

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 9 November 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. 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		1	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	6	1	0

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

Mrs. Crooks recognized Mead School Special Education Teacher, Shelley Hydar, as the November Charger Champion. She told the Board, Shelly has been a teacher at Mead for 4 years. She said Ms. Hydar is an exemplar Special Education teacher who always goes above and beyond for her students. She said Ms. Hydar is a true inspiration to all. Mrs. Crooks said Shelley is able to bring hands-on knowledge to our students while providing them with the most memorable and meaningful experiences. Mrs. Crooks explained that Ms. Hydar and her students do a lot of community service activities in their classroom. She said Shelley and her students give back to the community as much as possible. She told the Board, they have an annual donation drive called "Kozies for Kiddos". Last year they collected over 140 pajamas for children in our area. In addition, the students learned how to bake dog biscuits and sold the biscuits as a fundraiser for their program. Mrs. Crooks said Shelley also donated half of the proceeds to the Ansonia High School Unified Sports team. She told the Board we are lucky to have Shelley here in Ansonia and appreciate all she does.

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items:

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated October 12, 2022 and October 26, 2022.

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated October 12, 2022 and October 26, 2022.

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

TOTAL		6	1	0
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B. 2023 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said there has been an issue with the second monthly meeting, so he was eliminating that one. He said when there is the need, they will go with a Special Meeting as opposed to having a secondary meeting scheduled each month. Mrs. Delibero asked if there was any chance to change the time to 6:00 rather than 6:30. Mr. Bshara said he doesn't have a problem with the time change. He said he does know that Mr. Phipps gets out of work at 6:00. Ms. Voroschak said she thinks they should wait until Mr. Phipps is present. Mr. Bshara said it is possible to table the motion until next month.

MOTION: To table the motion to accept the 2023 Ansonia Board of Education meeting schedule until next month.

	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			1	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	1	0

C. Certified Appointments

1. Benjamin Belancik, Grade 7, Special Education, Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said they are looking forward to working with Mr. Belancik and the Middle School will benefit greatly.

Discussion was had regarding a couple resignations at the Middle School Superintendent DiBacco said he doesn't believe it is due to lack of support. He said it has been a tough run for some, but they are filling positions as needed.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Mr. Benjamin Belancik, Grade 7, Special Education, Middle School.

	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			1	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	1	0

2. Lydia McCarthy, Literacy Specialist, Mead School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said this teacher is coming from Fairfield. He said she is happy to be closer to home. He said it was an enjoyable interview, he thinks she will do amazing.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Lydia McCarthy, Literacy Specialist, 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	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS			1	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	1	0

D. Creation of a high school National Math Honor Society (Mu Alpha Theta).

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said he and Mr. Phipps listened to a very good presentation from Mr. LaRovera regarding the National Math Honor Society. He filled the Board in regarding the details.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation and approve the creation of a high school National Math Honor Society (Mu Alpha Theta).

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

E. Emergent Leaders HBCU, Civil Rights Tour.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara asked Dr. Morales to speak. Dr. Morales said they would like to take 15 high school students and 3 chaperones on a trip to Atlanta and Alabama, to visit the civil rights movement. He said this trip would consist of visiting historic landmarks, as well as a different black college or university each day. He said based on the conversation of interested students, they are eager to visit Atlanta and Alabama for educational purposes. Dr. Morales said with the Boards permission he would like to take the students to the landmarks and universities. He said after fundraising and donations, there is no cost at all for the students.

MOTION: To accept the Emergent Leaders HBCU, Civil Rights Tour with Dr. Morales.

	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		X		

MR. CHRIS PHIPPS			1	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		6	1	0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin said he is happy to share, the COVID weekly meetings have decreased to monthly. He said the areas of COVID, RSV, and flu concerns have been discussed at the monthly meetings. Mr. Bergin said COVID numbers are reducing. Mr. Bergin told the Board, after meeting with Griffin Hospital President, Dr. Charmel and an Ansonia resident, they learned about a very substantial donation available. He said the local woman would like to donate toward SEL programs. Mr. Bergin said along with Sara Crooks, they met to explain plans our district has for implementing social and emotional learning. He said the donor was very pleased, and is going to make the yearly donation to Ansonia. He said there are specific areas the donated funds will be placed.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Mrs. Stephanie Savo gave her report, she reviewed the numbers of students receiving special services. She told the Board, there will be in person training for the new state mandated system. Mrs. Savo said bi-weekly department meetings continue. She discussed SRBI taking place in the Pre-K program, activities the Life Skills Programs have happening, as well as new job sites for the high school Vocational Program.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore was not at the meeting. There were no questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2022-2023 Year-to-Date.
2. Grants and other Income.

Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to thank JoAnne Cegan for her continued help in Rick Belden's absence. He said he also appreciates the help and communication from Kim and Rich at city hall.

E. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham gave balance details as well as profit and loss reports. He said the department is in very good shape. He said they were notified by CSD, that Food Services will be getting their administrative review this year. He said the last one with the interim director was a struggle. He said this time he feels they are in a much better position. Mr. Benham said he will be working with Christine Wallace, who is an experienced state consultant. He said they are working with area farms for a CT Grows Grant. He said they were denied the last time the grant was available. He told the Board they were told there is more available funding this year. Mr. Bshara told Mr. Benham if he needs financial assistance, they will help.

F. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Tom Brockett was not present. Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the report.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked when the unified basketball game will take place. Superintendent DiBacco said there is no set date, but he will let her know.

G. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the report.

H. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi gave his report. He told the Board, there continues to be students trying to enroll not within the guidelines of our registration process. He said the month has been steady, without much more activity to report.

Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, Mr. Lisi is going to be receiving The Mayor's Award. He said this award is given by the Boy Scouts, chosen by local mayors, to two individuals who have great influence on the community. He said there is a ceremony that will take place. Superintendent DiBacco thanked Mr. Lisi for his hard work and congratulated him for the well-deserved honor.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans gave his report. He said three rooftop units were replaced and they will continue working to get a cost estimate for the HVAC upgrade grant. He said he met with the architect engineer to get pricing on a playground at Mead School. Mr. Evans told the Board the storage garage is complete and hopefully the business side will be settled soon.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. He thanked everyone who participated in the door decorating for the Hispanic Pride Contest. He said everyone did an amazing job and winners were rewarded with a pizza party. He told the Board the Family University will be meeting again at the next Board meeting on December 14th. He said there will be a graduation ceremony for the families.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He said went to Performance Matters. He said Alliance from across the state were there to share ideas. He told the Board, it was great to hear the ideas and has been reassured that we are doing the right thing and on track. Superintendent DiBacco said our teachers are doing amazing things. He said he also attended a legislative meeting for the CT Education Association of Superintendents and the major part of conversation was science and reading. He told the Board it is good to know we are not asked to change a thing and in compliance. He said the new system CT-SEDS is not the most user friendly, but Special Ed is doing the very best they can. He told the Board, there was an awesome class trip for high school students to WTNH. He said the students were showcased on the news and it was great to see. Superintendent DiBacco said our own Officer Barry was highlighted on CNN. He told the Board there was an emergency evacuation at the high school due to natural gas fumes. The process was complete from start to finish in 25 minutes which is a testimony that the procedures in place are working. He said he is very pleased with the staff, students and emergency responders.

L. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

Sabrina Ortega, high school student member told the Board about Spirit Week at the high school. She said Spirit Week leads up to the Homecoming Dance and each day is a different theme. Sabrina said the first Pep Rally is coming up before the Thanksgiving Day Game. She said this will be the first pep rally to happen in a very long time.

Zach DaSilva, high school student member, said November 18th there will be a Homecoming Dance at the high school for all students. He told the Board about the upcoming football game.

V. Executive Session regarding Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsion at 7:32pm.

	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		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

Return to regular meeting.

VI. Action, as needed, as a result of Executive Session.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the stipulated agreement as presented by the Superintendent.

	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				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

	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			1	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	1	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 11/12/2022