

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Robert E. Zuraw Admin. Building, 42 Grove Street

DATE: 11 October 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	4	3	0

Mr. Bshara asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Ms. Joanne Borgesano, retired Special Education teacher who recently passed. He said she was a wonderful teacher and sends thoughts and prayers out to her family.

Chargers Champions Recognition

Mrs. Sara Crooks said this month's Chargers Champion Recognition goes to Shawn Venson. She said Mr. Venson is an employee of the Ansonia School System, a very active member of the community, a Freemason, and worshipful Master of the James H. Wilkins Lodge in Ansonia. She said there is usually a Back-to-School event that gives school supplies to students in need. Mrs. Crooks told the Board, there was no funding for that this year and Mr. Lisi happened to mention it to Shawn. She said Shawn was able to get over 200 backpacks and school supplies to our students, with the help of his lodge members. Mrs. Crooks said she wanted to thank Shawn for collecting school supplies, providing to the community, and asking the brothers of the lodge to deliver the supplies to Mead and Prendergast Schools. She said Shawn worked collectively with the United Way and the Order of the Eastern Stars on this event. She told the Board, this is only one example of how he goes above and beyond for our students, our schools, and the City of Ansonia. Shawn thanked the Board and Mrs. Crooks for recognizing him, he said he joined this group of gentlemen and he is very fortunate to be a part of the Freemasons. He said the organization stands for helping the community and they go by the motto "make good men, better men" and he is fortunate to have made it to the highest rank at his lodge. Mr. Venson thanked Bob Evans for giving him the opportunity to have his job that he enjoys.

II. Public Session

There were no comments from the public.

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated September 13, 2023 (regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated September 13, 2023 (regular).

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

There were two corrections in the attendance grid. Corrections were made and revised meeting minutes were stamped at City Hall.

IV. Informational Items.

Mr. Bshara suggested all Informational Items be voted and accepted at this time. He said any questions can be raised and will be answered.

MOTION: To approve Informational Items as presented.

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

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin said he wanted to mention just a few things. He gave an update on the South Korea partnership. He said the project is going well, there is a Zoom meeting scheduled with students from Ansonia. He said the students will not be traveling to South Korea this year but it will be something to look into for the future. There was discussion why the group would not be taking the trip to South Korea. Due to funding, as well as most of the students unable to attend Mr. Bergin said the trip wasn't possible. Mr. Bergin said he will share the outcome of the Zoom Meeting that is coming up. There were no questions.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Discussion: Mrs. Stephanie Savo was not at the meeting. Mr. Bshara asked that any questions be emailed to Stephanie.

C. Technology Report.

Mr. Vin Pastore gave his report to the Board. He said there was nothing of great importance this month.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2023-2024 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Chuck Carey gave his report, a couple of transfer details were discussed. Mr. Carey said he is currently going through the audit making the correct adjustments and transfers. Mr. Carey said they are watching the Special Ed budget with the influx of students receiving special education services. He said he will be meeting with the Special Ed Department to discuss a few concerns. Mr. Carey said the budget season is in full effect and he and Superintendent DiBacco will have a budget to present late December, early January.

Mr. Carey said the grant process is going well.

There were no questions.

MOTION: To approve the budget transfers as presented.

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

E. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham gave his report, he said there will be a meeting in the near future to re-do Prendergast's cafeteria. Mr. Bshara complimented Mr. Benham on the Mead School cafeteria renovation. There were no questions.

F. Athletic Director's Report.

Mr. Bshara asked the Board to email Mr. Brockett with any questions. He said it's great to see there about eighty students participating in the volleyball league at the Middle School. He said they may want to look at doing something to expand the program in the future.

G. Enrollment

Mr. Bshara reviewed the report, noting enrollment is increasing.

H. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Bob Lisi presented his report. He said the number of Special Ed students enrolling has increased tremendously.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans, Facilities Director, said they are in the process of changing the district over to heat. He said they are also in the process of applying for an HPC Grant, giving the details to the Board.

There were no questions.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report

Dr. Reese Morales talked about working with Mr. Lisi regarding the homeless population. He explained the process that our district is required to complete for the homeless students and their transportation. Dr. Morales said he met with students and parents who are interested in going on the college tour trip again this spring. He talked about the door contest that schools entered for Hispanic Heritage Month, saying there were great entries.

There were no questions.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to share, it was an honor and privilege taking two high school students to Central Connecticut State University to present in front of the Commissioner of Education and the Governor, regarding dual credit programs offered at the high school. He said both of these students have accumulated over 50 college credits thus far. Superintendent DiBacco said he and Steve Bergin also presented at the State Board of Education meeting regarding the pathway programs at the high school. He said it is a testimony to the program and our high school students, last year acquiring over 900 college credits.

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. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS				
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 regarding expulsions, as presented by the Superintendent.

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

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Secretary

Recording

Date: 10/16/2023