

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Robert E. Zuraw Admin. Office Building, DTL, 42 Grove St., Ansonia, CT 06401

DATE: June 18, 2025 **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Rich Bshara, President.

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. **Roll Call** – Mr. Bshara called a quorum

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MR. RICH BSHARA, president	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X	
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X	
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	2	0

II. Public Session

There were no comments from the public.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items:

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated May 14, 2025 (Regular) and May 15, 2025 (Finance).

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated May 14, 2025 (Regular) and May 15, 2025 (Finance).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	2	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

B. **Permission for Superintendent to hire certified staff in summer.**

MOTION: To allow Superintendent DiBacco to hire certified staff in summer.

Mr. Bshara reminded the Board this is normally done during summer recess. He asked Superintendent DiBacco approximately how many hires he is talking about. Superintendent DiBacco said there will only be a few new hires over the summer.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
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MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

C. Non-union contract extensions and salary increases.

Mr. Bshara asked if this is something that can be discussed later in the meeting, during Executive Session. He said they didn't have time to look at this in detail.

D. Ansonia Board of Education 2025-2026 Budget.

Mr. Bshara said he is sure everyone knows the budget has been cut by almost \$1million. He said they are slightly over last year's budget, and almost \$1million less than what was originally submitted. Mr. Bshara said they are going to start working on this and don't need a definite plan until sometime in July. He said there will be discussions on the budget when they have some answers. He said they will come back to it when they find out what the exact Special Ed reimbursement will be and finalize numbers. Mr. Bshara said there will be a Finance Meeting right after July 4th.

The group discussed the increase in Alliance funds and the restrictions that comes with spending.

Mr. Bshara said the audit was completed and Mr. Marriott will be finishing 2024 and roll over balances to 2025.

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin greeted the Board. He said one thing he wanted to highlight was Prendergast's acceptance into the Commissioners Network Turnaround Plan. Mr. Bergin said they attended a long meeting at the state and found out they have been accepted. He said the next step will be on July 1, a meeting in Hartford will take place to receive all information and possibly the allocation of funds. Mr. Bergin talked about the three-year grant funds, which will be approximately \$500,000. He said they are discontinuing this program after the three years. Mr. Bergin said there is a lot in the plan focusing on Special Education and Literacy. He then talked about the instructional growth happening within the district. He said he is beyond proud of the staff. Mr. Bergin talked about the data team's assessment, new teacher curriculum, and the planning of Teacher/Leader evaluation plans and Vision of a Graduate plans. He noted there is not much guidance from the State, but the district is doing phenomenal with planning. He said the teams are strong and he is very proud of everyone involved. Mr. Bergin said the Vision of a Graduate was shared with the PEDAC team and they were beyond impressed. He said the Restorative Practice is another program that is required and training is beginning. He also said they are beginning assessment for The Talented and Gifted Program. He told the Board it began in March and will be testing in October.

Mr. Bshara said they need to be careful and pay attention to traveling internationally and what is going on in the world.

B. Special Education Director

Mr. Bshara said Ms. Savo has taken on a position with another district, and wished her well.

Mr. Bshara asked the Board to review Ms. Savo's report and email Mr. Bergin with any questions.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore said he has no new updates this month.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2024-2025 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Marriott asked the Board to notice the more robust and detailed report included, compared to prior. He talked about the Excess Cost and final \$434,000 payment that will be coming in. Mr. Marriott talked about the books being able to be closed for 2024-2025 and start with the opening balance for 2025-2026. He briefly talked about grants, Food Service reports, and other district expenses.

Mr. Bshara said they will be working together to get the year closed.

F. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Bshara asked them to refer to the report included.

G. Enrollment.

Discussion was talked about the slight change in enrollment vs. last year.

H. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi greeted the Board, he said the month of May was busier than normal. He said he is compiling Juvenile Review, Outreach and chronic absenteeism data and will have reports available soon. There were no questions.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bshara discussed the Facilities report, there were no questions.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Mr. Morales went over his report. He spoke about this month's activities including the Prendergast Spring Concert, The Middle School and High School Graduation ceremonies, and normal monthly duties.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco greeted the Board. He said Dr. Morales did an amazing job at the Men Who Cook event. He said the Middle School moving up ceremony and the High School Graduation ceremony went very well. Superintendent DiBacco told the Board he participated as a jury member in the high school mock trial. He said it was very special to take part, and you wouldn't believe the students were not actual attorneys. He told the Board Quinnipiac Law School was the perfect host, they opened their doors to the students and as usual treated them very well. He said the entire group was great and the event was incredible. Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to thank Bob Lisi for helping out once again with Valley Community Index. He said they are very valuable with educational resources and information. He said they were the only school in attendance and he was asked to present on July 18th at Cinto Towers in Shelton, for the Valley Index. Superintendent DiBacco said he also attended the Top 10 banquet, his favorite event of the year. He said the top 10 high school students honor a teacher that has inspired them, as well as their family members. He told the Board it is really special to hear how thankful they are and their future plans. He said he is ready to start a new chapter and prepare for next year.

Superintendent DiBacco said he also wanted to mention the great ceremony he attended for Coach Brockett's retirement. He said it was amazing to witness and the movie that Drew Adames created around his career, was spectacular. He said the pride and tradition all in one room at the banquet was a site to see. Superintendent DiBacco said it was an example of true Ansonia, and he was glad to be a part.

L. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

Mr. Bshara said he is happy to have made it to the end of the year. He thanked everyone who was at the meeting and the Board. He said he is glad there is a very small number of teachers and staff leaving the district this year, showing something great is being built. Mr. Bshara said it wouldn't be possible without the staff. He complimented Superintendent DiBacco and the administrators.

He wished everyone a nice summer.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION regarding expulsions.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsions at 9:15p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE	X	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented by the Superintendent regarding expulsions.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X	X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 6/24/2025