

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held, via Zoom **DATE:** 27 February 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. Rich 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

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

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

A. Global Scholars trip to Italy, presented by Karen Phipps and Christine Davis.

Discussion: Mrs. Christine Davis and Mrs. Karen Phipps, both Master Teachers at Ansonia High School, gave the presentation. Mrs. Davis began by briefing the Board of their roles and many years of teaching experience at the high school. She went on to express the educational value in taking a tour of Italy during the 2024 Spring Recess. She told the Board there are many benefits to this Global Scholars trip, including educational value, preparing for their future, allowing them to learn about themselves, as well as many other benefits for the students. Mrs. Davis expressed how these students will expand their knowledge of the world around them, and many more positive life lessons by attending the educational tour. She also told the Board this unique opportunity, would most likely not be available to these students otherwise. Mrs. Karen Phipps greeted the Board. She described the itinerary details of the Italy tour, and many activities these students will partake in while visiting Rome, Florence, and Venice. Mrs. Phipps told the Board the all-inclusive trip will cost students no more than \$4,545 with options of discounted rates. She described the cost in great detail and ways the cost could be lowered by fundraising and the number of students attending. Mrs. Davis described her and Mrs. Phipps knowledge and experience with International travel. She asked the Board to approve the trip to Italy in 2024.

MOTION: To allow the Global Scholars trip to Italy as presented by Mrs. Karen Phipps and Mrs. Christine Davis.

	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	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

B. Ansonia Public Schools 2023-2024 School calendar.

Discussion: Assistant Superintendent Bergin told the Board; the school year will start the same time as the year prior. He said most of the calendar is the same. Mr. Bergin said the calendar for 2022-2023 worked very well and they are not making many changes.

MOTION: To approve the Ansonia Public Schools 2023-2024 School calendar.

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

C. Ansonia Board of Education 2023-2024 Budget.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said they are asking the city close to 4%. He said they are fine tuning the numbers, and trying to have it set to vote on at the March meeting. He said wages will be going up, as well as utilities.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked what amount was told to the city. Mr. Bshara said they told the city it would be in the area of \$1.2 million increase. He said there is nothing in writing right now.

Ms. Voroschak asked when the next finance committee meeting will be. Mr. Bshara said there is nothing scheduled yet, but he will let the Board know when the next committee meeting will be held.

Mr. Bshara said the next item was listed as Executive Session. He asked if there is a need to go into Executive Session, or can they move forward with a vote. All members said they are fine with moving forward to vote, without an Executive Session.

MOTION: To approve the contract between Ansonia Board of Education and the Ansonia Federation of Teachers, Local 1012, A.F.T.-CT, A.F.T-CIO

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

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said this contract is an extension of the current contract for four years. He said it supersedes the current contract by a couple of years. He said this new contract addresses some of the teacher wage issues that have been going on for years. He said the pay scale has increased, and the step process has been reduced. He said some work environment and language changes will allow the Board to keep our teachers here.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked who was on this committee. Mr. Bshara said Superintendent DiBacco, Mr. Bergin, the lawyer, and he also worked a bit on the numbers piece.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:58 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		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		7	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

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Recording Secretary

Date: 3/03/2023