

**ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMENDED**

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

DATE: 18 September 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 (6:40 p.m.)
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X	
TOTAL	5	1	1

CHARGERS CHAMPIONS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

A. 2025 Teacher of the Year – Christine Davis, Ansonia High School

Mrs. Sara Crooks introduced Mrs. Christine Davis. She said Mrs. Davis becoming the Teacher of the Year is long overdue. She said Mrs. Davis is the English Lead Teacher as well as a Master Teacher at the high school. She said unfortunately the high school has Back to School Night and none of the staff were able to attend tonight. Mrs. Crooks said Mr. Giansanti said Christine is very dedicated teacher who works very hard to support both colleagues and students. Mrs. Crooks said Mr. Giansanti also said Mrs. Davis inspires everyone with her excellent work ethic and the high school is beyond lucky to have her. Mrs. Crooks also told the Board Mrs. Davis has been at the high school for a long time and is never complacent, she is constantly looking for new opportunities and ways to connect. Mrs. Crooks presented Mrs. Davis with the award and jacket. The Board thanked Mrs. Davis for all she does.

B. 2025 Paraprofessional of the Year – Luis Gomes, Mead School

Mrs. Crooks told the Board, Mr. Gomes has been in the district for five years. She said he is the kindest, gentlest, most positive person you will ever meet. She said Amy Cosciello, principal of Mead School said they are very lucky to have Mr. Gomes and everyone loves him. Mrs. Crooks said Ms. Cosciello also said he has made strong, long-lasting relationships with his students and they all gravitate to him. Ms. Stephanie Savo, Special Education Director, said Mr. Gomes is a true inspiration to all. Mrs. Crooks presented Mr. Gomes with the Chargers Champions award and jacket. The Board congratulated Mr. Gomes and thanked him for his hard work.

II. Public Session

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated June 12, 2024 (regular) and August 30, 2024 (special).

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated June 12, 2024 (regular) and August 30, 2024 (special).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		

MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		6	0	0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives

Mrs. Bshara introduced high school seniors Quintez Whittle and Alleyanna Figueroa. He asked Alley to tell the Board a bit about herself and what has been going on so far this year at the high school. Alley told the Board she is the senior class president, she belongs to multiple clubs, and member of the Student Government. She said elections for Student Government were held today, there is a Club Fair coming up, fall sports are starting, and Global Scholars will be fund raising for their trip this year to France and Spain. She talked about many other activities beginning throughout the school. Quintez told the Board he is now a senior captain of the football team and happy to be back this year as a student member.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Bergin was not present, Mr. Bshara let the Board know Mr. Bergin was attending a meeting regarding the South Korea project.

C. Special Education Director's Report

Mrs. Savo congratulated Mr. Gomes and Mrs. Davis. She reviewed the Special Education numbers for students receiving services, she talked about the events and activities happening in the Special Services Department. This included Professional Development Training, PCRC training, and CT-SEDS training. Mrs. Savo also talked about Best Buddies, The LifeSkills Program, the high school Transition Program, and other positive events that are taking place throughout the district.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore gave an update of the Technology Department. He reviewed purchases over the summer; including student Chromebooks, charging carts, and teacher laptops. Mrs. Pastore told the Board the district purchased new desktops, repaired and refurbished existing Chromebooks, and used Erate funds to replace the power supplies in the high school server room.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2023-2024 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Charles Carey gave his monthly financial report. He told the Board it is early on, but numbers are projected right on budget. He pointed out the negative line item in the report, explaining this will increase once Excess Cost funds are received. He said overall financials are in great shape as they wrap up last year's budget. Mr. Carey said most of the remaining funds will be spent and closed out in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Bshara said there were a few transfers that took place and asked the Board to vote.

Mr. Carey discussed the grants status.

MOTION: To approve budget transfers that took place.

	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	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		6	0	0

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham reviewed his monthly report. He asked the Board to reach out if they request any additional information that is not included in the report. He said the start of the year is going great. He said applications are right on target as well as preparation for the after-school-programs.

G. Athletic Director's Report.

Mr. Bshara said any questions can be directed to Mr. Brockett. The athletic report was included.

H. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the enrollment numbers. He said 200 students have come into the district since August. He said these are new students with needs that were not budgeted for. Superintendent DiBacco said it impacts the classroom size as well as many other things.

Mr. Lisi said the number of new registrations has grown tremendously.

I. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi reviewed his report. He talked about his home visit results, Juvenile Review Board review, and the chronic absenteeism in the district. Mr. Lisi said the number of new registrations is way up, as earlier discussed.

Mr. Knapp asked Mr. Lisi what he does when a home visit proves the registered student does not live there. Mr. Lisi said the student is withdrawn from the district.

There was brief discussion regarding the number of Section 8 vouchers in the city. Mr. Bshara said there should be more discussion regarding this topic.

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 told the Board about recent activities and meetings he has been involved in. Mr. Morales said he has been assisting families with translation during meetings, discussed the number of families reached through Parent Square, discussed restorative circles with students, talked about the Atlanta Trip for this year, the BROSE mentoring group starting up again, and numerous program updates that Mr. Morales is involved in.

Mr. Bshara asked if every student is required to do community service. Superintendent DiBacco confirmed students are required to participate in Community Service.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco greeted the Board. He said he truly appreciated the smooth start of school. He said he believes he shares the thought with his colleagues, the first few days of school was great. He told the Board he and Mr. Bergin enjoy being at the schools to welcome the staff and students on the first day. He said him and Bobby Lisi, reached out to the Teamsters at Sikorsky for some help, and they came through with many back packs filled with school supplies and hygiene products. Superintendent DiBacco said Shawn Venson also participates each year with the Masons and Eastern Stars to donate school supplies and over 100 back packs. He said the City has been very supportive with the new Middle School application process which is due October 1. He talked about a visit from Homeland Security for a minor monitoring of the mail server. Superintendent DiBacco said he was contacted by the state regarding the Performance Matters Conference in October. He said Kayla Jarrin was asked to speak at the state conference regarding her literacy presentation she put together for the Board a few months ago. He said Mrs. Calabrese was able to help with grant money to supply the Ansonia Library with books, he said on Friday he will be attending a WorkPlace Summit with Mr. Proto where Ansonia will be highlighted regarding our Pathways. Superintendent DiBacco said he is very pleased with the start of the year thus far.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

Mr. Bshara said he recently met with Stephanie Savo, Mr. Phipps, and PROUD Academy. He said they are asking for an endorsement and Mr. Bshara wanted to get a better understanding of the program and how it will impact the Board. He said it helps to have the support of the community for this program which is chartered by the state. He said more information will come.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

A. Performance review of the Superintendent.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Superintendent's contract at 7:17 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		

MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		6	0	0

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To accept the Superintendent's contract.

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

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		6	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Denson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 10/01/2024