

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ROBERT E. ZURAW, ADMIN. OFFICE BLDG. DTL **DATE:** 30 January 2018 **TIME:** 6:30 P.M.
SHARED SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: William Nimons, chair

I. OPENING

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, chair	X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	X		
TOTAL	3	0	

Others in attendance: Superintendent Merlone, Assistant Superintendent Joe DiBacco, Board of Ed members; Ms. Tracey DeLiberio, Mr. John Izzo, Mr. Joe Jeanette, Mr. Vincent Scarlata. Board of Aldermen members; 1st Ward Mr. Charlie Stowe, 2nd Ward Mr. Philip Tripp, Mr. Lorie Vaccaro, 3rd Ward Mr. Joseph Cassetti, 5th Ward Atty. Joe Jaumann, Mr. Chicago Rivers, 7th Ward Mr. Frank DeLiberio.

II. Review Existing/Previous Shared Services and Discussion of Possible Shared Services with Other Districts

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nimons turned the meeting over to Superintendent Merlone to discuss shared services. Superintendent Merlone started by bringing the room up to date with current shared services as well as services that were attempted to be shared in the past. Superintendent Merlone said back in 2012, both Boards from Ansonia and Derby met to discuss sharing services. A survey was put out to both communities and the results were not favorable. She also added since then, it was attempted to share the services of the IT Department, which did not work out. Superintendent Merlone mentioned we have been successful in sharing Food Services as well as a truck with Derby district. Along with Ms. Lisa Jones, we are in the process of sharing transportation services with Derby and other surrounding towns. The sharing of Alternative Programming for our Middle School students with nearby towns is also in the process. Superintendent Merlone explained that Health Insurance with ACES is another shared service that is being discussed. She asked Attorney Jaumann and anyone else in the room that would like to share in a positive discussion to help the district. Attorney Jaumann briefed the room about a discussion that took place in September regarding regionalization and now the interest of Derby in this process. He mentioned this is just a study regarding regionalization. Atty. Jaumann talked about a study that would be presented to the State Board of Education and then to the public. He also added the cost of this study would be agreed by the city to be split. Attorney Jaumann discussed the cost of the study and a bid that was obtained for \$100/per hour. He also added he has gotten word there are funds available for this study, this will include grant money. Attorney Jaumann stated he believed with a facilitator looking into every option, it would benefit the district. Mr. Nimons asked if there were any questions or if anyone else would like to speak. Board member, John Izzo started off by asking the members of the committee to look into as many shared services as possible in an attempt to save money where it would make sense. He also asked all to take a look at the handout that he believed to be very helpful. He stated he wants to see the Board of Ed and the Board of Alderman work together to help the students of our district. Mr. Izzo asked as a group to collectively work with other towns and come together for something that is becoming the wave of the future. Mr. Nimons added he is not against regionalization or shared services if it would save money for taxpayers. He suggested combining the two towns to make one. Attorney Jaumann stated that may be a much longer process. Superintendent Merlone asked if other departments in the town are also in discussion with combining services. Attorney Jaumann confirmed, discussion

is taking place with other departments. Mr. Phipps asked what time frame all of this would be taking place. Attorney Jaumann guessed approximately 90 days and then a two year study would begin. Mr. Nimons asked where the grants will be coming from. Attorney Jaumann answered after speaking with Representative Gentile, she informed him the state has funds. He also said Ms. Sheila O'Malley said she is also aware of funds from grants. He said everyone he talked to are very confident the funds will come through. Ms. DiGiorgi asked if it would be smarter to first see if we have funds to do all of this research. Attorney Jaumann told her it is his belief after many conversations, to get the study started and the funds will come. Mr. Izzo also added the state is encouraging the regionalization discussion. He said to have an experienced, reputable facilitator to help lead the way will be very beneficial. Mr. Izzo continued that this will be a way to prove everyone truly has the best interest for the tax-payers and children of the community. Ms. DiGiorgi added she believes it would be best to go with more than one bid. Mr. Izzo agreed stating normally he would also require more than one bid but was impressed with the Finley Firm. He said he would like someone who has no ties to the city and this candidate is well known and successful. I was agreed to get bids from three firms and move forward. Superintendent Merlone suggested a list of questions be made to the candidates.

MOTION: To authorize Superintendent Merlone to get three proposals and set up interviews.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, chair		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
TOTAL		3	0	

III. Discussion and Selection on Inter-District and Municipal Shared Services and Regionalization Facilitator

- A. Finley Government Strategies
- B. Roselli, Clark & Associates
- C. Jonathan Costa with EdAdvance

DISCUSSION: It was agreed that Superintendent Merlone will obtain bids from the three above mentioned firms for the study. The Board of Ed and Board of Aldermen will put together a committee and a list of questions to ask candidates.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, chair		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
TOTAL		3	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 2/03/2018

