

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

**PLACE:** CITY HALL, ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS **DATE:** 01 November 2017 **TIME:** 6:00 P.M.  
**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY:** William Nimons, president

**I. OPENING**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Nimons asked everyone in attendance to remain standing as Dr. Merlone read a brief statement in memory of the late Carmen Ptiney Sr., vice president of the Board of Education, who passed away on Oct. 27, 2017.

**B. Roll Call – Mr. Nimons called a quorum**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS		X	
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY		X	
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**II. Public Session–**

1. Mr. Stowe, First Ward Aldermen, asked if the Board of Ed was given any information since the state's budget was signed. Mr. Nimons answered, there is nothing at this time to speak on and the board does not have any actual numbers.

Public Session was closed.

**III. Action Items, Consideration of approving....**

**A.** Accepting BOE meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** To accept the meeting minutes dated October 4, 2017(regular)

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Phipps asked if more detail can be added to the monthly meeting minutes.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	2	X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**B. Junior State of America - JSA Presentation**

Member Kaitlyn Caple began by explaining the many positive accomplishments the club had this past year. She asked for support for club members looking to attend three conventions this school year. The first is the Fall State which is held Dec. 8-10 in Boston, Mass. The Winter Congress is Feb. 8-11 in Washington D.C. The third is the Spring State, which is held April 9-10 in Stamford. Mr. Phipps asked if this club is currently in the school. Superintendent Merlone confirmed, Miss Caple started the club last year. Mr. Phipps asked if a student has ever served on our Board of Education. Superintendent Merlone stated it has not been done before. Mr. Phipps said he would like to have this discussed, pointing out the experience as well as input would be beneficial to all. Superintendent Merlone asked Kaitlyn to present this idea to the Board at a later date so that it may be put in place, commenting it might be a great idea to have one senior student member and one junior student member.

**MOTION:** To approve the three conventions for JSA .

**ATTACHMENT #1**

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	0

**C. Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Enrichment Grant.**

Superintendent Merlone stated she received a memo from Eileen Ehman, Grants Manager. She and Dr. DiBacco are involved in writing a grant and are asking for approval prior to submission. The grant is in the process of being written. It will be completed, and an overview will be shared with the board at the next meeting.

**MOTION:** To file Title IV, Part A Grant in the amount of \$12,888.

**ATTACHMENT #2**

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	0

**D. Narcan in schools.**

Mr. Izzo briefly recapped the epidemic presentation that was shared to the board last month. This presentation stressed the need for Narcan in schools for all people in every building. Mr. Izzo said he believed it should be available in our district. Mr. Phipps showed an example of Narcan. Ms. DiGiorgi said it should be discussed who will be in possession of the drug so as it can be readily available if needed at athletic events. Mr. Izzo suggested we get it in the schools as soon as possible since we are slightly behind now. Mr. Nimons stated Ms. DiGiorgi is going to get a policy ready so it can be put in place.

**E. Signature card**

Mr. Nimons stated there is a need for a member to be added to the bank signature card. Mr. Scarlatta asked if it needed to be a Democrat. Mr. Nimons confirmed it does not have to be a Democrat. Mr. Izzo volunteered.

**MOTION:** To add Mr. Izzo to the bank signature card.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	2	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	0

**IV. Informational Items.**

**A. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

**ATTACHMENT #3**

Discussion: Dr. DiBacco followed his report that was presented to the board. Mr. Izzo thanked Dr. DiBacco for the invite to participate in the ALICE training. Superintendent Merlone extended the offer of any board member to a training also taking place at the professional development day on November 7, 2017 at Ansonia High School from 11:30a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**B. Special Education Director's Report**

**ATTACHMENT #4**

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone stated Ms. Gabrielson could not make the meeting but she will be happy to take any questions and give them to her. Mr. Izzo reminded Mr. Nimons of the suggestion of an outside audit that was requested last month and asked if there was an update. Mr. Nimons told Mr. Izzo, Ms. Gabrielson is in the process of getting three or four quotes and as soon as this happens the information will be presented. Mr. Phipps expressed his concern that there are no students to go in the portables at Mead School. Superintendent Merlone explained there are candidates for the spots and PPT meetings are going to be taking place. Mr. Phipps also asked about a line item titled "Parental choice" and if Ms. Gabrielson will elaborate on it. Superintendent Merlone said she will mention this to her.

**C. Technology Report**

**ATTACHMENT #5**

Discussion: Mr. Nimons asked if there are any questions to please direct them to Mr. Pastore.

**D. School Business Administrator Financials**

**ATTACHMENT #6**

1. 2017-2018 Year to Date. - Ms. Lisa Jones, Business Administrator, presented. She reviewed in detail the submitted report. Ms. DiGiorgi asked if we started the year off with a spending freeze. Ms. Jones said there is no freeze. She noted as they monitor spending and if there is a need, a freeze will be added. Mr. Nimons asked if the attorney has written a letter to the city regarding utility costs and have we obtained any quotes. Ms. Jones stated that the attorney has not written a letter but he is reviewing the paperwork. Ms. Jones stated sometime in January bids will go out. Mr. Phipps asked if they would add all cuts made to the budget back in the requested budget. He commented, "We can't have it if we don't ask for it." Ms. Jones stated that was her suggestion as well. Mr. Izzo commented on the written comments in the press regarding the \$40,000 that was given back to the city in the previous year. He said he does not recall ever being informed of this money. Mr. Izzo asked moving forward that there be a discussion of the board before any funds are given back in the future. Ms. Jones stated for clarification it was not a surplus. She said there were a number of circumstances that were related to the funds. Mr. Izzo says he understands the circumstances and he is concerned with communication.

**E. Facilities**

**ATTACHMENT #7**

Discussion: Bob Evans provided an update on his monthly facilities report..

**F. Enrollment**

**ATTACHMENT #8**

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone reviewed the enrollment report.

**G. Youth Family Outreach Summary**

**ATTACHMENT #9**

Discussion: Mr. Bob Lisi spoke about the Outreach Summary report.

**H. From the Desk of the Superintendent**

**ATTACHMENT #10**

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone discussed her report with the board.

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

**ATTACHMENT #11**

Discussion: Mr. Nimons asked if there were any additional comments. Ms. DiGiorgi stated she heard there was a disastrous fire drill at the Middle School. Superintendent Merlone commented there was a fire drill held, in which some of the students were unruly. Going forward, students will be closely monitored. An assembly was held, regarding the importance of behavior during these drills, and another assembly is scheduled for tomorrow. If the bad behavior continues, there will be consequences for those students. The school will ensure that safety is a top priority.

Mr. Izzo wanted to state for the record he was very impressed with the "Meet the Candidate" program that was held in the Ansonia High School auditorium. He said it was very professional. The students were well behaved and asked great questions.

**V. Executive Session re: Expulsion.**

**MOTION:** To enter into Executive Session at 7:27p.m. for the purpose of conducting expulsion hearing and further, to invite Superintendent Merlone into Executive Session.

	<b>MOTION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	0

**MOTION:** To return to regular meeting at 7:50 p.m.

	<b>MOTION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	0

**VI. Action as needed as a result of Executive Session.**

**MOTION:** To accept Superintendent Carol Merlone's recommendation for a 10-day suspension.

	<b>MOTION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS				
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	2	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

	<b>MOTION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS				
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	1	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	

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Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson  
Recording Secretary  
Date 11/07/2017