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

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**
Ursula Reilly

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**
Superintendent Paul Tortora  
Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro

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

Nancy Rossi said she is pleased to see Item 03-181 “Recommendation of Hearing Officers for Expulsion Hearings” on the agenda this evening. She said she would like to know more about the process.

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 mold we are in good shape with the exception of some minor occurrences that we are dealing with on an individual basis. The concession stand at Bailey is scheduled to be demolished and removed in the near future.

On the agenda is the Technology Plan for 2003-2006 and Mr. Tortora said he hopes the Board will approve this plan. A plan must be approved by the State every three years and this plan has been State approved.

Superintendent Tortora said he was concerned with a comment made at the last Board meeting comparing West Haven to Amity on budgetary issues. The Management Letter received from the Board’s auditing firm one issue was Recording of Accounts Payable. Garth responded saying in some cases we do not make final payments until July when everything gets billed. However, we know the estimate even though items were not posted. We accrue as much as possible. We make sure all Purchase Orders are approved prior to issuing them. Four years ago we have separate systems from City Hall; our current system is part of the City’s Accounting System. We are still part of City Hall.
REPORTS-Continued

Neil Cavallaro distributed the bus counts. He recognized the efforts put forth by Donald Lewis and the Winkle Bus Company.

Toni Paine asked what process was followed in the event of a Hurricane and was informed the same plan that is used when there is a serious snow storm.

Ray Collins visited the Bio-Bus at Bailey. He said the bus is on the road 5 days a week. It contains a mobile lab which children are able to conduct experiments in.

Neil Cavallaro said there is a need in science to build a continuum from level to level. In West Haven the High School Science Teachers are teaching labs to students in the middle schools and the middle school teachers are doing the same with the elementary students.

Anne Heffernan announced that Savin Rock School now has an after school Chess Program.

Joseph Esposito attended Family Day at Carrigan. He said it was a fun day and everyone involved did a great job.

Joseph Esposito said the Athletic Committee met and approved retiring Bert Siclari’s Jersey, #71. He said Mr. Siclari has devoted 30 years of devotion to the athletics and he hopes the Board will approve this matter.

Ray Collins asked if rotation will be done on Item 03-181. Neil Cavallaro said he will request the Officers rotate.

John Carrano agreed that rotating the Officers would be best.

D.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of August 18, 2003

Regular Board Meeting of September 2, 2003

Athletic Committee Meeting of September 10, 2003

Frank Fitzgerald Sports Complex Committee meeting of September 10, 2003

A MOTION was made by Raymond Collins, SECONDED by Paul Messina to approve D.1. With the exception of the Regular Meeting of August 18th which is still tabled until the tapes are reviewed. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
D.2. RESIGNATIONS- Non-Certified

03-177  Barbara Sweetman, Special Education Paraprofessional at Carrigan Middle School, effective January 1, 2004  Reason: Retirement

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Joseph Esposito 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, 2002, 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.3. APPOINTMENTS-Non-Certified

03-178  Christine Turcotte, 170 Lampson Street, West Haven, 5 hour production worker in Food Service.

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Joseph Esposito to approve Item D.3. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

03-179  West Haven Public Schools Technology Plan 2003-2006

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Sandy Lorusso to approve Item 03-179. as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-180  Trip for DECA students to the North Atlantic Region Conference in Philadelphia from November 14-16

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Paul Messina to approve Item 03-180 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.
NEW BUSINESS-Continued

03-181 Recommendation of Hearing Officers for Expulsion Hearings

    Peggy Pschirrer
    Michael Mackniak
    David Totman

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Ann Heffernan to approve Item 03-181 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

03-182 Title One, Math Aide Position at Carrigan School, Grade 6

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Joseph Esposito to approve Item 03-182 as presented and SO VOTED unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Sandy Lorusso, SECONDED by Paul Messina to enter Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

A MOTION was made by John Carrano, SECONDED by Ann Heffernan to return to Public Session at 8:30. The MOTION carried unanimously.

John Carrano left the room and did not vote on the following Items under New Business.

03-183 West Haven Federation of Teachers Contract Agreement

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Sandy Lorusso to approve Item 03-183. The MOTION was unanimous.

03-184 Contract Extension for Assistant Superintendent Neil Cavallaro until August 31, 2006

A MOTION was made by Ann Heffernan, SECONDED by Joseph Esposito to approve Item 03-184. The MOTION was unanimous.

03-185 Contract Extension for Superintendent Paul Tortora until August 31, 2006

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Paul Messina and Ann Heffernan to approve Item 03-185. The MOTION Carried unanimously.

03-186 Retirement of Bert Siclari’s Jersey # 71

A MOTION was made by Toni Paine, SECONDED by Paul Messina and John Carrano to approve Item 03-186. The MOTION carried unanimously.
INFORMATIONAL

Paul Messina thanked Superintendent Tortora for bringing the Union Contract before the Board.

John Carrano agreed and said he feels the contract is fair to both sides.

A MOTION was made by Paul Messina, SECONDED by Toni Paine to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. The MOTION carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bernardi

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