

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: Robert E. Zuraw Admin. Building DTL **DATE:** August 14, 2018 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: William Nimons, president

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call - Mr. Nimons called a quorum.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
Ms. Tracey DeLiebro	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. Discussion and possible action regarding Alliance District and Priority School District application and update.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Joe DiBacco began reviewing the allocations for the Alliance Grant. He said the salaries and cost in the last grant were prorated due to the fact that an entire year was not included, like this year. Dr. DiBacco said he received several compliments and has been encouraged to continue on the successful path from Ms. Iris White, our state assigned educational consultant. He continued to review the programs and use for the grant item. Dr. DiBacco also added scores are up and it is imperative that the targets continue to be met. Superintendent Merlone said the challenge this year will be the fact that there will be 30-32 students in the elementary classrooms. She said last year there were 20-25 students. Superintendent Merlone said the mentor program will really help out because there will be another adult in the 2nd through 6th grade classrooms where the numbers are going to increase. Dr. DiBacco added, fingerprinting for the volunteers will be paid by the district. Dr. DiBacco also told the Board he put together the application for the grant and it is available for any member to see. Superintendent Merlone complimented Dr. DiBacco for the long hours and effort that was put into the Grant application. Dr. DiBacco said he is very proud of the effort put in by all the teachers with SBAC and SAT scores going up. He said 30-35% of our student population is transient. With the exception of this population, Dr. DiBacco said the students who have remained in our district do very well and the test scores prove it. He said these students out perform at the state level. Dr. DiBacco said he can document this and if anyone has questions he would be happy to sit down with them. Superintendent wanted to also note, in this Grant is the overtime for the extra hours of high school teachers. Since there are not enough teachers to cover these classes, teachers will be working over the allowed hours in their contract. She said this may not be allowed in the grant, but Dr. DiBacco is going to make an attempt to write it in. Superintendent Merlone also wanted to add that Mr. Giansanti traded his allowed two building substitutes for a security position. She said there are new safety procedures for all buildings. Dr. DiBacco also mentioned the possibility of armed guards in the buildings. He said these employees are usually retired police officers. Ms. DeLiebro asked if these employees would have background checks or some type of military background. It was confirmed any one that is employed would be checked and they would have all the qualifications for carrying a weapon. Mr. Giansanti said these days there is the need to have security in the building at the entrance for all people who enter as well as security in the hallway and cafeteria. He said having administration break up altercations is not a good use of their time and they are needed much more for the emotional support of students. Mr. Giansanti said he does have someone in mind that might be interested in this position who is a former police officer. Superintendent Merlone reminded the Board the salary for two substitutes is

being traded for this position so the funds are there. Mr. Jeanette said he would be afraid if this wasn't put in place. Mr. Izzo said it would not be if it happens but when it happens, feeling everyone would be on board with this. Mr. Phipps said he would go ahead and start the interview process and consider this a yes.

Motion: To approve the Alliance District and Priority School District Application.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Ms. Tracey DeLiebro		X		
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi				
Mr. John Izzo	2	X		
Mr. Joe Jeanette		X		
Mr. William Nimons, president		X		
Mr. Christopher Phipps	1	X		
Mr. Vincent Scarlata		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

III. Discussion and possible action regarding AHS Student Handbook.

Discussion: Mr. Paul Giansanti, high school principal, wanted to thank the community and staff on the overwhelming support on the passing of his dad. He continued with the review of the changes made for the Student Handbook. He said there was page upon page of outdated material in the handbook which needed to come out. He continued with changes or updates that were made to credit requirements, attendance policy, bullying, and harassment policies. Discipline for videotaping and vaping were also added. Mr. Giansanti explained each student will be given a handbook and it will be put up on the school website as well.

MOTION: To adopt the updated AHS Handbook.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Ms. Tracey DeLiebro	2	X		
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi				
Mr. John Izzo		X		
Mr. Joe Jeanette		X		
Mr. William Nimons, president		X		
Mr. Christopher Phipps	1	X		
Mr. Vincent Scarlata		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

IV. Discussion and possible action regarding Donors Choose program

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone discussed the Donors Choose Program. There are currently four Ansonia projects that are available for donations today. Superintendent Merlone said she wants the message to be clear this program is for donations that are completely separate and outside of the budget or any items that are funded by the schools' budget. She explained this program is for specific projects that teachers request and may be used for additional items outside or in addition to what a Board would be providing. Mr. Vincent Scarlata added the idea was brought to him by community member and parent, Ms. Sorrentino. He said the program is a wonderful way for concerned supporters to help. Mr. Izzo commented it is a great program and can continue as long as it is noted this program is separate from any budgeted funds and if any members of the community wish to help support it would be a plus. Members of the Board said it is not something they would have to be involved in and it would not have to be endorsed and it can continue to be available. Members also thanked Ms. Sorrentino for her ideas, efforts and support for the faculty and students.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Ms. Tracey DeLiebro	2	X		
Ms. Fran DiGiorgi				
Mr. John Izzo		X		

Mr. Joe Jeanette	1	X		
Mr. William Nimons, president		X		
Mr. Christopher Phipps		X		
Mr. Vincent Scarlata		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 08/18/2018