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

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Joseph Esposito

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Tortora  
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro

Chairman Guthrie requested everyone stand for a Moment of Silence in memory of Tom Hunt.

Ward-Heitmann House Museum –Nancy Ciarleglio

Ms. Ciarleglio distributed a copy of the brochure sent to all the schools. She gave a brief background on the Ward Heitmann House Museum. The house was built before 1775 and each room is dedicated to a century. She said the students find it very interesting and often encourage their parents to visit the museum. She distributed a list of the classes that have visited. There will be an open house each of the first three Sundays in December.

Paul Messina said he as a member of the Rotary Club visited the museum and found it to be interesting and entertaining.

PUBLIC PORTION

Chairman Guthrie asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Patty Fusco informed the Board members that there will be a Celebratory Dinner honoring Lynne O’Neil, from Mackrille as Teacher of the Year. Also being honored are Rafaella Fronc, Tammy Perzanoski, Lynne Leite, Carol Franco, Helen Smith, Frank Paolino, Kate Casner, Darlene Wynne, Judy Drenzek and Melissa Limosani. The dinner will be held on November 13 at the Grassy Hill Lodge in Derby.

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 gave an update on the School Counseling Program. He said he is very pleased with all the staff and will ask Rose Paolino to appear before the Board at a future meeting for an update.

John Carrano asked if there are still 220 students per Counselor. Superintendent Tortora said since we have not added any Counselors the number is probably right.

Superintendent Tortora said the Building Committee met regarding capital improvements. Thompson and Forest school projects are coming along nicely and Seth Haley is 98% complete. The new addition is on schedule and should be completed by May. The soils have been tested and only clean soil has been brought in for Forest and Mackrille. The foundation at Thompson is in and the plumbing is being worked on. The pool roof is completed except for some miscellaneous items. At Mackrille the site has been cleared along with some ceiling removal. He distributed a letter sent to the contractor from Kelly Construction on Friday. Art Kelly of Kelly Construction addressed the Board regarding the Mackrille contract. He explained the process followed when awarding the contract. The Finance Director researched the company. This is a joint venture and not on solid ground. We were assured they would meet all agreements and so far have not lived up to their end of the agreements. Discussion was held on breaking the contract. Mr. Kelly said breaking the contract would depend on the dollar impact to the City. He said termination of the agreement is the easiest way to go. Toni Paine asked if we are liable for the expense if we break the contract. Mr. Kelly said that could cost the City $50,000 to $75,000 in court fees. Mr. Kelly suggested we wait for the response from the contractor before going forward in any direction. He said in his letter he directed the contractor not to excavate for footings in case it was decided that another contractor should be brought in.

Regarding the broken pipe at Bailey Mr. Kelly said he sent drawings and communications to the claims adjuster and called a week later and left a message. He finally spoke to someone on September 30 and was told they are moving along on this. Superintendent Tortora suggested a letter be sent to the company from Corporation Council in 10 days if we have not heard from them.

Superintendent Tortora met with Pete Dixon and John Capone regarding ticket taking.

Chairman Guthrie asked the status of the concession stand at Bailey. Superintendent Tortora said the City is going to remove the stand in the near future.

Anne Heffernan reported ACES will be conducting an International Fair on October 25 and an Art Auction on November 2.

Raymond Collins reported the Food Service Committee met and discussed the Point of Sales in the elementary schools, food service sales YTD and overtime issues. The Minutes will be included in the next agenda.
D.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting, Student Expulsion Hearing held on September 29, 2003, 2:00 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting of October 7, 2003

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, 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-Non-Certified

03-198 Robert Nehrkorn, 25 Revere Road, North Haven, Ct Title I Math Aide at Thompson School, effective October 21, 2003

03-199 Christopher Cuomo, 20 Smith Street, West Haven, Freshman Football Coach at West Haven High.School, effective August 26, 2003

03-200 Ebony Joyner, 200 Goffe Street, New Haven, Title I Math Aide at Molly School, effective October 21, 2003

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Ursula Reilly to approve Item D.2. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

D.3. APPOINTMENTS-Certified

03-201 Applicants for Elementary Unit Leaders for the School year 2003-2004

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Raymond Collins to approve Item D.3. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.
D.4. RESIGNATION-Non-Certified

03-202  Dave Stratton Sr. Coach of the West Haven Girls Lacrosse Team, effective October 10, 2003  Reason: Personal

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Paul Messina to approve Item D.4. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

03-203  Request full-time Medical Paraprofessional for Savin Rock School. Paraprofessional will ride the bus to and from school. She/he will require a Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate.

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Ursula Reilly to approve Item 03-203 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-204  Ruben Acosta, P.O. Box 456, Simsbury, CT Impartial Hearing Officer, effective October 8, 2003 made by, SECONDED by to approve Item as presented and SO VOTED

A MOTION was made by Raymond Collins, SECONDED by Sandy Lorusso to approve Item 03-204. The MOTION Carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL

Fl  John Carrano asked why we are responsible for a New Haven student. Superintendent Tortora explained the student is a West Haven student that attends a magnet program in New Haven.

Anne Heffernan commended Chairman Guthrie for being asked to serve as Moderator at CABE Convention.

A MOTION was made by Ursula Reilly, SECONDED by Ann Heffernan to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. The MOTION carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bernardi

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