

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

PLACE: ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL, Media Center **DATE:** 8 May 2019 **TIME:** 6:00 P.M.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: William Nimons, president

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call – Mr. William Nimons, called a quorum.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X	
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	X		
TOTAL	6	1	0

II. Public Session

Ms. Bev Tidmarsh, 66 Westfield Ave., Ansonia. Ms. Tidmarsh stated she has been attending the Regionalization meetings and it has come up on more than one occasion regarding the lack of attendance of administration from Ansonia Schools. She said she wanted to bring it to the Boards attention that it would be nice to see some administrators in attendance and show representation to the meetings. The Board thanked Ms. Tidmarsh for her comments.

Mr. Mat Hough, president, Ansonia Federation of Teachers. Mr. Hough said there was a Service Awards Ceremony for Teachers this past week and wanted to publically acknowledge there are nine teachers in the district finishing their 20th year serving Ansonia. He said there are also two teachers serving their 25th year, two teachers serving their 30th year and two teachers serving their 35th year. He said it should be noted that despite the many cuts and changes taking place in Ansonia, there are many dedicated teachers who remain in the district. Superintendent Merlone said these teachers will be recognized at next month's meeting.

III. Action Items

Mr. Nimons requested letter E be added to the Action Items to discuss a resignation.

MOTION: To add letter "E" to the Action Items.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	2	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS				X
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		5	0	1

A. Accepting BOE meeting minutes dated April 10, 2019 (regular).

MOTION: To accept minutes dated April 10, 2019 (regular).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS				X
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	X	X		
TOTAL		5	0	1

B. Report and Recommendations from the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee chair, Chris Phipps briefed the Board on the meeting that took place just prior. He said the finance report is looking like the Board will come in at or under budget. Mr. Phipps also said regarding the self-insured plan, the shortage in funds will not be happening this year. Ms. DiGiorgi said she wanted to mention that East Haven has joined the group plan as well. There were no questions.

C. Non-union employee contract extension.

Superintendent Merlone reminded the Board that in the fall, some of these contracts were approved and renewed. She said the remaining contracts are now up. She reviewed the positions of the employees on the list. Superintendent Merlone asked the Board if they would like to vote to renew the contracts. Mr. Nimons asked if the employees are all performing. Superintendent answered, they are all performing well. Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joe DiBacco, said all of the employees have had evaluations and performances are all very good. Mr. Phipps said he wanted to comment that he is not in favor of the two year contracts but he does support renewing the one year agreements. He said he would also prefer to read the contracts of all the employees on the list. Ms. DiGiorgi asked what his opposition to the two year contract is. Mr. Phipps said he does not see the need to go beyond one year. He said with an evaluation done each year, the contract, in his opinion, should be one year. He again stated he would also like to read these contracts. Dr. DiBacco said if the contracts were read and all terms were agreed, would he feel comfortable voting on a two year contract. Dr. DiBacco said the idea of stability for job security would be one reason to have a contract that is longer than one year. Dr. DiBacco said it is very important to know a good performing employee would like to be assured job security. Mr. Phipps said the positions are not union and if employees are doing their job, they will keep their job. Superintendent Merlone asked if the Board wanted to table the matter and revisit it in June 2019. The members of the Board agreed.

D. All-Star Transportation

Ms. Lisa Jones informed the Board she received a communication from All-Star Transportation with regard to selling the company to Student Transportation of America. She said Mr. Steve Gardner will still be managing the company and the services will not change. She said the new company will provide more stability in the competitive

market. Ms. Jones said the company had been struggling with employment as well as insurance cost. She said the Board should acknowledge the change and confirm we are in agreement with Student Transportation of America being the new owner. She said the RFP will still be moving forward next year. Mr. John Izzo said he sees this as an opportunity and since we are rebidding the contract anyway, he thinks the Board can go back to All-Star with a little more leverage to keep the rates flat or maybe a reduction or new buses. He said it does require approval of the Board and there may be room for leverage to benefit the district.

MOTION: To accept the changes of ownership of All-Star Transportation.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

E. Resignation

Superintendent Merlone said she received a letter from Mr. Paul Pet(SPELLING) who is a Special Education Teacher who wants to retire this coming June. She told the Board she would like someone to make a motion and also to wish Paul all the best and he has been in the district for many dedicated years.

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Mr. Paul Pet(SPELLING) and to thank him for many years of service.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	2	X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report-

Dr. DiBacco gave his report, saying compliments go out to Mrs. Eileen Ehman, for, her wealth of knowledge when it comes to grants, and everything that goes into them. He said the opportunity to work with her on obtaining these grants is a tremendous asset that many are not aware of. He also mentioned a meeting with Jerry's Driving School who is requesting the opportunity to rent space for the use of a driving school right in our classrooms and offer our students a discount. He said he also wanted to highlight Ms. Kelly Matute who has helped get every school in the district at the required 75% for the fitness test. Dr. DiBacco said he also wanted to acknowledge Mr. Dennis Proto and Mrs. Karen Phipps who have been reaching out and receiving the Sikorsky internship opportunity along with many other educational as well as job opportunities for the high school students. He said Ms. Phipps has been working for a few years with other staff members to make the right connections to benefit the school. Superintendent Merlone also thanked Dr. DiBacco for pushing this as well. Dr. DiBacco also recognized student Board member Kaitlyn Caple for her many accomplishments as well as being recognized for the National Honor Society Scholarship she recently received.

B. Special Education Director's Report-

Mr. Kevin Keating reviewed his report. He said today there are 57 students that are outplaced and important to notice last year at this time there were 69. He said there was an open house at ACES Mead and it was a huge success. Mr. Keating

also shared a letter from a parent of a student who is now safely attending the program and was not able to be successful up to this point. Mr. John Izzo congratulated Mr. Keating saying he read the article. Mr. Chris Phipps thanked Mr. Keating for helping the district in lowering the number of outplaced students and asked him to share what transpired to make the decrease possible. Mr. Keating said there were no students brought back, the number reduced is due to students aging out of the program. Mr. Keating also said the positive is the numbers have not gone up. He said the conversations are taking place though, to review the angles of getting these students back into our classrooms and having fewer outplaced. Mr. Phipps said in short time, Mr. Keating has made a great impact and would like to congratulate him. Mr. Izzo seconded the comment.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Nimons said Mr. Pastore is not at the meeting and any questions can be emailed to him.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. **2018-2019 Year-to-date** - Ms. Lisa Jones briefed the Board on her reports. She asked for any questions regarding the reports they have. Mr. Phipps said he wanted to mention the need to revisit Delta-T employees and strategize a plan to reduce the temporary employees or eventually phase out Delta-T. Ms. Jones said Mr. Golia has been out and his reports were not completed but she did put together some financials that were just handed out.

2. **Athletics** – Report was given with no questions.

3. **Food Services** – Report was given with no questions.

4. **Grants and other income** – Report was given with no questions.

E. **Enrollment**- Report was given, no questions were asked.

F. **Youth Family Outreach Summary** - Mr. Bobby Lisi gave his report. He stressed the importance of communication between landlords and the city. He said the Housing Authority needs to be involved to communicate with these absent landlords. Mr. Lisi said there also needs to be ways to help the city understand the problems that arise in the district because of these landlords and their tenants. He said getting HUD involved may help to also relay the housing problem we have with absent landlords. There were no further questions.

G. Notes from the Desk of the Superintendent

Superintendent Merlone gave her report, reviewing the month for the Board. She spoke of the Great Give and thanked Mrs. Eileen Ehman and Mrs. Nina Phipps for the amazing job with the fund raiser for our high school band that received over \$6,000. She said discussed the grants that were received for several things such as summer school and the annual Reading Rocks as well as the Charger Club and high school band. She said there were also several activities, trips and programs throughout the district which are all mentioned in her report. There were no questions.

H. Additional; Administration or Board of Education –

Kaitlyn Caple, student member, gave her report. Ms. Caple said she wanted to acknowledge Ms. Chin for welcoming the AMS students and recently giving them a tour. She continued with several activities that will be taking place including a senior car wash on May 18 at Hilltop Hose from 9:00am – 1:00pm, a mock accident on May 14th for junior and senior students before prom, AP exams and several class trips and other activities throughout the school.

Mr. Bobby Evans, Facilities Director, briefed the Board on his department's activities for the summer including summer school and the changing out of boilers at Mead School. He said we are now twenty years out of the 2001 project and things are constantly breaking down. Mr. Evans said there needs to be conversation and a plan moving forward.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 05/12/2019