

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

*(Revised) MINUTES*

**PLACE:** Media Center, Ansonia High School    **DATE:** 26 March 2018    **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 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>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- II. Discussion and possible action upon a parent's request for a student's early reinstatement from expulsion.**

**Motion:** To enter into Executive Session at the request of the parents and to invite Superintendent Carol Merlone into the meeting.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. ARETTA KOTALIS		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
MR. CARMEN PITNEY		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Motion:** To return to Public Session at 6:45p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	1	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIEBRO		X		

MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS	2	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		7	0	

**MOTION:** To accept the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding the parents' request for a student's early reinstatement from expulsion effective immediately.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIEBRO		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE	1	X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		7	0	

**III. Discussion and possible action re: Student transportation contract.**

Discussion: Members of the Finance Committee reminded the Board of the last several meetings regarding the Transportation Contract. Ms. Lisa Jones, Financial Director also reviewed with the Board the choices that were on the table. The first choice is an extension of two years with a three percent increase each year with no negotiations available. The second choice with our current provider is to sign a five year contract with negotiations available. The fuel overage charge was discussed. Mr. Phipps told the Board he is not comfortable with the \$1.60/gallon overage fee. He stated he had time to think about the current contract and does not feel comfortable with this as well as minor wording in the contract regarding start times for the buses. Ms. Fran DiGiorgi wanted to remind the members they have discussed there is not enough time to go out to bid and ask other transportation companies to make an offer. Mr. John Izzo commented he believes this is a poor excuse to not go out to bid on such a high cost line item in the budget. Mr. Izzo stated as members of the Board it is an obligation to try and save money for the students and staff. He also added he thinks someone may have dropped the ball if there is not enough time for a bidding process. Mr. Bill Nimons reminded Mr. Izzo that the Board was attempting to implement shared services and asked surrounding cities to join in the transportation bidding process. The cities were agreeing and last minute signed on independently with All Star Transportation. Mr. Joe Jeanette asked if he could add that he spoke with another bus company and the amount All Star was offering Ansonia was fair and the normal rate for the number of buses we need. Mr. Jeanette said he agreed to at least sign on for the remaining two years. Mr. Izzo wanted to remind the Board he strongly feels the contract should go out to bid and he believes the students and residents deserve the possible savings if it may be out there. He also wanted to add he is against the extended two years and it may cost job loss. Mr. Nimons commented it may actually end up costing the Board more money because he believes our current provider may increase his offer if the contract goes out to bid. Mr. Jeanette said he thinks if the surrounding towns are paying the same or more than Ansonia is, and All Star has always given us good service, then it may be worth staying on for the remaining two years. Mr. Phipps agreed after his opening questions were answered and start times changed in the contract.

**MOTION:** To start the bidding process and allow other transportation companies the opportunity to make an offer.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI			X	
MR. JOHN IZZO	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIEBRO	2	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President			X	
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS			X	
MR. JOE JEANETTE			X	

MR. VINCENT SCARLATA			X	
<b>TOTAL</b>		2	5	

**MOTION: To continue with the remaining two years on the current Transportation Contract at a three percent increase.**

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

**IV. Discussion and possible action upon strategy and Negotiations concerning pending claims or pending litigation to which the board is a party regarding reductions in the board's 2017-2018 budget appropriation**

Mr. Nimons invited Attorney Fred Dorsey to speak. Mr. Dorsey stated he was recently asked to look into the 2017-2018 budget cut for the district. Mr. Dorsey handed out Public Act 17-2 and Board of Education Financial Duties and Powers to the Board and began to brief the room on the Sections that he believes shows the cut that the Board of Aldermen are trying to make is not legal. Attorney Dorsey read from Public Act 17-2 as well as Board of Education Financial Duties and Powers. Attorney Dorsey referenced Section 10-222 and asked the Board to review the sections on the handout. Explaining the way the Board Aldermen made the request cannot happen. Mr. Dorsey said there needed to be a process, the same manner the education budget was originally adopted. He noted the city did not follow this or any other process it should have. Mr. Dorsey reminded the Board along with the oath of being a Board member, the financial responsibility falls upon them being held accountable for any negative funds owed. Mr. Izzo asked if Attorney Dorsey has reached out the Attorney Marini. Attorney Dorsey said he was just asked to look into the request this past Thursday and has not reached out to anyone. Mr. Izzo suggested we try to have an informal meeting with corporate council regarding the matter. Board members agreed to table the topic until more information is obtained.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. JOHN IZZO		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIEBRO	1	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS, President		X		
MR. CHRISTOPHER PHIPPS		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>		7	0	0

Respectfully submitted,



Cassie Venson  
Recording Secretary  
Date 03/28/2018