WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 20, 2014
Regular Board Meeting
Board Meeting Room

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Board Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut on October 20, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Patricia Libero, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:       Patricia Libero, Chairwoman
                                      James W. Morrissey, Vice Chair
                                      Betsy Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
                                      Patrick Egolum
                                      Robert Guthrie
                                      Rosa Richardson
                                      Rosemary Russo
                                      Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:                  Mark Palmieri

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:                Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
                                      Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
                                      Matt Cavallaro Director of Finance

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:                 Mayor Edward M. O’Brien

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:       Jesus Yanez
B. Public Portion of Meeting
There were no public speakers.

C. REPORTS
C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools
Superintendent Cavallaro said on Wednesday, October 22nd the Finance Committee of the City Council has asked that we present our budget. Rather than have board members hear it after we present it to the City Council Matt Cavallaro put together a report for you to hear tonight. A report was sent home to the Board Members on Friday and Matt answered any questions that they had. We ended the 2013/2014 fiscal year local budget about $540,000 to the good. We also have positive revenue in our grant funds of about $230,000 so all together we are about $750,000 to the good. There was a discussion about the tuition and benefits portion of the budget. We are about a quarter of the way into this fiscal year and we are on right on target with the budget being less than 25% spent. A further discussion with questions and answers about budget items took place.

A discussion took place about implementing all day kindergarten at Forest School. We looked at the enrollment and for what it would cost us starting on December 1st for just a little bit more money $5,000 we could hire one more teacher and one more para para for a full day kindergarten program which would benefit many more kids so why not implement it now. Because we are starting in December the cost is less than that for a full year teacher and paraprofessional but it will be a little more expensive next year. Our goal is to continually expand the program. We have enough itinerant people; physical ed, art, music to add to the schedules Tom Hunt has supplied us with. Mr. Hunt stated that all elementary schools run on a 10 day cycle and besides being the beginning of the month December 1st is day 1 in the cycle so we would end on day 10 (the day before Thanksgiving break) and come back on day 1. Stefania Izzo-Larry said we have approximately a total of 93 students enrolled now and if given the extra teacher they would have approximately 23 to 24 students a classroom. The curriculum would not have to be altered and the teachers would have more time to delve into the curriculum more deeply and students would have a better understanding; it would be a smooth transition if we were given the extra teacher. Neil said Thursday is Parent Teacher Conference Day for the kindergarten students and we will let them know what to expect. A further discussion continued and questions were asked by the board members and responded to. The board gave thanks.

Mayor O’Brien feels we should move toward having this at every school and perhaps we can do a feasibility study and come up with a firm number on what it will cost for the additional schools. This is great news and he thanked everyone for their hard work and thanked Neil for looking into this. He is glad to see the cost is only about $5,500.00 and he would like to see the numbers on the cost of putting it in all the schools even before we get an answer on the million dollar grant. Neil said we can do that. Mayor O’Brien again thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Pat Libero thanked the staff at Forest and asked if they wanted to say anything. They thanked the board for their consideration of this and felt this was really necessary. It is
the perfect time right now because they are having Parent Teacher Conferences so they will be able to address it with parents who they think will be very happy about this. A further discussion took place.

C.1.b. Student Representatives Report
Jesus Janez read the student report which is attached at the end of the minutes.

C.1.c. Board
Rosemary Russo wanted to say how pleased she is that Forest will be having All Day Kindergarten in December. Jim Morrissey went to the Pagels PTA Fund Raiser at WHHS on Saturday; it was a great time. There were over 20 food vendors there with a lot of games for the kids and hopefully they raised a lot of money for the PTA field trips for the coming year. Pat Libero said it was a very nice time and Cebi Waterfield said it was a genius idea.

Mayor O’Brien said he was at the event and he would like to see it in the center next year; maybe we can close Campbell Avenue between Main and Center and have it there. Pat Libero said the Farmer’s Market and vendors have been by the Green and this has been very nice.

C.1.d. Committee
Bob Guthrie said the Policy Committee met at 6:00 PM and we will be bringing some policies to the next meeting for approval. Some of the policies were tabled or held for more information.

D.1. Approval of Minutes
D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the Board of Education’s Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on October 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM.
Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve the minutes D.1.a.
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
Cebi Waterfield abstained because she did not attend the October 6th board meeting
All other board members present were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)
D.3. Leave of Absence: (Certified)
D.4. New Hire: (Certified)
14-107 Mark Krajcir, 2 Park Ridge Rd., West Haven, CT 06516
Girls Basketball Head Coach – Bailey Middle School
Effective: Immediately
Salary: $1,950
Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve New Hire 14-107
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve the new hire
Cebi Waterfield Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
New Hire 14-107 is approved

D.5. New Business

14-108 Field Trip Permission Form from Holly Benedetti, School Counselor at West Haven High School to Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anne Druzolowski for approximately 45 students from the 10th, 11th and 12th grade to visit colleges in the Rhode Island and Massachusetts area on Wednesday, October 29th through Thursday, October 30th.
Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve New Business item 14-108
Cebi Waterfield made the motion to approve item 14-108
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
All board members present were in favor
New Business Item 14-108 is approved

14-109 Permission to proceed with All-Day Kindergarten at Forest on December 1, 2014
Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve New Business item 14-109
Rosa Richardson made the motion to approve item 14-109
Bob Guthrie seconded the motion
All board members present were in favor
New Business Item 14-109 is approved

F. Informational
Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to adjourn.
Cebi Waterfield made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou C. Amendola
Board Secretary
Schedule A

BOE Student Report – October 20th

This evening is Parent Conferences at WHHS. We hope that many parents are meeting with teachers tonight.

The Campus Connections trip will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. This sold out trip will visit the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, Providence College, Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern University.

The annual Powder Puff Football game will be held on Thursday evening at 6:30pm. This is a fun event that we hope you can attend.

The Peer Advocates just held their retreat the end of last week. It was a great experience and the PA’s were lucky enough to have 15 alumni come back to help run the workshop sessions.

Alumni Ryan Guzhnay was back on campus last Thursday to speak to prospective students about Marist College. He is having a great time there and was delighted to present to WHHS students.

Students in the Mentoring Program and PLTW Engineering classes went to Sikorsky last week to tour the facility and to meet with Sikorsky engineers. It was a great experience for all involved.

National Honor Society President Kharl Reynado organized a panel of Yale University medical interns to meet with students last week. It was well attended and everyone learned a lot.

There will be a post-Football game fundraiser Friday night at the Elm Diner. 20% of all proceeds from 9pm-midnight on Friday, October 24th will be donated to the WHHS PTSA.

Saturday is the Annual Halloween Children’s Theater and Trick or Trunk with performances at 10am and 11:30am.