

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street **DATE:** 14 December 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 pause for a moment of silence, to remember the victims of Sandy Hook.

II. Public Session

Ms. Christina Moore, 216 Westfield Ave. greeted the Board. She said she was coming before the Board as a tax paying resident and parent, regarding a situation that transpired with Superintendent DiBacco. Ms. Moore said she was standing in attempts to make an ally, not an enemy. She spoke of her son, Roman, and his many accomplishments while attending Mead School. She said Mead School challenged him academically, and he excelled. Ms. Moore said after grammar school, it was her family's choice to send him to a magnet school after his interest in engineering and math was clear. She said it was stated verbally and on the magnet school's website, students would return to their town for athletic programs. Ms. Moore said when they learned the Middle School had a basketball team, they filled out the paperwork. She said her son made the team, but they then received a phone call from the principal saying he did not make the team. She said the principal told her he had the authority to make this decision. Ms. Moore said they were sent high school guidelines as a reference. Ms. Moore stated she forwarded the CIAC Middle School guidelines to the principal, which state, if the student is a resident they are eligible to play in their town. She said several phone calls were made to Mr. Brockett and Superintendent DiBacco. Ms. Moore said they have been told it is an unwritten rule, and she feels the decision is inappropriate. She told the Board, there is a petition with over 5000 signatures and Ansonia will be missing out. Ms. Moore reminded the Board of their duties and CAGE obligation to uphold and enforce all rules pertaining to schools. Ms. Moore read the bylaws of CAGE. She told the Board, they have the authority to look further into the decision, and she hopes they will not join in the Superintendent's decision. Ms. Moore said she believes the Superintendent shows personal bias when students choose to attend a school outside the district.

She thanked the Board.

Mr. Rodney Moore, 216 Westfield Ave. Mr. Moore said he is looking at everyone, and feels he should surround his son with people who look like him and act like him. He said there are not too many people who look like him in the room. Mr. Moore said his son did exceptionally well at Mead School, and was excited to go to Ansonia Middle School. He said the decision to send him to a magnet school came when he wanted something more challenging. He told the Board, his son put effort into those three days of tryouts. He said his son leaves for school early in the morning to get to school. He said his son was so excited to hear he made the team as one of the few 6th graders. Mr. Moore said after they got the phone call saying he could not be on the team; he did some research before telling his son. He told the Board, he reached out to the Superintendent's office, the principal, and the athletic

director. He said when he was met with pushback, he thought it may be a misunderstanding. He said this should not be the message they are sending an eleven-year-old boy. He said his son tried out and made his spot. Mr. Moore said the educators and administrators who have the power to adhere to what they offered him, are not doing that. He said he hopes they all take that into consideration, and he thanked the Board for their time.

Ms. Gina Diaz, 24 Sheasby Rd., said her voice extends to several members of our community. She told the Board, she has two children who attend our grammar school and she is very active in the community. Ms. Diaz said this recent event upset many people in this community. She said it also shattered the heart of an eleven-year-old boy. She said he successfully tried out for the team and made it, only to find out a few days later that he would not be allowed on the team. She said this devastated Roman. She said his parents went into action like any good parent would do. She told the Board they reached out to everyone, including the Superintendent. She said they did their research regarding the decision. Ms. Diaz said the CIAC guideline states he is eligible to play. She said once they forwarded this to the powers that be, they received a devastating response. Ms. Diaz said she has the utmost respect for the superintendent, she said she agrees with his morals and values. She said she feels safe and comfortable in the schools, in part due to him. She said his leadership is like no other and she thanked him. Ms. Diaz said our Superintendent's response was bothersome, she quoted his response. She said the family made the best decision for the success of their child. She addressed the Board, and said she is sure they are aware of the many challenges that black and brown children face daily. She said she assumes the Board also knows the statistics of crime rates and college attendance of these children. She described the personal life and details of the Moore family, and their life. She said his parents are doing a great job raising him. Ms. Diaz told the Board of a petition going around with over 5000 signatures. She said she is asking the Board and Dr. DiBacco to let this boy play. She said he would be an asset to the team with his sportsmanship, leadership, and kind soul. She asked them to reconsider and let the boy play.

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated November 9, 2022

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated November 9, 2022.

	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			1
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5		1

B. 2023 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said last month there was a suggestion to change meeting times to 6:00p.m. He asked what the Board would like to do. Ms. Voroschak asked Mr. Phipps his thoughts. Mr. Phipps said he is not able to make 6:00 meetings. Ms. Voroschak said then they will not vote to change the time.

MOTION: To accept the 2023 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

	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

C. Certified Appointments

1. Elizabeth Bartley, Grade 7, Science, Middle School.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said he is very eager for this teacher to join the Middle School. He said she will be a great asset to the science team.

MOTION: To accept certified appointment of Ms. Elizabeth Bartley, Grade 7, Science, Middle School.

	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	0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin greeted the Board. He congratulated the high school football team on their state championship title. He commended the coaching staff. Mr. Bergin told the Board; the entire team is something special. He reviewed his monthly report, talking about the many programs and events happening throughout the district. He said they continue with the RULER program and staff training. He said the training will prepare staff on handling student's stress, anxiety, and situations that may occur. He updated the Board on the monetary donor that has been discussed in previous months. He said Mrs. Crooks has been working on areas that these funds will assist. He said one program, Sensational Kids, will focus on calming, balancing energy levels, and preparing to learn for the day. Mr. Bergin said this will start with staff training and take place at the beginning of the day. He said the program will roll-out in the fall.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Mrs. Stephanie Savo gave her report, she reviewed the number of students receiving special services. Mrs. Savo gave outplaced students numbers, as well. She told the Board; her department remains in compliance with CT SEDS in all areas of IEPs. She gave the numbers on student incidents occurring in the department, and shared the various events that have been taking place throughout the district. Some events included; a snack cart at AMS, Student of the Month Breakfast, and office decorating. Mrs. Savo said she is excited to report the Best Buddies program will be happening soon and the Board will hear more about it at the Administrative meeting.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore was not present. The technology report is included in the packet.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

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

Mr. Bshara said he can report; Central Office Finance and City Hall continue to work together.

E. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham gave balance detail reports, including Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, and Statement Cash Flows. He said he was fortunate enough to meet regarding a program called Food Port. He said this program brings associates into the district and provides a variety of support with nutrition and food services. Mr. Benham said once he receives information back, he will share with the Board.

F. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Tom Brockett was not present. The Board congratulated the football team on their state championship win.

G. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco reminded the Board, the report is in the Board packet.

H. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi gave his report. He said there continues to be individuals attempting to register for school with fake addresses, or addresses they do not reside in.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans gave his report. He said the first delayed school day went well for the department. Mr. Evans told the Board they continue to observe the problematic HVAC System. He said one of the many new projects will be to add a booth for security at Prendergast. He said along with Dr. DiBacco, he met with the construction attorney to discuss the course of action regarding the storage garage. He said the attorney is going to amend the lawsuit, adding a bad faith claim to get them more involved towards a resolution.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, Director of Equity and Communications gave his report. He told the Board about various holiday celebrations. He said on January 16th, the Emergent Leaders will be joining the MLK Committee to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the high school. He said they are also excited to announce the Valley Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration and the Naomi Wallace Love feast also on January 16th. He said the celebration begins at 12:00p.m. Dr. Morales said tickets are \$20.00 and will help with the cost of the upcoming civil Rights Tour for high school students.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco gave his report. He spoke about attending the Veteran's Day Celebration held at Mead School and going to Valley Adult Education with fellow valley superintendents regarding their adult education program. Dr. DiBacco told the Board, he also attended the Valley Community Index in Shelton, providing information regarding education and community engagement. He said he participated in several other events including Teacher of the Year Ceremony, Annual Mayor's Breakfast, CAPSS Alliance Superintendent meeting, a math workshop held in Meriden, and a meeting with ACES regarding Singapore and globalizing our campus. Superintendent DiBacco said he met with the Romanian ambassador to the United States, where conversation about educational and cultural exchanges took place. He said he is very excited about this and many other great things happening in the district. He asked the Board to refer to his report which included more detail.

L. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

There were no comments.

V. Executive Session regarding Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsion at 7:25 pm.

	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

Return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To accept the recommendations made by the Superintendent.

	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	2	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	0

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 12/21/2022