

**ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMENDED MEETING MINUTES**

PLACE: meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 20 April 2022 **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	6	1	0

Mr. Bshara asked for a moment of silence for Mrs. Ioanna Madigosky, former Ansonia Public Schools Teachers. Ms. Bshara sent his condolences to her family and friends. He said Mrs. Madigosky was a well-respected teacher for many years in the district.

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

A. Student Achievements

Mrs. Crooks welcomed middle school and high school students who scored a level 4 on the SBAC Test for ELA, Math, or both. This was the last group of students recognized for having excelled on these tests. Scoring a level 4 is the highest score and means the students exceed grade level expectations for that year. She said the test was given during difficult times last year, and these students did a phenomenal job. She also said that scoring a level 4 is an exceptional accomplishment any year, but wanted to point out that these students scored a level 4 when the school year was significantly disrupted due to COVID. Mrs. Crooks awarded each student with a certificate, congratulated them and told them how proud we all are. The Board and all attendees congratulated the group for their excellent effort.

B. Mallory Emmons, PAEMST Award Recipient

Next Mrs. Crooks introduced Director of Math and Science, John LaRovera, to help her announce the next award. She also acknowledged that Principal Liz Nimons was also in attendance. Mrs. Crooks reminded those in attendance that the Chargers Champions Recognition Program was created to recognize students and staff who go above and beyond in and out of the classroom. She was excited to join Mr. LaRovera and Mrs. Nimons to recognize a staff member who is truly a Chargers Champion.

Mr. LaRovera congratulated Mallory Emmons from Prendergast School who recently received the PAEMST award. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, math, technology, engineering and computer science. Mr. LaRovera told the Board these awards recognize teachers who have a deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas. He said she was only one of two teachers who received the award in CT.

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated February 9, 2022 (regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated February 9, 2022 (regular).

	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		X		
TOTAL		6	0	1

B. Certified appointments.

1. Kerry DeFelice, Special Education, Prendergast.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, Ms. DeFelice is a very solid applicant. He said Ms. DeFelice has done work in the district, she works well with the staff, and he is confident she is the right fit for Prendergast School.

**MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Ms. Kerry DeFelice,
Special Education, Prendergast 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		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS				X
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		5	0	1

C. Retirements

1. Roger Daigle, Ansonia High School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, Mr. Daigle is a true gentleman who is going to be greatly missed. He said Mr. Daigle has done everything the district asked. He said the students love him, the staff loves him, and he is a huge supporter of the children.

2. Ms. Christa Cable, Ansonia Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Cable has over 15 years of dedication to the district. He said she is an amazing teacher, who has a great reputation with all students and the entire staff. He told the Board, Ms. Cable goes above and beyond to support the students.

MOTION: To accept request for retirements:

Mr. Roger Daigle, Ansonia High School, Ms. Christa Cable, Ansonia Middle School.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

D. Ansonia Public Schools 2022-2023 School Calendar.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the new calendar, telling the Board they worked with the union to arrange the parent/teacher conference dates, school holidays, and professional days. He said the new calendar has an early start date in August, which will allow for the and early closing in June. He told the Board there are no extreme changes. There was brief discussion regarding changes.

MOTION: To accept the Ansonia Public Schools 2022-2023 School Calendar.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

E. Pine Trust Use Request

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, every year this advanced manufacturing, Project Lead the Way, Pathway to Engineering Grant has been so very beneficial. He said the Sikorsky STEM Challenge program also benefits through the funding. He said this \$20,000 grant is handled well by Mrs. Karen Phipps at the high school.

Mr. Bshara asked about the amount of the grant.

Mr. Rick Belden clarified the total amount is \$20,000 each year.

MOTION: To accept the Pine Trust Grant Request.

	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		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	0	

F. Healthy Food Certification Statement School Year 2022-23.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said this certification is suggested for the district to be part of the free and reduced lunch program.

MOTION: To accept the Healthy Food Option.

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		6	0	

Motion: To Accept The Healthy Food and Beverage Exemption.

The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with Page 3 of 3 | Connecticut State Department of Education an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

G. Appointment, Patricia Boyle, Human Resource & Finance Assistant

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said this position is going to assist in any HR questions needed to be addressed by staff. He said it is not replacing a traditional HR Director, but will assist. He said the person will also help in the Finance Department.

Mr. Bshara asked if the position will be union or non-union.

Superintendent DiBacco said it will be a non-union position.

Mr. Rick Belden told the Board the position will assist in new hires, utilization with the absence software system, and will be back up to the current payroll function. Mr. Belden said training will be done in Infinite Visions. He said the position will be similar in salary to our payroll person and assistant to the Superintendent.

Mr. Bshara asked the timeline on the contract.

Mr. Belden said this is a yearly contract.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Patricia Boyle, Human Resource & Finance Assistant.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	0	

H. FY 2022-2023 Budget

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said this year, the budget process looked different from any other. He said there are several areas where large savings were able to happen. He said this year they are asking for a 1.13% increase. He said there were huge improvements made throughout the district this past year. He said this modest increase will allow the district to continue moving forward. Superintendent DiBacco said he wants to be able to get what is best for the kids. He apologized for not getting numbers to the Board sooner, and invited anyone to come to him with questions.

Mr. Belden addressed the Board. He said he viewed the budget as a carry forward. He said nothing is looking to be cut, he is looking to carry forward. He asked the Board to refer to the packet with all the details in each expense. Mr. Belden said the savings that has been growing in the reserve is a huge benefit. He said the district is well above the average for this number. He continued to review the line items of the presented budget. Mr. Belden said next year's process will ensure any improvements that will be made to benefit the students. He pointed out the savings on the outplaced students, and the Special Education Department as a whole.

Mr. Belden said in the past two years, there were significant savings generated during the pandemic. He said typical bills were not being incurred like a regular school year. He said the district is in a great situation because of the savings that were able to take place.

Mr. Phipps asked for some explanation and detail regarding transportation numbers being in the red.

Mr. Belden said the contract under All-Star is a certain rate per day, per bus. He said there was research to show the allocation had not been changed in about five years. He said they were able to change the percentages with transportation budgeting and billing due to reallocations.

Mr. Knapp asked when the electric buses will be taking place.

Mr. Belden said a grant was given to the corporation who owns All-Star Transportation. He said the challenge is the demand and shortage for producing the new buses. He said there will also be a problem trying to implement charging stations for the vehicles.

Superintendent DiBacco said he will update the Board with any information he may receive.

Motion: To approve FY 2022-23 in the amount of \$33,926,212.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	0	

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin thanked the Board for all their support and presented each member with customized mugs for Board appreciation month. He reminded the Board there was no meeting in March, and said his packet is lengthy. He reviewed the change to early dismissal times for each building during inclement weather for next school year. He spoke about the preparation for the new staffing and training for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Bergin also discussed the development of new teacher orientation process. He told the Board about the Smarter Balanced Assessment for students in grade 3-8. He talked about all the positive things that continues to come out of our schools with activities, partnerships, awards, development, and many more.

B. Special Education Director's Report.

Mr. Kevin Keating was not in attendance. Any questions can be emailed to him.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore was not at the meeting. Questions can be sent to him.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Mr. Rick Belden, School Business Administrator told the Board most of his report is regarding the budget that was discussed earlier in the meeting. He said the format for the monthly report was updated a bit. He said there will be general comments added to the report. He said the trend continues to move toward a budgetary surplus. Mr. Belden asked the Board to refer to his report for all updates. He showed the Board the first payment from Excess Cost Grant has been made. He said everything is going well regarding the budget.

Mr. Bshara commented more discussion will need to take place at the finance meeting.

1. 2020-2021 Year-to-Date.
2. Athletics.

There was discussion regarding trying to add sports to other schools, such as the Middle School. Superintendent DiBacco said the lack of coaches has always been a problem. He said revisiting salaries might need to happen. Mr. Bshara agreed, and said it should be looked into. Mr. Phipps suggested to put the Athletics line item on its own, instead of being placed under Financials. Mr. Bshara agreed and asked it be placed under Informational Items on the agenda.

4. Grants and other Income.

E. Food Services Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham, Food Service Director, was not at the meeting. Superintendent DiBacco asked any questions to be emailed to Mr. Benham.

F. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the Enrollment Report. Mr. Bshara asked if the report can reflect the flow of students coming in and leaving the district. Mr. Phipps mentioned the previous year's numbers were not listed on the report anymore. Mr. Bshara agreed, the history would be helpful.

G. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi presented his report. He told the Board added problems with attendance numbers are students who leave the district with no notice. He said these students are being accounted for and they are not in-district any longer. He said there are 274 new students from August to March. He said out of these newly registered students, 44% were of the same DRG or lower. He said these students can be very low performing, and our district is responsible to service them. Mr. Lisi said 85 of these students already receive special services.

Mr. Knapp asked if this trend is moving upward.

Mr. Lisi said the trend is absolutely moving up.

Superintendent DiBacco talked about the very low percentage of students who started Kindergarten and stayed through grade 12. He said the transient rate is at an unbelievable increase.

H. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans reviewed his report, he said the storage garage located at the high school is very near the end. He said the funds that can be recouped from this project, will most likely be returned to the city.

Mr. Bshara asked if the reimbursement roof money from the state has any progress. Mr. Evans said they are waiting for the state to take an assessment and determine the outcome.

Mr. Evans said the HVAC Systems are 24 years old. He said the existing equipment could be replaced for approximately \$1.4 million. He said there would also be a grant to apply. Mr. Evans told the Board his staff will be CMIS certified this summer. He said this two-year certification will put everyone on the same page for cross training possibilities. He also said there will be two students hired for summer work throughout the district.

There were no questions.

I. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equality and Communications reviewed his report with the Board. He told them of the many positive activities happening throughout the district for the past two months. He shared the opportunities that continue to be offered to our students on a daily basis. Mr. Morales congratulated the recipients of the awards that were presented. He told the Board about discussions that took place at the high school, with students regarding making choices after graduation. He said he would love to put a Civil Rights type tour of black colleges together during spring break next school year. Mr. Morales also said he would like to see the implementation of Black History courses offered at the high school. He thanked the Board.

J. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco told the Board he wrote a letter to the mayor asking to reconvene the School Building Committee. He said this was held off previously, until the Regionalization was tabled. He said the mayor has been very positive, and he will keep the Board updated. Superintendent DiBacco said he is very proud to have suggested the Good Neighbor Next-door Program. He said it gives teachers, firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians the opportunity to purchase a home in our community at a discounted rate. He spoke about courses Southern Connecticut State University is interested in offering our students at the high school. He said he met with the Commissioner of Early Childhood, to try and implement cost efficient childcare for our community, as well as our teachers. He said he is beyond proud of the Presidential award given to Mallory Emmons and the prestigious MILKEN Award to Laura Baker-Coronis. He told the Board how talented these two educators are and Ansonia is very fortunate to have them. He said is shows the perfect example of high caliber teachers we have.

K. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regarding pending litigation with the City of Ansonia.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:27pm regarding pending litigation with the City of Ansonia.

	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		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

To return to regular meeting

VI. ACTION on items discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION: To accept stipulated agreement as presented.

	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			X	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	2	

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Secretary

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Date: 5/13/2022