

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 11 May 2022 **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Chris Phipps, Vice President.

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. **Roll Call** – Mr. Phipps 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

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

A. Student Achievements

Mrs. Crooks introduced the following Ansonia Public Schools' students:

- Daniel Rotteck (Ansonia Middle School)
- Brianna Mastrantoni (Ansonia Middle School)
- Fahmida Chowdhury (Ansonia High School)
- Christopher Kaminski (Ansonia High School)

These students were presented with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Award. Mrs. Crooks explained that students are nominated to receive this award by their school principal. Students nominated exhibit the following leadership skills:

- Willingness to take on challenges
- Capability to make difficult decisions
- Concern for others
- Ability to work with others
- Willingness to commit to a project
- Diplomacy Ability to understand issues clearly
- Ability to honor a commitment

B. Staff

Mrs. Laura Baker-Coronis, 2022 Milken Educator Award Recipient.

Mr. John LaRovera, Director Math and Science, and Mr. Paul Giansanti, high school principal joined Mrs. Crooks to congratulate Mrs. Baker-Coronis. Mrs. Crooks told the Board, Mrs. Baker-Coronis is the only recipient in the state of Connecticut. John LaRovera shared Laura's amazing accomplishments, and spoke about her effective teaching skills. He told the Board, her hands-on, small group teaching style, empowers students to work together to productively struggle on a concept or task related to STEM. Mr. LaRovera said her style creates positive discourse and allows students to learn from each other. He told the Board this enables students to increase socialization and communication skills, while building mutual respect. He shared that students do not feel shy to share responses, and many former students who pursue STEM careers have credited Laura for their successes after high school. Mr. LaRovera said she is the epitome of teaching, and he is proud to be working alongside her.

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. **Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated April 20, 2022 (regular).**

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated April 20, 2022 (regular).

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

B. Retirement, Matthew Puzzo, Prendergast School.

Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, Mr. Puzzo served within the district for 35 years. He said Mr. Puzzo will be sadly missed and thanked him for the positive impact he has on Ansonia students. He asked the Board send a letter of thanks to Mr. Puzzo for his years of service.

MOTION: To accept request for retirement of Mr. Matthew Puzzo, Prendergast School teacher.

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

C. Report and recommendation from the Athletic Committee.

Mr. Phipps updated the board regarding the recent Athletic Committee meeting. He told the Board; the discussion was mainly about planning to re-implement Middle School sports. Mr. Phipps said next year, Middle School sports will return. He said there are a couple issues, but hopefully with assistance from the city, they will be overcome. Mr. Phipps said eventually, exposing the lower level students to athletics is also the plan. He said the number of athlete participation has significantly decreased with all aged sports. Mr. Tom Brockett, Athletic Director, thanked the Board, as well as Superintendent DiBacco and Mr. Bergin for making this plan possible. He said it may take a couple of years to get where the program needs to be, but it will happen.

Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Brockett.

D. Certified Appointment, Ms. Sherri Marquardt, Director of Extended Day Program.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said the district continues to be required to provide enrichment, after-school programs, before-school programs, and summer program. He said Ms. Marquardt ran this past year's summer program and did an amazing job.

Mr. Steve Bergin told the Board, this position was posted, and he said Ms. Marquardt has been doing a phenomenal job and has immediately had a positive impact. He said they are very pleased to have her.

MOTION: To accept the certified appointment of Ms. Sherri Marquardt, Director of Extended Day Program.

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin continued to speak of the changes for the summer school program. He told the Board about the enrichment plan Ms. Marquardt has for the program.

B. Special Education Director's Report.

Mr. Kevin Keating told the Board, Ms. Marquardt has also been helping the Special Services Department with their Extended School Year Program. He said she is helping with arranging transportation, among other tasks. Mr. Keating talked about the percentage of students who are receiving special services, he said students are being provided in-house services at the programs located within the district.

Mr. Phipps asked Mr. Keating to thank his staff, they are doing a wonderful job.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore presented his report. He talked about the new email archive system, the grant to replace the server, and several other projects happening throughout the district.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Rick Belden

Mr. Phipps said he noticed the Food Service line item is listed under Financials. He said he thinks the Food Service deserves to have their own line item. He asked if this line can be replaced.

1. 2020-2021 Year-to-Date.
2. Food Service.

Mr. Kevin Benham, Food Services Director, told the Board they are still in the process of transition the system. He said hopefully they are going to complete this in the near future. He said the numbers on the report beginning July 1, 2022 should be correct. He told the Board; the department recently completed the Wellness Policy. Mr. Benham said this summary can be posted to show how much is being done for the department. He said Food Services will be participating in the Wellness Fair that will be taking place in Ansonia. He talked about a large reimbursement that was received on May 6, 2022. He said he will follow up with the city to confirm their receipt.

Mr. Phipps asked if the supply shortage continues to affect the department.

Mr. Benham said it does affect the department in many different ways. He said some areas have improved and some continue to cause problems.

3. Athletics.
4. Grants and other Income.

E. Athletic Report

Mr. Tom Brockett, Athletic Director reminded the Board about the plans he mentioned earlier to improve the department.

F. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the Enrollment Report.

G. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi was not present. Questions can be emailed to him.

H. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans was not present. Questions regarding his report can be sent to him.

I. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. He congratulated Ms. Kelly Balanca, 2023 Teacher of the Year. He told the Board he attended the Harvard University 3-day Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Forum, as well as the UCONN Neag School of Education Leadership in Diversity Conference. Mr. Morales said he is excited for the first Ansonia Brave Conversations gathering taking place on May 13. He said the goal is the have full and equitable participation of people from all social identity groups.

J. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He told the Board the district sent the nurses a token of thanks for Nurses Day. He reported about an amazing scholarship that high school senior, Louis Gripper received. He said the prestigious award worth \$40,000, only goes to the very best students throughout the country. Superintendent DiBacco told the Board about the growing relationship between Mr. George Mitchell and Sikorsky. He said it is wonderful to be affiliated with Mr. Mitchell and the company. Superintendent DiBacco said the problem of transiency continues to grow and the challenge the faculty face. He said that doesn't hide the fact of the success rate for students who enter the district and stay throughout high school. He also told the Board about a pod cast he will speak on regarding the district and his actions.

K. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

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

MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1			
TOTAL		4	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

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Recording

Secretary

Date: 5/17/2022