

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

**PLACE:** CITY HALL, ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS **DATE:** 04 October 2017 **TIME:** 6:00 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. ARETTA KOTALIS	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY		X	
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	

**PRESENTATION by Dr. Casablanca.**

Superintendent Merlone introduced Dr. Casablanca who shared a PowerPoint Presentation on the Opioid Crisis that is quickly affecting our nation. Dr. Casablanca wishes to make this presentation to our High School students as well as our Middle School students in order to raise awareness and provide education for our students. The presentation describes the function of an adolescent brain and reasons believed to be the beginning of addiction. The presentation also explains upbringing, chemical imbalances and community having a great impact on addiction. Dr. Casablanca believes mental health Treatment needs to be implemented as well as a strong support system. It was also explained how the underdeveloped brain in our students and genes in individuals are also factors in addiction. The overwhelming use of drug and alcohol in children needs to be addressed. The presentation gave great detail on the epidemic of abuse in our communities. It was also discussed how street drugs are being laced with dangerous, deadly chemicals that are killing users. Mr. Phipps stated with the number of drug addiction factors being present in our community it is a great idea to try and educate our students. Dr. Casablanca will be emailing Superintendent Merlone with dates.

**MOTION:** To approve Dr. Casablanca's presentation for our High School students as well as Middle School.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	

**II. PUBLIC SESSION –**

1. Matt Hough, President of the Teachers Union, announced there will be a mayoral debate held on October 26, 2017 7:00pm at the High School. The debate will be questions asked by the Student Government Council and all are invited to attend.

2. Charlie Stowe, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman, asked if the Board of Education has figured what they will be getting for revenue since the State of CT has said they will be finalizing a budget in October. Mr. Nimons answered they do not have any idea at this time. Mr. Stowe also asked if any member saw a statement by Kurt Miller regarding the regionalization of Superintendents. Mr. Stowe stated he heard representatives were suggesting one Superintendent for the valley. There was no knowledge of this statement.

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

A. Accepting BOE meeting minutes.

Mr. Izzo asked if there was anything done for Ms. Mascolo as stated in the last meeting. Superintendent confirmed and a thank you note was attached.

**MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated September 6, 2017(regular)**

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO	2	X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		6	0	

B. AFLAC as an option for employees effective October 1, 2017. Steve Martin, representative from AFLAC presented regarding Short Term Disability, Accident Insurance, Cancer Insurance and Hospitalization Plan that can be offered to employees through an employee funded Plan.

**MOTION: To approve AFLAC Employee Self-funded Insurance Plans.**

**ATTACHMENT #1**

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		6	0	

**C. Positive Alternatives to School Suspensions Program.**

Mr. Marchetti, Middle School Assistant Principal, proposed the implementation of the PASS Program. Mr. Marchetti began by explaining how discipline techniques that punish and not teach can have negative outcomes. The program will have numerous benefits that may be able to be used in lieu of detentions and/or suspensions. This program will also include parent involvement. This program would be held after school. Officer Mike Barry will be running the program which he currently runs at the High School. Several Board members commented on the amazing job Officer Barry does with our students. The Board also thanked Middle School teacher Ms. Bedosky for writing the grant that will fund this program.

**MOTION: To set up the PASS Program at Ansonia Middle School.**

**Attachment #2**

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA	1	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		6		

**IV. Informational Items.**

**A. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Discussion: Asst. Superintendent, Dr. Joe DiBacco started off by stating the past month has been very busy as he met with all building administrators. He added part of the discussion was to go over the State Accountability Index. He also reviewed the plan to continue to move forward and improve the district by using the Growth Model. Attainable goal scores were also put in place at the schools. Area Superintendents met and will continue to meet with setting goals. Dr. DiBacco also suggested committees being created to involve the Board and give greater knowledge on a smaller basis. The key will be to have everyone on board and focus on improvement. There were walkthroughs at the schools. Dr. DiBacco also stated there will be meetings with CAFE to look into and update our policies. There is a conference in November that would probably be helpful for any who attend.

Mr. Izzo asked Dr. DiBacco what his thought is on being fairly new to the District and our scores and where he would want to be. DiBacco stated he would like to see if we are able to have a curriculum review process. Due to the low scores in literacy he feels it is a big impact on all other aspects of testing. He would also like to see a sophomore academy. Dr. DiBacco said there is support that is needed in classrooms but due to size in numbers and budget, it is very difficult. Mr. Phipps commented he liked what Dr. DiBacco had to say because if children have a difficult time reading, it will be even harder for them to do anything else especially with the facts from the earlier presentation of the drug epidemic. Mr. Nimons stated he would like to see committee meetings starting in January 2018.

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

Discussion: Ms. Kathie Gabrielson stated that she has included a comparison of the last two years of numbers in Special Education. She has also included updates in the new Modular at Mead School. She stated the target number this school year for that room will be eight students. Meetings are being scheduled to start the process. Mr. Nimons asked when the last audit of Special Ed has taken place Ms. Gabrielson stated it was 2016. Mr. Izzo asked what the position "Job Coach" does. Ms. Gabrielson answered it is a "teacher" to any student who goes in the community to various job sites. This person assists the student in all tasks. The Board thanked Ms. Gabrielson for her report.

**C. Technology Report**

Discussion: Mr. Pastore gave his monthly report. Mead school received all new computers for teaching staff. There was also a roll out of two chrome carts with netbooks.

**D. School Business Administrator Financials**

1. 2017-2018 Year to Date. - Ms. Lisa Jones, Business Administrator, presented. She reviewed her monthly reports stating monitoring will ensure we are in our spending limits. She also stated if spending gets out of hand, she will put a stop like the previous years. Ms. Jones continued to explain all expenses and expected expenses until June 2018 as stated in her report. The contract that was signed by the city for utilities was discussed. It was agreed by all that the Board should be looking into another contract that will save money. The current contract implemented by the city was done without the Board agreeing. The ADP System is up and running. Ms. Jones stated she will continue to work with ADP to ensure employees are able to use the system. The first ECS payment was released by the state to the city of Ansonia.

**Facilities** – Bob Evans stated everything is running pretty smooth. The topic of changing over from air to heat was discussed. There was also a water main break in the Mead School parking lot. Everything was fixed and there was no damage.

**E. Enrollment**

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone went over enrollment.

**F. Youth Family Outreach Summary**

Mr. Bob Lisi spoke on the Outreach Summary report.

**G. Notes from the Desk of the Superintendent**

Discussion: Dr. Merlone presented her report. Mr. Izzo raised the question of the Food Service being in the "red" quite a few times. Mr. Izzo asked if it may be a good question to discuss outsourcing.

**H. Additional Administration or Board of Education** – Ms. DiGiorgi stated that she noticed Mr. Phipps and herself are the only members using the Chrome Books and she doesn't care for the setup or ease in accessing the Agenda. She suggested that January 01, 2018 should be zero paper. Mr. Izzo also agreed it was not easy to follow on the Chrome Book.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:59PM.**

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY				
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		6	0	

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cassie Venson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cassie Venson  
Recording Secretary  
Date 10/10/2017