

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Ansonia High School, Media Center, via Zoom **DATE:** 21 April 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			
MS. BETH LEBERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president	X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA			
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	0	0

Mr. Phipps asked if everyone would remain standing for a moment of silence for former Ansonia teachers, Mr. Charles Germe and Mr. Edward Obidinski.

II. Public Session

There were no comments at this time.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated March 10, 2021 (regular).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated March 10, 2021 (regular).

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

B. Request for Pine Trust Funds.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said the Pine Trust Funds will be used to fund Project Lead the Way, Engineering pathway, and Housatonic Community College Advanced Manufacturing pathway. He said these allow the Engineering and Principles of Engineering classes, along with several others to support Project Lead the Way.

MOTION: To approve the request for Pine Trust Funds.

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

C. Carl D. Perkins – Career Technical Education Secondary Special Populations Recruitment and Retention Grant Application.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco told the Board, that with the help of Karen Phipps, this grant will be used for special population students. He said our special needs students will be given the opportunity to develop skills alongside their peers in the area of CTE. He said there will be hands on activities that give these students life experience and will assist the students to succeed.

MOTION: To approve the Carl D. Perkins Grant.

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

D. State Summer School Grant – 2021-22 year submission.

Superintendent DiBacco said this is a loss of learning grant for the elementary students. He said the program will include more students and staff from the regular summer education program. He told the Board the team has been working hard to put this program together and it should prove to be very successful.

MOTION: To approve the request for
The State Summer School Grant..

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

E. 2021-2022 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Phipps said the Finance Committee approved this a couple weeks ago, at a Finance Committee meeting. He said this budget includes a 3.25% increase.

Superintendent DiBacco presented the budget and said he wanted to share all of the expenses and increases with the Board. He told the Board there are increases in several areas, including ELL, homeschooling, and Special Education expenses. Superintendent DiBacco said the pandemic was the cause of the lack of district testing. He said once testing resumes, the scores will surely go up. He said the District Accountability process continues, and they are working to expand in all areas, including technology. He said the high school is now accredited thanks to Mr. Bergin, for pushing forward to get the support that is needed. He said the freshmen Academy support truly gives the incoming students what they need to prepare for the high school experience. Superintendent DiBacco said even during the pandemic, the district continues to grow. He said the relationships with partners are moving forward, including financial literacy class at the high school, software privacy agreements, and the new health curriculum implement, are just a few of the areas the district is growing. He said the Facilities Department continues to keep the buildings clean and safe for the return of our students. He said the addition of Power School and Parent Square systems, will keep parents in touch with their students using the latest technology. Superintendent DiBacco said the Allied Health Program at Griffin Hospital, the Pharmacy Technician Program through Yale New Haven, and the Future Teachers of America Program, are helping many high school students' future. He said Quinnipiac University, Southern Connecticut State University and Sacred Heart have all joined in to work with our high school students. He said the Advanced Manufacturing pathway with Sikorsky internship will again be made available this summer. Superintendent DiBacco said, regarding the budget, every area was looked at and cut wherever it was able. He said he also met the goal to not issue any pink slips to certified staff again for the second year.

MOTION: To approve the request for
the 2021-2022 proposed budget.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO	2	X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MS. BETH LEBERGE		X		

MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin said they are very pleased with the elementary and middle schools returning full time. He said the number of in-person attendance has grown significantly. He said the increasing numbers shows the confidence parents sending their children back to school full time. He said he is also in preparation with Griffin Health Care for a sixteen years and older vaccine clinic for our students. He said there was a survey sent to parents and they will wait for the results.

Mr. Bergin said the summer program this year will be expanded with two sessions, hoping to attract more students. Mr. Phipps asked who would be welcome to attend the programs. Mr. Bergin said the details will be worked out once staff is hired. He said the new Food Department Director has been hired and everyone is thrilled with the phenomenal candidate. Mr. Bergin reviewed the many highlights that took place in the past month. He said there are so many positive pieces that are happening. He asked the group to review his report, and said he is very happy and proud to be a part of it all.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Keating, Special Education Director, said he wanted to quickly mention Southern Connecticut University will be offering their interns at no cost for the summer school program once again. He said he is very proud of his team who are working together and giving their true, valuable opinions, which cause the department to work so well together. Mr. Phipps asked if Mr. Keating had a dollar amount of the savings in the Special Education Department since he has joined the team. Mr. Keating said there are approximately 50 outplaced students right now, compared to over 60 when he first started. He said he is not sure of the exact amount in savings, but he knows the PACE Program alone has saved \$1 million with their graduates last year. Mr. Phipps thanked him for the work his department continues to do.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore gave his report. He told the Board the Parent Square rollout was successful. He said this makes communicating between staff and parents much easier. He said Power School is moving along and on track. There were no questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Ms. JoAnn Cegan reviewed the expenditures for the year, saying everything is going well. She said insurance collaborative is also good. She said claims are in line and the reserve in approximately \$2 million. Ms. Cegan said the food service reports are now up-to-date. There were no questions.

1. 2020-2021 Year-to-date
2. Athletics – Mr. Phipps gave the report, there were no questions.
3. Food Services - Ms. Cegan included this in her report.
4. Grants and other income

E. Enrollment –

Report was submitted, there was no discussion.

F. Youth and Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Bob Lisi gave his report, noting the students who remain remote are being watched for attendance. He said preparations for freshmen academy are beginning. Mr. Lisi reviewed his report, there were no questions.

G. Facility Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans, Facilities Director, gave his report. He discussed the ventilation cleaning project, the paving of parking lots, the Pre-K move which will take place with as little disturbance to students as possible, and several construction projects. Mr. Evans reviewed his entire report, there were no questions.

H. Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Report

Ms. Rebecca Adams, Director Human Resources, said she will be supporting the hiring process with all necessary positions. She said there are several items for action with the Policy Committee, which she will be working on with Ms. DiGiorgi. She said the goal will be to adopt policies by June. She said she wanted to thank Margaret Pitney and JoAnn Cegan for help with unemployment benefit claims. Ms. Adams continued her report, there were no questions.

I. 2021 Graduation

Superintendent DiBacco asked Principal Giansanti to speak. Mr. Giansanti, Principal Ansonia High School, addressed the Board. He said a survey was sent to senior student parents with the options of the traditional graduation held at Nolan Field with two guests, versus the type of parade graduation that was held last year. Mr. Giansanti said the votes were pretty much split. He said depending on what the next few weeks tells, they will look at the survey and make a final decision. He told the Board if the public is wide open, the graduation will be the traditional setup at Nolan Field. Mr. Phipps said the date is Saturday, June 12th 9:00AM.

J. Summer Interventions – Mr. Phipps reminded the Board this was discussed earlier.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco said he expressed most of what he wanted earlier. He said he did not want to forget to mention an externship with Mr. George Mitchell from Sikorsky Aircraft for teachers who are teaching manufacturing related courses. He said Mr. Mitchell has been so helpful with our students and staff. He said also, with grant funds, they will be looking into making a state of the art Robotics Lab modeled after MIT. He said after conversations, these opportunities are so very exciting and he appreciates the effort put in by all parties involved.

I. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	2	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MS. BETH LEBERGE		X		
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: 4/26/2021