

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street, Ansonia, CT 06401

DATE: 09 October 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(6:50 p.m.)
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	1	1

II. Public Session

Mr. Mat Hough, President of Ansonia Federation of Teachers told the Board he has been in the district for 20 years. Mr. Hough told the Board he has been at the Middle School for fifteen years. He said he was asked by AFT and other colleagues to speak about PROUD Academy. He said he works with these students that would potentially attend this academy every day. Mr. Hough told the Board “To say the LGBTQ community within Ansonia schools is accepted is an understatement” He said the LGBTQ community is an active and vibrant part of our schools and woven into the very fabric of our school community. He said he does not believe there is a need for such a program in Ansonia. He told the Board he believes, as well as many of the staff believe, a program like this may also take much needed funds away from the students of Ansonia. Mr. Hough told the Board he thinks there are places where this type of school is needed, but not Ansonia. He said our LGBTQ students are out, they are proud, and they are a part of our Charger family. He thanked the Board.

Mr. Bshara thanked Mr. Hough.

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

A. **Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated September 18, 2024 (regular).**

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated September 18, 2024 (regular).

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

TOTAL		5	0	0
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B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance (Competitive Grant)

Discussion: Mr. Bshara briefly discussed the \$10,000 yearly grant.

MOTION: To accept McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance (Competitive Grant).

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives

Student Representatives were not present. Superintendent DiBacco gave the Board activity updates for the high school.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Bergin gave the Board an update of the South Korea project, which he said is very successful. He said the students continue to prepare and are very enthusiastic. Mr. Bergin said there is also an opportunity to partner with China, which may bring students into Ansonia as well as our students having the opportunity to go there. He told the Board, he will soon attend a Zoom meeting that may lead to our Middle School getting involved. Mr. Bergin also said he is beginning to look into the opportunity for ties with Portugal. He told the Board, when they first started the ACES International relationship they did not realize the success it would lead to and he is very excited to see where it leads. He said he is happy to share the success from Kayla Jarrin's literacy project she recently presented to the Board. He reminded the Board about the State requesting her to share her presentation and the invitation to sit on a panel at the Performance Matters Conference. Mr. Bergin said there is a panel of four teachers who will be presenting with Kayla. He said they have been attending the conference for many years and this is the first invite to present what Ansonia has been doing. He said Superintendent DiBacco and he will be there supporting and are very eager for their opportunity. Mr. Bergin said they have been working with ACES with Professional Development. He said ACES offered Ansonia to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant. He said its basically free technical assistance hours. Mr. Bergin said we will be getting 20 free hours of service. He said ACES consultants enjoy working in the district. Mr. Bergin said he believes the culture and climate in the district make it enjoyable.

C. Special Education Director's Report

Mrs. Savo gave her Special Education numbers. She pointed out the rise in Pre-K referrals. Mrs. Savo talked about the many activities happening within the department as well as Professional Development plans for Friday.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore said the new Ansonia Public Schools website is up and running. He said the team did a complete redesign where things are consistent and easier to find. He talked about the QR code to scan which takes users to Google Play or the APP Store to download our app. He told the Board, in September they completed the installation of new UPS's at the high school. He said it was part of this year's Erate project.

1. 2024-2025 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Charles Carey gave his monthly financial report. He said they continue to trend on budget. Mr. Carey said again the Excess Cost will balance out the SPED line. He said everything else is looking great. He said there was a budget transfer that took place.

MOTION: To approve budget transfers that took place.

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

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham was not in attendance.

G. Athletic Director's Report.

Mr. Brockett was not in attendance, Bshara said any questions can be directed to Mr. Brockett. The athletic report was included.

H. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco said there will be an updated report sent tomorrow.

I. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi reviewed his report. He talked about the elderly apartment complex that has high school students on the lease, the block house on Franklin St. and Holbrook St, and the Bella Vista apartment building which will all add to our population.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Evans was not in attendance, Mr. Bshara asked the Board to send Mr. Evans an email with any questions regarding his monthly report.

K. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales greeted the Board. He said there was a QR code posted for Parent Square to be easily downloaded. He said he attended the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force Committee with United Way. He said the district continues to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with decorating doors and bulletin board contest. He said he is working on getting funds for a Coach Bus for this year's CT NAACP Great Debate, met with parents and students regarding expulsions, and staying on-top of the homeless population regarding their transportation.

There was discussion regarding this year's Black college tour.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco greeted the Board. He talked about the CT State Department of Education asking for the district to present our literacy program at their conference. He said it is an incredible honor and is proud to have Kayla along with a team of teachers present. He said we are remised in saying Ansonia was approached and that is really amazing. He said he attended a state conference on manufacturing with Dennis Proto. He said it was a very productive event and they were asked many times about the opportunities and pathways Ansonia has for their students. Superintendent DiBacco said he was very proud to attend an unveiling at the Ansonia Pubic Library. He said Jen Shuart does a great job, the relationship with the district is very strong and it shows. He told the Board he also attended the WorkPlace meeting and look forward to building the relationship. He said Open House nights are coming up as well as many other positive events.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session Regarding Expulsion(s).

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsions at 7:02 p.m.

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

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To accept recommendations from Superintendent DiBacco regarding Expulsions.

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

MOTION: To accept the request to support the Expulsion from Derby.

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

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

	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			

MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 10/15/2024