

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

**PLACE:** ANSONIA CITY HALL, ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS **DATE:** 06 December 2017 **TIME:** 6:11 P.M.  
**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. FRANCES DIGIORGI	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	7	0	0

Mr. Nimons asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for Jean Hennessy, former Teacher Reading Consultant in the district.

**II. PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Nimons asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

1. Charlie Stowe, 23 Granite Terr. And 1<sup>st</sup> ward aldermen. Mr. Stowe asked if funding was for the modulars was given and where the progress is. Mr. Nimons confirmed the funding was available and the project is still being worked on and almost complete. Mr. Stowe also asked if the meeting with the Board of Ed. and Board of Aldermen regarding shared services and regionalization will still be going on as planned. Mr. Stowe asked if we can do this as soon as possible. Superintendent Merlone added the next few weeks are very busy but she will contact everyone to see when they are available. She assured Mr. Stowe she is working on this. Mr. Stowe wanted to stress his thought of the importance on shared services and regionalization. He also stated there were several questions raised to Ms. Jones at the last meeting without notice and he thinks there should be more time allowed and the questions should be presented beforehand to prepare.
2. Mr. Bart Flarherty, 28 Pinecrest Ave. He wanted to mention the parking lot that was added at Mead School helped the traffic tremendously and it was very well thought. He also wanted to add when he was a member of the Board of Ed. there was a plan to put a canopy over the sidewalk ramp and stairs and this is very important and if there is any funding at all, this needs to be done. Mr. Flarherty also spoke on the topic of regionalization being very important. He stated the idea has merit and he believes it may not be an easy task to take on regionalization but at least try to move forward with shared services.

Mr. Nimons asked three times if anyone else from the public wished to speak; no one did and he closed public session.

**III. ACTION, consideration of approving....**

**A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes** dated November 01, 2017(regular), November 15, 2017 (special)

**MOTION: To accept the minutes as presented.**

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				X
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE				X
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	2	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	2

**B. New Schedule and location for Board of Education meetings.**

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nimons reminded the board this discussion has been mentioned before regarding the date change in order for Ms. Jones to have a well prepared report and be able to show the most updated budget numbers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month will be the date change. Mr. Izzo commented this will be better if it gives Ms. Jones more time to make the report more clear.

**MOTION:** To change the meeting date from the first Wednesday to the second Wednesday of each month.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE	2	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	1	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		7	0	

Mr. Izzo stressed he believes the location should not be changed to the Board of Education conference room due to limited space and location. Superintendent Merlone commented it has been discussed that other Boards hold meetings in the schools. Several Board members agreed the location of a school would be a good idea. Mr. Jeanette made the comment that changing schools for each meeting might confuse people. The lecture hall in the high school was decided to be the new location for the board meetings.

**C. Special Education Audit.**

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nimons asked Superintendent Merlone where we stand on this. She stated she is waiting to hear back regarding quotes from a few companies that she reached out to. Dr. DiBacco also commented the specific request is important to the quote. There are numerous services that are provided. The board will need to be specific on what they are requesting. Dr. DiBacco explained once the menu comes in, it will be discussed which are needed. He went further to explain what usually is requested and some details and suggestions that are provided. The cost will most likely be between \$25,000 - \$45,000. Mr. Izzo commented he believes the audit will be beneficial. He stated since it's such a large part of the budget, it will be money well spent.

**IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Assistant Superintendent Report**

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. DiBacco reviewed his monthly report beginning with the district safety training ALICE, which took place on November 07, 2017. Mr. DiBacco said the training was well received after a survey was taken. Mr. Izzo was part of the training and he gave detail on the training and how important and necessary this is for our schools today as well as our Board. Dr. DiBacco also discussed the Admin. Council meetings. Moving the TEMS system student database into the cloud so that systems will not need to be backed up was also mentioned. Mr. Phipps asked if Naviance is being used in the high school. Mr. DiBacco confirmed as well as Mr. Goldson that the system is being used. The Modular project was also discussed. The project has been falling behind but should be moving more swiftly. Mr. Phipps also wanted to thank Mr. Izzo for his participation in getting this project to move forward. Ms. DiGiorgi asked if there are actual finished rooms with furniture. Ms. Gabrielson stated there are rooms and staff but no furniture. She also commented she is looking to get students in. Ms. Gabrielson thanked Mr. Izzo for his participation on the project. Dr. DiBacco

thanked Ms. Amy Cosciello for her mentoring program. Dr. Dibacco welcomed the new members of the Board. During the Food Service negotiation discussion, Mrs. Delibero stated she will be a part of the meetings moving forward.

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

**Discussion:** Kathie Gabrielson presented her report. Mr. Phipps commented on the increased number of ineligible students and commended Ms. Gabrielson. She mentioned the new staff members along with some other small changes contribute to screening process of student's eligibility.

#### **C. Technology Report**

**Discussion:** Vinny Pastore presented his report, discussing all details. Ms. DiGiorgi wanted to again state she has a very difficult time getting on her chromebook. Mr. Pastore said he is going to schedule another training session for all users including the new Board members.

#### **D. School Business Administrator**

1. 2016-2017 Financials Year-to-Date

**Discussion:** Ms. Lisa Jones presented her report in great detail explaining that the budget is in its final stages. Ms. Jones said the budget will be presented to the city the first week in January 2018. Ms. Jones thanked all building administrators for getting their budget in and on time for the superintendent's report. Ms. Jones commented on the transportation contract renewal and she is reaching out to neighboring towns asking for partnership or shared services. Mr. Izzo asked if we are or are not one of the 30 Alliance Grant recipients. Ms. Jones confirmed we are not scheduled to receive the Alliance Grant. Mr. Izzo suggested we take a very close look each month to prepare and have the least impact on the students. Mr. Phipps wanted to say he wants to add back any eliminated from last year's budget. Mr. Izzo asked Ms. Jones if she is going to be comfortable with the meetings being moved for the purpose of her getting her report. She agreed it will be much better. Mr. Izzo asked how much the legal cost has been year to date and if she can provide that in her report from here on. Dr. Merlone asked him to remember all contracts were negotiated which means the amount will be higher.

2. Athletics
3. Food Service
4. Grants and Other Income
5. Board of Education liability insurance coverage

**E. Enrollment.** Mr. Lisi gave his report. Mr. Nimons asked what the student welfare concern was referring to. Mr. Lisi explained it was regarding a comment made by a student. The situation was addressed and they will continue to watch. Mr. Phipps asked how many students are attending our schools in the open choice program. Dr. Merlone answered we currently have approximately 20 students enrolled.

#### **F. Youth Family Outreach Summary**

**G. CAGE Sample Policies** re: Administrating Narcan in schools.

ATTACHMENT #1

#### **H. Notes from the Desk of the Superintendent**

ATTACHMENT #2

**Discussion:** Dr. Merlone wanted to mention two students have been selected to be on the Board. Gary Reeves and Kaitlyn Caple will now be a part as non-voting members.

#### **I. Additional; Administration or Board of Education**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:05.

	<b>MOTION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	1	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		7	0	

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Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson  
Recording Secretary  
Date 12/11/2017