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
- Joseph Esposito
- Robert Guthrie
- Anne Heffernan
- Sandy Lorusso
- Paul Messina
- Toni Paine
- Ursula Reilly

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**
- John Carrano

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**
- Superintendent Paul Tortora
- Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro
- Mayor Richard Borer

**PUBLIC PORTION**
Chairman Guthrie asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Nancy Rossi said she received the auditor’s Management Letter. One of the reasons for the letter is to help limit the auditor’s liability. The letter focuses on problems and why they are not taken care of. The issues identified are now being taken care of. She said the problem at Amity was bills were stacked in a drawer and not being paid.

Anne Heffernan arrived at 7:10 p.m.

She also learned through the internet that prior to this administration there were a set of students at Pagels that their parents wanted out placed. She asked for the cost of the Attorney that handled this. Another issue Ms. Rossi is concerned with is at the last expulsion hearing the relationship between the Board Attorney and the Hearing Officer was quite friendly.

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 reported the following:

Regarding the recent incident at Carrigan normally notices are sent to all parents immediately. In this case the Resource Officer was notified the day after the incident by a parent of the child’s friend. Notification of the incident was sent out today. There were two teachers outside with the children at the time. We take every precaution to keep our children as safe as possible.
REPORTS-Continued

Renovations for the exterior of the high school were displayed. All windows will be replaced and the front of the building will be redesigned with new lighter colored brick. A new handicap ramp entrance will be included with a chair lift. This plan will be brought before the Building Committee for approval.

Neil Cavallaro reported the three Hearing Officers will be on a rotating basis. A full report will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Also there will be a presentation on the Ward Heitmann house which is open to the students. Many classrooms have taken advantage of the opportunity to visit.

Mayor Borer arrived at 7:15 p.m.

D.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of August 18, 2003
Regular Board Meeting of September 15, 2003
Frank Fitzgerald Sports Complex Committee Meeting of September 23, 2003

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, SECONDED by Toni Paine to approve D.1. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

D.2. RESIGNATIONS-Certified

03-187 Frank Gutierrez, Social Studies teacher at West Haven High School, effective August 24, 2003

A MOTION was made by Joseph Esposito, SECONDED by Sandy Lorusso to approve Item D.2. as presented and SO VOTED 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.
APPOINTMENTS-Continued

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.3. APPOINTMENTS-Non-Certified

03-188 Joan Steele, Title I Math Aide position at Carrigan Middle School, effective October 14, 2003

03-189 Michele Grillo, 358 Jones Hill Road, West Haven, Special Education Paraprofessional at Autistic Program at Pagels School, effective October 8, 2003

03-190 Tamara Mursko, Special Education Paraprofessional at Mackrille School, effective October 8, 2003

03-191 Kimberly Bennet, 12 Month Clerk at West Haven High School Guidance Department, effective October 8, 2003

03-192 Suzanne Collins, 191 Milton Place, West Haven, Literacy Aide position at Molloy School, effective October 8, 2003

A MOTION was made by Ann Heffernan, SECONDED by Paul Messina to approve Item D.3. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

Paul Messina requested we accurately reflect the “Counseling Department” no longer be referred to as the Guidance Department. Mr. Tortora and Mr. Cavallaro stated it was duly noted and will be handled.

D.4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE-Certified

03-193 Kimya Rice, teacher at Savin Rock School, Temporary Disability Leave due to pregnancy, effective September 24, 2003

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Ann Heffernan to approve Item D.4. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

D.5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE-Non Certified

03-194 Rosanne Kaliszewski, Cashier Savin Rock School, Medical leave of absence effective October 16, 2003

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Joseph Esposito to approve Item D.5. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.
NEW BUSINESS


A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Ursula Reilly to approve Item 03-194 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-196 Request for two additional Bilingual Aide positions for the Bilingual/ESL Program. Our Bilingual and/or Title III Grant would fund salaries.

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Ann Heffernan to approve Item 03-196 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-197 Trip for West Haven High School Hockey Team, on November 29 to South Burlington, Vermont and November 30, 2003 to Berlin, New Hampshire.

Sandy Lorusso asked about supervision for this trip. John Capone said there will be one adult in every room. Also, these are pre-season games.

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by to approve Item 03-197. The MOTION Carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL

Ann Heffernan asked the date for dedication of the Library at Carrigan. Superintendent Tortora said to Chairman Guthrie there is a tentative date of October 16.

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Paul Messina to enter Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. The MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by Sandra Lorusso, SECONDED by Ann Heffernan to return to Public Session at 8:30 p.m. and SO VOTED unanimously.

Ursula Reilly made a MOTION to add to the agenda approval of the Superintendents Goals and to a four percent salary increase for the period of September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006. The MOTION was SECONDED by Anne Heffernan, Sandra Lorusso and Toni Paine. The MOTION carried unanimously. This is Item #03-198

03-198 Approval of the Superintendents Goals and four percent salary increase for September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, Raymond Collins and Anne Heffernan Seconded by Joseph Esposito, Toni Paine, Sandra Lorusso and Paul Messina to approve Item 03-198.
Ursula Reilly made the following statement: Superintendent Tortora has worked diligently to bring the emphasis back on student achievement. Superintendent Tortora, in conjunction with the West Haven Board of Education has returned the integrity to the West Haven School System. Mr. Tortora, has and, will continue to provide innovative leadership while addressing the challenges ahead.

The MOTION carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Anne Heffernan, Seconded by Raymond Collins to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. The MOTION carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bernardi

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