

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL, Media Center **DATE:** 12 June 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	7	0	0

Mr. Nimons asked for a few minutes before Public Session to present Superintendent Merlone with a token for her years of service. He reminded the Board this is her last meeting before retirement.

Ms. Fran DiGiorgi spoke on behalf of the Board and thanked Superintendent Merlone for the past twelve years of her dedication to the children of Ansonia. She also thanked Superintendent Merlone for always working well with the Board members and having the best interest of the students. She wished her well in her retirement.

Superintendent Merlone said the thanks goes out to the entire Board. She said the members are also there for the kids and without a great Board, nothing would get done. She said it was great working for the Board and thanked all of the members.

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Recognitions

Mr. Nimons asked Superintendent Merlone to present

A. Mary Ellen Czapor, 35 years of service.

Superintendent Merlone said she was happy to hear Ms. Czapor is in Ireland, and therefore could not make the meeting. She said she wishes Ms. Czapor is enjoying her needed vacation. Superintendent Merlone read an acceptance letter from Ms. Czapor which thanked all members of the Board and Superintendent Merlone for acknowledging her years of service. The letter said the one constant, aside from all the changes, is the supportive staff that she has worked with.

B. Monica Contessa, 30 years of service.

Superintendent Merlone said Ms. Contessa has retired this year. She thanked Ms. Contessa for her years of service as a teacher and also her involvement in the union. Superintendent Merlone said her dedication was truly appreciated.

C. Michele Fraher, 30 years of service.

Superintendent Merlone congratulated Ms. Fraher and said she enjoyed working with her at Peck School. Superintendent Merlone commended Ms. Fraher on all of the roles she took on and excelled in throughout the years. She said she is a phenomenal teacher at Ansonia should be thanking her for an excellent job.

D. Roseann Grisier, 25 years of service.

Superintendent Merlone said she had the pleasure of working in the mornings with Ms. Grisier at the Middle School. She also thanked her for her many years of dedicated service to the students.

E. Eileen Lawlor, 25 years of service.

Superintendent Merlone thanked Ms. Lawlor for doing a wonderful job of having to teach between two elementary school buildings. Superintendent Merlone said the job is not getting any easier, and she appreciates the dedication from Ms. Lawlor.

F. William Nimons, 18 years of service.

Superintendent Merlone thanked Mr. Nimons for his many years of service and said he is the right person for the job who has helped fight for the students with his expertise in finance and care for the children. She said he will continue to fight and she knows he will be amazing working with the new Superintendent.

G. Fran DiGiorgi, 14 years of service.

Superintendent Merlone thanked Ms. DiGiorgi for being dedicated to the kids for all these years and for helping the district get to where they are today. She said Ms. DiGiorgi truly cares about the children and she appreciates all her time put into this town.

H. Kaitlyn Caple, Student Board member.

Superintendent Merlone thanked Ms. Caple for all that she has done for Ansonia High School and her peers. She said Ms. Caple will surely go on to do amazing things.

IV. Action Items:

A. Hiring of the Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Dr. DiBacco announced the hiring of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Stephen F. Bergin. He said after numerous candidates, everyone agreed Mr. Bergin is a perfect fit for our district and his skills along with experience will be beneficial to the district. Dr. DiBacco asked the Board to welcome Mr. Bergin.

Mr. Bergin thanked Dr. DiBacco and the Board for the opportunity and is excited to get started. He said he is looking forward to being a part of the team to continue moving forward with the growth that is happening in the district. He said he is eager to form positive relationships with the community and members of the district.

MOTION: To hire Mr. Stephen Bergin for the position of Assistant Superintendent.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

B. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated May 8, 2019(regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting Minutes dated May 8, 2019(regular).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

C. Retirements

1. Susan Matican, Grade 1, Mead School.
2. Evelyn Willett, Grade 5, Mead School.

Attachment 1
Attachment 2

Superintendent Merlone said Central Office has received two notices of retirement from Ms. Susan Matican who teaches 1st grade in Mead school and Ms. Evelyn Willett, 5th grade teacher at Mead School. She says she will notify the teachers they are

able pick up their packet at Central Office. She said both teachers are amazing teachers and she wishes them the very best in their retirement.

D. Permission for Superintendent to hire certified staff during summer months.

Superintendent Merlone asked to the Board to give permission to Dr. DiBacco to hire over the summer without having to call a meeting. She said this makes it much more convenient for everyone. She said it will return back to the Board once school is back in session.

MOTION: To give permission for the Superintendent to hire certified staff during summer break.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	2	X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

E. Jerry's Driving School request for AHS classroom rental.

Attachment 3

Dr. DiBacco said he has met with the driving school numerous times regarding renting out a classroom at the high school for our students to take drivers education classes. He said this will include a 25% discount for all students participating in the program. Dr. DiBacco said they will be paying the current rental fee that the public pays for using our classrooms. Mr. Phipps asked if there was a possibility to change the time for the classes to accommodate students who participate in sports. Mr. Scarlatta asked if there is going to be any liability on the Board's end. Dr. DiBacco said the company has their own insurance and the Board will not have any liability. Mr. Izzo said as long as proof of liability insurance is provided there shouldn't be a problem. It was confirmed the funds will be put into the 90 fund, which is money spent on students.

MOTION: To give permission for Jerry's Driving School to rent a classroom at the high school for the purpose of driving instruction.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

V. Informational Items:

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Attachment 4

Dr. DiBacco gave his report including the process moving forward with the Teacher and Administration Evaluation Survey. He said this tool is going to be beneficial for the entire district. He thanked Mr. Tom Brockett and Mr. John Coppola on the District Safety Committee for the reference guide to Safety Protocol. Dr. DiBacco said this will begin to be distributed first with school secretaries so they know the procedures in case of an emergency. He told the Board he was very impressed with the High School's prom he attended with Superintendent Merlone. The students were very well behaved and he received compliments from the venue staff. Dr. DiBacco also spoke about a meeting with ACES employee, Mr. Tim House. He said this was in regards to the ACES Mead School Program. Dr. DiBacco said he is looking to expand the K – 3rd grade program to a K – 6th grade. He said all testing is complete and participation is approximately 97% for all grades. He complimented

Ms. Eileen Ehman, Ms. Bridget Calabrese and Ms. Dorca Rodriguez on the Reading Rocks Program. He said the event was a huge success and over 1000 families were in attendance. Dr. DiBacco also wanted to thank Ms. Lyn Le who is located at the high school. He said her outstanding Information Systems work has helped to improve and complete all system reporting that is mandated by the state and government. He said she is one of the hardest workers and he appreciates her very much.

B. Special Education Director's Report-

Attachment 5

Mr. Kevin Keating reviewed his report. He said referring to the report, the Special Ed students total has gone down, but the number of outplaced students is slightly up. Mr. Keating said the numbers are lower than last year which is leading in a positive direction. He reminded the Board that the incoming students who already receive services are required to continue so that will always be a factor in the rise of numbers. He also said a plan to have Behavior Technicians come into the ACES Mead Program will help implement programs into our schools as well as be on stand by while the ACES Mead Program expands. He said he met with Delta T and along with Mr. John Coppola, has reduced the number of Instructional Aides from 105 to 60. He said there are plans to continue to reduce this number. Mr. Keating talked about the 20 student teachers from Southern Connecticut State University that will be coming to assist in our summer school program. He reminded the cost is almost cut in half due to these student teachers providing services.

Superintendent Merlone asked to speak in reference to what Mr. Keating was reporting. She said due to the savings that is happening with Delta T, there will most likely be enough to hire several staff. She said there will also hopefully be room for an Assistant Principal position at this point. She said she is strongly recommending to have a Special Education teacher to go out and attend PPT meetings so Mr. Keating can have more time in district to continue his work. She said the staffing is necessary for growth and continue the great beginning Mr. Keating has started.

Mr. Izzo congratulated Mr. Keating saying the work he is doing in such a short time is terrific. He said if the budget can handle the recommendation from Superintendent Merlone than it should be priority for Mr. Keating to continue with his progress.

C. Technology Report

Attachment 6

Mr. Pastore gave his report, there were no questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Attachment 7

1. 2018-2019 Year-to-date - Ms. Lisa Jones reviewed her report including all updated budget projections. She said the most significant occurrence was end of school year balloon payment made to teachers which totaled approximately \$2 million. She said there is a current available balance of just over \$1 million. She said that is not reflecting the 12 month staff that will continue to get paid. She said after that there will be a slight reserve for end of year invoices and expenses that are not accounted for. She said the report also shows a concern that has been addressed is health insurance. Ms. Jones reminded the Board that last year there was an unexpected IDMR cost which will not happen this year. She said the second payment of Excess Cost was made for \$267,000 and added to the tuition line for Special Education. She said this will help offset the deficit in that line item. Ms. Jones asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Vinny Scarlata asked if she could update the Board on the discussion that took place during the Finance Committee meeting. Ms. Jones said late April she received an email from Ms. Kim Destefano from the city, for a refuse bill. She said the city billed the school district \$43,000 from July through March. Ms. Jones said she confirmed with Mr. Bob Evans. We had never been billed or paid this type of service, it has always been included as an "in-kind expense". She said looking at the previous year end report, there was a total of about \$7,000 for refuse collection for the entire year. She said she questioned this huge difference from the bill that was just sent and Ms. Destefano said the previous, smaller bill was an estimate. Ms. Jones said this bill is only through March which leaves three more months. Ms. Jones said she did relay that this has never been a line item and was not planned in the budget. She said the invoices were totals and did not include any information regarding weights or broken down amounts. Ms. Jones said these excessive amounts are being brought to the Board because she doesn't know if the city plans to move forward with the bill. Nothing else has been mentioned from Ms. Destefano.

Mr. Scarlata also asked for the record, to mention a point regarding a finance report put out from the Mayor's office. He said there is a representation of education costing 53% of the city's budget. Mr. Scarlata said this number includes funds from the state, not just the city funds. He asked Ms. Jones what the real numbers look like. She said of the \$32 million budget, \$16 million is coming from the state so the report of 53% coming from taxpayers would be incorrect. Ms. Jones also said for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year, that amount from the state has increased to approximately \$17 million.

Mr. Phipps asked if we are required to pay this refuse bill should we be able to go out to bid and seek pricing for trash pickup. Ms. Jones said she is not trying to give an appearance to agree and pay this bill but yes, if required than trying to find other means of refuse pick up would be suggested.

Mr. Joe Jeanette asked if tipping fees or weights were given regarding this invoice. Mr. Joe Jeanette asked to send something to Mr. Mike D'Alessio at Public Works for details of the bill. Ms. Jones said if it comes to fruition and the bill is required, than she will question and require details.

Ms. Jones continued with her report, reminding the Board of the discussion regarding the Transportation contract. She said there was a meeting with All Star transportation and they are asking for the opportunity to provide a contract to Ansonia including some new buses and the number of new buses will increase further into the contract. She said they are asking to delay the RFP. Ms. Jones said the Finance Committee agreed to bring it up to the full Board.

Mr. Phipps asked if she can reach out to surrounding towns for comparisons. Ms. Jones said she does intend to contact local districts to inquire their transportation increases.

Ms. Jones said 2019-2020 numbers are not confirmed but it is looking like the approximate \$37million requested from the city was reduced to \$32,110,000. She said there has not been a chance to sit with BOAT to discuss the budget. The only meeting that took place was in March and questions from the city were answered. She said the Board has not been contacted since.

Mr. Scarlata asked to confirm, the state has approved \$17million in ECS funding from state, but has not been broken down between Alliance and Priority. Ms. Jones said this is correct. She said the numbers are yet to be broken down and there is no additional state funding. Mr. Scarlata said reports from the city show there is more money from the state, when in fact there is not.

2. **Athletics** – Report was given with no questions. **Attachment 8**

3. **Food Services** – Report was given with no questions. **Attachment 9**

4. **Grants and other income** – Report was given with no questions. **Attachment 10**

E. **Enrollment**- Report was given, no questions were asked. **Attachment 11**

F. **Youth Family Outreach Summary** - Mr. Bobby Lisi gave his report informing the Board of the high number of special ed students and low district reference group students coming into Ansonia. He said this proves to be extremely hard on the district and continues to increase our numbers in the Special Ed Department.

G. **Notes from the Desk of the Superintendent** **Attachment 12**

Superintendent Merlone gave her report, reviewing the month for the Board. She said the last few days she has been meeting with Dr. DiBacco and ensuring all information is available for him to take the position. Superintendent Merlone said it is bitter sweet but she is ready to turn her chair over to Dr. DiBacco. She wished the Board well and said she is leaving the Board in good hands with an amazing team. She said they will move Ansonia forward, along with the Board and the teachers. She said she loves the community and will always be available.

H. **Additional: Administration or Board of Education** –

Kaitlyn Caple, student member, gave her report, mentioning the successful prom, National Honor Society helping with elementary field day, the chorus and band concert, the senior walk through the elementary schools as well as a number of other functions and activities. Ms. Caple thanked the Board for the past two years of the opportunity to be a member of the Board and she appreciated the experience.

VI. Executive Session regarding expulsion.

MOTION: To move into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. regarding an expulsion.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

VII. Action as needed as a result of executive session.

MOTION: To accept and approve the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding the expulsion.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

VIII. Adjournment.

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 06/16/2019