

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: DTL Conference Room, Central Office **DATE:** 20 December 2018 **TIME:** 6:00 P.M.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: William Nimons, president

- I. OPENING
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Roll Call

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	4	3	0

- II. **Public Session**– Mr. Nimons asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one did.
- III. **Discussion and possible action regarding Superintendent's proposed FY 2019-2020 budget.**

Mr. Nimons turned the meeting over to Superintendent Dr. Carol Merlone, who gave a brief description of her proposed FY 2019-2020 budget. Superintendent Merlone then asked building administrators to brief the Board on their proposed budget.

Mr. Giansanti reviewed his requested budget, including an increase in professional development, which he said is imperative for staff. He said there is also a need for equipment which will provide an improved school culture. Mr. Giansanti said there were a few other areas that are slightly increased to improve our overall student and staff performance. He said there is a need for a Special Education Teacher as well as a Math teacher. Mr. Giansanti said the need for a PACE Science Teacher along with adding back in another Master Teacher is necessary. He said there was no increase in his budget, funds were shifted to utilize the spending. Mr. Giansanti reviewed the reduced line items that were made available to fund the additions noted. Mr. Giansanti also reviewed the Athletic Budget. He said \$20,000 is requested to be put back into the reduced \$75,000 that was taken out FY 2018-2019. He said this addition would be for equipment, transportation, Freshmen and JV sports. Mr. Giansanti thanked the Board for their support.

Mr Steve Marchetti, Interim Principal Ansonia Middle School, began reviewing his proposed budget. He said the budget is centered on staffing. Mr. Marchetti said the loss of teachers has absolutely devastated the Middle School. He said the main request is to implement the team structure that was lost. Mr. Marchetti said this would also include an additional Special Education Teacher and Social Worker. He said he is looking into adding an on-line learning platform observer to support the students. Mr. Marchetti wants to explore the addition of another physical education teacher to reduce and restructure the physical education classes as well as returning World Language back into the curriculum. Mr. Marchetti thanked the Board for their time. Mr. Chris Phipps agreed that the need for mental health staff is imperative.

Prendergast School Principal, Mrs. Liz Nimons, addressed the Board with her proposed budget. She said the reinstating of positions that were eliminated last year are necessary for the school to succeed. She said the building needs a second full-time secretary reinstated to assist in the everyday function of the building which includes many aspects. Ms. Nimons also said it is necessary to reinstate a full time Assistant Principal. She said the number of students with IEPs and 504s requiring an administrator to attend each PPT meeting makes it extremely difficult to handle any other issues within the building. She said this is jeopardizing the safety of students and staff. Mrs. Nimons said the need for a full time Special Education Teacher can help in the reduction of 1:1 aides and increase academic learning time. She said the budget is with a 0% increase. Mrs. Nimons thanked the Board.

Ms. Amy O'Brien, Principal of Mead School, said she is looking to reinstate the positions that were lost last year. She said the year has been very difficult with the reduction in staff. She said the need for an additional Social Worker would prove proactive for the students' mental health. Ms. O'Brien said the needs of teachers are not being met with instructional leadership. She said the need for a full time Assistant Principal is critical. Ms. O'Brien thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Bob Evans, Facilities Director, gave a quick overview of his budget. He said his budget has actually decreased over several years if you look at the history. He reviewed items and reasons for the increase in his FY 2019-2020 budget. Mr. Chris Phipps asked about the soccer field plan. Mr. Evans said maintenance was done and cost was split with the town. He said the gate to the field was open, cars went up and drove all over the field. Mr. Evans said even when the gate is locked, people cut the lock and get through. Mr. Nimons suggested adding a camera to see who is cutting the locks. Mr. Evans thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Vincent Pastore, Director of Technology, said his department has never had an increase since he has been in the position. He said the department has gained funds exclusively through government funding and grant money. Mr. Pastore said the equipment that has been purchased now needs to be maintained. He said his budget increase of just under 10% would be for maintenance and firewall subscriptions along with other security measures. Mr. Pastore also asked for an entry level, junior support position. Mr. Pastore thanked the Board.

Ms. Lisa Jones, School Business Administrator, said it may appear that the total increase is large, but much is attributed to the reduction of \$600,000 from FY 2018-2019. She noted the increase is due to a loss of staff and facility needs. Ms. Jones noted the increase in health insurance is minimal when comparing other rates. She said the reinstatement of building staff and athletics was added without any extra or additional staff. Ms. Jones continued to review the proposed FY 2019-2020 budget.

Mr. Nimons asked Superintendent Merlone what her recommendations are. She said her recommendations are to reinstate the positions, which is detrimental to the district. She said she believes an honest, upfront budget has been presented with graphs to show detail.

MOTION: To pass the Superintendent's proposed FY 2019-2020 budget.

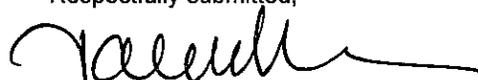
	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. JOHN IZZO				
MR. JOE JEANETTE	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. JOHN IZZO				
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	2	X		
TOTAL		4	0	

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Date 12/15/2018