

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School, 75 Ford St., Ansonia, CT 06401

DATE: September 10, 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	7	0	0

Mr. Bshara welcomed the Board back from summer break.

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

A. 2026 Paraprofessional of the Year – Jennifer Krampetz, Ansonia Middle School

Mrs. Crooks introduced Ms. Jen Krampetz. She said Ms. Krampetz has been working in the district since 2022. Mrs. Crooks read a letter from Principal Colaccino, saying Jen is a champion of kids. Mr. Colaccino wrote Jen is seen throughout the building encouraging the students to do well. He wrote she wears her heart on her sleeve and is a very kind and compassionate staff member. Mrs. Crooks congratulated Jen and presented her with tokens of appreciation.

B. 2026 Teacher of the Year – Kathleen Weitzler, Mead School

Mrs. Crooks introduced Mrs. Kathleen Weitzler. She said Mrs. Weitzler has been in Ansonia since 2014 at Mead Elementary. Mrs. Crooks read a letter from Principal Amy Cosciello. Ms. Cosciello wrote, Kathy is a dedicated teacher with a genuine passion for her position. She also wrote Kathy is a very hard worker putting 100% in everything she does, as well as supporting her colleagues. Ms. Cosciello wrote Mrs. Weitzler is very patient, understanding, and caring and Mead School is lucky to have her.

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 June 18, 2025(special), July 8, 2025((special), August 13, 2025(special).

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated June 18, 2025(special), July 8, 2025((special), August 13, 2025(special).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		

MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

B. Ansonia Public Schools Vision of a Graduate.

Mr. Bergin said there are three action items tonight.

He gave the Board background on the Vision of a Graduate mission and what it truly means to graduate from Ansonia Public Schools. He said not only grades are being earned but character, competency, and life beyond the classroom. He said Vision of a Graduate was shaped by educators and community members beginning in 2022. Mr. Bergin said beside credits earned, the mission will provide competency, character, and readiness that goes beyond the classroom. He told the Board, the program was shaped by educators, families, students, and community partners. Mr. Bergin said our graduates will embody critical thinking as well as emotional intelligence to become a responsible citizen. He said with the Board's approval, adopting the program will utilize the vision as a foundation ensuring every graduate is truly ready to strive once they leave the district. He said the rubric created over the last two years by the team makes it more efficient to follow in the classrooms. Mr. Bergin said this is an exciting time and they are eager to begin.

MOTION: To approve the Vision of a Graduate Program.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

C. Policy Series 5000

1. Repeal/Replace 5150 Bullying/School Climate Policy

Mr. Bergin discussed the policy and what it defines. He told the Board, the Climate Committee sat with lawyers last year using data and trends to establish safe supportive spaces for students to be seen, heard, and valued. Mr. Bergin said with the Board's approval they will implement staff training. Mr. Bergin said this policy will replace Policy 5150.

MOTION: To approve replacing current Policy 5150 with new policy as stated.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

2. Review and Approval of Restorative Practices Response Policy

Mr. Bergin said he is very proud to present the district's Restorative Practices Response Policy. He said the policy builds on the school culture. He told the Board the policy is a student centered, nonviolent response to criminal conflicts. He said the policy reflects our commitment to building a school culture rooted in accountability, empathy and caring; not just punishment. He said it is aligned with CT General Statue 10-222 and ensures that a response to a challenging behavior prioritizes reflective dialogue and growth. Mr. Bergin told the Board the policy framework will empower staff with tools to guide with a resolution, while reducing reliance on exclusionary discipline with law enforcement. He said with approval, the policy will begin implementation with staff training.

MOTION: To approve the Restorative Practices Response Policy.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives

Weston Ahearn and Abdalla Hanaif

Student Representative Abdalla Hanaif told the Board a little about himself. He said the high school has provided him many opportunities. He said he is in the PCT Program and next semester will be training at Griffin Hospital to become a Patient Care Technician. Abdalla said Weston is in the Exercise Science Program. He said the football season has begun, as well as other fall sports and everyone is excited for the start of the new school year.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin greeted the Board, he said there is a lot of work to be done with The Vision of a Graduate, which he spoke of earlier. He also said time is being focused on the submission of District School Climate Plans. He said they are also in the process of establishing the District and School Improvement Team. He said with that, they will continue to work on the new curriculum for the rest of the district. Mr. Bergin said they are extremely proud of the quick progress at the Middle School with the implementation of their new curriculum. He told the Board the staff training program was outstanding. He said at the end of this year K-8 will be implemented. He said the PD started in the spring and it was kicked off seamlessly.

B. Special Education Director

Mr. Bshara told the Board there is a new Special Education Director. He introduced Nicole Fenech. Ms. Fenech said she is excited to be here. She said she has been in Special Education for 18 years, and prior to that she was in the business world. Ms. Fenech said her previous work experience as well as her personal background will provide great experience for her position. She said she will be an advocate for the non-traditional learner and has a lot of respect as well as appreciation for staff in the classroom. Ms. Fenech said the new opportunities are exciting.

She said currently there are 477 identified students receiving services. She gave the breakdown by grade level and told the Board the focus will be on PreK students. She said she has been able to sit in on PPT meetings and will be assisting on the process to thoroughly evaluate with the ability to identify. Ms. Fenech said she plans to look at the high number of referrals this year. She told the Board, she will begin to have dialogue and create resources to service students for their exact needs in order to have a successful education. She said she would like to create a continual service model so all students will receive the opportunity for a general education.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore was not present, Mr. Bshara asked to send an email with any questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Mr. Bshara talked about a budget transfer to the high school.

MOTION: To approve budget transfer from district budget to high school.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
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MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

1. 2024-2025 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Marriott discussed the budget transfer that was passed, explained the recent line item changes due to grant requirements, said he will be monitoring outstanding purchase orders, and track to adjust sooner rather than later. Mr. Marriott told the Board the auditor has been in the office for a couple of days and there are no concerns. He said grant funds are coming in slowly from the state. He said there is a McKinney Vento grant for approximately \$9,000 that will need the Board's approval in the near future, and he gave an update on the Alliance Grant that has been submitted to the State as well. Mr. Marriott said once the grant funds are received, it will be returned to the city.

Mr. Bshara asked Mr. Marriott to push the auditor to take a look at the Food Service information that was given.

E. Director of Food Service

Mr. Kevin Benham greeted the Board. He said the summer program was a success. He went over the submitted financial report and updated the Board on recent activities in the department including the plans to focus on systems and equipment at the Middle School this year.

F. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Brockett said at the top of the list is the Nolan Field Project. He told the Board the company is doing a tremendous job and it really looks great. He said this is great opportunity for the students. He said Phase 1 is near completion and Phase 2 will begin right after. Mr. Brockett said within the next couple of weeks all the teams will be transitioning to the new complex. He told the Board three of their four teams have started the season and are doing well. He said he met with Mr. Bshara and Superintendent DiBacco regarding funding for all teams to be able to play. He said they have started to charge to enter all games which will help everyone along. He said there is a plan that will be put in place and working all together to make it happen.

Mr. Bshara said he would like to see a motion allowing Coach Brockett, Mr. Marriott, and Superintendent DiBacco to maneuver ways inside the budget to put funds into the JV Program and our Middle School Program.

MOTION: To allow Coach Brockett, Mr. Marriott, and Superintendent DiBacco access to any possible funding for the JV Athletic Program and Middle School Athletic Programs.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

Chris Phipps asked if there will be night games for all sports. Mr. Brockett said yes, there will be a slow beginning but soccer and baseball will have night games.

Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to commend Erich and Coach Brockett for working on as many innovative ways possible for the JV and Middle School teams ensuring our students have something. He said he appreciates the effort.

G. Enrollment.

Mr. Bshara talked about enrollment numbers, comparing current numbers to numbers at the end of last school year. Superintendent DiBacco talked about the extremely large number of newly enrolled students in just the last month.

H. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi greeted the Board, he went over details in his report, speaking about the high number of new students that are from a lower or equal DRG to ours. He said students are coming in district at a very high number. Mr. Lisi discussed the absenteeism problem and potential reasons. He discussed the rise in absenteeism since Covid. He talked about the 27 cases that went through Juvenile Review and Officer Barry's program that keep students out of court and jail. Mr. Lisi continued to review his report and discuss student issues.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Evans greeted the Board. He talked about the great job his staff did getting the buildings ready for the start of the school year. He talked about the replacement of leaky hot water heaters at the high school, the fuel leak at the high school due to mechanical failure, and the bid for the new roof at the high school going out. There was discussion about the fuel leak and all questions were answered.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Morales went over his report. He told the Board about his social media numbers, public appearances he attended over the summer, translating for families, assisting admin the first day of school with translation, restorative practices at the Middle School, and expulsion details as well as numbers.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco said he thinks the school year started off very smooth. He talked about grants and the delay from the state. He thanked Bob Evans for taking care of the usual summer building maintenance and also the amazing effort taken with the fuel leak. He joked they gained an enormous amount of knowledge about fuel and fuel leaks. Superintendent DiBacco said with the help of city workers and everyone involved, the problem has been taken care of. He said the bidding process for the high school roofing project went smooth with many interested and only one disgruntled contractor. He told the Board the unhappy contractor situation will be taken care of. He talked about the audit and meeting with Mr. Accavallo to make sure monthly reconciliations are happening with the city and ensure the books are lined up at the end of year. Superintendent DiBacco said he wants to be certain the district isn't the reason for delays with the city audit. He said they will be meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss ways of staying on top of things. He told Student Member Abdalla Hanaif he really appreciates him attending the meetings and being a part of the Board. Superintendent DiBacco also talked about the numerous summer internships that are made available to high school students. He said these connections made with companies around our community continue to grow. He said his monthly Student Pathway Advisory Board meetings with high school students allow him and the staff to take into consideration what students are interested in. He told them the Law and Criminal Justice Pathway is now available, since the strong interest shown. He said regular meetings with students who express which pathway they would like will also help future scholars. Superintendent DiBacco said the high school not only has a great number of AP Courses which give college credits, but the pathway programs will assist in a career. He stated this is where our district differentiates from any traditional high school in the state.

He asked Abdalla how many college credits he currently has, Abdalla told him he has 25 college credits.

Superintendent DiBacco said the AP courses and Pathway programs offered together are far more impressive than you can get elsewhere. He told the Board, along with the monthly Student Pathway Advisory Board meetings, the hard work begins with Mr. Bergin and the Vision of a Graduate and the PDEC Committees. He said ensuring the community gets what they are looking for out of our students as well as the children getting what they love to do is amazing to see. Superintendent DiBacco said we have bright and talented students and the Board will be hearing of many more success stories. He said colleges are looking for the exact package our district is able to create through the teachers and their classrooms while working with families, and it will only get better.

L. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

Mr. Bshara said they have been meeting with the teacher's union. He said they should be voting on the contract very soon.

There was discussion of the need for a committee meeting regarding the safety of the schools. He talked about security issues if doors are being left open without supervision. Mr. Bshara said he wants to put something in place with building safety.

There was discussion about the budget and trying to come up with a way to streamline the entire process.

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X	X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 9/15/2025