

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 8 March 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	X	
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	7	1	0

Mrs. Sara Crooks greeted the Board. She said tonight's Charger Champion recognition is Diane Stroman. Mrs. Crooks said Ms. Stroman is a true Charger Champion. She said there were wonderful things said about her by many staff and administration in the district. She told the Board about Diane's fundraising efforts, and help with the "Black Men in White Coats" event. Mrs. Crooks said Ms. Stroman is a true pillar of the community, serves on many boards in the city, and works within the school district. She said the mentor program has been turned around due to Diane's work. She said Ms. Stroman goes above and beyond with everything she does. Mrs. Crooks says these are only a few of the things Diane is involved in within the community, and she is truly a Charger Champion.

Ms. Stroman thanked the Board and everyone at the meeting.

II. Public Session

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated January 18, 2023 (organizational), and January 18, 2023 (regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated January 18, 2023 (organizational), and January 18, 2023 (regular).

	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		

B. Certified Appointments

1. Elaine Livingstone/English Teacher/Ansonia High School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Livingstone comes from Hamden. He said she has been a great addition to the high school thus far.

MOTION: To approve certified appointment of Elaine Livingstone, English Teacher, Ansonia High School.

	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

2. Jeff Bette/Multilingual Teacher/Ansonia Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board the number of ELL students in the district has drastically increased. He said there is a great need to have a full-time teacher at the Middle School and Mr. Bette will be perfect.

MOTION: To approve certified appointment of Jeff Bette, Multilingual Teacher, Ansonia Middle School.

	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

3. Shannon Kelly/Special Education/Ansonia Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Kelly is coming from Derby School District. He said she is a very solid hire and he is sure she will be a great asset.

MOTION: To approve certified appointment of Shannon Kelly, Special Education, Ansonia Middle School.

	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. Non-Certified Appointment/Dianny Rodriguez/Data Project Manager/Central Office.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Rodriguez is from Ansonia. He said she was working in Bridgeport. He told the Board she is going to be a great asset working in the IT Department.

MOTION: To approve non-certified appointment of Dianny Rodriguez, Data Project Manager, Central Office.

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

D. Griffin Hospital Anonymous Monetary Donation.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco asked Mrs. Crooks to speak regarding the monetary donation.

She said they learned about a person who is wishing to donate a large sum of money to support mindfulness in the district. She said there were several meetings with the donor and shared the plans they had for the funds. Mrs. Crooks said the plans would maximize instructional time in the classroom. She said the donor was pleased with the plans for the money and she would like to remain anonymous. Mrs. Crooks said the program is based on brain science.

MOTION: To approve monetary donation from anonymous individual associated with Griffin Hospital.

	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		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		7		0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives

Both Student Representatives were no in attendance. Superintendent DiBacco said they wanted to share the cheerleaders won the State Championship Title.

Ms. Tammy Adames, Assistant Principal, high school, told the Board NGSS Testing was recently completed and it went very well. She said SATs will be coming up next. Mrs. Adames and Superintendent DiBacco told the Board about a fun day for seniors that took place, where students had a day just for them which included special breakfast, special lunch and many activities and raffles.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin was not present. Mr. Bshara said the report is included, there were no questions.

C. Special Education Director's Report

Mrs. Stephanie Savo gave her report, she reviewed the numbers of students receiving special services, outplaced students, and the large number of newly enrolled students who also receive services. Mrs. Savo talked about CT-SEDs system training that will be taking place through a grant. She told the Board she is looking into options regarding outplaced students. She said the growing number is a large part of the budget. Mrs. Savo shared the numerous activities and programs that took place throughout the month, as well as the upcoming plans for a uniform "store" for students to purchase uniforms, a conference she will be attending, and shared about an outplaced student recently graduating from this program.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore greeted the Board, and reviewed his report. He told the Board about the quarterly security that was completed, quarterly password reset, and also the purchase of ViewSonic interactive boards.

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. He said it appears to be approximately \$1 million over budget, but he is confident it will even out after all expenses are caught up.

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham presented the financial updates and gave his report. He gave the Profit & Loss report numbers, Balance sheet numbers, and all other reports. He said they are in very good shape. Mr. Benham said this month they got the spend downs for next year. He said next month will be the annual administrative review. He said they will be there for approximately one week, and he will report back with results. Mr. Benham said next month is time to renew the Healthy Food Certification, where the Board will need to vote on the program. He said this will allow a state reimbursement on each meal.

G. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Tom Brockett was not present. Mrs. Adames told the Board, basketball season is over. She said both boys and girls made it to the first round of CIAC playoffs. Discussion about where Middle School spring sports will be played, as well as the condition of the fields took place.

H. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco and Mr. Bshara went over the enrollment report. Discussion about high enrollment numbers and the difficult time teachers have trying to get new students to perform at the level of our students who have been in the district, as well as planning and budgeting for the district from a financial standpoint.

I. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi gave his report, he pointed out that most of these students are from the same or lower DRG as our district. He said this also includes a large number of students who receive special services, including outplaced students. Mr. Lisi said there are about thirty more new students since this report. He talked about many vacant apartments and the growing transient population that hurts the district.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans gave his report. He told the Board about a broken sprinkler that set the fire alarm off at Mead School. He said the defective sprinkler was replaced and there was minimal damage. He also talked about an accident that occurred with one of the maintenance trucks at Mead School. Mr. Evans said the truck slid on black ice and the driver lost control. He said the truck was totaled when it jumped a curb and flipped into the retention pond. He said thankfully, the driver had no injuries. Mr. Evans also told the Board he received a quote for a boiler replacement at the high school for \$168,000. He said they are going through the security grant and are looking to perform some upgrades in the district. He said there will be other meetings to see exactly what the funds will be spent on. Mr. Evans also said there will be a mediation hearing on April 28, in Hartford to see what the storage garage outcome will be.

K. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. Dr. Morales mentioned it was Board of Education Member Appreciation Month. He thanked the Board for all they do and their support. He told the Board of the many activities happening throughout the month in the district including the first meeting of Ansonia Family University, his trip to Washington, DC for President's Day Weekend, and the dedication ceremony naming Ansonia Police Station's Caucus Room in memory of Bruce Goldson, Sr., as a part of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brotherhood Awards Committee for Black History Month. Dr. Morales also said he will be volunteering to participate in the TEAM, Inc sponsored event Men Who Cook on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He also thanked the Board for their continued support and recognition for Board of Education Member Appreciation Month. He mentioned again, how proud he is for the high school cheerleaders in winning the State Championship title. He thanked Dennis Proto for attending a legislative breakfast which focused on Excess Cost funding from Special Education, and the increase in ECS funding to all districts. He said there was a college signing day at the high school, that he was fortunate to attend. He said it was great to see the future college students able to thank their coaches and families. Dr. DiBacco said it was so very impressive to see that twenty-one out of twenty-two students who applied were accepted to UCONN. He talked about the new book vending machine at Prendergast and Mead Schools. He said they are an awesome asset. He also said he met with Karen Phipps and Dennis Proto regarding summer internships for high school students. Dr. DiBacco said he is very pleased at the opportunities that are quickly becoming available to our high school students outside of regular education classes.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

Ms. Diane Stroman thanked everyone again for her award. She also mentioned that Mead and Prendergast Schools had Black History Programs. She said there were readers from the community, as well as speakers that came into the schools.

V. Executive Session regarding Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsion at 7:25pm.

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

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the stipulated agreement as presented by the Superintendent for three expulsions.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	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	0

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

	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	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X	1	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	1	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 3/21/2023