ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Ansonia High School, Media Center, via Zoom **DATE:** 12 May 2021 TIME: 6:30 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Chris Phipps, President

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance
B. Roll Call – Mr. Phipps called a quorum

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MR. RICH BSHARA	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE		X	
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president	X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA		X	
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	2	0

II. Public Session

Recognition: SCASA Student Achievement Awards
Mr. Phipps asked Superintendent DiBacco to speak.
Superintendent DiBacco told the Board this award is presented to four students. He said the South Central Association of Superintendent's select students who are civic minded, as well as having academic excellence. He told the Board, the awards are chosen by teachers. Superintendent DiBacco said the first recipient is Middle School Student, Hailey Muzzi. He said Hailey is a brilliant student, who is also active in the community, with numerous extracurricular activities, as well as receiving many awards. Another Middle School Recipient was Anthony Cornish. He said AJ is a fantastic eighth grade student, who shows his dedication to learning. He said AJ's work ethic is superior to many of his classmates, and his online participation is incredible. Superintendent DiBacco said he also presented awards to high school winners Gabriella Gjoni and Michael Szewczyk. He said both are very remarkable students. He told the Board, Gabriella is the senior class president, who volunteers countless hours, a member of the National Honor Society, one of the top students in her class, and belongs to several clubs and athletic programs.. Superintendent DiBacco said Michael is described as a very respectful, reliable and mature student. He said he has ranked in the top ten throughout his four years, as well as the vice president of the National Honor Society, member to several clubs, an Eagle Scout serving as senior patrol leader, and volunteers for numerous causes. Superintendent DiBacco said it was a pleasure talking to the winners and congratulated them.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated April 21, 2021 (regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated April 21, 2021 (regular).

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

B. Non-union contract extensions and salary increases.
Superintendent DiBacco said this contract is brought to the Board each year. He said normally there is a 2.5% increase that is budgeted. He said this aligned with the teacher and administrator contracts. He said he doesn't know the exact number that was budgeted for. Mr. Phipps asked what the extension would be for. Superintendent DiBacco said it would be a two year contract. Mr. Phipps asked if these employees have been evaluated. Superintendent DiBacco told the Board they have not finished the evaluation process, but he assured the Board these employees are performing to their ability.

Mr. Bshara asked if this would be for the next school year. Superintendent DiBacco said yes, it would be beginning 2021-2022 school-year.
Mr. Bshara said he would prefer to see something in writing showing details regarding the contracts, as opposed to doing this virtually.
After no motion was heard, Mr. Phipps asked if the Board would agree to table this until the June Board meeting. The Board agreed.

MOTION: To table the non-union contracts extension and salary increase until the June 2021 Board Meeting.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	

C. Certified Appointment of Mr. James Carr, Special Education, Prendergast School.
Mr. Phipps asked the Board to refer to their packet. Superintendent DiBacco said Mr. Carr will be coming from California. He said the interview process with Mr. Carr went very well, and is very excited to join Ansonia. He told the Board Mr. Carr is eager to be relocating to CT.

MOTION: To approve the appointment of Mr. James Carr, Special Education, Prendergast School.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

D. Report and recommendation from the Curriculum Committee.
Assistant Superintendent Bergin said there are several items being brought to the Board, after the Curriculum Committee's approval.

1. Ansonia High School

a. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Requirement

Discussion: Assistant Superintendent Bergin told the Board they are looking to approve this volunteer hour credit at the Ansonia High School. He said this will allow students to earn up to 2 full credits. He said this will be a graduation requirement.

b. Schedule Change

Discussion: Mr. Bergin asked Principal Giansanti to brief the Board. Mr. Paul Giansanti told the Board this change is very minor. He said there will the addition of a ten minute homeroom at the beginning of each day. He said there are many benefits of homeroom, including communications, daily planning, social and emotional relationship with their teacher.
He said the other change will be the rotation of the daily schedule. Mr. Giansanti said this change will include a rotation at the beginning and then a rotation at the end of each day. He said this change will allow students to leave for internships, career pathways, or volunteer time. He said this will not impact their classroom time.

c. Graduation Requirement

Discussion: Mr. Bergin said this requirement involves the .50 credit graduation requirement for the current Computer Application class. He said due to the variety of other course opportunities offered, the high school is looking to add an Introductory to Computer Programing elective that would include Introduction of Computers for Tech, Computer Science, or Advanced Computer Concepts. Mr. Bergin said the requirement title would be changed to Computer Literacy. He said they are also looking to revise the .50 credit of level two Personal Finance I and would like to change it to Personal Finance I or Computer Economics. He said the two classes are similar, but Computer Economics will be a full year course worth one full credit. He said lastly, the high school is looking to change the world language requirement from two full year credits, to one full year required credit. He said this change will benefit non-college bound, and PACE students. Mr. Bergin said the four full credits will also remain available to all students.
Mr. Phipps asked if the Curriculum Board approved of all the changes, Mr. Bergin said the sub-committee approved all of the changes mentioned. Mr. Bshara said the committee met and everyone agreed and the changes are great progress for the Middle School and High School.
Mr. Bergin thanked Mr. Giansanti for his preparation on the above items.

MOTION: To approve the recommendations from the Curriculum Committee meeting regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service requirement, the high school schedule change, and the high school graduation requirements.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

---

2. AMS New Curricula for 2021-2022 School Year.

a. 6th Grade – Introduction to Personal Finance I

Discussion: Mr. Bergin said the Personal Finance I course will be for all sixth grade students beginning the 2021-2022 school year. He said students need skills with knowledge of managing finances. He said whatever path students choose, they will need assistance in financial decisions to achieve financial stability. Mr. Bergin said Personal Finance II will be given to seventh grade students as a follow up to the Personal Finance I class in sixth grade.

b. 7th Grade – Introduction to Personal Finance II

Mr. Bergin said this was discussed in the previous item (a.) since the two courses are directly related.

c. 8th Grade – Introduction to Code.

Discussion: Mr. Bergin said the other request from the Middle School is the adoption of a class for grade 8 students beginning school year 2021-2022. He said continuing to build on STEM education, partnerships, and importance to provide the necessary tools for students to be successful. Mr. Bergin said the creation of a coding class, provides students an entry into twenty-first century skills, and is asking for the approval of the coding course.

Mr. Bshara told the Board, this flows into the high school finance program and the Curriculum Committee was very impressed with the presentation. He said they fully recommend the additions to the Board.

MOTION: To approve the recommendations from the Curriculum Committee meeting regarding Middle School Introduction to Personal Finance I, Personal Finance II, and Coding Courses.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

---

3. New Elementary (K-5) Report Card 2021-2022 School Year.

Discussion: Mr. Bergin said this project was led by a group of elementary teachers from each school. He said there were several meetings to create a standard report card for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. He said the more detailed report card has many benefits, most importantly, communicating to parents for a clear understanding of their child's strength and weakness. He asked the Board to refer to the sample in their packet.

Mr. Bergin thanked the committee for working on this project.

MOTION: To approve the report card change for grades K – 5.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

4. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Bergin told the Board in lieu of his monthly report, he referred to the curriculum updates.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Keating, Special Education Director, said when comparing numbers from previous years of Special Education students to current numbers, the trend is in the right direction for assisting students according to their needs. Mr. Keating said outplaced students are starting to age out of the program, and the various other programs being implemented in the district will allow a number of outplaced students to be reduced. He told the Board, interns will continue to come in to work with speech and language Pathologists, and Southern Connecticut State University students will be assisting again, for the extended school year program.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Phipps told the Board, Mr. Pastore's report was included in the packet. He told the members they can contact Mr. Pastore with any questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Ms. JoAnn Cegan thanked the Board, she reviewed the encumbrances, expenditures, and balances. She said the balances are still being reviewed in preparation for end of the year salaries, projects, and improvements. She told the Board that expenses for grants are being closed out, the insurance collaborative is working well, and the process of moving the Food Service financials is almost complete. Ms. Cegan said she is pleased the budget was approved by the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Phipps also thanked the Aldermen for fully funding the Board of Education Budget. There were no questions.

1. 2020-2021 Year-to-Date
2. Athletics
3. Food Service
4. Grants and other income

E. Enrollment

Mr. Phipps told the Board this report is included in the package.

F. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi said he is in the process of purchasing new school uniforms for students in need. He said there were some home visits for residency issues, as well as attendance problems.

Mr. Phipps asked how the attendance has been. Mr. Bergin said attendance is approximately 70%. Mr. Phipps asked if the numbers of remote student participation can be given at the next Board meeting. Mr. Lisi also briefed the Board regarding transportation discussions that have been happening with All-Star Transportation Company.

G. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans said his department continues to fulfill all work orders in a timely manner. He told the Board, the department just finished installing 47 filtered bottle filling stations at the schools. He said the hands free water stations are part of the cleanliness and safety protocol. He said the 2021 Alliance Infrastructure will be complete by August 2021. Mr. Evans told the Board of updates on several other projects including the Mead School ramp project bidding. He said low bidder was DiGiovanni and Sons. He said this company has worked on other projects, and he is looking forward to beginning the project in June 2021. He said the Coe Lane project is moving forward, and will include paving of a portion of driveway in the high school parking lot. He said there was a savings of approximately $15,000 on this project. He said the last project will be the Internal Radio System upgrade. Mr. Evans said this system will allow contact with anyone in the building, as well as the ability to communicate with the police department in the event of an emergency. He said the camera system was also completed in April 2021.

There were no questions.

H. Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Report.

Ms. Rebecca Adams said she would like to highlight cost savings and cost reduction from worker's compensation and unemployment. She said there was approximately $15,000 refunded from the beginning of the year. She said there was a great meeting with the city regarding worker's compensation. Ms. Adams said the city has been an excellent resource and partnership. She said the policies update continues and to refer to her attached report for reference. There were no questions.

I. Regionalization Update

Mr. Phipps told the Board there has been a tremendous amount of work done. He said Attorney Joe Jaumann has done a tremendous amount of work along with the committee, as well as the superintendents of each district. He said a proposal should be coming soon. He said the schools structure is being discussed, as well as the Board of Education structure and costs. He said they are hoping to get something on a ballot in November.

Mr. Bshara said there seems to be various numbers in the analysis that keep changing. He said he is looking from Derby to get all of the pieces of the puzzle to make a good determination. Mr. Bshara said it is difficult to put a finger on anything until all information has been gathered.

Attorney Jaumann agreed, and told the Board there are several questions that are in the works to being answered. He said the timeframe is a factor. He told the Board they are currently on the second extension, which expires February 2022. He said this will be the four year mark for discussion. He said the financial piece and governance were two topics in discussion.

Mr. Phipps said the public will be voting on the regionalization.

Attorney Jaumann said in order for this to pass, an affirmative vote would come from both communities.

J. Update on bussing and school times.

Mr. Phipps told the Board this item was discussed earlier.

K**. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent DiBacco said he first wanted to thank the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, the mayor's office, Mayor Cassetti, and anyone else involved in the fully funded budget. He said he appreciates everyone's help, and enjoys the positive relationship with the city.

Superintendent DiBacco addressed the Teacher of the Year Awarded to Mrs. Lori Judge. Mrs. Judge thanked everyone, and told the Board she is honored.

He said all building emergency plans that have been in place for so long, are going to be re-addressed and updated. He said the district was fortunate to have CFO of the Boston Red Sox, as well as CO of New York Liberty speak to the Sports Marketing Class at the high school. He told the Board students truly enjoyed speaking to such influential people. Superintendent DiBacco said the district recently supported some non-profit organizations in the area. He said it was an honor to speak at the Quinnipiac University commencement ceremony, where he was able to create a platform to highlight Ansonia. Superintendent DiBacco said some wonderful grant opportunities

came about at the ceremony. He said Mr. Bergin was presented the Ruler Award for leadership and implementation. He said Mr. Bergin and Principal Amy Cosciello deserve to be acknowledged. He also spoke about several large grants awarded to the district. He said this will be a great opportunity to shape the landscape of our education. Superintendent DiBacco said he is looking forward to June 12th, when the high school students graduate. He said there is no definite plan for the graduation ceremony. He said they will wait for a decision from the state to decide.

L. **Additional; Administration or Board of Education**

V. Executive Session re: Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding expulsion at 7:30 PM .

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

To return to regular meeting.

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

MOTION: To approve the amended stipulation of Expulsion for the student discussed in Executive Session.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	2	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		5	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie

Venson

Recording Secretary
Date: 5/17/2021