ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 12 October 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	7	0	0

Mr. Bshara asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for the passing of Mrs. Tracey DeLibero's brother. He extended thoughts and prayers to her and her family in their time of need.

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

Mrs. Crooks greeted the Board; she said the Chargers Champions Recognition Program was designed to give thanks and recognize an outstanding person doing positive things for our students and our community. She introduced Ansonia Police Officer Joel Perez. Mrs. Crooks said in August, a young student wanted to raise money for a new pair of sneakers for the first day of school. She told the Board, he set up a lemonade stand hoping to make money. Mrs. Crooks said, Officer Perez stopped at the stand, and after having a great conversation with him and his family, found out why the boy was raising money. She said Officer Perez left and came right back with the sneakers he was trying to buy. Mrs. Crooks told the Board; Officer Perez made an impact on this little boy that will last a lifetime. She said this not only touched this family, but the entire community. Mrs. Crooks presented Officer Perez with the award for his service.

Mr. Bshara thanked Officer Perez for his job well done.

II. Public Session

Mr. Josh Shuart, 119 Prindle Ave., asked to comment regarding Officer Perez. He said, when he heard Officer Perez was going to be recognized, he wanted to come say a few words. Mr. Shuart told the Board, he has seen Officer Perez supporting students at the football games, which he thought was great. He also said, a few hours prior to the meeting, he saw an elderly woman struggling to carry things across the street. He said Officer Perez pulled his car over to assist the woman across the street. Mr. Shuart said it is the things that are done when no one is looking, that really shows a person. He thanked Officer Perez for making an impact on the town and obviously on students in our school system.

Mr. Bshara said at this time he wanted to introduce the Board's student representative members. He said Zach DeSilva is a driven high school student, who came from New York City. He said Zach is also a member of NAACP, on the baseball team, and an avid gardener, who helps maintain the Osborndale Park. Mr. Bshara said after high school, Zach will attend college for business. Mr. Bshara said he also wanted to introduce Sabrina Ortega. He said Sabrina is the senior class president, plays on the basketball and tennis teams, a member of the National Business Honor Society and National Honor Society. He said Sabrina is a member of the Cultural Commission and attended the Quinnipiac STEM summer program. He said she wants to study business or finance in college.

Mr. Bshara welcomed our newest members to the Board.

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated September 7, 2022 (special), September 14, 2022 (regular), and September 28, 2022 (regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated September 7, 2022 (special), September 14, 2022 (regular), and September 28, 2022 (regular).

	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	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

B. Certified Appointments

1. Rose-Merry Unan, Special Education, Predergast School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Unan comes with years of experience. He said she is very excited to come to Ansonia.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Rose-Merry Unan, Special Education, 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	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

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2. Cindy Musante, Science, Ansonia High School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Musante comes from West Haven schools. He said she was teaching in Ansonia a number of years ago and said she would like to come back and finish her career here.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Cindy Musante, Science, Ansonia High School.

	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	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

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3. Jamie-Lyn Rezek, K-2 Math Specialist, Prendergast School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Rezek is coming to Ansonia from Seymour. He said she had a long career in Seymour and eager to take on the challenge of Math Specialist at Prendergast School.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Ms. Jamie-Lyn Rezek, K-2 Math Specialist, 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		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin said, the Connecticut legislature recently passed the "Right to Read" legislation Act, which systematizes a statewide reading response based on the Science of Reading. Mr. Bergin said this Act requires the state to oversee efforts related to literacy, including setting reading curriculum requirements for districts. He said the district is mandated to use one of the programs. He said Ansonia is one of 12, out of the state, who are currently following the required legislation. Mr. Bergin said he believes this mandate from legislature should be coming from the State Department of Education, but the district will continue to remain in compliance.

B. Special Education Director's Report.

Mrs. Stephanie Savo gave her report, starting with Special Education numbers. She told the Board; several newly enrolled students are coming in already receiving Special Services. She also reviewed a grid for the high school's Transition Program. She said this shows financial savings for the district, where otherwise students would be outplaced.

Mr. Phipps asked if the high school still has the program that allows students to work in local businesses.

Ms. Savo said this is the program she was speaking about. She said it is still going great.

Ms. Savo reviewed a new, state mandated system for Special Services. She said there are some challenging glitches, but they are communicating with the state to work them out. Mrs. Savo said there is going to be professional development for the new program, to address all issues. She said she sent out a survey regarding Talented and Gifted Programs around the state. She told the Board, not many responses were returned. Mrs. Savo said she reached out for testing material quotes for a gifted program. She said there should be more information regarding this topic next month.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore said the first month of school went well. He said the first phishing campaign was recently sent out and only 6% were non-compliant. He said there is a password reset coming up which helps with outside hacking problems.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

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

There were no updates at this time.

E. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham said the balance sheets that were handed out shows there was strong student participation for the month of September. He said there are still problems with vendor delays and supply setback. He said the state is issuing another refund of approximately $50,800 to be spent on specific items.

Mr. Bshara asked if the cash balance on the report is correct. Mr. Benham said the balance is correct.

Mr. Bshara asked if Mr. Benham is working with Lori to get the numbers into Infinite Visions. Mr. Benham said he is using QuickBooks at the moment but will be changing over to Infinite Visions in the near future.

Mr. Bshara asked if there has been a credit card issued. Mr. Benham said he does not have a credit card.

F. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Tom Brockett was not present.

Mr. Bshara said he sees there is a request to re-hire Mr. Vince DellaVolpe, girls' basketball coach, and Mr. Shane Kingsley, boys' basketball.

Superintendent DiBacco discussed the request.

MOTION: To re-hire Mr. Vince DellaVolpe, girls' basketball coach, and Mr. Shane Kingsley, boys' basketball.

	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	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7	0	0

G. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the report. He pointed out the enrollment is high for some schools and always increasing.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked if expulsions are being done as frequently. Superintendent DiBacco said there are not as many this year as last year. He said although, there are students coming in with expulsions in place.

H. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi was not at the meeting, Superintendent DiBacco reviewed Mr. Lisi's report.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans said the cooling system was turned over to heat. He said there are currently minor issues with that switch. He talked about his department working through problem areas with the HVAC System, the HVAC grant and requirements for spending grant funds, and several other projects that will be happening in the near future.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. He said the schools are still celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. He told the Board; they had the first Ansonia Family University meeting. He said there were eight parents in attendance and eight students. He said these members will be at the December Board meeting.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He said he appreciates the effort done by Kevin Benham when the high school hosted the Governor for the FAFSA Challenge contest recognition. He said Mr. Benham served a great meal. Superintendent DiBacco said it was awesome to hear we had the greatest improvement with filling out the FAFSA application. Superintendent DiBacco said he is very proud of the curriculum work that was done by Mrs. Calabrese and Mrs. Jarin for the training in place regarding the legislation mandate. He said he believes the curriculum should not be mandated by

our legislature, but he is happy to say our curriculum complies. Superintendent DiBacco said a couple of months ago, there was talk about trying to get heat presses for the school, to assist with uniform logo application. He asked Ms. LaBerge to comment. Ms. LaBerge said parents expressed cost concern having to purchase uniform shirts with the embroidered logo from only one vendor. She said parents complained it was expensive, and not done in a timely manner. She told the Board; the idea is to do a fund raiser through PTO. Ms. LaBerge said the PTO will start at Mead, and hopefully include Prendergast PTO to apply the logo for parents at a low cost, while they wait. She said Superintendent DiBacco was very supportive and will be supplying the schools with the machine and heat press to get the project going.

L. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

Sabrina Ortega, high school student member, said there have been recent Breast Cancer awareness fund raisers, the Spirit Club has been running several fun activities, there was also a penny war for students to donate.

Zach DaSilva, high school student member, said he agrees with Sabrina, there is great school spirit at the high school. He said there have been events like the College Fair, and a Club Fair to see the many clubs available to students.

V. Executive Session regarding Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

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

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To approve recommendation made by the Superintendent to uphold the expulsion as presented.

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

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 10/20/2022