

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Ansonia High School, Media Center, via Zoom **DATE:** 8 December 2021 **TIME:** 6:45 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Rich Bshara, President

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. **Roll Call** – Mr. Rich 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 LEBERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	2	0

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

Mrs. Sara Crooks welcomed everyone and said tonight she would like to honor students from the Middle School and High School who scored a level 4 on the SBAC and NGSS testing that was taken last spring. She said scoring a level 4 is an amazing accomplishment, meaning the student exceeds the standard. Mrs. Crooks said it is even more difficult, seeing how trying last year was. She called the students up and congratulated each of them for their hard work. The Board congratulated the students.

II. Public Session

Mr. Matthew Hough, President of Ansonia Federation of Teachers, said he would like to congratulate Mr. Bshara and the newly appointed members of the Board. He said he looks forward to continue working together with the Board. He also welcomed Superintendent DiBacco back.

Mr. Bshara said he would also like to thank Mr. Phipps for taking the Board through the past two years. He said it was difficult during COVID, and he was a very good teacher.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. **Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated November 10, 2021.**

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated November 10, 2021.

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

B. **2021 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.**

MOTION: To accept the 2021 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				
MS. BETH LEBERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said he wanted to note the March 4, should be March 9. He also said he would like to talk about the possibility of having a scheduled second meeting every month scheduled. He said it can be used for committee meetings. He said these can easily be cancelled but would give a guarantee date for committee meetings to be held if need be. He said he would also like to discuss moving the meeting location. Mr. Bshara said he would like a lesser distance for himself. He said it may be a good idea to move meeting locations by the month and he said he thinks different school locations would be a good idea. He said the topic of Zoom meetings being available may be a good idea if things do take a turn because of COVID or inclement weather.

Ms. Varoschak asked what the proposed dates would be. Mr. Bshara said he would suggest the 2nd and the 4th Wednesdays. He said he thinks it makes it easy so it is already in place. He said it can also easily be cancelled. Ms. Voroschak said she thinks this makes sense and she thinks it would be helpful. Everyone agreed the 4th Wednesday will be held for secondary meetings and put this as part of the calendar. It was noted to inform Ms. Perrotti to make the necessary changes to the Board of Education meeting calendar.

Ms. DeLibero asked if it has to be held at the DTL. She said she was wondering if it could be held at a school. Mr. Bergin suggested to have to location for the regular meeting be the same as the secondary meeting location for each month. Mr. Bshara asked to change the wording of Wednesday 2020 and the previous change mentioned above.

MOTION: To adopt the 2022 Schedule of Ansonia Board of Education Meetings, after Ms. Fran Perrotti makes the changes noted above.

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

C. Certified Appointments

1. Tricia Vertuccio, Science, Ansonia Middle School.

MOTION: To accept the position of Ms. Tricia Vertuccio, Science Ansonia Middle School.

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

2. Kaily Gruttadauria, Grade 1, Mead School.

MOTION: To Accept the position of Ms. Kaily Gruttadauria, Grade 1, Mead School.

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

Discussion: Mr. Bshara said he has a discussion regarding the level II Step 7, similar to what he mentioned last month. He said he would like to meet with administration regarding the levels and steps they are hired, and see what can be done going forward to determine a process that makes sense to him.

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin congratulated the students on their accomplishments. He said he also wanted to officially welcome back Dr. DiBacco. Mr. Bergin discussed the vaccination rate among our staff and said he is very happy with the almost 94% vaccination rate. He also discussed the vaccinated rate of students in the district and said he is hoping this number will increase, since the vaccine has just become available for the younger students. He said meetings continue to happen every Tuesday via Zoom and the district is keeping up with all the changes.

Mr. Bergin told the Board about the District Data Committee meetings that have started taking place again. He said he is very excited to have these four sub-committees start up again since there was so much progress taking place prior to COVID. Mr. Bergin also spoke about the Quinnipiac University partnership with their literacy department to utilize their fourth-year education students. He said these students will be coming to us, where we can use them for building substitutes and it will also benefit the college students, by gaining experience in their field. He said he also wants to congratulate the high school for their recent approval for their National Business Honor Society. He said inductions are planned to take place in March. He also congratulated the high school for their recent feature on WTNH for two pathway programs. Mr. Bergin also told the Board of several accomplishments of students at the other schools as well.

Mr. Phipps said he wanted to thank Mr. Bergin, and Mr. Lisi, along with others sitting around the table for a great job filling in while Superintendent DiBacco was out.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Keating, Special Education Director, reviewed his report. He said the numbers continue to stay steady. Mr. Keating said also, most of his focus has been on the social and emotional aspect, especially in the Middle School. Superintendent DiBacco explained the importance of the Intervention that has been put in place and thanked the Board for allowing that to happen. Mr. Keating continued to reviewed his report, and thanked the Board as well for allowing him to re-implement the Intervention Program.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore review his report. He told the Board his department recently utilized a platform called KnowBe4. He said this allows them to test users via email phishing campaigns, and then provide training videos on what to look for. The Board thanked Mr. Pastore.

There were no other questions.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

Mr. Rick Belden, School Business Administrator, congratulated the newly appointed officers. He reviewed his presented report including the General Fund, detailing salaries, Grant Funding, and other funds.

Mr. Bshara commented, the Excess has not been netted against this. Mr. Belden agreed, and said this will not be able to be shown yet. Mr. Belden said once those numbers come in, he will add them.

Mr. Bshara said he would like more detail by object. Mr. Belden said he can forward that document to Mr. Bshara.

Mr. Bshara asked if they have moved the cafeteria to the ledger system. Mr. Belden said mid-late January they will move from Quick Books. He asked if the consultant is still in the department doing the books. Mr. Kevin Benham said the consultant is not doing to books, but she does come in for audit purposes.

There were no questions.

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

E. Food Services Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Benham, Food Service Director, gave his report. He explained the exceptionally high cost of all expenses in the department, as well as the shortages in all areas. He said, from a budget standpoint, it is tight. He explained the staff shortage and the plan to become fully staffed in the near future. Mr. Benham said when the department is fully staffed, it will be more beneficial financially. He told the Board he has been working with Rick with the budget and payroll. Mr. Benham told the Board of the shortage of government funded food deliveries, vendor driver shortages, as well as limited food supply for our students.

F. Enrollment

Mr. Phipps reviewed the report, there were no questions.

G. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi presented his report. He spoke about the new propane buses and said they are very nice. There were no questions.

H. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans was not at the meeting; his report was enclosed. There were no other questions.

I. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales congratulated the nominees and their new positions. He told the Board about several events that took place throughout the district; including vaccine clinics, the high school Human Relations Club meeting, and the NAACP high school club meeting.

There were no questions.

J. Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Report.

Ms. Rebecca Adams congratulated all appointed Board members. She brought the Board up to speed regarding the legal assistance that will be hired regarding Expulsion hearings. Mr. Bshara asked if they can work to get something completed for next month's meeting. She said they are still working on the Policy updates with Fran DiGiorgi. Ms. Adams said went over some of the changes that need to be made in several current policies. Ms. Adams talked about COVID exposure policies, Expulsion agreements, newly hired staff, the Paraprofessional and Secretary union contract negotiations, and unemployment claim discussion.

Mr. Bshara asked if the Board can make a motion to allow Dr. DiBacco to return as Superintendent.

MOTION: To sunset Stephen Bergin's appointment as Acting Superintendent and restore Dr. Joseph DiBacco as the superintendent, effective 12-08-2021.

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

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco complimented Mr. Bergin for the great job he is doing on the partnership with Quinnipiac University. He said this began pre-covid and he is so pleased the relationship will continue to grow. He said it was wonderful to see the high school students sing at the Veteran's Day celebration at City Hall. He said Ms. Tangredi is just a gem and he is so proud to have her leading the musical department. He thanked the hard work of the staff over the last few months. He thanked Mr. Rick Belden for the communication and growing relationship with the city. He said to have Dr. Morales has also been great. He congratulated everyone in the room for their support while he was on sick leave. He said he received so much love and it just shows the type of people in this city, including the mayor. He said he appreciate the hard work of the teachers, staff, and all who work in Central Office. Superintendent said he appreciates everything that has been done during these challenging times. He said he is so proud to be the superintendent of Ansonia Public Schools. He said from his heart, he thanks everyone. Superintendent DiBacco said he is ready to get back and work hard, because there is a lot to do. He said there is so much positive and that is what we should all be focused on.

Mr. Bshara thanked Mr. Bergin and Mr. Lisi for taking the reins while

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

12/10/2021