

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL, AUDITORIUM **DATE:** 10 JANUARY 2018 **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

Attorney Fred Dorsey reminded the audience the Board cannot discuss any issue of personnel. The employees are all protected by union contracts.

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		
TOTAL	6	1	0

II. Public Session–

Mr. Bruce Goldson, 160 Beaver Street. Mr. Goldson began to voice his opinion regarding compensating a man who has built his career and life around this community. Mr. Goldson suggested we stand by what is correct and what is right.

Mr. Sherrod McNeil, former administrator of Ansonia Schools. Mr. McNeil began to describe what he felt Ansonia was built around pride, tradition and loyalty. He went on to describe the same character of the individual he came out to support. He asked the members of the Board to ensure the man who dedicates his life to this town and its entire people be considered.

Ms. Crystal McNeil, 192 Prindle Ave. She wanted to add the importance of support and education and how it helps children to continue on the right path. She added to allow the principal to continue the work he has put so much effort into by supporting all young men and women so they do not end up on the wrong path.

Mr. Curtis Antrum, former Ansonia resident. Mr. Antrum stated many young men stand on the shoulders of the person we are here to support. He wanted to talk about integrity and how this word describes the person that was being supported. He talked about the dedication of this person who is a hero to this city. He wanted to stress the foundation, roots and life surrounding this man is Ansonia.

Mr. John Bonavia, custodian Ansonia Public Schools. He stated the man we are here for tonight is a man who respects all. He stated many might be jealous or racially resentful and this man may be a victim. He stated he did not want the years of this man's service to be thrown away at the push of a button.

Mr. Greg Johnson, president NAACP. Mr. Johnson commented that after 30 years of service and dedication to our community with all the accomplishments this man made, we take it into consideration. He also stated that in this day and age there is identity theft that happens every day. He stated it can happen to anyone.

Mr. Ronald Oliver, Hamden. Mr. Oliver mentioned he has looked at all the accomplishments of the man whose heart is in the community of Ansonia. He asked the gentlemen's position be restored.

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

A. Accepting BOE meeting minutes.

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated December 6, 2017(organizational), December 6, 2017 (regular) and December 13, 2017(special).

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

B. Certified Appointment of Kelly Blair, Technology, Mead School.

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone reviewed Ms. Blair's experience and credentials. Stating she would be an asset to our district. Mr. Izzo said he reviewed her files and agrees she will be a good fit for Ansonia.

MOTION: To approve the hiring of Ms. Kelly Blair

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

C. Recommendation from Policy Committee

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone reminded the Board of the Narcan policy that was approved to be adopted in the schools for any drug overdose. She asked Mr. Phipps, who is filling in for Ms. DiGiorgi as chair to say a few words. Mr. Phipps reminded us of the meeting that Dr. Casablanca presented stressing the importance of the Narcan Policy. He went on to say the Policy will not only be in place for students but all staff and any person that might need the distribution of Narcan.

MOTION: To recommend approval of the Narcan Policy that was adopted by the Policy Committee.

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

D. Recommendation for adjustments to the 2017-2018 Budget line items for the City-BOE Agreement of February 14, 2017.

Discussion: Ms. Lisa Jones spoke regarding the request to the Board to include the adjustment for line items. She stated the revised line items are included in the packet they had handed to them. She went on to explain the additional expenses the Board will be adding.

MOTION: To accept the recommendations for adjustments to the 2017-2018 budget line item.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI				
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		
TOTAL		6	0	0

E. Superintendent's proposed 2018-2019 Budget

Discussion: Superintendent began reviewing the plans for the budget that has been discussed with the Finance Committee. She also stated some of the requirements for the Alliance Grant have changed and this will help in ways that money can be spent. She added there will be more adjustments made and a complete booklet will be handed out before the meeting that will be taking place next week. She pointed out an increase in insurance that can be explained by Mr. Frank Connolly. Mr. Frank Connolly explained how he was involved with the current year's budget. He also explained the reasons for certain high cost expenses due to state being in fiscal crisis. Some funds were not reimbursed and put the district in situations they were not prepared for. He also mentioned an agreement that was made by the city for reimbursement regarding Special Education expenditures. This along with many other reasons reflects on the adjustments that are needed for the coming year. Mr. Connolly also talked about the Alliance Grant and guidelines that have been changed and can impact the proposed budget. He said this proposed budget will change but they are presenting a copy for everyone to review at this time. Mr. Phipps said he wanted everyone to be aware of a decision that was made by our aldermen last night regarding \$600 thousand that was taken away from this fiscal year. He said there are going to have to be adjustments made to compensate for this loss. This is money the Board did not anticipate losing. Mr. Izzo asked since this is the first year of a self-funding insurance, was there any analysis done to see the savings. He said the line items for insurance shows an increase and he would like to see some sort of analysis. Superintendent Merlone informed Mr. Izzo that the insurance company is going to come out and explain the reasoning behind the expenses. Ms. Jones clarified that due to just going self-funding, they do not have much of an analysis. She said there are some line-items that are non-health benefits but categorized under the same and may have increased.

Mr. Izzo asked to review shared services opportunities with other towns regarding transportation. Superintendent Merlone informed Mr. Izzo that they are currently working with Derby, Shelton and Seymour and trying to implement shared transportation.

F. Electricity Supplier

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone said she requested the attorney's opinion regarding the Electricity Supplier and the issue of the contract that was signed by the city. Mr. Connolly stated the contract started in May and continues, he also added there is a letter written by our attorney that states the district is not obligated to go with this contract since it happened without any knowledge of the Board. Mr. Izzo pointed out he was just looking at the letter in front of him for the first time and suggested instead of going to legal for advice, why not sit down with the city and discuss the situation. He continued, saying he would like to believe that the reasoning behind the city going with this contract was due to savings that were going to be made. He suggested a legal opinion was not necessary. Mr. Nimons commented that the Board tried to discuss the contract with the city and they were told it was signed and nothing can be done. Mr. Phipps commented savings for the Board is what should be happening and he is in favor of having the Superintendent looking into other bids and savings for the Board.

MOTION: To accept the request to go out for bids regarding the electricity supplier.

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Discussion: Dr. DiBacco welcomed Kaitlyn Caple to the Board as an honorary member. Dr. DiBacco outlined his report that was presented to the board. Beginning with the visit at the School of Allied Health located at Griffin Hospital. He also mentioned attending the CAPSS Recognition of Excellence. Students from AMS and the high school were honored. He shared the negotiations with Food Service continues. Attending the NEASC conference in Boston, MA and a scheduled visit for high school administrators was made. Dr. DiBacco is looking into shared services and will continue to sit with ACES to propose lower costs for transportation. Dr. DiBacco added the month has been fruitful and looking forward to working with staff. Mr. Phipps asked if we can get another bid for the audit. He also asked if any of the grant funds can be used for the audit. The answer was "no". Mr. Izzo asked if the money for this audit has been budgeted. The money was not added into the proposed budget. Mr. Izzo asked if Ms. Gabrielson has anything to do with the proposal. Dr. DiBacco stressed this proposal and bid is void of any input of our Special Ed Department.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Discussion: Ms. Gabrielson briefed her report and wanted to highlight there are currently 550 students with IEPs. Mr. Nimons asked if students are being brought into district.

C. Technology Report

Discussion: Mr. Nimons asked if there are any questions. There were no questions for Mr. Vinny Pastore.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2017-2018 Year to Date, -

Ms. Jones reviewed the narrative that was attached and stated we are in a very good place. Ms. Jones mentioned again the hope for shared services. She also spoke about the reduction of our budget that was decided on last night by the aldermen.

2. Athletics – There was no business to discuss.

3. Food Services – There was no business to discuss.

4. Grants and Other Income – There was no further business to discuss.

E. Enrollment

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone reviewed her report, pointing out numbers are basically the same.

F. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Discussion: Mr. Bob Lisi spoke regarding his report. There was no other pressing information to present.

G. From the Desk of the Superintendent

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone discussed her report with the board. She mentioned Prendergast will be attending one additional day due to the closing because of frozen pipes. She also spoke of other business that was also detailed in her report. Superintendent Merlone also wished Ms. Pam Dickson well in her new career. She said Ms. Dickson is very valuable and will be missed. Mr. Izzo asked when the Regionalization meeting that was cancelled will be rescheduled. Superintendent Merlone said the meeting will be held Thursday, January 25th and an email will be going out to confirm.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25PM.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI				
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACEY DILIBERO		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	1	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE	2	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 1/15/2018