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 August 18, 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
Mark Palmieri
Rosa Richardson
Rosemary Russo

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cebi Waterfield

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

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**
Chairwoman Patricia Libero welcomed everyone to the August 18th Board Meeting and asked if anyone would like to address the board.

B. Public Portion of Meeting
Louise Martone, President of Local 2706 and proud grandmother of Lily Louise Nuzziata. Ms. Martone passed a copy of a letter from Attorney Floyd Dugas which was addressed to Catherine I. Serinn, Director Board of Mediation and Arbitration requesting that she immediately commence the interest arbitration process.

Ms. Marton stated that they work very well with Meg Kingston and we did a good job this year and everything is going well. She doesn’t understand why this letter was sent asking to go forth with arbitration. She asked the board to help stop this. The board gave thanks.

Public session ended at 7:10 PM.

C. REPORTS
C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools
Superintendent Cavallaro said there are several short presentations and he will address those comments from Ms. Martone but he will defer to Matt first with his presentation. Neil said last month we said there was a savings from the early retirement and we have put a number on that savings. As of today we are also fully staffed so it is a pretty realistic number at this point.

Matt Cavallaro said right now the savings from the retiring teachers vs. new hires is more than we anticipated so that is definitely in our favor. We did well on the hiring. The 2013/2014 budget has a change from the last time we spoke. The June health insurance entry hit and now that everything has hit the budget it looks like we will have just a little over a $700,000 surplus. With that money we get to roll $200,000 over from the City Council Initiative and the rest will go back to the city.

Superintendent Cavallaro addressed Louise Martone’s concerns. We felt this letter was a way to get the unions back to the table as we are at an impasse. We are interested in pursuing it but also interested in talking.

Superintendent Cavallaro discussed the Facilities Project Status Report which listed Projects done at schools in house and by contractors.

The long range planning and facility study was put out and we had three responses. We have a plan to put together a small committee to review them. A further discussion took place about Magnet Schools and All Day Kindergarten.

Susan Misur, Communications Director, discussed Communication Initiatives for the 2014/15 School Year. Communication plans for 2014-15 school year include: A weekly email newsletter, which started a few weeks ago and includes district news, updates, reminders and calendar items. It’s sent to parents, staff and community
members. It is another State of the District booklet, but on a smaller version than the first one. This may accompany a State of the District presentation.

Working with new teachers on their web pages at new teacher orientation.

Meeting with PTAs to get parent feedback on e-newsletter and websites.

Starting a student blog section of the West Haven High School website with a small group of students writing about school events, student government, academics, etc.

Expansion of website offerings, which will include adding new sections about school programs, the budget and more. The board gave thanks for the update.

Alan Dean and Meg Kingston thanked the Board for having them here tonight. Alan Dean said his role is to support Meg Kingston and as District Manager in Connecticut he is responsible for all of their school business but most important is to support Meg and the things that she does here. They gave an update on how the program did and thanked the board for giving them the opportunity to serve the children for the last year. Meg said they will be doing a smoothie bar this year and a further discussion took place about what was planned for the high school, charging school lunches, non-payment of charges made and how it will be handled this coming year. The board gave thanks.

Anne Druzolowski said if you start hearing anything about an Early Reading Initiative it has been going on for 12 years and they finally will get some results from it. We will be looking at universal screens which means how you identify kids and what you do to determine what they need in early reading and how do you address that. We are in a fortunate position because for five years we have been using universal screens for that age group. Anne also said that our Alliance Grant has been approved by the state. A further discussion took place. The board gave thanks.

Chairwoman Libero stated that she would like a motion to add a new hire to tonight’s agenda item 14-91 Lisa Curatola. Rosa Richardson made the motion and Bob Guthrie seconded the motion. All board members were in favor. Item 14-91 is added to the agenda.

Chairwoman Libero stated that she would like a motion to take Item 14-74 Approval of the Sodexo Contract Extension from the table on tonight’s agenda. Rosa Richardson made the motion and Patrick Egolum seconded the motion. All board members were in favor. Item 14-74 is on the agenda for discussion and vote under New Business.

C.1.b. Student Representatives Report
There were no student reps present tonight.

C.1.c. Board
There were no board reports tonight but board member Rosemary Russo proposed that each board member adopt a school this year. A newsletter introducing yourself to parents could be sent. This would give us an opportunity to meet the children and the needs and challenges they face daily. A further discussion took place. Chairwoman Libero asked Rosemary to send her an email on this.
C.1.d. Committee
There were no committee reports tonight.

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
July 14, 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
Discussion: Mark Palmieri abstained because he was not present at the board meeting.
All other board members present were in favor
Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

14-77 Jessica Brown, Behavior Analyst - Central
  Effective: July 14, 2014
  Reason: Personal

14-78 Kate Slavinski, Library Media Specialist – WHHS
  Effective: July 23, 2014
  Reason: Personal

14-79 Nicole Dery, First Grade Teacher – Savin Rock School
  Effective: August 1, 2014
  Reason: Relocation

14-80 Marissa Rapaport, Special Ed Teacher – Seth Haley
  Effective: August 1, 2014
  Reason: Personal

14-81 Jared Stevens, Technology Ed Teacher – Bailey
  Effective: August 5, 2014
  Reason: Personal

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve the resignations 14-77 – 14-81 inclusive.
Mark Palmieri made the motion to approve the resignations
Rosemary Russo seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present were in favor
All resignations 14-77 – 14-81 are approved
D.3. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

14-82 Ashleigh Vitelli, Elementary Teacher – Carrigan
   Effective: August 26, 2014
   Reason: Child Rearing Leave

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve the leave of absence 14-82
Bob Guthrie made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion:
All board members present were in favor
Item 14-82 Leave of Absence is approved

D.4. New Hire: (Certified)

14-83 Dino Morbidelli, 367 Peck Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
   Behavioral Specialist
   Effective: August 25, 2014
   Salary: $57,000.00

14-84 Colette M. Bennett, 53 Hut Hill Road, Bridgewater, CT 06752
   Coordinator for Language Arts, Social Studies, Library Media and District Testing
   Effective: August 19, 2014
   Salary: $104,520.77 (Step 4 BS+6 Yr)

14-85 Jocelynne Morrell, 34 Sorenson Road, West Haven, CT 06516
   Grade 5 Teacher – Carrigan
   Effective: August 25, 2014
   Salary: $40,020.00 (Step 1 BS)

14-86 Kevin Loney, 97 Wanda Lane, Middletown, CT 06457
   Assistant Football Coach – WHHS
   Effective: August 23, 2014
   Stipend: $3,500.00

14-87 Melanie Mahon, 12 Barnett Drive, North Haven, CT 06473
   Inclusion Teacher – Bailey Middle School
   Effective: August 25, 2014
   Salary: $45,000.00 (Step 3)

14-88 Emily M. Suits, 1038 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT 06438
   Special Ed Self-Contained Kindergarten – Seth Haley
   Effective: August 25, 2014
   Salary: $44,000.00 (Step 1 BS + 30)
Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve the New Hires 14-83 – 14-91 inclusive
Patrick Egolum made the motion to approve the new hires
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
Discussion: Neil said we have Collette Bennett our new hire here tonight and we are very excited to have you join us.
All board members present were in favor
All New Hires are approved items 14-83 – 14-91 inclusive

D.5. New Business

14-74 Approval of the Sodexo Contract Extension

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve New Business Item 14-74
Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to approve Item 14-74
Mark Palmeri made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members present were in favor
New Business item 14-74 is approved

F. Informational

Chairwoman Libero asked for a motion to adjourn.
Rosa Richardson made the motion
Patrick Egolum seconded the motion
Discussion: The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.