ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street, Ansonia, CT 06401
DATE: 12 June 2024 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	4	3	0

II. Public Session

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated April 10, 2024

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated May 8, 2024.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	2	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

B. Education Specifications for the new Middle School

Discussion: Mr. Bshara reminded the Board the specifications were emailed and this was discussed and voted on at a previous meeting. He said the vote was for the new Middle School and Central Office combined. Mr. Bshara said it was asked to be voted on separately, to ensure any state requirements are being followed.

MOTION: To approve the education specifications for the new Middle School.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN

MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

C. Education Specifications for Central Office

Discussion: Mr. Bshara asked the Board to vote again on this separate item for state requirement purposes.

MOTION: To accept the education specifications for the new Central Office.

	MOTION	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

D. Teacher and Leader Evaluation Plan

Discussion: Mr. Bshara reminded the Board this was emailed to all members. Mr. Bergin said the Board can also refer to the shortened document he passed out for the plan. He said the district chose to keep their own model, and adjusting that. Mr. Bergin said they did not have a PDECs team. He said the committee came together as a group and the process was incredible. He said all the hard work was completed and such a success, ACES has requested to use their plan and reference for the State. Mr. Bergin said other districts will be using ours as a model plan. Matt Hough, member of the committee, said when they were given the task it seemed impossible. He said working together, it was unbelievable to see what was accomplished. Mr. Hough said the collaboration was something that he believes has never happened in Ansonia. He told the Board the plan is a unique concept which focuses on the art of teaching, which is a welcome change. Mr. Hough said there is full support from the union. Mr. Bergin said if approved, they will start in August. He said this will continue throughout the year.

MOTION: To approve the Teacher and Leader Evaluation Plan as promoted.

	MOTION	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

E. Permission for Superintendent to hire certified staff in the summer.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said he would like to be notified of any hires.

MOTION: To accept the request for permission for Superintendent to hire certified staff in the summer.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	1	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

F. Non-union contract extensions and salary increases.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said this was emailed. He said these are the employees who do not have a union contract.

MOTION: To accept the non-union contract extensions and salary increases as presented.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	1	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

G. 2024 United States-Korea Science Research & Evaluation Collaborative – U.S. National High School Science delegation.

Discussion: Mr. Bergin reminded the Board, last year's invite to participate in this collaborative with South Korea did not work out due to timing. He said this year, they started working in March to be able to participate and currently have 14 students interested. He said there are two teacher advisors. Mr. Bergin said they are offering the trip to seniors first. He told the Board they have until July 1 to make a commitment and fulfill all the requirements. Mr. Bergin said everyone involved is very eager. He said out of the $3,900 cost, students will be required to pay $1,500. He said there are fundraisers set up to differ the cost. Mr. Bergin said there are five districts involved total, three from Connecticut.

Mr. Bshara said if this approves, to please contact Atty. Marini and the insurance carrier to make sure there are no impediments that are needed for the students to attend this trip. He said he wants to make sure they are covered.

MOTION: To approve the 2024 United States-Korea Science Research & Evaluation Collaborative – U.S. National High School Science delegation.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

H. Ansonia Board of Education 2024-2025 Budget.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said Mr. Carey is unavailable, but sent out the district 2024-2025 budget. He said the Board of Aldermen budget was approved. Mr. Bshara said the Board of Ed budget will have a $1.8 million increase from last year's budget. He said over all, they have been making transfers for line items and they are working on brining everything in line where it should be. He said Mr. Carey is working hard to put this together.

MOTION: To approve the Ansonia Board of Education 2024-2025 budget for $37,576,212.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

I. Non-lapsing Account Request

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said this was approved at the Board of Aldermen meeting. He said administration has plans to increase curriculum materials. Mr. Bergin said the funds will assist in implementing an extension of the newly successful curriculum that Kayla Jarrin presented at last month's meeting. He said it has been going great and this will only allow for further improvement.
Mr. Bshara said the funds were put away several years back to be used for things like this.

MOTION: To accept the Non-lapsing Account Request.

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

TOTAL		4	0	0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Bergin said he wanted to take a moment to highlight a few outstanding staff members. He said the Board was able to view the presentation created by Ms. Jarrin and staff, during last month's meeting regarding the new curriculum. He said this was created so well, it is being used by the state as a model. He said it is on the state's website which is outstanding.

He said he also wanted to highlight Mrs. Sara Crooks, who is part of the CSDE Aperture Education System. He said she represented Ansonia Public Schools as a presenter at the CT School Counseling Association State Conference. Mr. Bergin said she was one of only several facilitators throughout the state, which is an incredible honor. He said her work is a vision, and they had goals, but Sara has been exceeding them and putting Ansonia on the map for Social and Emotional Learning. Mr. Bergin said out of the thirty-three CT schools that participated, she was the only administrator there to present.

Mr. Bergin also said there were three teachers at Prendergast who created a Project Future through Sacred Heart University. Mr. Bergin congratulated Andre Celestino, Jess Sharpe and Brooke McPherson. He said they created a cracking the code method through a Mood Meter. Mr. Bergin told the Board, this project allowed student's to be able to crack the code and plot themselves on the Mood Meter. He said this went so well and was so successful, Sacred Heart put them forth to be recognized by CASEL and will present at next year's conference. Mr. Bergin also thanked the Board for their support throughout the year.

C. Special Education Director's Report

Ms. Savo reviewed the Special Education numbers for students receiving services. She said next year she will be working on a new report regarding transfers. She said they will start TAG testing in October, Best Buddies are thriving, the School Store is doing great, and the implementation of a unified arts athletic program will be beginning next year.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore was not in attendance; any questions should be directed to him.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2023-2024 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Bshara reviewed the current fiscal reports. He talked to the Board about balancing the books and bringing them down as close to zero as they can. He talked about the listed grants and asked if anyone had any questions.

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham reviewed his presented reports. He cleared up some misleading information listed on the report due to numbers not transferring over. Mr. Bshara asked if Prendergast cafeteria was painted. Mr. Benham said yes, the job was recently completed. He said they have had positive feedback with the job. They talked about the summer programs which will be receiving breakfast and lunch. Mr. Benham said the breakfast and lunch programs our district runs have added the Middle School as another place families can go to get breakfast and lunch. He said there are limited staff handling the summer programs.

G. Athletic Director's Report.

Mr. Bshara said any questions can be directed to Mr. Brockett.

H. Enrollment

Mr. Bshara reviewed the enrollment report. He talked about the increase in the district's enrollment numbers.

I. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi reviewed his report, he said the end of the year is always busier and they are keeping up with work as usual.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bshara went over the report, asking any questions be directed to Mr. Evan.

K. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales reviewed his report, summarizing his activities and ways he has been assisting schools throughout the month. He talked about student and parent meetings. He said the weekly newsletter went out. Dr. Morales also spoke about students out on expulsion completing exams, and briefed the Board on his roles with homeless students as the McKinney Vento Liaison.

Mr. Bshara thanked Dr. Morales

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco greeted the Board. He highlighted some of the activities in the district he was able to attend. He said the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Ansonia Charger Baseball Team celebration was a great event at Nolan Field. He told the Board how awesome it was to the current players and the 1974 players together. Superintendent DiBacco said his favorite event of each year is attending the high school's Top Ten Ceremony. He said each student chooses a teacher mentor and highlights the ways that teacher impacted the student's success. He said the students also acknowledge their family and loved ones. Superintendent DiBacco said the achievements of the students is nothing short of remarkable. He talked about the graduation ceremony success. He also told the Board, he had the honor of surprising the 2024 Teacher of the Year with Mr. Bergin. Superintendent DiBacco said Mrs. Christine Davis is very well deserved, long over-due, and an excellent teacher at the high school. He said they also came to Mead to congratulate the Paraprofessional of the Year, Luis Gomez. Superintendent DiBacco said Luie is a great worker and Mead School is very lucky to have him. He told the Board he was recently contacted by Business View Magazine to give an interview for a school district in Connecticut they will be highlighting. Superintendent DiBacco said the interview went well and he will be doing a follow up article on Friday, May 31. He said it is such great news to hear they are interested in the positive things happening in Ansonia.

Mr. Bshara thanked Superintendent DiBacco. He said they agree to cancel the July and the August Board of Ed meetings, unless there comes a need for them.

MOTION: To cancel the July and August Board of Education Meetings.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	2	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

Mr. Bshara thanked the entire staff for all of the great things happening in the district. He said everything is going very well and he is very pleased with the entire staff.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

A. Expulsions

B. Discussion the performance of the Superintendent.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsions at 7:11 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	1	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		4	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				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

MOTION: To table the Superintendent's contract discussion until September.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		4	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 6/18/2024