

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at the Robert E. Zuraw Admin Office, DTL, 42 Grove St. **DATE:** 25 May 2022 **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Richard 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 the victims of Uvalde, Texas.

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Informational items and possible actions regarding:

A. AMS.

1. Investment 101 (Grade 8)

Discussion: Mr. John LaRovera, Director Mathematics, told the Board, his team has been collaborating and put together a Middle School Business Program. He said this is the first of its kind in the entire state. He said Personal Finance, Coding, and now Investment 101 will cause a perfect bridge to the current high school program. Mr. LaRovera said he is trying to create these bridges between science, medical, or business to make the Middle School students aware of the opportunities before they even reach the high school. He explained the Investment 101 course, and the important purpose it holds for all students. He introduced Mr. Rubin Little who is in charge of the Investment 101 course. Mr. Little thanked Mr. LaRovera, he talked about his credentials, connections that lead him to our district, and personal beliefs on the importance for our students to learn. He complimented the district, expressed his excitement for the program, and told the Board our Middle School is paving the way with this financial literacy program that will be put in place. Mr. Little shared many positive experiences he has daily with students and staff at the Middle School and thanked the Board for the opportunity. Mr. LaRovera said with Mr. Little, Mrs. Karen Phipps, and Mr. Dennis Proto, the program is remarkable. He asked the Board to move forward, allowing Investment 101 to be part of the grade 8 curriculum.

MOTION: To adopt the Investment 101 curriculum, beginning 2022-2023 school year.

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

B. AHS

2. Black and Latino Course

Discussion: Ms. Kayla Jarrin, Director ELA and Social Studies, told the Board, there are state requirements being put in place for this type of class. She said this yearlong course will be available for 11th and 12th grade students. Ms. Jarrin said there will be two parts to the course. She described the curriculum and positive vision involved in the class. She said part of the class will be working with Dr. Reese Morales and members of our community who support the empowerment of our students. She said it is important to be able to allow students to identify, to learn and support social justice, gain perspective on US History, and gain knowledge about Black, Puerto Rican, and Latino History. She said the course is available to all 11th and 12th grade students, regardless of their race.

Mr. Bshara asked what grade US History is taken. Mr. Jarrin told him it is taken in 11th grade. She said the new class will be offered alongside US History for 11th graders. Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, this is a healthy start for teachers to be able to create programs like this. He said some districts have already piloted a similar curriculum. He said it will give significant meaning to students who are not always represented in other classes or history books. He told the Board, as we move on, there will be similar courses. He said the plan is to implement Asian History and culture in two years. Ms. Jarrin said teachers John Mihalko and Ben Schwartz had curriculum training and are prepared and ready to dive into the course.

Ms. LaBerge asked if there is a text book for the class. Ms. Jarrin said there is a text book. She said an expert panel from the state of CT created the course. She told the Board this is unheard of, and they are very excited to implement the course.

Mr. Steve Bergin said normally when the state mandates anything, there is no real direction. He said this time is different. He said there will be a very small cost to the district and the curriculum is very good.

Superintendent DiBacco said he is confident we have a high level of support from the state implementing this class. He said he applauds the committee for their effort rolling out this course, they have done a wonderful job with it.

Mr. Phipps asked if there is one particular teacher involved. Ms. Jarrin said Mr. Mihalko and Mr. Schwartz are both trained. She said it will start with Mr. Mihalko and then move to expand. She said she believes the class will catch fire, it represents our diversity. She said she thinks the kids will love the rich content the course shows. She told the Board; the teacher will not be the expert in the room. She said the kids will be diving into it together. Ms. Jarrin said, meaningful conversations will be happening, which represents the style of class that takes place today. She said she is very excited for the students, as well as teachers, having conversations along with tough questions to answer together. She told the Board it will be great exposure to taking our students to the next level.

Mr. Phipps asked if there is going to be any sort of pre-requisite for this. Ms. Jarrin said the only recommendation that the state made was to offer the class to 11th and 12th grade students. She said it will be preferred to take US History before, but not required. She said it makes sense to focus on 11th and 12th grade. She said planning will take place for students of every level, as well as ELA content. Ms. Jarrin said changes will be made, as necessary for all learners.

MOTION: To incorporate the Black and Latino Course beginning school year 2022-2023.

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

2. Honors English I

3. Honors Global History I and II

4. Honors Academy

Discussion: Ms. Jarrin said she will talk about items 2, 3, and 4 together. She told the Board, currently there are no Honors English classes offered for grade 9. She said there are Honors Geometry and Honors Biology courses. Ms. Jarrin said she would like to see four core honors courses for the freshmen students. She told the Board, students enrolled in all four, will be called Honors Academy. She said she is learning that amazing students are being lost to other high school opportunities because of the lack of honors programs. She said the goal is to be able to offer our students the best of both worlds. She said the rigorous academic education, all the way to the pathway programs. Ms. Jarrin said this new Honors Academy will promote students, and allow them to stand out.

Mr. Bshara asked if part of this will allow students to choose more electives, since they are able to take honors programs earlier on. Superintendent DiBacco agreed, and said it will also look amazing when a student can graduate with a significantly greater amount of credits. He said this will allow credits from the Middle School to transfer to the high school Honors Academy.

There was discussion regarding the re-implementation of the Talented and Gifted Program.

Ms. LaBerge asked if a student is great in one subject and not all four, will they still be able to take one of the honors classes. Ms. Jarrin said yes, they will be allowed to take one and not all honors classes. She said the Honors Academy will be made up of students who take all four classes.

Mr. Bergin thanked Ms. Jarrin and Mr. LaRovera for their hard work, he said they did a great job with the programs.

MOTION: To allow the Honors English I, Honors Global History I and II, and the Honors Academy Program.

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

C. District

1. Specialists Evaluation Rubrics

2. Related Services Evaluation Rubrics

Discussion: Mr. Bergin said items 1 and 2 can be combined. He said approximately a year ago, the new teacher evaluation rubric was complete, along with the help of Mr. Todd White. He said teachers created the rubric and it has been successfully up and running. He said the coaches and staff who assisted in creating this rubric asked to have one created for them as well. Mr. Bergin told the Board, the process was repeated with Todd White, making some adjustments to fit the Specialists. He said Related Services staff also requested a similar process. Mr. Bergin said if approved, they are rubrics aligned with the teacher plan. He said this is very high level, and most districts don't have anything like this in place.

Mr. Bshara asked if we will use the rubric for staff members who are not performing up to standard. Superintendent DiBacco said if a staff member is not performing well, they will be coached to become better. He said if directions are not followed, there may be consequences. He said there are multiple evaluators involved. He said the staff needs to be supported according to their job description, and this new evaluation process will allow this.

Superintendent DiBacco said this has been long over due and he is proud to implement this process.

MOTION: To adopt the Specialists Evaluation Rubric.

To adopt the Related Services Evaluation Rubric.

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

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 6/01/2022