The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on October 5, 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
Robert Saley
Patrick Egolum
Gerald A. Calabritto, Vice Chairman
T. Sean Maher
Andrew DePalma
M. Toni Paine
Howard Horvath Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT: Eric Pang

Mark Palmieri welcomed everyone to the West Haven Board of Education regular meeting for October 5, 2009 and stated Public Session would begin.

B. Public Session

Public session began at 7:05 PM

Patti Fusco, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven, CT sent out a notice that Teacher of The Year Dinner this year will take place on November 12th at Aldario’s in Milford. Tickets will be $35. Dinner choices will be forthcoming. More information will be available as the date gets closer.

The board gave thanks.
C. REPORTS

C.1. Administration

Superintendent Neil Cavallaro stated there would be two presentations tonight. Ilmar Molder, a student at WHHS was involved in an incident at the high school where he performed a Heimlich type maneuver on another student Matthew Fernandez. He stated that Sean Maher, a board member, was present at the time and will give us the details. Sean explained that while the auditions for Twelfth Night were taking place there was a lull and he called Mrs. Maher to see what the hold up was and was told that Ilmar Molder just saved Matt Fernandez from choking on a life saver. Matt was choking and turning red when Ilmar came to his rescue and did a Heimlich maneuver and saved Matt’s life. Matt had planned on attending the board meeting tonight but unfortunately is out ill. Sean stated that the camaraderie the students have toward each other is pretty amazing. He also stated that both Ilmar and Matt were cast in the production.

Board Chairman, Mark Palmieri gave Ilmar an honorary pin from the West Haven Public Schools and Mrs. Fusco took pictures of Ilmar and Chairman Palmieri.

The Board gave thanks.

Superintendent Cavallaro introduced Dana Martinez, AP Coordinator at WHHS who introduced Cheetiri Smith and stated that Cheetiri has been recognized by the College Board as an AP Scholar. In order to receive this honor you must receive grades of 3 or better on three or more AP exams; Cheetiri has passed 4 exams (4.3 average) and has been named one of the National Hispanic Female Scholars in the country. Cheetiri is also Captain of the Cross Country Team.

Board Chairman, Mark Palmieri gave Cheetiri an honorary pin from the West Haven Public Schools and Mrs. Fusco took pictures of Cheetiri and Chairman Palmieri.

The Board gave thanks.

Superintendent Cavallaro stated that that he is sure that this is the first of many awards that will come to Cheetiri this year.

He received an email from Mr. Capone asking him to announce that the Homecoming Festival will take place Saturday, October 10th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Old Grove Park by the beach. This will showcase WHHHS academics, clubs, activities & athletics.

C.1. a. Status of Schools
Superintendent Cavallaro described the meeting he attended on Race to the Top. The 20 districts involved received an overview. There will be a grant writer hired next week to submit the application. They discussed the urban/suburban achievement gap and how to close the gap. Priorities fall into Phase I and II.

Phase I priority is the application which is due December 30, 2009 but by December 15th we must decide to participate. There needs to be a buy in from legislators and the governor. Neil will keep us informed of the progress.

CAPSS and CABE will get involved in looking at Phase II. Neil has copies of the power point which he offered to anyone interested.

Howie Horvath stated there is a meeting on the 9th and wanted to know who is invited to this. Neil stated the same superintendents and ACES and CAPSS. Howie asked if they were looking for the districts to say anything at this time. Not at this time. Howie asked when the Phase II Grant was due - the end of March. In round II the unions will also be involved. There are some issues but the concept is agreeable. The Commissioner has not met with Governor Rell as yet. There are 20 out of 169 districts represented throughout the state. Howie asked by Phase II what the dollar amount will be. A certain dollar amount is not allocated yet. The amount of 4 billion if approved will be divided between all districts.

Rob Saley asked if the state gets this is there any way we as a district would not qualify. Neil said no if we choose to stay on board there is more money and at this point there is no reason not to stay on board.

Neil said we are in the process of setting up the schedule for school visits and will be sending board members the listing of dates. The Mayor will also be invited to attend.

The teacher’s one year contract extension has been drafted and once both the union and administration sign off there are 30 days for it to go to the council.

Andrew Oberg, Director of the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School met with us to discuss how we can take elements of that concept and make it work for us in our district.

Neil said that under item D.5. in the agenda for item 09-131 there is no recommendation tonight for Assistant Director of Pupil Services. My reasons were stated in a letter which was sent out on Friday and we will have a recommendation at the next board meeting.

Unfortunately Floyd was to be here earlier tonight regarding a tentative agreement with CWA but couldn’t attend. We will meet prior to the next board meeting to go over that agreement before we bring it before the board for a vote.

Dr. Druzolowski said the schools are off to a great start. There are exciting things happening. We talked a lot about training staff last year and understanding how to develop a required curriculum and then develop the assessments. We are training 23 staff
members to be certified trainers and the training of other people to look at common form
of assessments which is a 3 day training period from the Center. Larry Ainsworth will be
doing the training. I will be receiving this training so I expect to be pretty exhausted by
the time Friday comes along but if I don’t do it how can I ask other people – we are
trying to lead by example. Soon there will be data walls in the hallway; the district data
wall will give you an idea of what is going on in the schools.

The superintendent has requested that instead of administrative council meetings that we
focus more on monthly meetings; and in some cases every two weeks, with principals by
area; elementary & secondary. We had our first elementary meeting today and will have
another continuation of that in two weeks. We use a common vocabulary to really
understand where we are going with everything here in the district so people feel more
comfortable. This meeting was about an hour in a half and we anticipate doing this
throughout the year.

The board gave thanks.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

Eric Pang who is a senior this year gave a long list of events that will be taking place at
the high school. This is a listing of some of the events. Homecoming is this week,
tomorrow is the Powder Puff game (a bunch of girls playing football against each other)
at 6:30 if you would like to attend, the dance will be held on Thursday, Friday is the
Homecoming Game and Saturday is the Homecoming Festival from 12:00 – 4:00 at Oak
Grove Park. The SCC diversity Dream Team went to the JCC and had a great time.
Connie Perkins is coordinating our team and they have activities planned. The Twelfth
Night cast has been selected and the show is November 19th and 20th. Motivational
speaker Harvey Elston was at WHHS on September 23rd and he had this message to give
students and parents – be the best you can be. This was very informative. The PSAT’s
will be held on Wednesday, October 14th. Mr. Hawley attended the Developing
Tomorrows Professional’s Conference with six of our students in September and the
PEER Advocates just finished their last week of retreat. They have been very active and
continue to be a real asset to our community. They lent a hand to the Public Library
Centennial Celebration along with the Theatre Workshop on September 26th. The Peer
Advocates assisted with Arts and Crafts and Theatre Workshop students did face
painting. The students received rave reviews from the library staff and parents who
attended. Senior Sara Green was named to the State Student Advisory Council on
Education for 2009/2010. Cheetiri Smith was named an AP Scholar. Tomorrow is the
College Bowl and last but not least, as you know Ilmar Molder saved Matt’s life and I’m
really a good friend with him and it’s nice to have a friend who knows the Heimlich!

The board gave thanks.

C.1. c. Board
Patrick Egolum asked where Larry Ainsworth is from. Larry is from the Lead and Learn Center and he has been the person who has been training us on how to unwrap the curriculum and move forward in that way. He is training us so we can do this type of training ourselves.

Howard Horvath thanked Neil and Anne and board members along with administrators and department heads who were able to come and hear Andrew Oberg speak. It is amazing that this has been in place for ten years and next year they are going to grow another 1,000 students. It is an interesting thing to address and I appreciate that.

Rob Saley asked to have Neil elaborate on submitting ideas for spending with Race to the Top. Neil said on the original letter from the Commissioner there were 11 -12 items which were listed. He liked the idea of All Day Kindergarten, expanded pre-school opportunities, extended hours with the child’s classroom teacher, it also talked about a lot of the professional development that we are already involved in and these are some of the areas we are particularly interested in exploring.

Rob stated there was some discussion about school days; has there been any discussion as to where we are with this? Neil said they currently have a seven period 49 minute day and we have an 8 period 43 minute day so our day is substantially longer than their day and we also have a 24 credit graduation requirement. At the meeting they talked a lot about how they can use Race to the Top to implement the high school reform which they have been talking about for years and have had no funding to do so. If you were to compare us as far as hours for graduation and requirements we are ahead of them. We are OK if they were to implement high school reform – 24 credits are what they would want to see. This would have to be negotiated with the contract and a lot of this will come from negotiation between the Commissioner and the State Labor Association as well and some of the laws changing also.

Rob said we do appropriate the money at budget time but is there anyway we can see where it goes on a monthly basis showing what came in where it goes etc. I’m not looking for everything disbursed out of that one item but just so I can look at it and get familiar with it. Neil said yes this can be done for you.

Toni Paine thanked Howard Horvath for facilitating that presentation. It was quite informative and a real eye opener. Hopefully it is something we can follow up on as far as using it for subjects at the high school like Latin and courses of that nature where we can’t get teachers; it certainly would fill a void.

Sean Maher thanked Mrs. Gardner and the rest of the library committee for inviting us to the Library’s 100th Birthday Celebration. It was a wonderful day and there was an incredible turnout. The Theatre Workshop and Peer Advocate Kids worked with the community and it was really awesome to watch them. They spent the entire day with them non-stop and it was pretty terrific.
D.1. Approval of Minutes
   D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Meeting held
         September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blake Bldg. (Enclosure)

   T. Sean Maher 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)
D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)
D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

   09-127 Craig Brown, 136 Schaffer Road, Bethany, CT 06524
   Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach - WHHS
   Effective: October 6, 2009
   Salary: $1,800

   09-128 Kate Whelan, 47B Rose Circle, Middletown, CT 06457
   Assistant Girls Soccer Coach – WHHS
   Effective: October 6, 2009
   Salary: $2,100

   09-129 Erin Blake, 275 Kelsey Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
   Head Coach Girls Middle School Soccer – Bailey
   Effective: October 6, 2009
   Salary: $1,950

   09-130 Larry Vieira, 84 West Rutland Road, Milford, CT 06460
   Head Coach Boys Middle School Soccer – Bailey
   Effective: October 6, 2009
   Salary: $1,950

   Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.5. New Hire: (Certified) 09-127 – 09-130
   M. Toni Paine made a motion to approve D.5. New Hire: (Certified) 09-127 – 09-130
   Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
   Discussion: None
   All in favor
   Motion passes
D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

09-132 Stephanie Zarnetske, 1 Campbell Ave., Apt. 26, West Haven, CT 06516
  Literacy Aide – Forest School
  Effective: October 6, 2009
  Salary: $16.09 hourly 17.5 hours per week

09-133 Mary McDaniel, 134 Ivy Street, West Haven, CT 06516
  Literacy Aide – Molloy School
  Effective: October 6, 2009
  Salary: $16.09 hourly 17.5 hours per week

09-134 Ann Smith, 19 Templeton Street, West Haven, CT 06516
  Math Aide – Savin Rock Community School
  Effective: October 6, 2009
  Salary: $16.09 hourly 17.5 hours per week

09-135 Maureen Ulsamer, 16 Mills Drive, West Haven, CT 06516
  Math Aide – Washington School
  Effective: October 6, 2009
  Salary: $16.09 hourly 17.5 hours per week

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.6. New Hire: (Non Certified)
09-132 – 09-135
Patrick Egolum made a motion to approve D.6. New Hire: (Non Certified)
09-132 – 09-135
Rob Saley seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All in favor
Motion passes

D.7. New Business:

09-136 Elementary Unit Leaders 2009-10 School Year

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7 New Business 09-136
T. Sean Maher made a motion to approve D. 7 New Business 09-136
Rob Saley seconded the motion
Discussion: Rob Saley asked Neil to go over this. Neil said every elementary school is
broken up into units: primary unit is made up of kindergarten and first grade, second and
third grade, fourth and fifth grade and they are the liaison to the principal and also
included in the unit leaders is a technology person and a reading specialist and they
receive a small stipend of about $300 a year to meet weekly and go over what is
happening in the building and discuss what the different grade levels are experiencing.
These positions are posted yearly and for the most part they are usually the same people.
All in favor
Motion passes

09-137 Freshman Academy Team Leaders 2009 -10 School Year

Move To Approve

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to approve D.7 New Business 09-137
T. Sean Maher made a motion to approve D. 7 New Business 09-137
Rob Saley seconded the motion
Discussion: Rob Saley asked how are we doing with this. Neil stated that the teachers love the collaborative time. Rob said it is a big year for us with this right? We have a new principal everything is going to be peachy. I know we will have this conversation in five or six months and it will be wonderful.

All in favor
Motion passes

F. Informational:

Nothing to add

Mark Palmieri asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
T. Sean Maher made a motion to adjourn the meeting
Rob Saley seconded the motion
All members were in favor
The meeting ended at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary