

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Robert E. Zuraw Administration Office, DTL, 42 Grove Street **DATE:** 27 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(6:45p.m.)
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	2	1

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Informational items and possible action regarding:

A. Facilities

Discussion: Mr. Bob Evans said there is a plan to try and implement direct communication with the police station. He said there will be hand held radio connection for administrators to the police department. Mr. Evans said he would also like the camera access to be available for the police, as well. He said the outdated fire system needs to be upgraded, the plan is to complete it this summer.

Superintendent DiBacco also shared plans to expand the district with numerous building improvements and upgrades. Some discussions for the future included; an Early Childhood Learning Center, and addition to the high school for the PACE Program to include a satellite branch for Sacred Heart University, a new Middle School building, an upgrade to the DTL Special Services Department, and new and improved ballfields to also include implementing middle school sports.

There was a lengthy conversation with all in attendance regarding the possibilities for all ideas.

MOTION: To allow the Superintendent to proceed with the Ed Specifications process.

	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				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

B. Safety

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said the only recommendation he has regarding safety, is to put additional security in the buildings. He said, specifically the Middle School. Superintendent DiBacco said, an SRO is necessary for the Middle School. He told the Board he spoke with the police chief, and the discussion of retired officers at the elementary schools would be a great asset. Superintendent DiBacco said he would like the Board to consider this in the future.

Mr. Bshara asked what would the Board need to do to put this in place.

Superintendent DiBacco said if these individuals were able, they would just need to be hired.

Mr. Bshara said it will be brought up at the next meeting to discuss further.

Ms. LaBerge asked if we didn't have officers available for the Middle School, would ex-military or retired officers be an option in the meantime. Superintendent DiBacco said he would like to hear all ideas and will speak with the chief regarding all options.

MOTION: To allow the Superintendent to pursue hiring additional safety staff in school buildings.

	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				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

C. Personnel

Discussion: This discussion will resume at the next meeting.

D. Curriculum

Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin was not present.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said he knows Mr. Bergin has great ideas regarding the curriculum.

Superintendent DiBacco agreed, Mr. Bergin will discuss the plans he has.

Superintendent DiBacco talked about the plans for PowerSchool and the necessary tools needed for it to run smoothly, with the easiest way staff can receive their data. He also talked about implementing the i-Ready Program for students to be able to learn and excel on-line. He said students will get the individual help they need. He told the Board it will be the easiest way for staff and parents to receive information regarding their student's learning.

Superintendent DiBacco said he is looking into partnering with The Vision to Learn Program. He said this program can be funded with grant money, and will screen students, supply them with glasses, and come back to follow up with the students. He said this will hopefully begin in the fall. He also said he would like to implement CHC Health Clinics, at no cost to the district, to give medical attention to our students. Superintendent DiBacco also spoke of a district crisis Social Worker. He said the mental health need for students is much greater than ever before. He said this will be funded through IDEA grant.

E. Contracts

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said he has been looking at the five largest contracts, which are the phone system, copiers, electric, transportation, and legal. He said we are still under contract with Mitel, the phone system. He said all upgrades continue to happen over the internet. There was further discussion regarding the update, he said he will inform the Board when he has more to report.

Superintendent DiBacco said the copier contract is with Xerox. He said the contract will end in 2024. He told the Board he is not extremely happy with the copiers, but he can get reliable repair service and that is a good thing.

There was discussion about the transportation contract, which ends in 2025. He told the Board, All-Star Transportation services the valley and is the only vendor in the area with the property necessary to park buses. He said all bus companies are having a very difficult time. Superintendent DiBacco said we will put the contract out to bid in 2025 and see what happens.

Superintendent DiBacco suggested the Board look into educational legal firms for whatever may come up. He said these firms specialize in education and other legal topics. He said there is no requirement to have to choose only one firm for business exclusively.

MOTION: To solicit RFP, RFQ for legal services for the next school year.

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

Mr. Bshara said there are two labor contracts that are being negotiated. He said they are almost complete. Mr. Bshara asked Superintendent DiBacco if there are any other major contracts coming up, Superintendent DiBacco said there are none.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	

submitted,

Venson

Recording Secretary

Respectfully

Cassie

Cassie Vensor

Date: 5/5/2021