

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

DATE: 13 December 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. OCASIO-GONZALEZ			X(6:56p.m.)
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X	
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	1	1

II. Public Session

There were no comments from the public.

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

Mr. Bshara asked if he can have a motion to add Action Item E. to the agenda regarding a change in the 2023-2024 school calendar.

MOTION: To add Action Item E. to the agenda.

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated October 11, 2023 (regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated October 11, 2023 (regular).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		

MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	1	X		
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ				
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

B. 2024 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

MOTION: To accept the 2024 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

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

C. Certified Appointments.

1. Carrie Wolak, Grade 7 Science, Ansonia Middle School.

2. Angela Juda, Grade 7 Science, Ansonia Middle School

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said they hired two Middle School Science teachers together. He said there were two vacancies and they are so pleased to be able to find two teachers at the same time.

MOTION: To accept the Certified Appointments of Carrie Wolak, Grade 7 Science, and Angela Juda, Grade 7 Science.

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

D. Teamsters Local Union No. 442, Ansonia BOE Food Service Employees.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said there will be a copy of the updated contract sent to all members of the Board, if it has not been sent yet. He said the contract is funded by the Food Service budget so it will not affect the district budget. Mr. Bshara said he was a part of the negotiations and everyone seemed to be happy with the new contract. He said they wanted to raise the salary for the food servers and make some necessary adjustments to the contract. Mr. Bshara asked if there was any reason why the contract shouldn't be voted on before having a copy. Mr. Carey said there is not, and it is very favorable for the Board.

MOTION: To approve the Teamsters Local Union No. 442, Ansonia BOE Food Service Employee Contract.

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

E. To discuss amending the 2023-2024 School year calendar.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said on April 2, 2024, there will be a Primary Election taking place in the schools. He told the Board, schools are normally not in session for this reason due to parking issues and crowds in the schools. He said this will mean one more day added to the last day of school. Superintendent DiBacco said he is asking to amend the school calendar.

MOTION: To approve the request to change the school calendar to have April 2, 2024, school closed, and to approve adding June 6, 2024 as last day of school.

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin welcomed the newest member of the Board, Stephanie Ocasio-Gonzalez. He told the Board one of the things he wanted to discuss briefly was the change of dates for Vision of a Graduate. He said they have been working on Vision of a Graduate and the community forum. He said they would like as many to attend as possible. He told the Board this program will consist of working with students beginning at the Kindergarten level. Mr. Bergin talked about the South Korea project as well. He said the staff and students were amazing, and the fact that the whole project was done in record time is so impressive. Mr. Bergin said now that they know how much planning this takes, it will begin much earlier in the year and he hopes with fundraising, in-person will be a possibility. He gave credit to the admin and staff at the grade level for the new report card format rollout.

There were no questions.

B. Special Education Director’s Report

Discussion: Mrs. Stephanie Savo gave her report, including number of students being serviced, outplaced numbers, pre-K referrals, and an update on the TAG Program details. She told the Board there will be more information by the end of the year for the Talented and Gifted Program. Ms. Savo also talked about the schools Best Buddies Program which is flourishing as well as the Life Skills Program updates and several other Special Ed activities happening throughout the month. She shared data on the ACES Programs located at the Middle School and Mead School. There were no questions.

C. Technology Report.

Mr. Vin Pastore gave his report to the Board, he talked about a new Phish Alert Report Button that was added to the district Email. He said staff now have the ability to forward suspicious emails over to the IT Department with the click of one button. He told the Board new chrome books were received, and there was an upgrade with the Mitel Phone System. Mr. Pastore reviewed the rest of his monthly report, there were no questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2023-2024 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Chuck Carey gave his report, he spoke about employee benefits and balance that looks like it is attached to them. He explained it is not a balance, they are self-funded. He also talked about Excess Cost that will be coming in, underfunding in Adult Education which will be needing a balance transfer in the near future, as well as the budgetary transfers taking place this month. Mr. Bshara asked if there can be a vote on the budget transfers.

MOTION: To approve the budget transfers as presented.

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

Mr. Carey briefly talked about Grant spending and said everything looks right on tract.

Mr. Bshara said they are working on the budget for next year and it should be presented to the city sometime early January.

There were no questions.

E. Food Service Director’s Report

Mr. Kevin Benham gave his report, he spoke about the monthly financials and working with Mr. Jeff Coppola from The Parks and Recreation Department regarding a basketball game that will be held at the high school over the weekend. He said he has been also working with Mr. Lisi to distribute holiday dinners to families in the community. There were no questions.

F. Athletic Director’s Report.

Mr. Bshara asked the Board to email Mr. Brockett with any questions.

G. Enrollment

Mr. Bshara reviewed the Enrollment Report.

H. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Bob Lisi presented his report. He talked about the concerns for the high number of Juvenile Review Board cases. Mr. Lisi said there are 17 cases this year and more coming up. There were no questions.

I. Facilities Director’s Report

Mr. Bob Evans, Facilities Director reviewed his monthly report. He talked about the boiler project at the high school, said his crew landed several rooftop units at Prendergast School, and they will be redoing the Mead School playground in the coming year. Mr. Evans told the Board about a couple budget transfers necessary to complete other jobs. There were no questions.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report

Dr. Reese Morales talked about the activities that have been happening within the district that he has been a part of, including translating for Spanish speaking parents at PPTs, a Restorative Circle with three students, creating the Ansonia Public School Weekly Newsletter, Expulsion updates, and information on the McKinney-Vento business.

There were no questions.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to acknowledge Ms. Fran DiGiorgi's 17-year service on the Board of Education. He said to serve 17 years is an incredible accomplishment. He said approximately 40,000 students have passed through during that time. Superintendent DiBacco said he would like to have a little celebration for her at some point, if she would like.

Superintendent DiBacco said he attended a national conference where he spoke on Ansonia's STEM journey. He said it was a great opportunity to be put on stage at the National Conference on Innovative Strategies. He said he was happy to work with Chief Williams to finalize the memo of understanding based on the recent legislation regard School Resource Officers. He said this will be finalized soon. He told the Board it was an honor to attend the Teacher of the Year Conference and it was a great experience for our Teacher of the Year. Superintendent DiBacco talked about attending a PDEC training, the monthly SCASA meeting, as well as budget meetings with Steve Bergin and Charles Carey. He spoke about the new Reading Curriculum that has been approved by the state. He said Ansonia is one of only 12 districts to receive a waiver for the new curriculum. He told the Board that he went to arbitration hearing with Bobby Evans regarding the high school maintenance shed and Mr. Evans did a great job representing the district.

V. Executive Session

A. Expulsions

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsions.

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

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To accept the recommendations regarding expulsions, as presented by the Superintendent.

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

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 12/18/2023