

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ROBERT E. ZURAW, ADMIN. OFFICE BLDG. DTL **DATE:** 30 July 2018 **TIME:** 7:15 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: William Nimons, president

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MS. 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	5	2	0

- II. Discussion and possible action regarding:
 - 1. Updated fingerprinting policy.

DISUCSSION: Dr. DiBacco informed the Board, they were contacted by the FBI regarding changes in the existing fingerprinting policy. He said updates need to be made in order to comply with the FBI regulations. Dr. DiBacco added that Superintendent Merlone, Ms. Fran Perrotti, Mr. Vinny Pastore and he needed to become certified in the new process. He said anyone that may have any type of contact with the fingerprinting process is certified. He said there are several compliance rules that were added on to the existing. Dr. DiBacco said for example, there is to be only one terminal used to hold the files, which is Ms. Fran Perrotti's. Ms. DiGiorgi asked if there is a way to access that computer in case Ms. Perrotti is not available. Dr. DiBacco confirmed, they can access her computer if necessary. Superintendent Merlone asked if this would include mentors that volunteer their time in the district. Attorney Fred Dorsey answered, all mentors would need to be included in getting fingerprinted and the \$25 cost should be offset and paid by the Board.

MOTION: To pass the updated fingerprinting policy regulations.

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

2. Non-union contract extensions.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nimons said the Board members had the list in front of them. Superintendent Merlone reminded the Board at the last meeting there were already some individuals' contracts approved and this was to approve the remaining on the list. Mr. Scarlatta asked if all evaluations have been done on this employees. Superintendent Merlone confirmed. Mr. Phipps stated he has a couple of comments. He said Mr. Scarlatta had one of them regarding evaluations being completed. He said he has a concern with voting on them all together as one. He also said he has not seen these contracts and he does not know what is in them. He said he is not in favor of going beyond one year. Mr. Phipps said the only one he can see going beyond one year would be the Assistant Superintendent. He said no one has ever explained the reasoning of approving a contract that goes beyond one year. He asked what the Board's protection would be. Mr. Phipps said this will clearly protect the employee but in what way would the Board be protected? He said he would not support and does not see a reason for this. Attorney Fred Dorsey added that the Assistant Superintendent's contract is protected by state statutes and it is a continuing contract for three years. Mr. Scarlatta said the union contracts go beyond one year and are mainly for three years. He asked why this would be different. Mr. Phipps said because those contracts are decided on by the Board and everyone can see the contract that is voted on. He reminded Mr. Scarlatta that the contracts he has not seen the contracts he is referring to. Ms. Digorgi added the Board is not allowed to see these contracts. Mr. Phipps said he cannot vote on something that he can't see. Superintendent Merlone said usually the raises for these employees are generally lower than those contracts that the Board is able to view.

MOTION: To extend the contracts for the remaining six employees on the list.

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

III. Roles and responsibilities of BOE members and Superintendent with CABA Attorney Rebecca Adams.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nimons informed the Board that CABA members will not be at the meeting and this item will be rescheduled.

IV. Discussion and possible action concerning the performance and/or evaluation of a public officer.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nimons said at this time the Board will be going into Executive Session for discussion.

At this time the Board invited Attorney Dorsey and Superintendent Merlone into Executive Session.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussion and possible action concerning the performance and/or evaluation of a public officer. Further, to invite Superintendent Merlone and Attorney Fred Dorsey into Executive Session.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO				
MR. JOE JEANETTE	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, president		X		

MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS			X	
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		4	1	0

To return to regular meeting.

Action as needed, as a result of Executive Session.

MOTION: To approve the resolution discussed in Executive Session (attached).

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 08/2/2018

RESOLUTION OF THE ANSONIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Re: Operation and Supervision of the Ansonia Public Schools

July 30, 2018

Whereas the Connecticut General Statutes give Connecticut local boards of education the autonomy to, among other things, make decisions regarding the maintenance of good public elementary and secondary schools, implementation of the educational interests of the State of Connecticut ("State"), and provision of such other educational activities as in its judgment will best serve the interests of the school district, so that such boards may protect and preserve educational systems from the inevitable and ever-changing priorities and concentrations of political power in municipal governments; and

Whereas local boards of education act as agencies of the state to carry out the constitutional guarantee of free public education, implemented by General Statutes § 10-220, and, although it is the municipalities that appropriate the funds for the maintenance of public schools, General Statutes § 10-220 provides that it is the local boards that decide, in their discretion, how those funds shall be budgeted and expended; and

Whereas the authority of the Ansonia Board of Education ("Board") is not to micromanage the day-to-day operations of the Ansonia Public Schools ("Schools"), which is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools ("Superintendent"), the only employee of the Schools evaluated and directly supervised by the Board; and

Whereas the Board is responsible for policy development, evaluation of the Superintendent and such other requirements as are specified expressly in Connecticut statutes and, as such, is not to interfere, or attempt to interfere, in the day-to-day operations of the Schools; and

Whereas individual Board members have no authority to act on behalf of the Board or the Schools, without the express authorization of such authority through a leadership position held on the Board or by motion approved by the Board; and

Whereas, in fulfilling its obligations, the Board must, both individually and collectively, be circumspect in any public discussions of information gained as a Board member, with strict accountability to provide accurate and responsible reporting and comment on the daily operational aspects of the Schools and the statutorily protected confidential information maintained by the Board; and

Whereas the inappropriate interference by changes in political beliefs from executive and legislative municipal administration to administration hold the potential to disrupt the successful continuity of public education and the operational structure of local board of educations charged by Connecticut law with the administration of such education; and

Whereas the statutory autonomy of local boards of education protects the integrity of the Ansonia School District from any outside organization's inappropriate interference with the operations of the Schools and subverting financial support for education at the expense of Ansonia students; and

Whereas the Board and its Administration are, for the purposes of implementing the educational interests of the State, not under the supervision or direction of the City but, instead, are an agent of the State; and

Whereas every Board member's elected commitments are to the maintenance of good public schools for the education of Ansonia's students, not to the City administration; and

Whereas the Board and its Administration have gone beyond their statutory responsibilities to respond to significant and burdensome information requests from departments within the City, which have no statutory or City Charter authority or control over the Board or its Administration; and

Whereas the City has misused this abundance of nonrequired information to make misrepresentations to the citizens of Ansonia; and

Whereas it is apparent that not all Board members share or abide by the above-stated sentiments;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board,

1. expects Board members to refrain from release of information regarding the Board's business that is either protected by state or federal statute, Board policy, or the sanctity of an executive session of the Board;
2. directs the Superintendent to:
 - a. instruct all Board employees to refrain from responding to any request for information from City officials without the direct authorization of the Superintendent or her designee;
 - b. refrain from providing such authorization if State statute or City Charter does not require the release of the information or such release is overly burdensome to the Board employee's performance of his/her normal Board duties;
 - c. ensure that all statutory obligations of the Board are effectuated regardless of any inappropriate interference by members of the City administration;
 - d. consult with Board Counsel on any legal questions regarding the implementation of this Resolution; and
 - e. refer to Board Counsel any inappropriate questions or requests for information to your office or other Board employees from the City administration regarding the operations of the Schools.
3. authorizes the Board President to communicate this Resolution to such parties as he deems appropriate for the effectuation of the Resolution's terms, including but not limited to, the City Board of Aldermen, Mayor of the City, Corporation Counsel, and the City's Acting Comptroller.

Duly authorized by vote of the Board on July 30, 2018.

Bill Nimons, President, BOE Date