

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at the Robert E. Zuraw Admin Office, DTL, 42 Grove St. **DATE:** 22 June 2022 **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Richard 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

II. Public Session

There were no comments.

III. Informational items and possible actions regarding:

A. Certified Appointments

1. Stefanie Savo, Interim Director of Special Services.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, Stephanie has been doing an amazing job in the Special Services Department thus far. He said the opening position was posted and there was no real fit, or qualified candidates. Superintendent DiBacco said he asked Ms. Savo if she would be interested. He said she knows the district better than anyone else. He told the Board, Ms. Savo maintains a great relationship with all staff, students, and parents.

Ms. Savo thanked the Board for the amazing opportunity and said she is very excited.

MOTION: To hire Ms. Stephanie Savo, Interim director of Special Services.

	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		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

2. Ashley Ayers, Grade 5, Prendergast.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Ayers did very well in the interview process. He said she has been a long-term sub within the district and she has been doing an exceptional job. Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Ayers will be an asset to Prendergast School.

MOTION: To hire Ms. Ashley Ayers, Grade 5, Prendergast School.

	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	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

3. Alyssa Gargiulo, Science, Grade 6, Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said the school was looking for a grade 7 Science Teacher. He said the interviewing process went on for about 5 months, with no luck. Superintendent DiBacco said a grade 6 teacher at the Middle School, who holds certification for 7th grade, moved into the vacant spot. He said this left a grade 6 position open. He told the Board, Ms. Gargiulo was in another district as a STEM teacher. He said she preferred to teach science, and she is the perfect candidate. Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, he has gotten to know Ms. Gargiulo through the interview process and she is a great fit for Ansonia.

MOTION: To hire Ms. Alyssa Gargiulo, Science, Grade 6, Middle 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	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

3. Jillian Brady, Community Social Worker, all schools.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said this is a grant position that is desperately needed. He said numerous emergencies have occurred where a knowledgeable, qualified social worker could have been utilized. He said the position will be partnering with local emergency medical staff or the police, during traumatic situations. He said Ms. Brady holds many accreditations, and will be able to use her skills, background, and training to help the families in this community. Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Brady has an amazing relationship with staff, students, and parents in her current high school social worker position.

MOTION: To hire Ms. Jillian Brady, Community Social Worker, all schools.

	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	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

B. Permission for Superintendent to hire certified staff in the summer.

Discussion: Ms. LaBerge asked how many positions are currently vacant, within district.

Mr. Bergin said they are in the process of interviewing five, and there are approximately four others. He said there are also a few non-certified vacant positions.

Mr. Bshara said he saw last year, there was a large number of new hires over the summer. He asked if there is a possibility to receive the new hire packet via email, and have a conversation prior. Superintendent DiBacco agreed.

MOTION: To give Superintendent DiBacco permission to hire certified staff in the summer.

	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		6	0	0

C. Non-union contract extensions and salary increases.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said he reviewed the email and had no issues. Mr. Phipps agreed. Superintendent DiBacco said these are non-certified positions within the district. He said he believes the increase is very much deserved. He said these also include Kindergarten aides, lunch aides, as well as recess aides.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, as presented regarding the raise of non-union contract extension and salary increases.

	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	0

D. Paraprofessional & Secretary union contracts.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said he would like to get these approved to pay retro salary in June, as opposed to July funds. He said he was involved with the negotiation process. Mr. Bshara said there are changes that need to be made within the contracts, which will begin in the fall. He said for now, the changes will only include wage increase and insurance plan.

MOTION: To approve the Paraprofessional Contract.

	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 approve the Secretary Contract.

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

E. Armed Guard Policy.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said Superintendent DiBacco sent this policy in an email. He reminded the Board of the prior approval of armed guards within the district at a recent monthly Board meeting. He said this will take some time to hire guards, and one of the alternatives will be to hire retired policemen. Mr. Bshara said the hires would be employees of the Board of Education. He said the policy will need to be in place before that happens. He told the Board the policy allows flexibility.

MOTION: To approve the Armed Guard Policy.

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

F. RFQ for legal services.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said Superintendent DiBacco is looking to put an RFQ out for different law firms. Mr. Bshara said he would like to see the choice to pick representation, as needed. Mr. Bshara said it would be based on the specific need for counsel, to hire an attorney that specializes in that field. Superintendent DiBacco said this would be great to have access to several law firms, as opposed to only having a law firm that specializes in one area.

MOTION: To approve an RFQ for legal services.

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

Superintendent DiBacco briefed the Board regarding a \$1.68/gallon fuel deal that has been agreed upon with the fuel company. He said the current agreement with the bus contract, is they will pay the first \$1.60 per gallon. Superintendent DiBacco told the Board this means fuel cost will be \$.08 per gallon for the Board. He also told the Board, graduation took place on June 18th at Nolan Field. He said it was a perfect ceremony, everything went even better than expected. He congratulated all the graduates.

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 6/27/2022