



Parenzo Hall Building Biography

A. Historical

Parenzo Hall was the first building on the current site for Westfield State College, then known as the Westfield State Teachers College. The School had been located in the center of Westfield on Court St. but by the early 1950s, the buildings were in poor condition (“obsolete and unsafe” per the governor, Paul A. Dever), and growing enrollment requests outnumbered available openings.

As a result, in 1951 Governor Dever approved a bond issue which included money for new buildings for the Teachers College. However, when the state administration changed hands, the enthusiasm for new buildings cooled considerably. So in 1953, State Representative Anthony J. Parenzo persuaded the city of Westfield to donate 23 acres of land on upper Western Ave to construct the new college buildings. This renewed interest in the project and ground was broken in 1954.

The new college opened in the fall of 1956 with Parenzo Hall, Scanlon Hall and a Power Plant on the site at a cost of \$3 million. At its opening, Parenzo Hall housed the Administrative offices – including the President, Admissions, Student Services, Registrar, Business Office, Human Resources and the Dean’s office, as well as the Library, the auditorium, gymnasium, classrooms, science labs, art rooms and even a lunch room.

Parenzo Hall was officially dedicated on December 14, 1956 and officially named after Anthony J. Parenzo on January 13, 1957.

B. Structural Facts

Construction Type	2 C (noncombustible, unprotected)
Occupancy Group:	A-3 Classroom, office, Gymnasium, Auditorium
Year Built:	1956
Height:	Actual: 36 Feet
Area:	Actual: 90,588 s.f.
Foundation Type	Concrete spread footings
Floor / Ceiling:	Flat concrete deck/ceiling; suspended ballasted, fully adhered
Roof:	Original: Concrete plank, EPDM membrane, partially ballasted, fully adhered. 2008: Ballast removed, Sarnafil polyvinyl membrane, fully adhered. Isosyanurate insulation. Morris Roofing - 20 yr warrantee.
Exterior Walls	Masonry – concrete block, brick veneer
Interior Finish	Hallways and bathrooms – concrete block and ceramic tile: office, gym, auditorium – combination of painted concrete block and sheetrock walls.
Fuels	None in building. (Heat and hot water supplied by power plant). Natural gas used for pottery kilns and emergency generator.
Heat	Supplied by Power Plant (#4 oil HP steam) forced hot water system
Hot Water	Supplied by means of instantaneous HPS tankless system located in Parenzo/Scanlon utility tunnel.
Ventilation	Combination natural and mechanical; windows, univents; portions partially services by central AC
Electrical Service	4160 vac 3 phase supplied from Power Plant reduced to 208 vac
Emergency Light	Hallway and Corridor lights supplied by emergency generator.
Emergency Power	One Ford 7.5 L (engine) natural gas generator; Empire 64 KV, 228 amps, @ 120/208 supplies Emergency Lighting Hallway and corridor lights supplied by emergency generator.
Fire Alarm Equip	Simplex panel, horns and strobes upgraded in 2007.
Suppression	Hallway standpipe at fire extinguisher cabinets
Smoke Evacuation	None
Extinguishers	9 – ABC in hallways; 1 co2 in art room. Inspected and tested annually by Atwood Fire Equipment Co. Ongoing inspection by WSC Facilities staff.
Chimneys	1 chimney; 1 flue (Incinerator not in use)
Elevator	1- ThyssenKrupp (3000 lb. capacity); and 1 dumbwaiter (500 lb capacity)
Atria	Utility pipe chases
Emergency evacuation signs:	Posted
Septic	Municipal
Water	Municipal
Certificate	

C. Upgrades and Changes

2007 – Added new Simplex Fire Alarm system, including horns and strobes in Hallways.

Added new exterior front steps and handicapped ramp in front of building.

2008 – Dever Auditorium carpeting replaced. Stage floor painted.
Structural upgrades in the auditorium catwalk.
Relocation and upgrade of Stage control room.
Added spaces for handicapped people.

P 011: office renovated including paint for walls, new carpet, portable office walls and new furniture in the new offices.

Roof: Complete new Sarnafil roof, fully adhered.

2009 – Gymnasium floor sanded bare, repaired, repainted, and polyurethaned