

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: meeting held via Zoom **DATE:** 09 February 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	7	0	0

Mr. Bshara asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for former principal, Jill Spanier. He gave condolences from the Board to her family and friends.

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. **Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated December 8, 2021 (organizational) and December 8, 2021 (regular).**

Ms. Beth LaBerge said her name is spelled wrong, to please make the correction.

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated January 7, 2022 (special), January 12, 2022 (regular).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	1	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		7	0	

B. Certified appointments.

1. Corey Chase, Math, Ansonia Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, it is a tremendous benefit hiring this certified Math teacher. He said this teacher has a great relationship with students, as well as staff, and he is excited to have this new hire for the Middle School.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Corey Chase, Math, Ansonia Middle School.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	1	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		7	0	

2. Amy Burns, PreK Special Education, Mead School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said it is not easy to find a certified Special Education teacher. He said it is a very important job working with our youngest students. He told the Board said Ms. Burns is an excellent hire.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Amy Burns, PreK Special Education, Mead School.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

C. Retirements

1. Nancy Bennett-Morgenstern, Art, Ansonia High School.

2. Dr. Patricia DeCoster, Science, Ansonia High School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said these teachers have committed so much of their time to the high school students. He said if he could recommend to not accept the requests, jokingly, he would. Superintendent DiBacco said Dr. DeCoster has added so much to the science department at the high school, it will be a huge loss. He told the Board, Nancy Bennett-Morgenstern has created wonderful opportunities for our students including the National Art Honor Society, as well as many other extra-curricular art activities for our students. Superintendent DiBacco said there will be a letter of thanks for their years of excellent service.

MOTION: To accept request for retirements:

Ms. Nancy Bennett-Morgenstern, Art, Ansonia High School.

Dr. Pat DeCoster, Science, Ansonia High School.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		7	0	

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin thanked everyone in attendance. He said he wanted to update the Board on the latest Covid update. He said the district is still required to wear masks under executive order. He said the governor's request for no masks will not happen until at least February 28th. Mr. Bergin said with the seven-day buffer this will take the date to March 4. He said it is not a local decision until it gets voted on. He said after that, they will be looking at our Board of Education and local health districts. Mr. Bergin said even though they may go to an optional mask, there are federal laws in place. He said currently, anyone traveling on local transportation is required to wear a mask. Mr. Bergin said if optional masks were a choice, they would still need to wear the mask on the bus. Mr. Bshara asked if positive Covid numbers have decreased within the schools. Mr. Bergin said they have decreased significantly.

Mr. Bergin said he wanted to update the Board on Health 2.0. He said he wanted to thank the Board for approving the curriculum. He said there was so much work that went into this new state requirement. He said he is very proud of the staff that was involved in the process. Mr. Bergin said the District Accountability Team met for the first time today. He said the district data team has four sub-groups. He said the meeting today was a matter of looking back and observing the needs moving forward. He told the Board this will be for 2022 through 2024. Mr. Bergin said the sub-committees will be meeting weekly. He said the math curriculum teams are beginning to meet as well. He said needs of students will be reached and he thanked Mr. LaRovera for his involvement. Mr. Bergin asked the Board to refer to his report for more details, as well as other.

B. Special Education Director's Report.

Mr. Kevin Keating, Special Education Director, thanked the Board and said the Special Education numbers remain steady. He said the most important thing to notice is ten students were able to be exited from receiving services. He also pointed out there were ten students to begin receiving services. He said the in-house ACES Programs are doing very well. Mr. Keating said right now the programs have eighteen students. He told the Board he has received many compliments regarding the program and its benefits. He thanked the Board.

There were no questions.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore gave his report, he mentioned the upgrade for the internet, and the new phishing campaign. Mr. Pastore also said the new Ansonia app is up and running, and available for download. Mr. Pastore thanked the Board.

There were no questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Mr. Rick Belden, School Business Administrator, said the department continues to develop the budget for the 2022-2023 school year. He said they have been working very closely with the chief financial officer in city hall. He said he is going to be sure to supply the necessary information to have the budget process completed by March 2022. Mr. Belden reviewed his report, saying he is feeling good and all line items are remaining positive. He spoke about Special Service costs, the first cut of the Excess Cost reimbursement, as well as transportation expenses. He reviewed the estimated year end surplus and told the Board they will discuss the plan in March. He said Ms. Calabrese has done a great job with grants and managing the funds. Mr. Belden reviewed the athletic budget.

There were no questions.

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

E. Food Services Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham, Food Service Director, said the Food Service Department is still receiving Quick Books information, he said there were a few days in January that proved challenging for Food Service income. He said the Farm to School Grant was not approved. Mr. Benham thanked the Board.

There were no questions.

F. Enrollment

Mr. Lisi asked the Board to refer to his report. He mentioned in approximately one month, there were twenty-eight students that moved into the district. He said this number is significant for such a short period of time.

There were no questions.

G. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi presented his report.

H. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans reviewed his report, explaining an issue with outdated HVAC parts for old systems needing to be replaced or repaired. He thanked custodians for stepping up to assist when others from the department had Covid. Mr. Evans discussed the overtime required for the recent snow storms, he updated the Board on the progress with the storage garage located at the high school, saying it should be wrapped up by the end of May. Mr. Evans told the Board; the Personal Protective Equipment supply is located at the high school and delivered upon request.

There were no questions.

I. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equality and Communications reviewed his report. He shared some of the positive activities happening throughout the district. He said the district is celebrating Black History month throughout all schools, the House Appropriations press conference held at Mead School to announce the federal funding for six new electric buses for Ansonia, the work being done to improve the Privacy Policies used in our technology classes, as well as other events mentioned in his monthly report. There were no questions.

J. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco greeted the Board. He said he would like to share that the four-day closure for the district may be able to be forgiven, and not counted against the district at the end of the school year. He said the government will soon decide. He said there was a three-year agreement for ACES to perform a safety and security audit and staff training. He said he met with the dean from Sacred Heart and Southern Connecticut University. Superintendent DiBacco said these two universities have committed to partnerships with

Ansonia. He also discussed the new electric buses, the visit to Microboard in Seymour to discuss a possible partnership. Superintendent DiBacco said things are falling into place and he is very impressed with the support from all staff during these trying times. He asked the Board to refer to his report for the many great things that continue to happen throughout the district.

Mr. Knapp said there was mention of a Community Center at the old Pine Lot, and asked Superintendent DiBacco to share some information. Superintendent DiBacco said the Board of Ed has been looking at potential spaces for a community center. He said he does believe the city may have interest in Pine Lot or other buildings to inquire. He said there could very well be a plan in the future. He said he will update any information as soon as he is able.

K. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6), to consider the Superintendent's recommendations for expulsions.

B. Discussion and possible action upon filling of Board member vacancy and/or vacancies.

C. Discussion and possible action upon a settlement matter regarding and employee issue and a document protected by attorney client privilege regarding the same.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:45 regarding

A. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6), to consider the Superintendent's recommendations for expulsions.

B. Discussion and possible action upon filling of Board member vacancy and/or vacancies.

C. Discussion and possible action upon a settlement matter regarding and employee issue and a document protected by attorney client privilege regarding the same.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

To return to regular meeting

VI. ACTION on items discussed in Executive Session.

A. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6), to consider the Superintendent's recommendations for expulsions.

MOTION: To accept recommendations by Superintendent DiBacco regarding Expulsions.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

A. Discussion and possible action upon filling of Board member vacancy and/or vacancies.

MOTION: to have Attorney McQuaid discuss with Attorney Marini, and go back to court in February to discuss options and possibilities of going to a charter revision with the city.

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

TOTAL		7	0	
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C. Discussion and possible action upon a settlement matter regarding an employee issue and a document protected by attorney client privilege regarding the same.

MOTION: To accept the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the separation agreement.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	1	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

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Secretary

Recording

Date: 2/15/2022