WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
November 17, 2003

The Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Guthrie at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Collins
                                 John Carrano
                                 Joseph Esposito
                                 Robert Guthrie
                                 Anne Heffernan
                                 Sandy Lorusso
                                 Paul Messina
                                 Toni Paine
                                 Ursula Reilly

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Tortora
                                         Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro

PRESENTATION:  Ron Stancil

Mr. Stancil introduced the following students to the Board:

Sara Steele who won the UCONN Engineering 2,000 Program award, Steven Maresca who won the National Merit Scholarship Program, Carlos Rivera who qualified for the US Senate Youth Program and Lindsay Micale who won the 2002 Heisman Program. All the Board members congratulated the students on their achievements.

PUBLIC PORTION

Chairman Guthrie asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Jackie Grady said she attended the Teacher’s award dinner. She said there were 266 people including all the Board members and Principals. She said “It was a great time and I was very proud of our Superintendent”.

John Picard congratulated the Board members for receiving the Leadership Award from CABE. He said this Board has handled most issues very well. Also, Chairman Guthrie has done a great job and truly cares about this Board and the children in this City. Mr. Picard said he hopes the new Board member realize this.

Nancy Rossi commended the Board and Superintendent for not filling the empty Deputy Superintendent position; however, she is concerned with the positions on the agenda for the Special Education Department. She asked if these positions will be paid for by a Grant. She also stated that cross training should be implemented. Regarding expulsions, Ms. Rossi said she was pleased to see there is now more than one Hearing Officer. She wished the outgoing Board members the best of luck.
PUBLIC PORTION - Continued

Bob Saley thanked Joseph Esposito, Sandra Lorusso and Ursula Reilly for all their help in the past. He said he voted against the Teachers Contract in the past however this year he met with The Superintendent and Patty Fusco and all of his questions were answered. He thanked the Superintendent and Ms. Fusco for their time.

Chairman Guthrie asked three times if anyone else wished to address the Board. No one spoke so the Public Portion of the meeting was closed.

REPORTS

Superintendent Tortora expressed his gratitude and affection for Ursula Reilly, Sandy Lorusso and Joseph Esposito. He said they always put the children first.

Mr. Tortora distributed a copy of the Student Individual Planning Portfolio.

Superintendent Tortora informed the Board the State has released funding which will allow us to go forward with another Science Lab at the high school, replace carpeting at Savin Rock and renovate part of Thompson School.

Information on racial balance was distributed of which we are in full compliance.

Mr. Tortora thanked the Board members for their participation at the CABE Conference and displayed the plaque that was awarded to the West Haven Board of Education.

John Carrano asked if we are getting compensated for the fill taken from Mackrille School or if we were paying for the removal of the fill.

Superintendent Tortora said all persons hired under a Grant are always informed the duration of the position is as long as the grant is funded.

Gary Palermo gave a brief description on why the Special Education positions are needed. The goal is to bring more out placed students to back into our programs. In order to accomplish this more staff is needed. We are required to service preschool children and educate Special Education students up to the age of 22.

Toni Paine asked if this Grant is renewable. Superintendent Tortora said we have had this as far back as I can remember adding “the State is very happy with our performance.”

Chairman Guthrie requested a response to the question about the soil at Mackrille. Superintendent Tortora said he will ask Mr. Kelly to again come before the Board in a few weeks.
REPORTS-Continued

Assistant Superintendent Cavallaro said he also thought the dinner for the Teacher of the Year was a great event.

He praised all the teachers involved with the Curriculum and the passion they have for the subjects and their students.

Mr. Cavallaro thanked the outgoing Board members for all they support they have given him and is looking forward to working with the new members.

Anne Heffernan announced over $1,000 was raised at the Craft Fair held last weekend for the Touch down Club.

John Carrano attended the CABE Conference held at Mystic which he found very informative.

Paul Messina read to the Kindergarten Class at Thompson School which was fun and also agreed the Teacher of the Year dinner was a great success.

Chairman Guthrie said the Teacher of the Year dinner was a great time with a wonderful turnout. Also he thanked the press for the write up in the newspaper regarding the children’s letters at Molloy School.

Toni Paine thanked Ursula Reilly, Joseph Esposito and Sandy Lorusso for the opportunity to work with them for the past two years.

Joseph Esposito said it has been and educational experience for him to serve on the Board and he has a great deal of respect for the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent.

John Carrano commended and thanked Superintendent Tortora and Assistant Superintendent Cavallaro for the great job and all the work involved in raising the Mastery test scores.

D.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Student Expulsion Hearing, October 21, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.
Student Expulsion Hearing, October 28, 2003 at 9:39 a.m.
Student Expulsion Hearing, October 31, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.
Student Expulsion Hearing, October 31, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.
Regular Board Meeting of November 3, 2003
Minutes from Executive Session on November 3, 2003
Minutes from Curriculum Committee Meeting, November 5, 2003

A MOTION was made by Raymond Collins, SECONDED by Toni Paine to approve D.1 The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
APPOINTMENTS:

“All recommendations and appointments are contingent upon each candidate providing proof of Connecticut Certification/Official Transcripts, verification of fingerprints, police record, Department of Children/Family and medical clearances. If the candidate fails to obtain or meet this criterion for the position for which he/she was employed by December 30, 2003, the West Haven Board of Education shall have no obligation to honor the contract and the appointment shall become null and void.”

“All recommendations and appointments are contingent upon each candidate providing proof of Red Cross certification, CPR certification and eligibility for Connecticut Coaching Permit. If the candidate fails to obtain or meet this criterion for the position for which he/she was employed, the West Haven Board of Education shall have no obligation to honor the contract and the appointment shall become null and void.”

D.2. APPOINTMENTS-Certified

03-211 Christina McGurrin, 10 Marks Drive, West Haven, Title 1 Reading Teacher at Molloy

03-212 Ronald Zuk, 129 David Street, West Haven, Varsity Girl’s Lacrosse Coach at West Haven High School, effective March 22, 2004

03-213.1 Karen Kaczynski, 5 Helen Road, Branford, CT Varsity Girl’s Tennis Coach at West Haven High School, effective March 22, 2003

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by John Carrano to approve Item D.2. As presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

D.3. APPOINTMENTS-Non-Certified

03-214 Francisco Perez, Jr. 516 Lexington Avenue, Bridgeport, CT Bilingual Aide at West Haven High School, effective November 18, 2003.

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, SECONDED by Sandy Lorusso to approve Item D.3. As presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

E. NEW BUSINESS

03-214.1 Request from Gary Palermo for New Positions:

1. One School Psychologist-Full Time
2. One Special Education Transition Teacher-Full-Time
3. One Itinerant Inclusionary Specialist-Full Time
4. One School Social Worker-Part-time
5. Pre-School Itinerant Special Education Teacher – Full-time

A MOTION was made by Anne Heffernan, SECONDED by Toni Paine to approve Item 03-215 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.
NEW BUSINESS - Continued

03-215 Adoption of High School Curriculum

- Bioethics
- Chemistry (Basic)
- Geophysical Science
- Oceanography
- Biology (Honors)
- Anthropology
- Sociology
- Women’s Changing Roles
- Accounting II

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Toni Paine to approve Item 03-126 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL

There were no questions.

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by John Carrano adjourn at 8:15 p.m. The MOTION was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bernardi

*These minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Education