

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 14 September 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	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	6	1	0

Mr. Bshara asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for the passing of Ms. May Louise Guluzzy, retired teacher. Mr. Bshara said Ms. Guluzzy was a very dedicated art teacher, who will be missed. He said he sends her friends and family regards.

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

Mrs. Crooks greeted the board, she said tonight she and Superintendent DiBacco wanted to honor Officer Mike Barry. She told the Board; Officer Barry has been an SRO at the high school since 2009. She said he is the true definition of a person who goes above and beyond. She mentioned the recent local news segment that featured Officer Barry's morning diversion program. She told the Board how the program, which is the only one in the country, has grown into something more than expected. Mrs. Crooks said he gives so much of his own time for this program. She said the dedication he has to these students in Ansonia is amazing. She said the documented numbers of students going into the program, instead of being suspended, or going before the Juvenile Review Board, are in the hundreds. Everyone congratulated Officer Barry.

Mrs. Crooks continued to speak about the many, many other jobs Officer Barry takes on in the district. She said he runs charity programs, installs car seats, makes home visits, builds personal relationships with numerous students, staff, and community members. Mrs. Crooks told the Board there is so much that also goes unnoticed. She said everyone who has a relationship with Officer Barry are better people, because of him.

Officer Barry thanked everyone and said he is the person, because of everyone he has the pleasure of working with in Ansonia. He said he gets amazing support from everyone to continue the programs he is involved in. He told everyone, the support is a testament to everyone on the Board who allowed him start and build the program. He said he loves what he does, and he thinks the students involved love it as well.

Mrs. Crooks also mentioned, some of the students who participate in the program are not forced to go, they choose to attend.

Mr. Bshara thanked Officer Barry and said Ansonia is very lucky to have him.

Superintendent DiBacco said he is truly lucky to have Officer Barry. He said he recently learned Officer Barry will be featured on CNN. He said he is a true Charger Champion.

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated June 8, 2022(regular), and August 24, 2022(regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated June 8, 2022(regular), and August 24, 2022(regular).

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

Mr. Bshara said there are three items he is asking for a motion to add to tonight's agenda. He said they will be called add 3, 4, and 3. He said the certified appointments will be added to section B, Certified Appointments, and the third will be included into the Superintendent's Report.

MOTION: To add three items 3, 4, and 3 to tonight's agenda.

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

B. Certified Appointments

1. Mallory Emmons, Assistant Principal, Prendergast School.

Superintendent DiBacco said there was a rigorous interview process for this position, and there were many applicants. He said, it is no surprise that Mrs. Emmons rose above. He said they couldn't be any prouder to ask the Board to accept the nomination for Mrs. Emmons to be appointed as Assistant Principal, Prendergast School.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Mrs. Mallory Emmons, Assistant Principal, Prendergast School.

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

2. James Thomas, Social Studies, Ansonia Middle School.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Mr. James Thomas, Social Studies, Ansonia Middle School

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

(added to agenda)

3. Ms. Erica Maher, Grade 5, Prendergast School.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Ms. Erica Maher, Grade 5, Prendergast 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				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

(added to agenda)

4. Mr. Dennis Mendillo, Grade 7 Science, Ansonia Middle School.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Mr. Mennillo, Grade 7, 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				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

C. Monetary donation to Ansonia High School.

Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, an anonymous monetary donation to Ansonia High School was given. He said the funds were requested to be spent on students in need.

MOTION: To accept monetary donation to be spent at the discretion of the administration at the high school.

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin said the summer was focused on professional development. He said instructional strategies were the largest need. He told the Board, CRISS Training implementation is beginning to be introduced to staff. He thanked Mrs. Tammy Adames for the staff training of the program. Mr. Bergin said he is very happy to see the staff excited to learn. He said the beginning of the year has been smooth thus far. He told the Board, the challenge from COVID still exists and they continue to move forward and return to a more normal environment. He said the social, emotional concerns are present, but there are resources now in place. Mr. Bergin said the PD process will continue, ensuring training for all staff.

B. Special Education Director's Report.

Ms. Stephanie Savo gave her report. She reviewed the Special Needs identified student's numbers. She explained the breakdown of where services are needed most, within the district. Ms. Savo said professional development will be happening, and she thinks this training, along with CRISS will have a great impact on the staff.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore presented his report. He said collection of student devices took place. He said chrome books were purchased, along with charging carts that will be disbursed throughout the district. He reviewed the rest of his report, there were no questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Superintendent DiBacco said these numbers will be emailed.

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

E. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham gave his report. He said the Food Service fund is still in very good shape from last year. He said the financial report will be due to the state in October. He said the Middle School cafeteria has been refaced. He said they are in the process of installing refrigeration in the van. He said numbers are doing well for student participation in the elementary schools.

F. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Tom Brockett was not present.

G. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the Enrollment Report.

Mr. Bshara said the last dated report shows we are approximately up to 2200 students. Superintendent DiBacco said enrollment has been very busy and constant the last few weeks.

H. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi reviewed his reports. He said there were approximately 198 home visits. He said new student registration is very high. He said there is a huge increase in the percentage of students within the same or lower DRG. He said the number of serviced special ed students has also increased significantly.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans said he wanted to thank the maintenance staff for getting the buildings ready this summer. He said with summer school it was difficult. He said the storage garage C.O. has been received. He said a few cooling/heating units have gone down, and it takes about six months for service work to be done. Mr. Bshara asked if the new information from the Governor will be available to us. Mr. Evans said they are looking into it. He said the cost of half

may be available. He said they have been looking into the cost of replacing units throughout the district, minus the Middle School. He said they received a letter from the state that the desktop audit will be getting looked at. He said they haven't heard anything else since.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. He said September 15 is the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage month. He told the Board, they will be hosting the third Brave Conversations gathering. Dr. Morales said on September 27, they are hosting the first Ansonia Family University Courses. He said this will bring more parent involvement in education, hoping to help the healthy development of Ansonia's young people. He said they are finalizing plans to take high school students on the civil rights tour and visit several colleges.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He said Mr. Chuck Stankey has come on board to supervise the district security staff. He said Mr. Stankey met with building administration to gather information, that will fill their needs. He said there will be an armed guard joining Mead School. Superintendent DiBacco thanked the Board for allowing them to bring security in the district.

He told the Board, he has worked with Shipman and Goodwin law firm, and Ms. Calabrese for administrative training. He said training for administrators regarding protocols and procedures, if an emergency crisis occurs will be taking place very soon.

Superintendent DiBacco said he met with Mr. Patrick Charmel, CEO Griffin Hospital, to partner with Griffin Hospital at the elementary level. He said discussions regarding social and emotional programs have been taking place.

L. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

Mrs. Tammy Adames, Assistant Principal at the high school, told the Board they are very excited to see the Governor on Friday at the high school. She said the high school won the FAFSA Challenge, and will be recognized on Friday. She said fall sports are underway and all teams are looking great thus far.

Mr. Phipps asked if there will be student representation attending the Board meetings in the future. Superintendent DiBacco said there will be student members of the Board.

Discussion continued regarding SBAC testing results and the continued struggle and difficulty with new students entering our district from a lower DRG.

Mr. John LaRovera said tests show, these students coming in are reading much lower than their grade level, along with many other learning issues. He said Ansonia continues to face these obstacles with the transient population in the district. Discussion also took place regarding the high performance of students who attend Ansonia schools from Pre-K through 12th grade.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 9/17/2022