

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 10 May 2023 **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. FRAN DIGIORGI	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	7	0	0

CABE Student Leadership Awards

Mr. Pete Colaccino, Principal, Ansonia Middle School, greeted the Board. He said students are nominated to receive the CABE Leadership Award by the principal and teachers. He told the Board, the recipients are required to exhibit a willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, demonstrate concern for others, work well with others, understand issues clearly, as well as other positive qualities. Mr. Colaccino said this year's recipients are Leah Kish and Collin Copeland. Mr. Colaccino and the Board congratulated the students and their parents for their accomplishment.

Mrs. Sara Crooks greeted the Board. She said there are two Charger Champions tonight. She introduced Mr. David Morgan, CEO and President of TEAM Inc. She said the Charger Championship award is about partnership and collaboration within the community. Mrs. Crooks said TEAM, Inc. is a large part of our community. She talked about community work done in the past as well as present. She said Mr. Morgan and TEAM, Inc. have contributed to the recent high school trip held during spring break. She said the trip would not have been possible without their help. Mrs. Crooks presented Mr. Morgan with his award. Mr. Morgan thanked everyone.

Mrs. Crooks then introduced Mrs. Laura Lane. She said most people in the room know her well. She said Mrs. Lane is here with her family tonight, who are also very well known in our community. Mrs. Crooks said Mrs. Lane has always been a huge advocate for Ansonia Public Schools. She said Mrs. Lane is very involved in everything that happens here. Mrs. Crooks said Mrs. Lane and her husband have started a family fund for the district and give back to causes that mean the most to them. She said this year, both elementary schools were given book vending machines. She told the Board; the machines are really special and the students and staff love them. Mrs. Crooks said the fact that the Lane Family chose Ansonia schools is an honor. She presented Mrs. Lane with her certificate.

Mrs. Lane said she is honored to receive the award. Mrs. Lane told the Board she is fortunate to have been raised in a family where education and volunteerism was equally important. She thanked her family for their support and the school system. Mrs. Lane said she has learned so much and has been able to keep up with all the changes time brings. She said she will continue as a cheerleader for the schools and hope to come back one day to participate. She thanked everyone.

II. Public Session

Ms. Diane Stroman, 66 High Street, told the Board she wanted to congratulate the Charger Champion recipients. She said they are both very special people. She said she attended the recent Civil Rights Tour with the high school and Dr. Reese Morales. She said the trip was awesome and hopes it will be something that can happen again. She thanked the Board for their support

Attorney James Dimitriadis said he is an affiliate of AFT CT and today he is here as council for Ms. Elise Nicolari. He said he sees there is an item on the agenda regarding Ms. Nicolari, and he is requesting it be discussed during Executive Session. He said it is a personnel matter, and he has prepared remarks for Executive Session, however if the Board wishes he can make them now.

Mr. Bshara said they will differ to Executive Session.

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated April 28, 2023 (special).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated April 28, 2023 (special).

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

B. June 14, 2023 BOE meeting change to June 21, 2023.

MOTION: To move the June 14, 2023 BOE Meeting to June 21, 2023.

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

C. Personnel – Acceptance of hearing officer findings and recommendation regarding Elise Nicolari.

Item C. has been moved to Executive Session.

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives

Student representatives were not in attendance. Superintendent DiBacco said they are attending the prom.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin gave his report. He told the Board about all the activities and school business within the district including the beginning of implementing Vision of a Graduate Program, existing certified staff openings for 2023-2024 school year, assessment for Smarter Balanced Assessment in grades 3-8. He also briefed the Board on all school highlights, extended day programs, RULER updates, and the Valley Pride Conference that was held at the high school. Mr. Bergin gave credit to school administrators for their detailed reports each month. He said they provide an awesome summary of what goes on in their school.

C. Special Education Director's Report

Mrs. Stephanie Savo was not in attendance, any questions about her enclosed report can be directed to her.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore was not in attendance and Superintendent DiBacco asked that any questions be sent to Vinny.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2022-2023 Year-to-Date.
2. Grants and other Income.

Mr. Bshara gave an update regarding the status of the budget.

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham gave the financial updates regarding balances, cash flow, and profit & loss. He briefed the Board on the status of year ending and department business.

G. Athletic Director's Report

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

H. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the report. He said numbers are increasing with new students coming into district as usual.

I. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi gave his report, reviewing the activity that has been happening throughout the month with home visits, illegal living situations, and non-compliance with students' attendance issues.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans was not at the meeting. Superintendent DiBacco said any questions about the Facilities Report can be directed to Mr. Evans.

K. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. He thanked the Board for allowing him to take a group of high school students to visit Atlanta and Alabama to experience the Civil Rights Trail and many other attractions. He said the trip was amazing and the students had a great experience. He talked about attending VCPCI with Superintendent DiBacco, participating in the "Men Who Cook" TEAM fundraiser, Ansonia Family University meeting updates, and the Valley Pride Conference held at the high school.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He congratulated the Charger Champions recipients. He gave the Board an overview of his month. He talked about his monthly SCASA meeting, the mid-year Alliance meeting with CSDE which included district wide walk-throughs, and his meeting with the Commissioner of Education. He discussed the proposed legislation, CAPSS Technology, plans for collaborating with ARMS regarding an adolescent psychiatric unit. He said currently there is no facility for minors and their families to get a treatment plan. Superintendent DiBacco also briefed the Board on many other projects that are happening in the district.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

V. Executive Session regarding Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsion at 7:05pm.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		

MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

Return to regular meeting.

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

There was no action during Executive Session.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

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Recording Secretary

Date: 5/19/2023