come to fruition. On any plan we have in place whether it be the Board of Education, City or Police Department the #1 priority is the safety of the children. We would never allow the children to be in harm’s way in any type of situation. This is #1 in all of our plans. We make sure the children and staff are in a safe environment.

There are different stages to our Emergency Response Plan depending on how we deem the threat. If we felt this was a substantial threat the students would have been moved to the stadium. They would have been evacuated off campus. We would have made arrangements to do this. There are different stages and that is why they were moved to Ken Strong Stadium rather than off the campus.

It is important to reiterate three points here.

1. This isn’t a joke we take these instances very seriously and one only has to look around the country this week whether in Colorado, Wisconsin or now the horrendous scenario in Pennsylvania to see that these incidents do happen. We are treating every incident as if it is happening and we will deploy our resources as if it is happening. It is important for everyone to understand the seriousness of this. Our responding units respond as if it has happened. Our officers, the fire department and anyone else responding are putting their lives in jeopardy not to mention the people traversing the roadways trying to clear out of our way so we can get to an incident that in these three cases were hoaxes. Again, it is a very serious issue that creates needless panic and anxiety to the students, staff and everybody that is involved. There is also a dollar figure attached to this. A good majority of the police department was tied up for three days on hoaxes and right now I am putting together a cost analysis and submitting it to the courts because I think it wouldn’t be prudent to have the taxpayers pay for the criminal actions of a few individuals. They need to be accountable for their actions. Whatever money it cost for my officers or officers from New Haven, Yale, or the State Police with the bomb dogs that cost is going to be passed on.

2. The reason for our press conference last week is to try to be pro-active. The parents need to have a conversation with their children about the seriousness of this action. It will follow them for the rest of their lives. It is a felony charge, a serious matter and includes
not only the present issues of going through court or being expelled from school but also what happens in the future. An example would be when the student tries to apply to college or tries to get a job this is something that is going to trail them through their lives. It is important that parents make their children understand this. Some statements from the students are I wanted to get out of school or I thought it was a joke or I wasn’t happy that WHHS was getting all the attention. Parents need to have a conversation with their child to make sure they get this. The first thing Chief Quagliani did was to sit down with all his children and explain to them that this is not a joke and these are the reasons why. They were made to understand.

3. In these type of instances it is important to have parental cooperation. Parents need to understand that our plans account for the safety of their children and must trust us to do our jobs. In an emergency situation our resources are spread very, very thin. It only brings kaosisis when parents come into the emergency situation and try to look for their kids. I understand it is a natural gut instinct to try and protect them and take them out of harm’s way but if this was a real incident they are really drawing attention to themselves and their child and actually could be putting them in more danger by doing this. They need to trust us to do our job and the message to the kids should be follow the instructions of the authorities. We are the professionals and we are going to make sure our children are safe and a lot of the anxiety comes because the only message they are getting is from their child with their cell phone. We are going to take the necessary step to put out information in a more timely fashion.

This is the message that I wanted to get out and I want to thank the Superintendent and her staff and the staff from the High School and Carrigan. It was a textbook example of everyone cooperating and working together and letting the plan work out. This proved that the plan did work and I am very pleased at the level of professionalism this made our job much easier.

James Burns thanked Chief Quagliani and stated it was a pleasure to be here this evening before the Board in regard to the emergency situations that occurred on Monday and Tuesday at West Haven High School and then on Thursday at Carrigan. From an emergency management standpoint it was interesting on Monday to watch some of the evolutions that occurred. First some of the children were in the school some were not in the school. One of the things I witnessed while entering the high school grounds was that there was a large number of students leaving the property and leaving in what he considered a very unsafe manor. He passed two pickup trucks on Platt Avenue leaving from the school that had ten to twelve students in the back. They could have fallen from the vehicle and been run over. There was some confusion as you entered Academic Way near the high school area with regard to teachers currently on site trying to get students into the field area. A lot of the students did not pay attention to the directions given and this is something that needs to be dealt with. From an emergency standpoint in looking at the operations of the program, the Board of Education as the City has an emergency operation plan in place. One of the problems with any emergency operation plan is that most of them are generic and need to be tailored to your operation or incident. They need to be exercised on a yearly basis so the flaws can be found and corrective action taken.
Chairman Toni Paine and Howard Horvath and the Superintendent showed up at the high school during Monday’s incident to see exactly what was going on. The Chief alluded to different levels of severity and if that was something of a higher severity we would have totally evacuated the school. One thing to think about and Principal Ron Stancil was busy doing what he was doing – making phone calls, but where do you go as an alternative location. Where do we go if we need to take 1,900 students off the grounds? During our session it was discussed the nearest building we have available for the high school would be the Conference Center. It is not an easy take to move 1,900 students but that is an option. What do you do with your other schools when you don’t have a public building nearby that you can utilize? When you have to evacuate the building in its entirety and school busses are not available in a timely manner? These are things that board members need to think about as you develop your plans.

Communication is extremely important because one of the things that happen in the era of technology today is that students contact parents and they are getting the wrong message. It is important that parents are notified immediately so we can get that message out. The City is evaluating a system where we can contact all 1,900 homes and leave a telephone message or a cell phone message. We have the availability to tie in two phone numbers from the home as well as three independent cell phone numbers. You can get this information from a data base. We can use it in other areas where we have a problem at a particular school. When you have a description of someone who tried to get someone in a vehicle. We can send that message out immediately. This can be done by the Superintendent, the Principal, or the Chief on a laptop. Technology is available and the City is currently looking at this in conjunction with the Board of Education and the public service side.

One of the most important aspects is the safety. Even though Monday was a little chaotic because everyone wasn’t in school I thought Tuesday’s situation was excellent. The evacuation was conducted in a very timely manner and the control of the teachers on the field was excellent. The Superintendent has capabilities through the wireless microphone or anyone can communicate to the students. One of the things we need to do is to keep people abreast of what the situation is so that they don’t panic and try to storm out of the school and put themselves into possible danger.

He thanked the Superintendent for the session they had and for allowing two parents and a member of the PTA to be part of the initial meeting in order to hear their concerns. We do have an emergency operation plan on the City side and we do have an emergency operation plan on the Board of Education side. Does it need to be exercised from time to time as these incidents occur and they find a situation where that may not work well lets change A to B. It is important for the Board of Education to take part in those exercises as well. On September 13th the City had a City wide drill conducted by FEMA to see how our plan functioned. When you do a table top drill which the Board of Education can do you can do the same thing. When problems arise you are able to correct them. You need additional resources where do you get them from. What happens if Winkle Bus is not available in a timely manner? What is our next resource for that? Is there another bus company that can be called on an emergency basis? Sheltering – you need to
think about sheltering in place especially in this day and age of terrorist attacks with chemicals. Here is West Haven we have a railroad that intersects the City as well as I-95. On any day a truck carrying chemicals traveling down 95 could overturn and have a chemical spill. What schools would be impacted? What do we do? Does our plan address this? Are teachers familiar with the plan. One of the suggestions I did leave with the Superintendent is that when you are refining your plan preview the session with your teachers so they can actually sit down and go through it step by step. I’m willing to bet that many of the teachers are not familiar with the plan it its entirety. Allow a CEU Day to bring them together to discuss and exercise it and come up with the problems and at least get more familiar with it. Let the parents know about the plan so that they have peace of mind so that if something does occur in school such as a bomb threat they understand what the school is going to do. This should be in the plan its part of the communication portion. I want to commend the Board, I thought the situation even though it was very severe could have been worse. I thought it was handled in a very professional manner and I also want to thank the police department for their quick action and apprehension of the individuals.

George Monahan stated that as most will remember there was a similar incident at the high school and the police department took action and I know the Chief was directly involved with this issue and that the early decision making by his personnel wasn’t ideal and he made corrections to that. However, I’m a parent and I dropped my daughter off to that building everyday and during last year’s incident I was in the building and it was very clear early on that not only was the staff at the high school but also the staff from the police department who were present on the property had nothing but the safety of the children first and foremost in their mind. The police were there and they made sure the building was kept as orderly as possible and the safety of the children was first. This year again when I dropped my daughter off the Superintendent had called all the Board Members early in the morning and briefed us on the incident and I too was in the building and on the property that morning and was walking with the Superintendent in the building and the presence of the staff, Mr. Stancil and his staff and Chief Quagliani and his department staff kept the traffic in the front of the building moving extremely orderly. Students were rapidly dispatched to the field area where it was deemed that was the safest place for them. This incident was handled even better than last year’s incident. As a parent I do want to thank the tremendous police, fire and emergency service personnel that the City of West Haven has. With all of the bad press that the City of West Haven is getting lately this is one thing that we have always been very, very fortunate to have and I am very grateful as a parent and taxpayer. Captain Quagliani was there during both incidents making sure that his staff was right on point and George wanted to thank him and commend his activities.

Krista Pickering stated that through Homeland Security some money might be available and last year at the end of the school year she was able to participate in a drill that the New Haven Board of Education did much like Columbine incident. They had students come in. The students weren’t involved in the actual drill we used the students and made them up and we involved the New Haven Police Department, the West Haven Police Department and all three Fire Departments in the City were involved as well. It brought...
together the fact of how it worked. Once the plan is in place you have to talk about re-evaluating the process. Maybe not only by doing a table top but every year we do a MADD incident right before the prom and this brings it home to the children when they see the hearse pull up and the child taken away. Maybe we can involve the students and the parents. I was there during the drill and we watched the parents – even though it was only a drill - we turned around and there were thousands of parents behind us. As a parent it is very hard to stay away. Hopefully we can encourage the parents to be a part of this as well as the students and squelch some fears.

James Burns stated this was an excellent point. At least on an annual basis one segment of your plan should be utilized as a mock drill whether it is a simple building evacuation, bomb scare procedure, or having a shelter in place. This allows you to activate your plan and allows parents to have interaction to see what is going on. He noted that the emergency vehicle response is that the police department is responsible for the inspection or switching of the building and the fire department maintains the perimeter if emergency services are needed. Parents need to understand that they must stay off of Platt Avenue, Circle Street or Academic Avenue whichever you decide in your plan because a large amount of traffic will prevail and the police department can only do so much with the amount of resources that they have and they will be traveling to school. On Tuesday the emergency vehicles would not have been able to get on to the site in a timely manner because of the back log of traffic.

Mayor Picard spoke briefly and wanted to touch on what Mr. Monahan previously said regarding what had happened last year. This is something you need to be very cognizant of when you discuss these drills. Obviously the safety of the children and staff will always come first. As the Chief said there were three hoaxes this year and one from last year also. Someone could have been hurt on the way there or an accident could have happened. It is up to all of us the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, the Mayor’s Office, and the Police Department to let these parents and guardians know the severity of this and the consequences will be if this happens. Ideally we don’t want this to ever happen again and this must be stressed. Not only will there be an arrest made but restitution has to be made by the parents. This will be carried by the students for the rest of their lives. Some people last year had the impression that it wasn’t really a big deal and as the Chief stated some students just wanted a day off from school. No matter who the student is there is one set of rules and the consequence will be very severe. The Board needs to take a step also to ensure that this happens along with the City and Mayor’s Office.

Toni Paine hoped that the above information answered any questions that anyone here might have had. Hopefully this has informed you of the seriousness of this situation. Yes it was treated as though the threat was really happening because you don’t know until you investigate whether it has happened. Before going on the public portion of the meeting I would like to thank everyone who attended.
Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road addressed the board. She wanted to address the comments to the meeting prior to this one. She thanked Mr. Calabritto for bringing up what she was thinking regarding the lack of signature of the policy book at the high school. Several months perhaps years ago you had a CABE representative here who she asked if they though the book should be signed by both parent and student. His response was absolutely. Important issues come up and what better way of getting dialogue at home than by sending home a handbook which must be signed by the parent and student. This way they will talk about bomb threats, drugs and what constitutes a weapon. Children can not enter into a legal binding contract why would we not make the parent sign. Your own official has said that he believed this should be done. As of tonight this is not a mandatory requirement and it should be.

The next thing discussed was the disciplinary process. This was a very serious incident. People are under the misconception that because it is a felony it is an automatic mandated expulsion. Your attorney can best say this but unless there is any change in the General State Statutes there are two reasons for mandated expulsion and one is firearms and the other is drugs for distribution on or off school property. Even though it says mandated it only means that the Board of Education asks for 180 days. It does not mean the child gets 180 days. This is where your hearing officer comes in to play and why I have complained for five years about the hearing officer. In May 2001 a child, Caucasian was caught on the school grounds with drugs for sale and charged with sale and distribution of drugs on school grounds. He didn’t get 180 days he received from May 2001 to the beginning of the first marking period because the hearing officer decided not to have this particular person receive 180 days.

About a year and a half ago an African American male student threw a book bag which is not a mandated expulsion. He had the same hearing officer and received 180 days. He was never allowed back into WHHS again. He was able to attend Stiles but could not play sports.

Now in September of 2006 she wants the punishment to be fair and equitable to all students. Not a certain gender, not a certain race, not because you are politically connected. I want to know that everyone is treated the same. The only way you will do this is to start to look at other hearing officers. People who have not been here for five or six years. People who have not in the past e-mailed the council without letting the parents know. She has provided proof of all this to the Board and would be happy to provide it to new members. The consequences should be fair across the board. She commends Mr. Ogren for doing a great job at the high school. Now we need to focus on when it turns to a level of expulsion which I’m sure these bomb threats will turn into. This is when the hearing officer is the judge. She would like an answer from the Board’s attorney stating whether any board members have voted to relinquish this authority to the hearing officer. What exactly constitutes an impartial hearing officer? Does your attorney pick the hearing officer? That would be like a prosecutor picking the judge. All these students have a right to be treated as innocent until proven guilty at least at the
expulsion hearing. They deserve the same due process that they would receive in the court system and I will be watching this and has every right to FOI the records. She has already been to Hartford once on this issue. As long as no names are published and there is no personally identifiable information there is already an FOI ruling. She encourages the Board to try to get a hearing officer that hasn’t been here forever and doesn’t know everyone on a first name basis. Try to get someone who doesn’t know anyone who makes the decision on the merits of the case and not who the person knows.

The Board gave thanks.

Curtis Jordan, 249 Malcolm Road stated he always supported the Board of Education and never complained about the cost just the quality of education and the performance. Information on every city is in a book which he purchased called Business New Haven Book of Facts. He went on to discuss information from this book. His concern is performance. West Haven is the third from the bottom. There has been a slight improvement. He would like to see the quality of education and performance improve. He went on to discuss politics in the City of West Haven. The audits all say the same thing and this is one of the reasons why we weren’t getting the money needed for education. Each district should have their own committee made up of volunteer lay people and professionals to act as a liaison between the Board of Education and the community. We have 7,000 students and we must have 2,000 to 3,000 parents or more. Many parents don’t know what is going on and the people here are the most uninformed people. I’m glad Mr. Rossi is here to make this information available on the television to the public.

The Board gave thanks.

Margaret Krezeminski, 1 Robart Street commended Assistant Principal Paul DeFonzo at Carrigan. Her grandson attends Carrigan and she guesses it was a very emotional time because there was two hours spent in the back of the school yard. A letter was sent home by him which eased her fear because of people like him who are concerned about the kids in the school. Students are doing things that are harmful and don’t know exactly what the consequences are. She is upset because the Board of Education has to come up with a plan and must practice more drills with the students and teachers. She read in a paper or heard on the television only 200 students were in school the rest all took off. They should have to make the day up. They need to become reliable citizens and to do that they must be in a classroom and listen to the teacher who is trying to teach you. Kids are not taught respect at home and have no regard for feelings. You have to come up with an evacuation plan. The football field is in an area away from the school that is more than enough. She went on to reiterate what had previously been stated about the evacuation process. If you had a monitor on the school bus this would eliminate a lot of problems. She went on to discuss how these incidents will follow the students involved the rest of their lives as they will have a record.

As far as suspensions all groups should be looked at and punished equally. No one should get away with anything. The Superintendent should go to all the schools unexpectedly
and have the students meet her. They don’t know about this person they only know the principal. Maybe it will be an eye opener to see how the school runs and how the schools are taken care of and how some of the employees of the Board of Education act.

She will voice her opinion and she feels politics should be left out of education because it hurts everybody.

The board gave thanks.

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Rd stated that she feels the need to address a couple of remarks that were made this evening. First of all Dr. Andrees has been in every building and has been in most of the classrooms in case you don’t know this. Patti has heard this from teachers. (applause)

Secondly the schools have been doing talks with the kids about the severity of what took place last week. At Bailey all three grades went to assemblies and the issue was addressed and she knows it is being done at the other schools. This should be made public so that if parents aren’t doing their job at least the school system is picking up the slack. (applause)

The board gave thanks.

The public portion closed at 8:00 p.m.

C.1. a. ADMINISTRATION

Dr. JoAnn Andrees introduced Joseph Yacano, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Mike McGrath, Supervisor of Custodians. At our last Board meeting it was requested that they attend the next board meeting to address some of our concerns.

Joseph Yacano stated he is available to answer any questions or concerns from the last meeting that they are not aware of.

Bob Guthrie thanked Joe and Mike for coming out. Some of the outside appearance of some of our building have been addressed at a previous board meeting and he asked Mr. Yacano to explain the cycle for the grass cutting. Joe Yacano stated that basically the grass is cut every 11 days barring rain or any special difficulties. This past summer the excessive heat and rain and the moving of teachers and special trimming necessary extends the period of grass cutting. He passed out pictures of Washington, Thompson and Forest School. The pictures indicate very heavy traffic areas where it is hard to keep grass in those areas. He has been doing this for 31 or 32 years. We are looking at a couple of different methods. Hydro seeding doesn’t really work because people still walk on the areas and tear it up. They are now looking at a new method called a seedavator. It basically is a big seeder and we put it in the ground between November and December and the seed acclimates to the temperature and starts coming up around March or April. We may be able to get a little foot hold in the grass area. For schools such as Washington
and Thompson we really don’t have big play grounds and they play football on that front lawn for four or five months a year. They started playing again and I spoke with the principal today and they began playing this past week. This will take a little different thinking. Washington started putting in some shrubs. We will have to have a combined effort year because we need a better layout. We have flails that are eight or nine feet wide. Sometimes what the people on the committee want to do doesn’t work in our best interest and don’t really involve us as much as they should. This makes it very hard for us to cut and this extends our cutting period time. Our people are not gardeners we will trim and sometimes we will hear you chopped it or cut it. We try to do what we can but we are not landscapers. We try to keep the schools neat. I know that on the whole the schools are in good shape but Washington, Thompson and a little bit of Forest could use a little work. The public will have to be a little more understanding. The students use the lawn because they don’t have a lot of hard area. This is not conducive to growing grass.

The other incident I take exception to is the incident at Carrigan where they were trimming a tree and there was a bottle or a coat left on the ground for a couple of days. I think I might have been on vacation as he only heard about it Friday. He called the person involved and the person stated there was a coat on the ground. He turned this over to Mike as he was more involved. Mike stated that this was brought to Dr. Andree’s attention three weeks ago and he and Beth Sabo go together along with Bill Slater from the Park Recreation Department. It has been a gray area who is responsible for the pickup at Carrigan School; whether the basketball court belonged to Park Rec or the Board of Education. Our meeting determined it is the custodians from the Board of Education’s responsibility. We sent a letter to them letting them know they are responsible for it and will be held accountable. The cooperation is very good between the Public Works and Park and Recreation Department. Beth Sabo gave us extra containers to dispose of the trash with and Bill will be making sure his supervisors take more care of our facilities.

Bob stated that in some of the pictures the proximity of the shrubs to the building or windows could present a problem. Perhaps the Superintendent could send out a suggestion letter to individual PTA groups to think about the front of the properties. A while ago PTA members from Washington School the PTA created some plantings and now the care and look of these plantings left behind are definitely in disrepair. I know there is a shortage of manpower and some buildings look better than others. Through the limited resources maybe we can get some ideas so in the Spring there may be a beautification plan. Joe said again that we need a joint combined effort to get this done.

He stated that in reading the minutes of the last meeting the need for another lavatory was mentioned at Washington School. Howie Horvath stated that there was an elevator at Thompson School but most people didn’t realize this came courtesy of a State Rep who wanted to maintain the school as a polling place not necessarily for the educational environment. Because this was coming the bathrooms were part of the expansion. They lost some storage space and some room over the all purpose room as a trade off for the bathrooms. In order to get the bathrooms for additional levels you need to make it part of a project. The buildings are quite old and I don’t think you will be able to retro fit them
Joe stated it would be reimbursable but you would have to fit them to the Capital Plan which is not functioning right now but they Mayor might ask to have it brought back in November. It would probably only be 46% or 45% reimbursable and Thompson was well over $100,000.00 to do that project. Howie asked if this is the only school where this is an issue. It was stated that it is believed that this is the only multilevel school without an elevator. Howie stated he would be in favor of trying to put this into the Capital Plan or trying to find some grant money to do something to the extent we can. When Mr. Yacano is putting his Capital Plan together for December that would be the time then because now it would not be acted on by any body. Mike stated this could be a nice birthday present for its hundred year birthday in about two or three years.

The other thing that came up is that Washington needs a heightened lengths for windows. When Thompson had the windows no one addressed the repointing of the bricks so now the new windows look great but you have water coming from other sources. Joe stated that what is happening is that the seals are starting to come apart.

Joe wanted to mention a very important point about the emergency generator. The Board had received a copy of his memo concerning this. He is currently working with the United Illuminating company in regard to the emergency generator at Carrigan School. He is investigating to see if there is any type of funding he can receive to help us defray the cost of a new generator. It will then be up to the Board to see if they want to move forward and inform the Building Oversite Committee of our plans to see if will be OK to hire someone to design it.

George Monahan stated that due to the emergency it is a shame that the Mayor and Mr. Burns are not still here. This is one of the few shelters they have in place with a generator. With the winter season rapidly approaching anything is possible and I think the Board needs to serve notice to the Mayor and the City Council that this item is not in place and therefore would not be appropriate emergency housing. Toni Paine stated that once the information from the United Illuminating Company is received Joe Yacano could notify the Board and the information could also be sent to the City Council. Joe Yacano said he most certainly would do this.

George Monahan continued and said that everyone knows the Mayor empowered a new building Oversite Committee and their operating procedures are drastically different than a lot of people were accustomed to and it was very clear that it impacted your department as far as the timeliness and efficiency in the way they processed paper and got money flowing and paid vendors. This Board did ask them to come before us and we strongly encouraged improved dialog between the Board and the Oversite Committee. I’m hoping you can tell us today that you see an improvement in dialog and in the way your financial paperwork and payments are processed.

Joe Yacano stated that Ken Carney has been working very closely with him and the Superintendent on a lot of items and things are moving a lot quicker. There are just a couple of more formalities we have to go through. There are some other issues that have
to be addressed when we proceed with the generator but I think we can move along. Joe will always come to his Board first if there are questions.

Eric Murillo stated that there should be curtains in the bathrooms in the pool area at the high school. This would be addressed through Mr. Chris Everone at the high school. The lighting at Thompson School is on Joe’s list but they are short an electrician who is out on Worker’s Comp.

Mark Palmieri stated quite often there are bottles and cans from the bystanders during athletic games. He wanted to know if it would be possible to get green recycling bins in front of the gym at the high school. The front area on game day is quite a mess the same thing for some of the baseball fields. Since it was determined it was the responsibility of the Board of Education who is responsible for the trash pickup and those fields? Public Works is in charge of trash pick up even though it is on Board of Education property. Joe stated that recycling can be discussed with Chris Everone who is in charge of the gym. Mark then asked about the ball fields at Bailey and Carrigan. There are bottles around trash bins why don’t we look into recycling instead of the garbage pickup.

Mike McGrath stated that he and Neil Cavallaro met with Beth Sabo and she will be getting us receptacles. She has been very busy but will get them to us. Mark stated that the basketball courts look great and wanted them to know it.

Joe stated that there has been and continues to be a problem with the bins being vandalized. Two at Washington School are constantly being vandalized. We have big heavy cement containers. Toni Paine commented that don’t we have the big trash barrels with the top for the recyclables? Joe stated they are not really that heavy duty and are really a problem. Ball fields have always been a problem. We are responsible for the outfield not the infield. We don’t use them they are used in the evening. Beth usually supplies the heavy duty containers but if you want to do recyclables that is fine but there are a lot of variables regarding this issue.

Mark Palmieri stated you can cut telephone poles in half and block the grounds in. He realizes you have to deter people. This was done a Painter Park so the infield wouldn’t get destroyed. They would take the tree branches and spread them throughout the field so there were no cars or bikes driving across the field. We could do the same to deter the kids from going on the field during the winter months. In the spring we can pick the branches and twigs up and the fields would be easier to maintain. Joe stated we only do the outside perimeter of the gates not the fields. The only field we pick up is Bailey School and at Carrigan we cut the grass.

Bob Guthrie also stated that on good weather days during the winter the Physical Education classes go outside on the fields at either Carrigan or Bailey. Mark stated that at Carrigan they might but Bailey retains water. It was just a suggestion.

Bob thanked Mr. Yacano for reminding the Board that there are eight boilers nearing the end of their life span and hopefully Forest and Savin Rock School will get through
another winter and not surprise anyone. This is something the Board would need to support and hopefully the City would realize the urgency of replacing boilers that are probably averaging 35+ years old.

Joe Yacano stated that when they did Forest School they tried to put the boilers in but because they weren’t eligible we only could do minor repairs so we had to put Glycol in the system. Now the valves are beginning to seep and to drain the system we would have to take out probably 2,000 gallons of glycol and put it in drums and store it. There are only two main valves and they don’t hold any more.

Neil Cavallaro said he was very proud of Joe stating that in 30 years he has never had to close a building. Joe said this may happen as we have two boilers at Forest School and Savin Rock is due to be retubed. Most of these things are on the capital plan but keep getting pushed out. A discussion continued regarding boilers at various schools. When problems happen we will have to find 600,000 to 800,000 over night. All our boilers are gas some are steam and some are hot water. The problem with the steam boilers are the steam keeps cutting away at the metal and they get so thin that they disintegrate. The high school boiler was almost a million dollars. A discussion on bids etc. ensued.

Bob Guthrie stated we should serve notice to the City that the generator is non-operational and puts residents at risk.

Dr. Andrees thanked both Joe Yacano and Mike McGrath for doing a yeomen’s job with very few resources and keeping us afloat. They are very professional in their quotes.

Dr. Andrees went on the thank the PTA Council Representative who took the time after having attended the meeting the night before to come the next morning to offer suggestion that were presented by the PTA Council. We had two parents a Mr. McCloud and a Mrs. Taylor both parents of high school students who work in strategic planning and emergency evacuation is part of their military experience and their current employment. Both came and offered suggestions. It was nice to be able to have parental and outside perspective. She commended those people who took the time to come and share their ideas with them to help to make our plan better for all. One thing we did learn from this process is that we will immediately look at is communication. Could we have done a better job of communicating? We have a web site which we did not use and we must make sure we continue to utilize this as a resource. We have phone recording devices. A message could be put on the phone so that when one calls in a message is already there just to reassure those parents that things are in place. In speaking to the parents Dr. Andrees said it would be really wonderful if we knew that our children were always going to be here in the West Haven Community no matter what but our children are all over and will become global citizens and if we believe that we are going to rescue them in every situation I think we are giving them a false sense of comfort. Hopefully as parents we will continue to teach them that in emergency situations to stop, listen and follow directions and to trust the police and authorities in charge. She really felt comfortable and confident that morning when they walked in as the police were in charge there was no doubt in their minds that the police force of West Haven was in charge. The
very first thing they asked was where are your plans and procedures and immediately the process began. She thanked all the staff, administrative team and board of education members who came out to lend us support.

In your package tonight there is information regarding a Title I Grant written by Dave Russell. We had to submit this by October 1st and it is already in place and we are moving forward with this.

Also in the audience this evening is Mr. McKee with students from the DECA Club. Caitlin King and Tia Berretta came to request permission for a field trip to Washington D.C. to attend a conference in order to prepare for their national competition coming up the end of the month. They spoke briefly about the SONAR conference giving information about the meeting being held in the Capital this fall. The conference will include the Southern and North Atlantic Regional Conference for DECA and takes place about every five years. This conference will take place November 3rd – 5, 2006.

Dr. Andrees wished them the best and stated she was most impressed with the leadership of the students in this organization and it appears the students are running this organization this is quite impressive. She wished them well in the up-coming competition and thanked them for the good job they are doing for our district.

On Friday at 10:30 Mrs. Rossi requested to join us in our walk through the computer labs in all of our buildings. We will assess where we are in terms of our computer installations and what is up and running so far this school year. We will meet at Bailey on Friday at 10:30 and should finish approximately at 12:30. Dr. Andrees will be leaving from the Blake Building about 10:15 and extended the invitation to Mrs. Rossi to meet her at Blake or at Bailey at 10:30.

The next meeting of the Technology Sub-Committee of the Board of Education will take place at 3:30 in the Board Room on Friday October 13, 2006. This will be an open meeting. This concluded Dr. Andrees report on the status of schools.

The Board thanked Dr. Andrees.

Neil Cavallaro stated that he believed everything was stated very well by the Mayor, Police Chief, Jim Burns and Dr. Andrees

Bob Guthrie asked Neil how the Hot-Line was working now that school has been in session for a month. Neil stated he has received a few calls but thinks he will receive more calls after the first of the year. All of the schools are still collecting registrations. Bob asked if he was confident all the administrators were adhering to the proper form of ID’s for all the questions. Neil responded that to the best of his knowledge yes. Is there a way to audit this for the people in question? We certainly can have the administrators go back and double check the registration and I can send a memo out to make sure they are adhering strictly to our policy of what the two proofs of residency are.
Dr. Andrees stated they are looking at piggybacking on a contract that is already existing with the City Council. They share it with us and if we find at least three students it more than pays for itself. Because it is a national registry it actually shares with you where the parents of those students live anywhere in the United States. We are not relying on some parent calling in and telling on someone else. We will have a federal document to work from which is safer for us.

Howie asked when the name tags for students will be available. Ron Stancil said they will come out the first part of the second semester around November 1st. Howie asked if he thought this would go smoothly and if it was valuable last year. Ron stated yes it was a tough first year. By the end of the year we will know better.

C.1.b. BOARD

Mark Palmieri mentioned that he has been working on the Homecoming Festival with Mr. Stancil. Right now they are up to approximately 45 different clubs that will be there on October 17th on the green between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The rain date will be October 18th. Beth Sabo will walk the green with him Wednesday at 10:00. They will close down Church Street. Lighting will be taken care of by Beth Sabo.

There were no other Board Reports.

C.1.c. COMMITTEE

Howard Horvath stated that everyone knows that we had an Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Meeting before this meeting. We will look at the minutes and decide what the next step will be.

There were no other Committee Reports.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a West Haven Board of Education Meeting, September 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Blake Building

D.1. Approval of Minutes
Robert Guthrie made a motion to approve the minutes
Mark Palmieri Seconded this motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

D.2. New Hire: (Certified)
06-122  **Lorna Link**, 70 South Montowese St., Branford, CT
Psychologist at Seth G. Haley Elementary School
Effective:  October 10, 2006
Starting Salary:  $43,256.86 + Stipend (Step 5 BS + 60)

**Approval of D.2. New Hire Certified**
Eric Murillo made a motion to approve
George Monahan Seconded this motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

**D.3. Leaves of Absence: (Certified) Inclusive**

06-123  **Carrie Lucibello**
Grade 4 Teacher at Pagels Elementary School
Effective:  November 21, 2006
Reason:  Child Rearing

06-124  **Darcy DeMaio**
Grade 3 Teacher at Pagels Elementary School
Effective:  October 11, 2006
Reason:  Child Rearing

**Approval of D.3. 06-123 and 06-124 Inclusive**
Krista Pickering made a motion to approve
Mark Palmieri Seconded this motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

**D.4. Leave of Absence: (Non-Certified)**

06-125  **Linda Holden**
Para-Medical  Molloy School
Effective:  September 17, 2006
Reason:  Medical

**Approval of D.4. Leave of Absence: (Non-Certified)**
George Monahan made a motion to approve
Krista Pickering Seconded this motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion passes
E. New Business:

06-126 Correspondence from David G. Russell, Director of Grant Administration to Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools, requesting the Board’s approval of the completed 2006-2007 “District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal and State Grants” for our school district. (enclosure)

Approval of New Business 06-126
Bob Guthrie made a motion to approve
George Monahan Seconded this motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

06-127 Correspondence from Ronald Stancil, Principal of WHHS to Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent of Schools, requesting the Board’s approval on a Field Trip Permission Form to the DECA Regional Conference held in Washington D.C. on November 3 – 5, 2006

Approval of New Business 06-127
Mark Palmieri made a motion to approve
Eric Murillo Seconded this motion
No Discussion
All in favor
Motion passes

F. Informational:

There was nothing to add under informational. However Jerry Calabritto wanted to call a Finance Committee Meeting immediately preceding the next scheduled Board Meeting on October 16th. The Finance Committee Meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Andrees was requested to ask Garth Sawyer to be available and to send out a notice of this meeting.

Bob Guthrie would like a letter sent to Mr. Sawyer requesting information as to whether some bids have come back and the cost. Perhaps Mr. Sawyer can include this in his presentation.
Krista Pickering stated that as a community we handled the last crazy week very well and feels that we are moving in the right direction. We need to have a plan in place for all disasters not only for bomb scares but for natural disasters such as hurricanes and bio-terrorism everything possible. We would have never thought that someone would go into a school and shoot four girls with no warning.

Toni Paine agrees with Krista and stated that the only problems we had were with the response from some of the parents which she is sure is a result of them not knowing what was happening. When you don’t know you want to protect your children. Krista stated that if one of those police officers got into a car crash and was killed that person would have not come home to his/her family. The students were looking for a good day out of school and she feels that this is what their mentality was and they didn’t realize the seriousness of what could happen. She wanted to commend everyone for their excellent response.

Eric Murillo that it was a great idea to have parents sign a sheet stating they have seen the manual.

Nothing further to add under informational.

Motion made by Gerald Calabritto to adjourn
Krista Pickering seconded the motion
All in favor
Motion to adjourn passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola