

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
AGENDA #16
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

RECEIVED
TOWN OF WEST HAVEN
2019 OCT 17 PM 12:37

X ~~October 21, 2019~~
**Board's Meeting Room
6:00 PM
Page 1 of 2**

A. Call to Order, Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education

A.1. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Resolved: It shall be the policy of the West Haven Board of Education for individual members, if they so desire, to engage in dialogue with members of the general public during the time allowed on its agenda for public participation.

Dialogue must be confined to information gathering purposes and at no time will individual persons or personnel be the subject of discussion.

It is understood that the Board Members and Administration will be given adequate time to research any inquiry resulting from such dialogue and shall do so on specific direction of the Chair. It will be the authority of the Chair to cut off dialogue at any time it deems feasible.

C. Reports:

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Alesha Hartley and Stacy Giaquinto will speak on food waste in the schools and littering

State Representative Dorinda Borer will speak on the new vaping legislation

C.1.b. Student Representatives

C.1.c. Board

C.1.d. Committee

D. Pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order the following questions are subject to the Board's vote without debate. Should a member choose to debate a specific question, he will move to lay the question on the table, and it shall become the first item of New Business. The Board will then vote on the remaining questions.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
AGENDA #16
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**October 21, 2019
Board's Meeting Room
6:00 PM
Page 2 of 2**

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. The West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was held in the West Haven High School Cafeteria, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 6:46 PM.

D.1.b. The West Haven Board of Education Special Meeting was held in the West Haven High School Cafeteria, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 5:50 PM.

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

19-100 Devon Kurker-Stewart, 13 Tanglewood Drive, Hamden, CT 06518
Special Education Inclusion Teacher 5th Grade – Carrigan Intermediate School
Salary: \$51,515 Step 5 BS
Effective: November 4, 2019

D.4. New Business

F. Informational

F.1. Lisa Mendes, 19 Peppermill Drive, West Haven, CT 06516
10 Month Clerk – 5 hours per day – West Haven High School
Salary: \$15,274.22
Effective: October 15, 2019

F.2. Robin Viani, 104 Jones Hill Road, West Haven, CT 06516
10 Month Clerk – 5 hours per day – West Haven High School
Salary: \$15,274.22
Effective: October 15, 2019

F.3. Resignation Letter from Theresa Rivera, Cook – Carrigan Intermediate School
effective October 25, 2019

WEST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"Schools Committed to Excellence and Safety"



#19-100

Carrigan Intermediate School

2 Tetlow Street

West Haven, Connecticut 06516

Telephone: (203) 937-4390

Fax: (203) 937-4393

Richard Weber
Principal
richard.weber@whschools.org

Alicia Limosani
Assistant Principal
alicia.limosani@whschools.org

TO: Neil C. Cavallaro, Superintendent
FROM: Rich Weber
RE: Hiring Recommendation
DATE: 10/16/19

The following individual(s) is/are recommended for employment with the West Haven Board of Education:

Name: Devon Kurker-Stewart
Address: 13 Tanglewood Drive
Hamden, CT
06518
Position: Special Education Inclusion Teacher 5th grade
Salary: BS Step Five \$51,515
Effective Date: 11/4/19
School Assignment: Carrigan Intermediate School

CC: Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent
Jolene Barnes, Personnel Director
Personnel File
Theresa Carlucci, Payroll
Nikki McMinn, Benefits
Marylou Amendola, Board Secretary

F.1 + F.2

WEST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



"Schools Committed to Excellence"

P. O. Box 26010

West Haven, Connecticut 06516

Telephone: (203) 931-6825 Fax: (203) 937-4319

Jolene Barnes
Personnel Director
jolene.barnes@whschools.org

11 October 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools

FROM:  Jolene Barnes, Personnel Director

SUBJECT: Recommendation: (2) 10 Month Clerks-5 hour per day
West Haven High School

Dana Paredes would like to recommend the following candidates for the two positions:

Name:	Lisa Mendes <i>F.1</i>	Robin Viani <i>F.2</i>
Address:	19 Peppermill Drive West Haven, CT 06516	104 Jones Hill Road West Haven, CT 06516
Position:	10 Month Clerk-5 hours per day	10 Month Clerk-5 hours per day
Location:	West Haven High School	West Haven High School
Annual Salary:	\$15,274.22	\$15,274.22
Effective:	October 15, 2019	October 15, 2019

Cc: Dana Paredes, Principal, West Haven High School
Matthew Cavallaro, Finance Director
Theresa Carlucci, Payroll
Nicoletta McMinn, Benefits
Board Agenda/Informational
Personnel File

Marylou Amendola

From: Jolene Barnes
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Neil Cavallaro; Marylou Amendola; Richard Weber
Cc: Theresa Carlucci; Nicoletta McMinn; Matthew Cavallaro; Chris Kehoe; Teresa Heaney
Subject: resignation notice

F.3.

Please see attached

From: Theresa Rivera
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 7:55 AM
To: Jolene Barnes
Subject:

Good Morning,

I want to let you know that October 25th will be my last day with the Board of Ed. I want to thank you for everything. I was offered a position that I could not refuse. I will miss you all!!

Thank you,
Theresa Rivera

Please consider the environment before printing this email. Only print this email if necessary.

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D.1.a

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
West Haven High School**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on October 7, 2019 in the West Haven High School Cafeteria, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 6:46 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rosemary Russo Chairwoman
Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair
Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Leigh
Patricia Libero
James W. Morrissey
Karen Pacelli
Rosa Richardson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lauren Aceto

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Nancy R. Rossi

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Brendan Carew
Mackenzie Gardner
Anthony Vendrella.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Chairwoman Russo asked three times if anyone would like to address the board. There were no speakers. Public Portion ended at 6:50

REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Superintendent Cavallaro had no formal reports tonight. He is very pleased that we are able to show off the high school and do the presentation tonight. Neil is very pleased that both Forest and Haley are utilizing the technology that was provided for them. This is a

great thing and a great feeling. We did all of this for the students and I hope that they also make the most of this in all of the other schools and in the new facility here.

C.1.b Student Representatives' Report

This report will be found on the last page of the minutes.

C.1.c. Board

Sue Walker read to the students at Mackrille School. She brought two books to choose from and the students chose both books. The students were very cute and the next night she went out to dinner and saw one of the little girls in the class. Sue asked if substitute pay was still \$70.00 dollars. Superintendent Cavallaro said yes and we believe we are OK with the minimum wage and Matt has done some work on that but there will be an adjustment made in the up-coming budget but not only for substitutes we will look at all of the part-time positions. Sue thanked Neil and said this is good because we are requiring certification.

Karen Pacelli said it is nice to see technology going on in all schools because we did spend a lot of money on that. It was great to see how the math and literacy coaches are working with the staff at Forest and providing the professional development that is needed to keep everyone up and going.

Jim Morrissey thanked Chairwoman Russo for putting together the West Haven High School Dedication and bringing everyone who has been involved over the years. This was a nice presentation, the school looks beautiful and will look even more beautiful as we go along. He also wanted to thank Forest School and Seth Haley School for coming here this even and doing a great job with their presentations. Once again this idea came from Chairwoman Russo last year when she decided to bring our schools in and Jim thanked her for that. It is nice to see what our teachers and students do and they do a great job and for that Jim wanted to say thank you for all you do on behalf of our students. With the different languages spoken in our schools today it is entirely different from when Jim went to school but our teachers have overcome this and do a great job. As a board member he wants to say thank you for all you do for the West Haven School System.

Jim goes by Bailey every day and that roof is not getting done. He is not blaming the Superintendent but we have been told as a board since last March that this would be taken care of and here it is October. This shouldn't be like this for our staff and our students. The consultant's report said the roof right now is water tight but that was not true. We had rain a couple of weeks ago and water came right through the ceiling and that is unacceptable as far as Jim is concerned and is not right. Both the consultants and experts are saying the roof right now is water tight and we are having rain during the next several days and he hates to think it will probably be leaking again. This roof must be done. Mr. Carney came before us in August and told us it was going to be done before school started and that never happened. Now it is October 7th and all he sees are cinderblocks up there protecting the roof from the elements. Jim is at his wits end at this point and wants to know what is going on. We have a beautiful school right here a 130M school but yet

we can't get a \$70,000 roof done in eight months. This is inexcusable as far as he is concerned. Thank you Chairwoman Russo.

Chairwoman Russo asked Superintendent Cavallaro if he wanted to comment. Sure he can update you but Neil is the messenger in this particular case. About a week ago on Tuesday Mike McGrath called a meeting with Ken Carney, Frank Gladwin the City Building Inspector, the designing engineer and the roofer were present. He assured us that as long as Mr. Gladwin could give the green light, which he did, that the job would be completed by October 15th. There were a couple of minor issues to resolve and Mr. Carney made it clear that he would be billing the roofer for any expenses incurred by the board of education over time, maintenance and anything else like lost tiles. Chris Everone was supposed to be providing Ken with a list of our expenses and Neil believes he has done this so if everything goes right it is supposed to be complete October 15th. Neil said it is important to understand that the consultant said the roof needs to be replaced because once water comes into a building it travels and it could leak. The roof has outlived its life expectancy and Ken Carney has advertised through the city purchasing department for a designer to start the process where the entire roof would be replaced. When you do these things and are proactive we are entitled to reimbursement which we weren't because the roof problem. Jim it is frustrating and he appreciates his bringing this up at meetings. We will try to give you as much information as possible. If there is someone you or any board member would like to meet with we will put you together.

Rosemary asked what is plan B if it is not done by next Tuesday. We will start billing the roofer and there is even the possibility of another roofer on standby. This is good but could also delay the final product if you are bringing in somebody new. Neil's preference would be that this roofer completes the job. Has the roofer given a time table of when he will be working and how much longer it is to complete the job. Most of the work has to be done at the completion of the school day. Chris Everone said work has to be done after the school day so from 2:00 PM on. A lot of it is low noise and putting flashing on and some downspouts but they are told they can't do it until after school is out. They will be working weekends once the metal gets in.

Patrick Leigh asked if this was in violation of contract. Neil said he believes there was a completion date of August 15th however there were some delays on the city part as well so it wasn't totally the roofer's fault. Rosa Richardson said it was held up for legal issues. Neil said this was through no fault of the roofer. Correct but the August 15 deadline came and went and we still didn't resolve the legal matter so we can't hold them to the August 15th date. No you couldn't hold them the August 15th and the permit issue is clearly on him and that is what got our Building Department involved. Frank Gladwin did his job and made sure everything was to spec and to code. We wouldn't be here today if the roofer presented the plans and whatnot.

Chairwoman Russo thanked Jim and Neil. She is in agreement with Jim as it has been a long time and the roof should be done and when the 15th comes and the work is done she thinks she will cry. Winter is coming and it just has to be done.

Patrick asked what happens if it goes post October 15th. Neil said we submitted them some billing. We are not going to pay him and have the right to remove him from the project and then it will be a legal battle. Patrick asked if Neil feels this will go to court. Not if he finishes it no. Our preference is not to go to court but to get the roof done. We need to submit to this legislative session the entire roof project and if we get approval that project can be done this summer but it won't happen this summer unless we get out advertising and hire the right people by mid-March. Jim Morrissey wanted to make it clear that the new roof leaked not the old roof. The water didn't come from the old roof to the new roof. Neil asked Chris what part of the new roof leaked and what caused the leak in the part of the new roof. Chris doesn't think it was the new roof leaking.....Jim Morrissey said it was over the cafeteria. He went down there and saw it himself..... Recently? Last week with you and Mike McGrath. The coping wasn't done and the wind blew under it. What I am saying is the roofer's report says the roof is water tight and secure and this is not true. The water got in there somehow and it is unacceptable. It wasn't the old roof that caused the new roof to leak it was the new roof itself and to claim it was waterproof is just completely false and not true. Chairwoman Russo said she thinks we all agree with you Jim and we don't want our teachers and our students to be in that predicament and we don't want mold to develop. It has to get done. Jim asked who is paying for the mold study which showed no mold. Neil said the board of education is not incurring any expenses on this but you are all taxpayers. Jim said is it coming from the roofer or from our taxpayers. This job is costing more and more as we go along and is becoming a nightmare as far as he is concerned. Chairwoman Russo asked if you can submit for other roofs at the same time as when you support Bailey's roof. Neil said with the exception of Carrigan and WHHS most of the roofs are out of warranty. We are expecting a list of schools in order of most needy to least needy with what needs to be done. Chairwoman Russo said then we can be proactive. Neil said part of what we submitted to the city over the years is part of our capital plan and has been roofs. If you are going to get 75% of the money back to do an entire roof before it leaks as opposed to \$80 to \$100,000 for a section you tell me what is a better value.

Rosa Richardson asked about putting a capital improvement plan together. Neil said we can give you a capital improvement plan in a couple of hours. We have submitted plans and have a basis to go off of. It is not putting the plan together it is funding the plan. As a board advocated we go out to bid and put a consultant in and put a very serious infrastructure plan together and we can't always come up with the money. Rosa thinks this is something we should consider. Put an RFP out there and get some studies done because it is not just Washington that is falling apart infrastructure wise. Neil we did put an RFP out 5 or 6 years ago and received two responses and it went nowhere. It is five or six years later let's do it again.

C.1.d. Committees

Patrick Leigh said it was a lovely ceremony that was presented before the meetings and he was really honored to be a part of it and to have his name up there with the rest of the board members. It has been nine years of hard work and it is nice to finally see it and be a part of it. He is also impressed with the use of technology at the elementary level. He watches his four year old son do things that he could never do as a child and it is amazing

how engrossed the children get into this process. He really likes that the children are still doing paper and pencil because that is extremely important. It is great to have the technology but to have the advantage of being able to do it freehand is really important to be able to problem solve and grow up to be adults that can accomplish normal day activities like going to the store, counting money and doing things of that nature.

Patrick has heard from a couple of sources that there is a group of conservative students at WHHS that has a club and it is a group that apparently some teachers don't agree with and if it is true how dare anyone take away from the freedom of a child. He heard they were ripping down posters and he can't understand that type of behavior. He doesn't know what the ethic's standards are for teachers to uphold to in the system but it is uncalled for and if it is true it is something that he recommends not be allowed and there should be some course of punishment that acts this way towards a child in a school system. Superintendent Cavallaro said Brendan is a member of the club and the name of the Club is Turning Point. It is a mostly conservative group which is growing in numbers. They did have some issues originally. We have worked out some rules and guidelines as to where posters can be displayed and what can be displayed. Just last week Dana, Neil, and Mrs. Libero brought in Attorney Dugas to talk about what we can use as guidelines and standards for what can be displayed and what can't be displayed and the kind of things that you can or can't do within a school. Brendan feel free to add to this. Neil said he thinks we are making progress but have a little way to go. Brandon said he definitely would agree as there have been incidents with teachers and students but for the most part they have been handled and we are making progress we are doing our job; we are good. A further discussion continued.

Pat Libero said as someone who was a professional she met with the kids many times and they said to her with Mr. Consorte we never know what his views are because he presents all sides of the issue. Pat told Mr. Consorte that k and he was really glad because he doesn't want them to know his opinion he wants them to see all the sides of an issue and make their own decisions. That is what education is about. They don't know if he is a Democrat or a Republican or Libertarian they don't know what he is and he presents his courses that way and that is how all teachers should be presenting it and it is not happening. A further discussion continued.

Rosa Richardson asked if there is going to be a certain place for all clubs and organizations to put their flyers and posters correct. Superintendent Cavallaro said yes. We are designating certain areas for all the clubs. Thank you. Superintendent Cavallaro asked Brandon if we had a pretty good handle on the rules.

Brendan said the new rule is that any club, or any organization cannot put their posters or flyers up immediately next to a teacher's door and everything has to be in common areas in the hallway no matter what it says. Superintendent Cavallaro said the common areas will be designated. We have ordered huge bulletin boards which will be going up shortly. Dana has a plan for this.

Rosa thanked Judy Drenzek for inviting the board to read to students at Mackrille School. Rosa said Mackrille has her heart.

Rosemary said she told Judy before the meeting she really enjoyed reading to the students in a 4th grade class and they were lovely. It was refreshing for Rosemary to be able to read the story and kids actually waited before they wanted to tell her something about it. It was a great experience thank you. Rosemary also read at Mackrille that day as she took a half day and had more time on her hands. She also walked around the high school which was really nice. She came to the cafeteria during one of the lunch waves and while she was there it was really wonderful. It wasn't especially loud, there were no long lines, actually all the lines were gone except the wrap station. Neil said we have been working on that station because they make the sandwiches fresh. Rosemary said it was nice to see the school in motion and it really did remind her of a college. She visited the shops and she enjoyed her visit which was great. The other thing Rosemary wanted to bring up was that she feels this board has done a lot of good and she felt in the end that she wanted to at least try for the recognition from C.A.B.E. She doesn't know if we received it or not but everything was sent on time and it got there by the due date. Marylou and Tammy did an incredible amount of work for it because Rosemary needed a lot of documentation. Rosemary hopes that we get it and thinks that we worked incredibly hard and we have had a good year. Rosemary then asked the board what schools they planned on adopting. She knows some of the board members won't be back but just take your school for these couple of months. Superintendent Cavallaro said we won't throw you out if you come. Jim Morrissey wanted to keep Savin Rock. Patrick Leigh wanted Washington School. Rosa asked for two Mackrille and the high school. Pat will take the high school. Sue Walker chose Pagels. Karen Pacelli chose Seth Haley. Bob Guthrie took Forest and Rosemary took Carrigan and Bailey.

Rosa Richardson reminded the board that there would be a Pupil Services Committee Meeting on October 21st at 5:30 PM before the board meeting.

Bob Guthrie said we had spoken about a Policy Committee Meeting next month and Rosa has a meeting scheduled at 5:30 can we schedule it for 6:30 PM. Neil said we can get them both in if that is what you want to do. Bob said this way you can speak to Mr. Turcio and whoever else is supposed to be there. No problem.

Rosemary said she would like to add two items to the agenda tonight before starting the minutes.

Rosa Richardson said she would like to add items F.10. and F.11. under informational Patrick Leigh seconded the motion

All board members present were in favor

Items F.10 and F.11 under informational are approved and added to tonight's agenda.

F.10. Kristine Gonzalez, 46 Alling Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Medical Building Paraprofessional – Carrigan Intermediate School
Effective: October 7, 2019
Salary: \$18,461.76 plus \$1,000 stipend

F.11. Kimberly Moscato, 37 Susquehanna Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Medical Building Paraprofessional – Seth G. Haley School
Effective: October 7, 2019
Salary: \$18,461.76 plus \$1,000 stipend

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. The West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting was held in the Board's Meeting Room, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Meeting minutes D.1.a.
Karen Pacelli made the motion to approve the minutes
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
Discussion: Jim Morrissey abstained as he did not attend the meeting.
All other board members present were in favor
Regular Meeting Minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

D.3. New Hire: (Certified)

D.4. New Business

19-99 Superintendent's Goals 2019 - 2020

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's Goals
Patrick Leigh made the motion to approve the goals
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
Discussion: Bob Guthrie is happy that the board has re-established a time line for evaluation and goals of the Superintendent. He hopes this continues going forward and now he challenges the board to reevaluate the Board of Education Goals and update them. Obviously it is important to make sure that our goals align with the Superintendent's but we are looking to hold the standard for the Superintendent which we certainly hope to forward to ourselves with our goals going forward. All board members present were in favor
The Superintendent's Goals are approved

Chairwoman Russo said the rest is informational and asked for a motion to adjourn.
Patrick Leigh made the motion to approve the minutes
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion

All board members were in favor
The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary

BOE Student Report 10/7

Students came up with a list of concerns and suggestions regarding the lunch lines. A meeting has been set with the head of Food Service to go over these concerns.

This week is spirit week at the high school. Our homecoming football game will be played at some point this week but last we heard the schedule is not definite.

The PA system is set to be up and running in the old part of the school by October 11th.

D.1.6

**WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes
West Haven High School**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on October 7, 2019 in the West Haven High School Cafeteria, 1 McDonough Plaza, West Haven, CT. The meeting was called to order by Rosemary Russo, Chairwoman of the Board of Education at 5:50 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Rosemary Russo Chairwoman
- Robert Guthrie, Vice Chair
- Susan Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
- Patrick Leigh
- Patricia Libero
- James W. Morrissey
- Karen Pacelli
- Rosa Richardson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lauren Aceto

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Nancy R. Rossi

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

- Brendan Carew
- Mackenzie Gardner
- Anthony Vendrella.

Chairwoman Russo said we are lucky tonight to have both Seth Haley and Forest Elementary School here. Mrs. Palermo will begin the presentation with Seth Haley.

Mrs. Palermo said she didn't need the microphone but will use it because we are talking about technology tonight. AJ Palermo, Principal of Seth Haley, thanked the board for inviting her to tonight's meeting. She brought second grade teacher Brian McDermott and 3rd grade teacher Greg Goldberg with her and said they will show one way that Haley students and teachers are utilizing technology. This presentation is not just a focus on chrome books and technology. We want you to understand how we are improving teacher collaboration, encouraging vertical conversations about curriculum, how we are building stronger student to student relationships, and this is what it is really all about. Mr. Goldberg's third grade class and Mr. McDermott's 2nd grade class have partnered this year to work on different ELA and Math Concepts in projects and tonight they will be unveiling their new website which just went live for parents today. Two students that are

here tonight will be in the video Zaylene and Kai. AJ turned it over to the two gentlemen who showed a video. The complete video is on our website.

Greg Goldberg said he and his colleagues really were happy to have Chromebooks when the year started and wanted to utilize them. Brian McDermott really used them in his classroom last year and Greg approached him before school started to see if he wanted to partner up and he immediately agreed. Their video showed a lesson where students came in for a writing assignment and a 2nd grader was teamed up with a 3rd grader so they could share their ideas. Second graders could see what a third grade classroom looks like and third graders could be helpers and help the second graders. A video showed this.

Brian McDermott said they set up google slides where the top part couldn't be changed but in the text box they could add their own clip art which could be edited and get permission to finish the writing. The story requires that you use your five sentences for the descriptive part and they had to have a surprise. This can be linked right to their work after getting permission from parents. This keeps it nice and safe. A video was shown with Gillian from Mr. Goldberg's class and Zaylene from Mr. McDermott's class using different clip art and making sure all the sentences were included and they really worked hard on this. You can see that they are always focused when they are doing the writing and they did a really good job. There were many other slides shown. The entire video is on the website. The board thanked everyone for this wonderful presentation. Applause followed. Superintendent Cavallaro thanked Brian and Greg and said this is great work and we are really pleased that you are making use of the technology but still making sure that the kids understand the concepts; great work! Our second presentation this evening is from Forest Elementary School and I will turn it over to Tom Hunt the Principal of Forest.

Tom Hunt said we are very happy to be here to talk about what is new at Forest and what we will continue. You have heard me talk about the shared level of leadership in our building. Jason Heffernan our Math Coach and Heather Mazzone our Reading Specialist share that level of leadership in the building. They provide a comfort for the teachers because they are constantly getting PD as the year progresses from Jason and Heather to increase achievement in the classrooms so that student's needs are better served. During PD teachers are given coverage so they can go to the math or reading room where they are modeling lessons in the classroom so that tweaks can be made and the instruction more efficient. They have the level of expertise and we all have strengths and weaknesses and that is what we try to bid on big time. Our teacher goals this year were different than before. Our Tier 3 students are growing very well. The amount of growth we are achieving during the course of a year is really what put us on the map. Last year's preliminary results show we are very near what our Blue Ribbon Year was. We noticed some Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction isn't growing as much as Tier 3 so this year teachers will focus on Tier's 1 and 2 in their classroom because Tier 3 is working fine and we want to show more growth in those areas. We also will be engaging parents in what we are doing. The next thing is our school attendance initiative. To be sent home you have to be running a fever or very stomach sick. We do our best to keep children in school to receive the instruction they need because when they aren't here that is what creates the

gaps in learning. Approximately every 35 days we celebrate perfect attendance so every child can try at least five times during the school year to gain perfect attendance. We come together in an all school assembly and recognize those children in each of those 35 day windows. Children are given raffle tickets so they can win a prize; either lunch with the principal by grade level or a Barnes and Noble gift card all for coming to school. This generates a lot of excitement. These are things that are coming up that we are continuing and new things that you will hear about with the curriculum. The complete video will be on the website.

Jason talked about the changes taking place in curriculum and how they try to make students a little more efficient and to support teachers and students in increasing achievement across the grade level. It is very helpful that we can train others and share this information with schools in our district. In looking at SBAC scores we have been seeing a lot of growth within our school district so it is definitely a model for success.

Heather said last year she was going over the techniques they used and this year they have quite a few new staff members that are just out of school so it is exciting to see them come in because they are eager and excited to have their own classrooms but they do have a lot to learn about the different strategies we use. This year I have had two full days with some of the teachers and on the first day I pulled in our four new teachers and we spent the day together going through a number of different techniques and strategies we use in the classroom and going over some of the terminology. They do have questions and it will be an ongoing learning for them but it was exciting to see how excited and open they were to offer different techniques that we are using. A video was used to show the different things students are doing in the classroom and also walking/dancing in the hallway to the Jackson 5 ABC. The complete video is on the website. The board thanked everyone for this presentation. Applause followed.

Chairwoman Russo said she loved the ABC Bootcamp being a little kid's teacher what a great idea and this is district wide. She likes to see the families come back at dinners and have time to engage with them it is great thank you. Chairwoman also thanked Mrs. Palermo for the video showing everything that you did from the second grade. To both schools thank you very much for coming tonight. Applause

Chairwoman Russo asked for a motion to adjourn the special meeting

Karen Pacelli made the motion to adjourn

Pat Libero seconded the motion

All board members were in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Chairwoman Russo said we will take a short break for people who have to leave and resume in about five or ten minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary