

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Ansonia High School, Media Center, via Zoom **DATE:** 10 November 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

Mr. Phipps asked for everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence to remember former Paraprofessional Mrs. Barbara Parks. He said she was a very long time, dedicated employee, who touched many lives of both students and staff alike.

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

Chargers Champions Recognition Program

Acting Superintendent, Steve Bergin turned the meeting over to Mrs. Sara Crooks, to present this month's award. Mrs. Crooks welcomed elementary students who scored a level 4 on the SBAC Test for ELA, Math, or both. She told the Board there were also a large number of students in the other schools who excelled in these tests. She said the test was given during difficult times last year, and these students did a phenomenal job. Mrs. Crooks awarded each student with a certificate, students introduced themselves and told the Board which school they currently attend. The Board and all attendees congratulated the group for their excellent effort.

II. Public Session

There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated October 20, 2021 (special).

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes dated October 20, 2021 (special).

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

B. Certified Appointments

1. Nicholas Johnson, Physical Education Teacher, Ansonia High School.

2. Joseph Vigliotti, Art History Teacher, Ansonia Middle School.

3. Catherine Guillian-Groell, Elementary ESL Teacher, Mead School

4. Kristina Cost, Speech and Language Pathologist, Ansonia High School and Ansonia Middle School.

MOTION: To approve certified appointments

of Mr. Nicholas Johnson, Physical Education Teacher, Ansonia High School,

Mr. Joseph Vigliotti, Art History Teacher, Ansonia Middle School,

Ms. Catherine Guillian-Groell, Elementary ESL Teacher, Mead School,

and Ms. Kristina Cost, Speech and Language Pathologist, Ansonia High School and Ansonia Middle School.

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

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Special Education Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Keating, Special Education Director, reviewed his report. He told the Board, the ACES Program has been extended to Ansonia Middle School. He said at some point some of our students will be placed in the ACES Program, as well as out of district students. He said this news is very beneficial to our students. Mr. Keating said this will enable our students to remain in Ansonia, have a much shorter transportation time, and return to mainstream with their peers if they are able. Mr. Keating said the student numbers continue to flow in the right direction.

There were no questions.

B. Technology Report

Mr. Vincent Pastore reviewed his report. He told the Board about the roll out of the multi factor authentication for user login project, the new backup system for Office 365 to the cloud, and other projects that are being worked on by the IT Department.

Mr. Bshara asked if the archives capture sent out as well as received. Mr. Pastore said it does not yet capture sent out, but they are looking into that feature for Office 365.

There were no other questions.

C. School Business Administrator Financials

Mr. Rick Belden, School Business Administrator, thanked the Board. He reviewed his report, saying the audit process is underway and the department is on target with required tasks. He said weekly meetings will be taking place for the 2022-2023 school year budget. Mr. Belden told the Board he should be able to present this budget at the December Board meeting. He reviewed all budgetary deficits and surplus items as given in his report, he went over the expenditures, purchase items, salary, tuition, transportation, and all other line items in detail. These items were all discussed and pointed out to be detailed in his report. Mr. Belden said the athletic budget remains on track.

There was a discussion regarding building substitutes and using Kelly Services. Mr. Belden said the cost would be similar, but currently there is a serious shortage of substitutes. Ms. Adams said there has been a district hiring process for applicants and we are not getting substitutes from Kelly Services. She said the hiring rate was raised in hopes for quality applicants. She said the district will have to play in the market that we have, in order to get applicants.

There were no questions.

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

D. Enrollment

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

E. Youth and Family Outreach –

Mr. Bob Lisi presented his report, highlighting recent home visits and residency checks. He said he will continue to work closely with the Registration Department to ensure students are living in Ansonia.

There were no questions.

F. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans reviewed his report. He updated the Board on all current projects, including the switch from cooling to heating, bathroom fixture replacements, the Mead School rooftop unit installation, and many others. He said there is a delay on the Maintenance garage, but they hope to proceed in the near future.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked why Mead School does not have a roof over their main entrance. Mr. Evans said that was the way it was engineered, he told Ms. DiGiorgi he can get some prices for the addition. Ms. DiGiorgi said she thinks it is necessary to keep the students and staff dry.

There were no other questions.

G. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Reese Morales, said a copy of the Ansonia Public Schools Annual Report will be distributed very soon, and he thanked all involved with the creation. He reviewed his report with the Board mentioning all of the activities that have been taking place throughout the district including weekly meetings with the NAACP Junior Club, Breast Cancer Awareness Week activities, and the BROSE mentorship program at the high school. He said approximately 98% of parents are being reached through Parent Square. Mr. Morales thanked all involved with the Griffin Hospital student vaccine clinic that took place at the high school.

There were no questions.

H. Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Report.

Ms. Rebecca Adams reviewed her report. She also spoke about the problem with the Maintenance Garage project, and said they are working on a solution and it will be closed up for the winter. She said she has also been working on smart staffing issues and the numbers in detail. Ms. Adams said she has been in the process of putting together a good analysis for a plan to move forward with hiring in the future. She told the Board, auditors are looking for updated policies and processes, she thanked Ms. DiGiorgi for helping with this project.

I. Acting Superintendent's Report

Mr. Steve Bergin, acting Superintendent, said the district is moving toward the Governor's Screen and Save Initiative. He said with this, there will be less quarantine time for students. Mr. Bergin said vaccinated students will not have to quarantine at all. He said this is not an executive order, it is to try and get students back in the classrooms. He told the Board he feels most parents will want to screen to have their students stay in school. Mr. Bergin said there is a three to four step process for this. He told the Board this will be a parent decision. He said parents will be informed if and when their student is impacted.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked if anyone knows how many students are age 5-11 in the district. Mr. Bergin said he does not know off the top of his head, but he can look that up.

Mr. Phipps asked if it may be beneficial to try and open the clinic at a more central location. Mr. Bergin said that would be worth looking into.

Mr. Phipps asked if there was any feedback on why the turnout for the 5-11 year old vaccination clinic was so low. Mr. Morales said when the survey went out, 159 parents said they would vaccinate their students. He said half of that number came to the clinic. Mr. Bergin said the other challenge might have been complications registering through Griffin Hospital.

Mr. Phipps asked what the percentage of vaccinated students is. This number was not known.

Mr. Bergin said Ansonia is 93.2% vaccinated.

Mr. Bergin showed the Board photos of the newly implemented Maker Spaces throughout the district. He said one of the biggest challenges are students not being used to structured classrooms. He said the spaces allow students time to move around and be creative.

Ms. DiGiorgi asked if there is any chance there will be a Thanksgiving Day rally. Mr. Bergin said he does not think it is worth the risk of players and students coming in contact, and there will be no rally at this time. High School Principal Paul Giansanti said he is hoping for something in the spring.

J. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

Mr. Bshara said he would like to recommend something sent to Mr. Vinny Scarlatta for his dedication to all the children of the town, for his time served on the Board of Education.

VI. Executive Session re: Expulsion

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsion(s) at 7:20 p.m.

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

To return to regular meeting.

Motion regarding Executive Session

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the acting Superintendent regarding Expulsion.

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		

MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X		
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI	1	X		
MS. BETH LEBERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		6	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 11/15//2021