

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 18 January 2023 **TIME:** 6:40 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	5	2	0

II. Public Session

Mr. Bshara asked to copy the statements from Organizational Meeting.

Ms. Medina, 32 Woodbridge Ave. Ms. Medina greeted the Board and said she wanted to thank all involved with the Parent University Program. She said it was an all-around great experience and she appreciated that Mr. Morales' door was always open. She said her family learned many things. Ms. Medina said the program provided ways for families to learn the many opportunities available in this community. She thanked everyone for allowing her family to be a part of the program.

Ms. Perez, 157 Hodge Ave. Ms. Perez asked Mr. Morales to interpret for her in English. Mr. Morales told the Board Ms. Perez said it was a pleasure to be a part of the program. He said Ms. Perez has two children in the district. He told the Board, Ms. Perez said as a single mom, she was glad to have the program and she will incorporate tools into the community. Mr. Morales said, Ms. Perez told the Board she hopes more parents will participate in the program, and it was a great opportunity.

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated December 14, 2022

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated December 14, 2022.

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

MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		5		

B. Certified Appointments

1. Michael Gingras, Grade 7, Social Studies, Ansonia Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Mr. Gingras is very excited to join us. He said he believes this will be a great fit for the Middle School.

2. Heather Marcoux, Grade 6, Science, Ansonia Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board Ms. Marcoux is looking forward to joining our district and he knows she will soon be a great asset to the Middle School.

MOTION: To approve new hires

1. Michael Gingras, Ansonia Middle School

2. Heather Marcoux, Ansonia Middle School.

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives

Zach DaSilva, student member, told the Board, the recent MLK program that was held at the high school was a huge success. He said there was a great turn-out and the program was very good.

Sabrina Ortega told the Board, her sister, a former high school graduate, came to speak to students interested in Engineering. Sabrina said her sister is currently employed by NASA. She said there was also a dress down day that raised funds for a Middle School student who is very ill. She said all the high school students were very generous.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin said his report will take place later during the presentation with Mr. Hiruo.

C. Special Education Director's Report

Mrs. Stephanie Savo gave her report, she reviewed the numbers of students receiving special services, she said there have been several newly enrolled students already receiving services. Ms. Savo told the Board, the department is still in compliance with the state and the new CT-SEDS system. She said they will continue doing what is necessary to ensure compliance and data is correct. She briefed the Board on student events happening throughout the district.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore said last month there were another nine chrome book carts created. He said at this point there are plenty of chrome books for our students. He said there was a new server purchased which will have dual back up capability. He told the Board, he applied for a PEGPETIA grant.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2020-2021 Year-to-Date.
2. Grants and other Income.

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham gave the financial updates. He reviewed the reports and spending in detail. He said the fund balance will be coming down with spending that is in the pipeline. Mr. Bshara said they should plan to meet in the near future for budget meetings and getting into Infinite Visions.

G. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Tom Brockett was not present. Superintendent DiBacco told the Board the All-State Banquet was taking place tonight.

H. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the report.

I. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi gave his report. He told the Board, this month there wasn't much of a change. He said he looked into Valley Transit for assisting the Middle School and this will not be an option.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans gave his report. He said the Maintenance Department has been working on HVAC issues. He said the most recent is a boiler at the high school. He told the Board there were several projects that took place during the winter break. He said the high school wood shop received new equipment. Mr. Evans said the other contractor has agreed to mediation regarding the ongoing garage project. He also said there is a custodian retiring, as well as two out on medical leave.

K. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. He said he is blown away by the love, support and financial backing by the community for his Freedom Tour. He said there has been close to \$40,000 raised so far for his trip that will be happening in the spring. He said the recent MLK event was a huge success, thanks to Ms. Stroman and TEAM. He said it was an incredible day. Dr. Morales also talked about the success of the first Parent University. He said the families will continue to meet once a month.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He thanked Dr. Morales and Ms. Diane Stroman for the amazing MLK event. He also gave praise to the Parent University Program. He said it is a great tool to teach parents to navigate and advocate for their children and themselves.

Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, he and Mr. Bergin just recently visited Singapore. He said it is part of an Internationalization Initiative. He said the plan is going to be presented by Mr. Jason Hiruo. Superintendent DiBacco said this has been in the works for a long time.

Mr. Jason Hiruo Director, ACES International, gave a Power Point presentation, describing in great detail the purpose and goal of the Singapore Project. He said the most important piece, is he has a team of people working in all of North America connecting learning communities. He said the goal is to continue expanding for educators and learning communities. He said this goal will bridge learning communities together and ensure the experiences are meaningful for all. Mr. Hiruo said they are looking to provide world skills to our students. He said the program is about creating a diversified experience for teachers to bring back into their classroom. Mr. Hiruo gave the background and start of the international academic components that would involve Ansonia. He said this progressive opportunity is very unique. He said advanced learning experiences and student success is the goal. He had numerous reasons why Singapore is one of the very top countries for education. He said this country invests all their money into education. He said their model with education and instruction is outstanding and we can learn many, many things. Mr. Hiruo said connections were established during their visit, that will allow them to succeed in the project. He told the Board; the country was warm and inviting. He said this will allow Ansonia teachers opportunity to grow. He said we can provide multicultural opportunities by enrolling students into ACES which will bring tuition revenue to Ansonia. He said there are many benefits to Ansonia participating in the International Program. He said it will benefit school culture, climate, allow friendships to build, enhance classroom collaboration, as well as many other positive skill development tools. Mr. Hiruo described the next steps for the project. He said the design team will be carefully selected and work with colleagues in Singapore. He said Ansonia schools can begin to implement the program first. He said there are endless options of growth possible. He said the idea was brought to the mayor's office and he was very excited and gave his permission to move forward. Mr. Hiruo thanked the Board for their time.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

V. Executive Session regarding Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsion at 7:36pm.

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

MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2			
TOTAL		5	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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson
Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 1/18/2023