

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

**PLACE:** ROBERT E. ZURAW, ADMIN. OFFICE BLDG. DTL   **DATE:** 13 December 2017   **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 declared 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>	6	1	

### II. Discussion and Possible Action on 2018 Schedule of Ansonia Board of Education Meeting.

**Motion: To accept the new schedule of Board Meetings and new location.**

ATTACHMENT #1

Discussion: Mr. Nimons reviewed the discussion that took place at the monthly meeting regarding the change of location. Monthly Board meetings will now take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month and be held at the High School in the Lecture Hall. Mr. Izzo said he was going to do a walk through with Bobby Evans to see if there is anything tables needed before the meeting. Several members agreed the high school would be the best location for now and further discussion will take place to see if the location will change throughout the year.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	2	X		

MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS				
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		6	0	0

### **III. Presentation from CABA re: Roles and Responsibilities of Board of Education members.**

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone introduced Nick Caruso, senior staff associate for field services and coordinator of technology. Mr. Caruso gave details about his background and asked what the Board wanted to get out of the meeting. Mr. Izzo stated he realized we can probably use assistance from CABA on how the Board should be operating.

Mr. Caruso began his Power Point Presentation discussion and went on to talk about the Board's policy or leadership role. First, the Board should be promoting student achievement. Mr. Caruso said many Boards have monthly meeting that only focus on the student. Sub committees will help make time more effective and not have to waste during the meeting. Mr. Caruso feels the most effective way for the Board is to state the goal and then let the administration do their job. Policies can be written and then taken off their plate. Ms. DiGiorgi asked if Mr. Caruso feels finance and budget being discussed at meetings is important. Mr. Izzo also stated he is heavy into talking about finance. Mr. Caruso said it may be best to discuss it in further detail at the committee meetings. Mr. Caruso also stated he feels there are staff members getting paid very good money to do this job. He said he is not saying exactly how to run the meeting, but there is valuable time to dedicate to the improvements of the student.

Ms. Rebecca Adams, senior staff advisor joined the group.

Mr. Izzo asked to explain the term "Lighthouse". Mr. Caruso explained that Iowa schools did a study with a grant that showed if the Board did the work and supported the district. It will have a huge impact on student growth. The Superintendent added that is when all the data started to take place and how it helps the district learn what helps our students. She also explained when there is money being taken away it cannot make the achievement happen. The state's budget was also discussed and the negative impact it has had on our district. Mr. Caruso continued with his presentation on the important work the Board plays in our community's education. He said the Board should not get into micromanaging the district. The role as leaders should be taken and let the work be done by the staff which is hired for the specific job. There was a lengthy conversation on the lack of resources and funding and the impact it has on students. Mr. Izzo asked how many of these types of sessions the Board is able to have. Mr. Caruso answered there can be as many as the Board wants. Mr. Caruso discussed the job of the Board is to evaluate the Superintendent. He suggested having expectations and, if they are not met, to discuss the situation as it happens and not to wait until an official evaluation takes place. The negativity of social media and how matters get turned into something they are not were discussed. Ms. Adams told the Board it would be a good idea to have a plan so that first the Superintendent can address the situation and also will inform the Board of incidents. Superintendent Merlone interrupted to ask if the Board would be interested in having the members from CABA return since time was running out and there was more to discuss. The Board agreed and Superintendent Merlone said she would be in touch with Mr. Caruso after the winter break to schedule another meeting. Mr. Caruso finished up the presentation with some more discussion on budget. He stated

there is sometimes too much detail discussed with the money spent. He said the budget is just an estimate or projection, and the financial staff should be left to spend and try and save money. He said the Board has the right to appoint the people to do these jobs.

Ms. Adams suggested an agenda be put together before the next meeting. Superintendent Merlone said she will speak with the Dr. Dibacco and get back to her and also hear from the Board on what they want to discuss.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: To adjourn meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

	<b>MOTION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACY DELIBERO	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS				
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		6	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson  
Recording Secretary  
December 12/17/2017