

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Robert E. Zuraw Administration Building, DTL, 42 Grove Street, Ansonia, CT, 06401

DATE: July 8, 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			6:50 P.M.
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	1	1

Attorney Floyd Dugas, Teamster Local 677 Representative Shawn Dwyer, Facilities Director Bob Evans, union members Shawn Venson, and Earl Stanley also present. Mr. Finnucan was late to meeting and entered during Executive Session.

II. Public Session

There was no one from the public wishing to speak

III. Discussion and Possible Action regarding:

A. Personnel Matter: Grievance regarding James Finnucan.

Attorney Dugas spoke with Mr. Dwyer regarding the grievance. He said the discussion can either be heard during the scheduled meeting time, or during an Executive Session with invited guests.

Mr. Finnucan was not present to choose how he would like the discussion to take place. Teamsters Representative Shawn Dwyer told the Board he would suggest to have the discussion during Executive Session, with invited guests.

Mr. Finnucan arrived late, during the Executive Session discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session for Personnel Matter: Grievance regarding James Finnucan at 6:40p.m.

Mr. Bshara invited Superintendent DiBacco, Assistant Superintendent Bergin, Attorney Floyd Dugas, Bob Evans, Shawn Dwyer, and Shawn Venson.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ				
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		

MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

Return to regular meeting.

Mr. Bshara told Mr. Finnucan after a lengthy discussion, they are denying his grievance.

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

MOTION: To deny the grievance/personnel matter regarding James Finnucan.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

B. Non-Union Contract Extensions and Salary Increases

Superintendent DiBacco said the district does not have the funds for large salary increases and he is going to suggest a 2.5% increase. He asked the Board to take a look at the detailed financial spreadsheet that was provided.

MOTION: To approve the suggestions made by the Superintendent for non-union contract extensions and salary increases.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

C. Paraprofessionals AFT-CT, Local No. 2181, AFL-CIO Bargaining Union Contract

Superintendent DiBacco said due to the district sticking to a tighter budget, the Paraprofessionals were very cooperative and agreed to a minimum salary increase. He said they were happy to work with the Board and there were no issues during negotiations.

MOTION: To approve the suggestions made by the Superintendent for Paraprofessionals AFT-CT, Local No. 2181, AFL-CIO Bargaining Union Contract.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

D. Ansonia Board of Education 2025-2026 Budget.

Superintendent DiBacco said after the referendums were turned down for the city and Board of Education budget increase, it has been a challenge. He said everyone is well aware the city is trying hard to work with the Board of Education. He said he appreciates the efforts of the mayor and everyone involved. He thanked Mr. Marriott for his time and efforts put in the make this work. He also said there were funds made available due to a few recent openings within the district that will remain unfilled. He said they are going to be running on the bare minimum and it will only be worse in the coming years. Superintendent DiBacco said he appreciates the Board's support and unfortunately the entire state is feeling the financial burden that is being put on public education.

Mr. Marriott discussed the budget. He went over the numbers in the budget packets that were handed out. He said the final budget amount they were able to work with is \$38,612,089, which is a 2.76% increase.

MOTION: To approve Ansonia Board of Education 2025-2026 Budget

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION regarding Performance Review of the Superintendent.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Performance Review of the Superintendent at 8:10p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		

MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To accept the decision of Performance Review of the Superintendent.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:25p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 7/14/2025