

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

**PLACE:** ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL, Lecture Hall **DATE:** 14 February 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**

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>	<b>5</b>		<b>0</b>

Mr. Nimons asked everyone for a moment of silence for former Superintendent Robert Zuraw who recently passed away.

### **II. Public Session–**

Ms. Sherrie Swihart, 455 Beaver Street. Ms. Swihart represents PFS Investments and is looking to offer Ansonia Public Schools staff, opportunity to invest in a retirement fund. She gave detailed background on her company and reasons for employees to take advantage of the investment plans. She briefed the audience on the various savings. Mr. Nimons asked Ms. Jones to give Ms. Swihart a phone call next week.

Mr. Robert Lisi, Youth and Family Outreach Officer. Mr. Lisi wanted to take the time to review his monthly review due to the fact he has another meeting that he must attend. Mr. Lisi gave information on our Youth and Family Outreach for January, 2018. There was a family from Derby who was found to be attending our schools, he pointed out there are probably more. He noted if there are any questions he will be happy to answer them at a later date. He gave a breakdown of the 92 newly enrolled students to the high school. He also wanted to mention the Valley Food Security Task Force continues to offer resources for families in need. This service includes cities surrounding Ansonia as well.

5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, Mr. Joe Jaumann, Wakelee Ave. Mr. Jaumann wanted to thank the Board for giving him and the Aldermen the opportunity to meet regarding Shared Services. He stated he is looking forward to meeting in the future and after confirming with city hall, still maintains the statement that the city is on board with paying for half of the cost for the Shared Services investigation.

### **III. PRESENTATION by Michael Jiang re: The Bridge to Success**

Mr. Jiang spoke in great detail regarding the Foreign Exchange Student Program between America and China. He explained the benefits for American families as well as the students coming from China. The Board thanked Mr. Jiang for his presentation.

**IV. UPDATE Brown & Brown Health Insurance**

**Attachment #1**

Ms. Sonia Kaminsky from Brown and Brown presented. She explained first about an ACES Health Collaborative that would prove more buying power for lower fees. With more districts involved, prices go down. Ms. Kaminsky also compared the actual vs. expected claims for Ansonia. This proved recent months have not been great for our district, as the claims were quite high. This also showed a projection of a 14% increase moving toward this fiscal year.

Ms. Kaminsky also spoke on the Budget Creation Methodology using 24 months of experience. This is projecting the future by using market trends with all carriers in the area. Mr. Izzo asked if the analysis being presented is the fully insured vs. self-insured. Ms. Kaminsky answered it is for both. Mr. Izzo asked if we are able to see if we can see a savings or not. She answered we are able to see by calculation that there was a savings. Mr. Izzo stated he feels this is something that should be going out to bid yearly and stress the shared services idea. Ms. Kaminsky added that when you go out to bid yearly it tells carriers you may not be serious if you tend to look at each year. Ms. Kaminsky went on to speak about inviting other districts into the collaborative that have higher claims and the fact they are not beneficial. She said for a town like Derby who has higher claims right now, it would not be a good idea. She explained towns are now being rated and who will be able to come in or not is being decided.

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

A. Accepting BOE meeting minutes.

**MOTION: To accept January 10, 2018 (regular 1) and January 18, 2018 (special) as presented**

**Attachment #2**

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

**Mr. Nimons welcomed our new student member, Ansonia High School Student Gary Reeves.**

B. Recommendation from the Policy Committee re:

**Attachment #3 & 4**

1. Policy # P5145.5(a) Students: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) (3)
2. Regulation # R5145.5(a) Students: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) (4)

**MOTION: To approve the recommended Policy P5145.5(a) and Regulation R5145.5(a)**

	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				
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	0

Mr. Izzo pointed out he would like the newly adopted Policy and Regulation to include all staff. The Board agreed.

Superintendent Merlone reviewed the calendar for the 2018-19 School Year. She went over the new faculty Professional Days that include removing the abbreviated Thursdays.

**MOTION: To approve/adopt the 2018-19 School year calendar.**

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

**D. Massaro Community Farm/food processing and food donations.**

Superintendent Merlone explained to the Board an email that Mr. Dominick Golia, director of food services received from Massaro Community Farm. The request is that our schools will receive fresh produce from the farm in exchange for the use of the high school kitchen facility to prepare canning and processing of produce.

**MOTION: To allow Massaro Community Farm to donate produce as well as utilize the kitchen facility at the high school.**

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

**E. Ansonia High School Health Fair Vendor**

Mr. Nimons noted this item is not going to be addressed tonight.

**F. School Building Commission's Approval of the Completion of the Mead Modular Project.** Mr. Bobby Evans, Director of Facilities briefed the audience of the completion of this project and asked the Board make the motion to finalize. The Board agreed.

**MOTION: To accept the John C. Mead School Modular Building Project with state number 002-0059 RE located at 75 Ford Street, Ansonia, CT as 100% complete as of February 14, 2018.**

	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				
<b>TOTAL</b>		5	0	0

**F. To accept the resignation of Ansonia High School Principal, Terri Goldson.**

**MOTION: To accept the resignation of Principal Terri Goldson with heartfelt thanks for all of the dedicated years of service to Ansonia Schools.**

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

**VI. Informational Items.**

**A. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Attachment #6

Mr. Joe DiBacco, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed his submitted monthly report. Mr. Joe Jeanette complimented Assistant Superintendent DiBacco for the correct decisions being made for delayed openings when there is inclement weather.

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

Attachment #7

Ms. Gabrielson briefed the Board on her monthly report. There were no questions.

**C. Technology Report**

Attachment #

Mr. Vincent Pastore presented his monthly report. Mr. Izzo asked Mr. Pastore to reach out to other districts with any shared services with equipment purchases.

**D. School Business Administrator Financials**

Attachment #6

1. 2017-2018 Year to Date. - Ms. Lisa Jones, Business Administrator, presented. Ms. Jones commented there were few changes from the prior month's report. She reviewed her monthly submitted report and pointed out the difference between last year and this year's numbers. She also mentioned the transportation contract that is in need of either a new bid or continue with the last year or two years that is left on our five year contract. If the Board continues with the current contract there will be a slight savings with no new vehicles. If the contract is renewed for another five years, this will include the savings as well as six new buses. Ms. Jones asked the Board to think about what the likelihood of more savings from another company when All Star Transportation currently has the believed lowest rate. Mr. Nimons asked if she has talked to Shelton because they have their own buses. Ms. Jones answered she has not spoken to Shelton regarding their transportation services that are offered. Ms. Jones stated Derby has gone with All Star with their year four and five for the remainder of their contract. Ms. DiGiorgi asked what Ms. Jones recommends. Ms. Jones said she is recommending taking the minimal savings and continuing out the year four and five of the contract, and looking further into a new contract if shared services may be an option at the time. Mr. Izzo added he believes this should be a bid that goes out to three other vendors. He said it should not be something that is rushed into and due diligence should be done with the Shared Services Committee reaching out to all the surrounding towns to see if there would be any savings. Ms. Jones added the transportation aspect is not

shared services or regionalization because the students cannot be on the bus at the same time or cannot share any bus at the same time. Superintendent Merlone stated they are aware of several towns already committing to their own contract. Mr. Izzo stated he believes any contract for \$2.2 million should not be agreed to without a competitive bidding process. He stated it should be owed to the students and taxpayers to search for savings and it would be irresponsible to do otherwise. Ms. Jones cautioned the Board that there really is not much time to put this contract out to bid with all that is involved in this process. She suggested wait at least the one year and then go out to the bidding process. Mr. Izzo asked that we get a written proposal stating the 4% for the next year.

**MOTION: To take the fourth year on the current Transportation Contract at 4% and start looking for next year on the new bidding process.**

	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				
MR. JOE JEANETTE	2	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA				
<b>TOTAL</b>		3	2	0

Discussion on Administrators Financials continued.

Mr. Izzo asked about the temporary positions that were created to replace the Secretarial position in Central Office. He asked if both are replacing the position. Ms. Jones answered both employees are temporary positions and together they have 32 hours per week. Ms. Jones said the fact there was no chance for cross-training with the former employee they needed to quickly find someone with experience and have been catching up to date. She also said the job is being looked at to see if it needs to be reclassified either inside the union or outside the union. Mr. Izzo asked if the temporary position was posted. Ms. Jones answered it was not posted and the position was made available by word of mouth. Mr. Izzo also asked if the current temporary employee is related to another employee that was recently hired with the same last name. Superintendent Merlone confirmed they are related to each other. Mr. Izzo asked how many hours Mr. Frank Connolly was paid for. Ms. Jones stated she does not have that figure but will get it to him. Mr. Izzo questioned several positions that are being recommended for the district. Superintendent Merlone informed him the positions were all removed from the previous budget and are now being requested by the administrators in the schools.

Facilities

Discussion: Bob Evans updated the members.

Attachment #7

E. Enrollment

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone went over enrollment.

Attachment #8

F. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Robert Lisi gave his report earlier in Public Session.

Attachment #9

G. From the Desk of the Superintendent

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone discussed her report with the board. Please see attached.

Attachment #10

H. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

Discussion: Mr. Nimons asked if there were any additional comments.

**VII. Executive Session re: Expulsion.**

**MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of conducting expulsion hearing and further to invite Superintendent Merlone into Executive Session.**

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

**MOTION: To return to regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.**

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

**VI. Action as needed as a result of Executive Session.**

**MOTION: To decline Superintendent Carol Merlone's recommendation. Student's expulsion will end the last day of the third quarter, returning first day of fourth quarter.**

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

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson  
 Recording Secretary  
 Date 02/20/2018