ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Ansonia High School, Media Center, via Zoom **DATE:** 16 June 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	6	1	0

II. Public Session

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated May 12, 2021 (regular).

Mr. Phipps said he wanted to make a note regarding the regionalization discussion. He said credit was given to a few members of the Regionalization Committee, and he did not want to leave out Mr. Jim Gildea. Mr. Phipps said he has been doing a tremendous job with the Regionalization process. Mr. Phipps said Mr. Gildea is co-chair, and deserves credit as well.

MOTION: To accept the amended meeting minutes dated May 12, 2021 (regular), with the revision of note above.

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

B. Appointment

1. Kevin Banham, Director of Food Services.
Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Mr. Banham comes from managing seventeen schools throughout the state. He said Mr. Banham was looking to settle in one district. Superintendent DiBacco said the talent of the other candidates was very strong, all others were great. He said Mr. Banham rose to the top in experience he has with the Food Service Departments, as well as working very closely with the State Department of Food Services. He said this, among other qualities; make Mr. Banham essential for our district.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation to hire Mr. Kevin Banham, Director of Food Services.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	1	X		

MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

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2. Stephanie Savo, Assistant Director of Special Services.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said he is delighted to present Ms. Stephanie Savo. He said Ms. Savo has been holding the responsibility of Assistant Director of Special Services. He said she is responsible for an over $5 million budget of out placed students. He said her work prior to this as a special education teacher, as well as many capacities within the department, make Ms. Savo the perfect candidate. Superintendent DiBacco said he is presenting Ms. Savo to the Board for the consideration that comes highly recommended.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation to hire
Ms. Stephanie Savo, Assistant Director of Special Services.

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

Ms. Savo thanked everyone for the amazing opportunity; she said she is thankful and looking forward to her new journey.

C. Retirement of Caryn Shaffer, ESL teacher, AMS and AHS.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Shaffer has dedicated many years to the district. He said Ms. Shaffer has done an amazing job with the ESL Program in the Middle School as well as the High School and her shoes will be very hard to fill.
MOTION: To accept the retirement of Ms. Caryn Shaffer,
ESL Teacher.
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	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	2	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	1	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		6	0	

D. Certified Appointments.

1. Elizabeth Gurski, Special Education, Ansonia High School.
2. Melanie Chevarella, Grade 1, Prendergast School.
3. Amanda Jung, Grade 1, Mead School.
4. Brittany McVey, Physical Education, Ansonia Middle School.
5. Angel Diaz, Numeracy Specialist, Ansonia high School.
6. Steven Witek, Math Specialist, Ansonia Middle School.

Superintendent DiBacco gave a brief overview of each candidate, saying each individual will be a great asset to our district.

MOTION: To approve the recommendations for the following certified
Appointments:

1. Elizabeth Gurski, Special Education, Ansonia High School.
2. Melanie Chevarella, Grade 1, Prendergast School.
3. Amanda Jung, Grade 1, Mead School.
4. Brittany McVey, Physical Education, Ansonia Middle School.
5. Angel Diaz, Numeracy Specialist, Ansonia high School.
6. Steven Witek, Math Specialist, Ansonia Middle School.

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

E. Report and Recommendation from the Curriculum Committee.

Assistant Superintendent Bergin told the Board this process for Teacher Evaluation took over two years to complete, mostly due to COVID. He said the process was created by a committee made up of teachers and administrators throughout the district. He said they have also moved forward with the Administrator Evaluation Process. Mr. Bergin said the committee is recommending the Board vote to accept the proposed changes to begin with the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION: To approve the recommendations from The Curriculum Committee Meeting regarding the proposed changes to the Teacher Evaluation Process to begin 2021-2022 school year.

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

F. Non-Union Contract Extensions and salary increases.

Superintendent DiBacco reminded the Board this item was tabled last Board Meeting. He said he hopes the Board was able to review the grid regarding salaries. He said the names associated with salaries are based on market rate.

Ms. Deliebro asked about the position of Assistant Food Director. Superintendent DiBacco said that position does not exist, it has been eliminated. Ms. Adams said the position of Head Chef has taken its place.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked about wording in the grid, that a position is overpaid. Superintendent DiBacco said there are times when a position is paid well above market value. He said this increase will not be as large as others. Ms. DiGiorgi asked if this person has been informed. Superintendent DiBacco said the employee has been notified.

MOTION: To approve the non-union extensions and salary increases.

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

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

Discussion: Mr. Phipps said this is a standard procedure that has been in place for many years.

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

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	2	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI		X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE		X		

MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	0	

H. Bus time change.

Mr. Phipps asked Mr. Lisi to speak about the bus time change. Mr. Bob Lisi said after numerous discussions with All-Star, the school time changes have been set. He said the High School will remain the same, 7:15 a.m. until 1:50 p.m., the Middle School will be 7:50 a.m. until 2:25 p.m. Mead School and Prendergast Schools will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end 3:05 p.m. He said adjustments were made and they are hoping to alleviate some of the traffic from fourteen buses going to one grammar school. He said there are several reasons for this, one important will be so teachers at Mead School and Prendergast School can collaborate with professional development opportunities, as well as the traffic. He said with the old times, none of this was able to happen.

Superintendent DiBacco said many discussions took place over the years regarding the benefit of having our grammar schools begin at the same time. He said the teachers never had the opportunity to collaborate. He said there are several other districts that have the same starting time for grammar schools. He said the traffic flow will be significantly decreased, and the before and after school programs are looking forward to assisting parents. He said this is a lot better than spending the $1 million that was asked two years ago. He said this will be the perfect time to make this change, since sixth grade will be moving and pre-K will be joining the grammar schools.

Superintendent DiBacco said he applauds Mr. Lisi in his efforts on making this happen with All-Star Transportation.

Ms. Leberge asked if there was a monetary savings with the changes presented.

Superintendent DiBacco said it was a net zero.

Ms. Leberge asked what cost difference would there be if the original bus schedule.

Superintendent DiBacco said it would be the same cost. He said they appropriated the buses.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked if this is the year the district is supposed to be getting new buses for our district.

Superintendent DiBacco said yes, and the question has been asked numerous times to the bus company. He said there are different answers regarding why this is not happening this year. He said he has not heard any report on propane buses.

Ms. DiGiorgi said most of these buses are very old.

MOTION: To approve the new bus schedules, as well as school time changes.

	MOTION	**YES**	**NO**	**ABSTAIN**
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	2	X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		6	0	

IV. Informational Items.

A. Regionalization update.

Discussion: Mr. Phipps said there is no update at this time because there has not been a meeting since the last Board of Education Meeting. Mr. Phipps said the committee is waiting for updated numbers from DRG, the educational consulting company. He said the committee wants to make sure numbers are accurate. Mr. Phipps said the next meeting is scheduled for June 29th. He said the timeline for the referendum to appear on the November ballot will most likely not happen, due to the delay. He said it may be closer to February. Mr. Phipps said the time for the committee will expire around then, as well. He said to be clear, when talking about the high school, Ansonia High School will be using their district, and Derby Middle School will be using their school. Mr. Phipps said Derby high school will close and Ansonia Middle School will close. He said they are still discussing options with elementary schools. Mr. Bshara said they are still waiting for numbers, and has met with the committee chairmen and DRG, who will be doing numbers over. He said they will meet on the 29th to discuss.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Bergin told the Board he has been looking at attendance. He asked the Board to refer to their packet. He said there 237 students that returned to in person learning from October 1st to June 1st. Mr. Bergin said there was an increase of remote students at the high school, which is common throughout the state at this grade level. He said the grammar schools showed a decrease in remote students. He said they are looking forward to opening fully next school year.

Mr. Bshara asked if the student count is now 2,139.

Mr. Bergin said as of this report, yes.

Mr. Bergin said this past school year was started in the hybrid learning model, which represented extreme challenge for the students in our community. He said the district had to recreate the entire educational process by learning how to teach, engage, and counsel our students remotely. Mr. Bergin said the number one goal is always the safety and welfare of students. He said weekly, ever changing guidance was coming from the state and there were no courses in teacher preparation on how to teach during a global pandemic. Mr. Bergin said he gives unbelievable credit to staff members and parents. He said the entire staff has showed nothing but collaboration and remained very professional throughout the entire year. Mr. Bergin said the examples he presented in his report are to showcase and share that no matter what the learning model, the staff continued to meet with excellence. He said during the difficult time this year, so much was gained. Mr. Bergin thanked the entire staff, parents and families of Ansonia.

There were no questions.

C. Special Education Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Keating, Special Education Director, said he wanted to thank the Board for approving Ms. Savo's positon. He said this will assist in efforts to ensure the outplaced students are being serviced. He reviewed his report, telling the Board that the goal is to lower the number of identifiable students. He said he believes it will take time, and he does not want to rush this process. He said three outplaced students were returned to district. Mr. Keating said the state has moved the age from 22 to 22 years old in which they remain in district. He said he thinks the decline in the number of students that need servicing is due to the partnership with tiered instruction and he said the training for interventionists and special education staff has been why it is possible to reduce the number. Mr. Keating said this is the answer on how our numbers of students being serviced is reducing.
There were no questions.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Phipps told the Board, Mr.Pastore's report is in the packet. He said any questions can be addressed to him.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

Ms. JoAnn Cegan asked the Board to refer to their report. She said at the end of May, the financial report showed $24,659,000 was expended. She said $6,488,000 was encumbered. Ms. Cegan said this included all payrolls, as well as teacher's balloon pay check. Ms. Cegan said grant funds that are expected soon. She continued to review the detailed report, listing all line items and expenses. She said there are many needed building repairs. She said the insurance collaborative is still doing much better than expected.
Mr. Phipps asked if any funds will be able to be added to the non-lapsing account.
Ms. Cegan said she said she is not sure of the exact amount after all bills are paid, but there is nothing to worry about.
There were no other questions.

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

F. Enrollment

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

G. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi said there are programs being put in place for the high school. He said one being freshmen academy, which will benefit students in the Middle School moving up to the high school.
There were no questions.

H. Facilities Director's Report.

Mr. Bob Evans said as the school year is coming to an end. He told the Board the department is finishing up outstanding work orders, and summer projects are being scheduled. Mr. Evans said the Coe Lane project is wrapping up and should be completed very soon. He said he has been working with Ms. Adams regarding the storage facility and it will be complete, hopefully in the next few months. He said there is a lot to do over the summer but with the help of staff and the support of administration, he thinks there will be no problem.
There were no questions.

I. Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations report

Ms. Rebecca Adams said there is a lot going on. She said fiscal management will continue to be worked on throughout the summer. She said Ms. Cegan and Ms. Pitney have been wonderful to work with. She said there are no staff members on workman's compensation, which is great news. She said the garage project is being wrapped up and the building will be secured. She complimented all staff members on the reducing the quarantine tracing down to nothing. She said staff worked very hard this year and kept everyone safe. She said she wanted to thank everyone from the Human Resources end, and said it feels good to be past it. She said Ms. DiGiorgi and she dug into the policies and worked through to move and adopt required changes. She said they will be moving forward to making these adjustments, along with Ms. DeLiebro.
There were no questions.

J. Superintendent's Report.

Acknowledgements:
Superintendent DiBacco said the Teacher of the Year chose to move from regular education to special education, which is a very difficult task for any professional of education. He said her exceptional efforts are unmatched, and unparalleled. He told the Board she made Mead School a wonderful place to be. Superintendent DiBacco said, when Mr. Bergin and he went to congratulate her on the accomplishment, she was very humbled. He said, coming from a Special Education background himself, he can understand the reason and desire to become involved in the field. He said her level of skill in her first year during a pandemic was outstanding. Superintendent DiBacco congratulated Ms. Laurie Judge, Ansonia Teacher of the Year.
Ms. Judge thanked Superintendent DiBacco, Assistant Superintendent Bergin, and the Board. She thanked Mead School, The Special Education Department, and her administrators for their support and encouragement during the transition to Special Education. She said working with Mead School staff and the community is awesome and the award is an incredible honor.
The Board congratulated Ms. Judge.
Superintendent DiBacco said he could not be happier to present The Paraprofessional of the Year award to Ms. Johanne Lazarre. He said Principal Colaccino at the Middle School said Ms. Lazarre is very deserving of the award. He said Mr. Colaccino told him that Ms. Lazarre is very hard working, does whatever is asked, and would love for her to become a Special Education Teacher. Superintendent DiBacco told Ms. Lazarre that the Middle School staff and students speak very highly of her. He said he would also love for Ms. Lazarre to become a Special Education Teacher and the district will support her in any way. Superintendent DiBacco presented Ms. Lazarre her award, the Board congratulated her.
Ms. Lazarre thanked everyone.
Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to address that in the past two years the PACE Program graduated 24 students. He said that is a tremendous accomplishment. He said the program deserves praise. He said Sacred Heart University has given a STEM grant to our K – 5th grade teachers. He said those interested will be compensated and educated to incorporate the STEM fusion into their teaching lessons. He said a group visited Sacred Heart to see what the model looks like. He said he would like the Board members to also visit the university to see the maker space and get a feel for what the district intends to do with the three year grant funds. Superintendent DiBacco said high school teacher, Sal Calcascola, applied for the Teach Rock Partnership. He said the district was awarded the grant. He said we are also working with ACES to review our district building safety plans. He said this will be to go over measures to update the safety plans for each building. Superintendent DiBacco said they have been going over different early childhood programs. He said he wanted to congratulate Ms. Lida Princevalli on her retirement from the high school, as well as Ms. Grace Lockett, also from the high school. He said both have served the district dutifully for many years. He also told the Board he applied for a program at Columbia University. He said this innovation think tank program is meant to reframe and think of education differently. He said they did accept

him for the program, and he is happy to report that Ansonia is one of 10-12 districts that will be represented. Superintendent DiBacco said he is very happy to represent on the executive board of the Valley United Way. He said he is very proud of the ceremonies that were held for both the Middle School and the High School. He said he wants to thank Ms. Fran DiGirogi and Ms. Rebecca Adams for their work on the policies. He said he also wanted to thank the staff, the community, as well as parent and students. He said this year was such a trying time. He said with the committed community, talented staff members, and the supportive Board of Ed which allowed us to make the decisions, he thanks each and every one.
There were no questions.
Mr. Phipps said he wanted to thank Dr. DiBacco, Mr. Bergin and the entire staff. He said everyone involved did an absolute great job this year. He also said he wanted to give a shout out to all sports teams. He said all teams made it to post season play, as well as the girls' softball team making it through to Class S Semi-finals. Mr. Phipps said this is the furthest this team has gone since 1995. He congratulated the girls' softball team.

K**. Additional Administration or Board of Education.**

There were none.

V. Executive Session regarding the following items:

1. Pursuant to C.G.S. section 1-200(6) (D), for "discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate" for district office and other use.

2. Pursuant to C.G.S. section 1-200(6) (A), for Superintendent's evaluation.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session Regarding:
1. Pursuant to C.G.S. section 1-200(6)(D), for "discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate" for district office and other use.
2. Pursuant to C.G.S. section 1-200(6)(A), for Superintendent's evaluation.

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

To return to regular meeting.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie

Venson

Recording Secretary
Date: 6/20/2021