

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

PLACE: ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL, Media Center **DATE:** 14 March 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		
TOTAL	7		0

- II. **Public Session–**
Ms. Alaina Gaudet, AHS student, spoke on behalf of Ms. Gold, Spanish Teacher. Ms. Gaudet expressed her concern for the possible lay off of Ms. Gold. She said the teacher has a great relationship with all her students and hopes she will not be getting laid off. Superintendent Merlone told Ms. Gaudet that she will investigate her concern.
- III. **Action Items, Consideration of approving....**
 - A. **Accepting BOE meeting minutes dated February 8, 2018(special) and February 14, 2018 (regular)**

MOTION: To accept February 8, 2018(special) and February 14, 2018(regular) **Attachment #2**
As presented

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

B. Recommendation from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Phipps reminded the Board of the ongoing discussion regarding the contract for bus transportation. He said going out to bid will be quite a risk. This is due to the fact that the company does have much of the business for the surrounding towns. He asked Ms. Lisa Jones if she had the answers for the questions he asked at the Finance Committee meeting. She reminded Mr. Phipps the fuel overage charge for the remaining two years would not change at all. She also stated if the five year contract was looked at, there will be room to ask and re-negotiate the fuel overage costs. There is also the option to go out to bid. Mr. Phipps also mentioned the wording of the buses being newer than 2010 in the five year agreement. Ms. Jones again

explained the option is not there if it is just the two year extension. Mr. Phipps answered he is not comfortable with this regarding fuel costs. He said it leaves us wide open and there is no ceiling. Mr. Izzo commented it sounds like a rebid. He also stated he believes the Board knows his position and we will probably end up with the same vendor but he thinks we owe the public due diligence. Mr. Phipps stated if we can get the overage number up to the current rate of fuel costs, he would feel better about the current contract. Mr. Izzo said if we ask about the overage cost, it may be worth it. Mr. Jeanette asked if this five year contract would be negotiable after three years. Mr. Nimons commented no, it would not be eligible for rebid after three years. Mr. Izzo asked if a shared service would be available for this contract. Mr. Phipps asked to table the vote until they can get more information from Ms. Jones regarding the fuel. Ms. Jones reminded the Board that March 31st is the latest we have to notify the company. Mr. Phipps also added the contract read the buses should be available between the hours of 7am and 4:30pm. He thinks that start time should be changed, it needs to be earlier. Mr. Jeanette asked if there is an on-time percentage and are they held accountable if the buses do not arrive on-time. Ms. Jones answered there has never been any complaint regarding buses arriving on time. Ms. Jones reminded the only option the Board has right now is the two year or five year. Mr. Izzo suggested we ask the company to come up with a better figure than the \$1.60 per gallon and the five years at 3%. Mr. Phipps also wanted to see how many gallons we used at the current rate and what we paid in overage. Mr. Jeanette asked what Seymour did for their transportation contract. It was answered that Seymour has a contract with All Star. Mr. Phipps asked that the conversation continue after the questions are answered. The Board continued on with the discussion regarding electricity. Mr. Jones reminded the Board the current supplier we have is the best rate. The contract will be maintained. Ms. Jones also reminded the Board of the agreement we currently have with the city regarding LAP insurance for a period of one year. We are looking for a multi-year contract. Ms. Jones commented it looks like we will be going out to bid solely. Mr. Nimons asked if the city was interested in joining us. Ms. Jones said she will reach out to Richard Bshara from the city. Mr. Izzo asked about sharing this service with any other city. Superintendent Merlone said she will reach out to Derby and see if they are interested.

MOTION: To go out to bid for LAP Insurance after contacting the city.

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

C. Healthy Food Option

Superintendent Merlone asked Dominick Golia, food services director, to speak regarding the Healthy Food Option. Mr. Golia explained the option mandated by the state regarding a nutrition standard. Mr. Golia explained the state having a requirement regarding healthy foods being consumed in the schools.

MOTION: To adopt the Healthy Food Option.

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

D. Non-renewals.

Superintendent Merlone told the Board some teachers and staff received notice of a non-renewal contract at the end of the current school year. She stated if we get the funds, their contract will be renewed. There are 37 positions. Mr. Phipps asked if the zero percent is the figure going back to July or is based the recent \$600,000 loss from the aldermen. Superintendent Merlone explained

it is based on the zero percent increase for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Scarlata asked how it is determined who will be laid off. Superintendent answered it is based on seniority.

MOTION: To move that the contract of the member names that were read by Superintendent Merlone is not to be renewed at the end of the 2018 school year. If the funding is available at the end of the year, the positions will be reinstated.

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

VI. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Attachment #3

Mr. Joe DiBacco, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed his submitted monthly report. There were no questions. Mr. Nimons suggested the Board take notes and send Mr. DiBacco questions if there are any, so the discussion doesn't have to be taken up by questions from the Board.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Attachment #4

Ms. Gabrielson briefed the Board on her monthly report. Ms. Gabrielson stated if the members of her staff that were mentioned being laid off if there is a budget cut, it will cost the city much more money to fill the needs of the special education students. There were no other questions for Ms. Gabrielson.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore gave his monthly report, no questions were asked.

Attachment #5

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Attachment #6

1. 2017-2018 Year to Date. - Ms. Lisa Jones, Business Administrator, presented. She stated the most recent decision with taking \$600,000 from the Board by the city is creating many adjustments the budget. She also addressed the second \$600,000 that is going to be taken from the 2018-2019 school year budget will take an enormous toll. Ms. Jones also confirmed the funds from the state regarding excess cost have been received and we are waiting for the funds to be released from the city. Mr. Nimons asked if the Board was the only department in the city that has a cut for the current year. Mr. Nimons answered himself; the Board of Ed is the only department with a cut.

E. Enrollment

Attachment #7

Discussion: Mr. Robert Lisi gave Mr. Robert Lisi gave his report regarding Enrollment.

F. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Attachment #8

Discussion: Mr. Robert Lisi gave his briefing on the student enrollment report. Mr. Nimons asked questions regarding residency and the school which a homeless child attends. Mr. Lisi answered, the town which the legal parent resides is where the student attends school.

G. From the Desk of the Superintendent

Attachment #9

Discussion: Superintendent Merlone discussed her report with the board. Superintendent Merlone gave credit and compliments to the high school and Middle School for conducting a peaceful and meaningful student "walk-out" today. Katelyn Caple and Mr. Joe Mercado briefed the Board on the activity that took place. There were no questions at this time. Please see attached.

H. Additional Administration or Board of Education

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

V. Executive Session re: Expulsion.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m. for the purpose of conducting expulsion hearing and further invite Superintendent Merlone into Executive Session.

	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	2	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

MOTION: To return to regular meeting at 7:23 p.m.

	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		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

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

MOTION: To uphold and accept the agreement made by Superintendent Carol Merlone, parent and student.

	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		X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

	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	2	X		
MR. JOE JEANETTE		X		
MR. VINCENT SCARLATA		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

Respectfully submitted,

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

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date 03/19/2018