ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REVISED Minutes

PLACE: ROBERT E. ZURAW, ADMIN. OFFICE BLDG. DTL **DATE:** 19 February 2020 **TIME: 6:30** P.M.
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Rich Bshara, chair

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MR. RICH BSHARA	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA	X		
TOTAL	3	0	

II. **Public Comments.**

There were no comments at this time.

III. **Presentation from Brown and Brown.**

Discussion:

IV. **Discussion and possible action regarding fiscal year 2020-2021budget.**

47483647. Mr. Bshara asked Superintendent DiBacco to speak. Superintendent DiBacco addressed the committee, thanking them for taking the time sit through the process that will be following regarding the new budget. He said he has a pretty good idea that the city is not going to agre the entire 3.9% the district desperately needs. He said the biggest drivers which is salary, transportation and special education are necessities for our schools to function. Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted them to know that only 17 teachers are being asked to co back, and one secretary, which is less than 10% of the original amount cut. He said this is by far, less than what is needed but he is willing continue to sacrifice because he knows money is tight within the city. He said the current staff are working hard and he is very impressed the outcome but it is just not enough. Superintendent DiBacco said the district is flourishing in so many ways, including the reduction of absenteeism, the partnering of many companies, universities, hospitals, and so many other career pathways that will continue to move the district forward and enable them to have access that was never given to them before. He said another cut worth mentioning is the Special Education Transportation. Superintendent DiBacco said Mr. Keating continues to make cuts in this area. He also said the benefit of Assist Superintendent Bergin implementing SRBI, the Special Education is down 6%. He said he has also been inquiring with other districts and schools to see that our average spending is much, much lower. Superintendent DiBacco said the staffing is seeking so much more for the greater needs of today's students. He said the ESL and lower performing students require a lot. He said it has been proven in the district t larger classroom sizes lead to poor student behavior and a healthy learning environment is more challenging. Superintendent DiBacco sa lead to many more medical leaves and FMLA from staff. He said besides looking out for his teachers, he is just trying to maintain and kee the district thriving. He said he is willing to share services wherever possible, but knows the school district is much different than a city department. Mr. Phipps said he agrees and just for an example, the district is a $32 million organization and needs its own HR person. He said he will continue to look for every way to save money in the district. Superintendent DiBacco said he wants everyone to know he has a his staff looking to add savings. He said at the same time he would like to add, the buildings are getting older and the maintenance costs a increasing.

Superintendent DiBacco said if the number is not going to be anywhere near what is necessary, he will be willing to look at more cuts. He said the he would be having to look at what should be cut. He added the arts are always talked about when cutting cost is involved, and he will have to loo options. He said he will not be comfortable with any cuts but it be necessary to make cuts if the money simply isn't there and it will be felt.
Superintendent DiBacco and interim Business Manager, Ms. JoAnne Cegan, reviewed the budget in great detail explaining the reasoning for eac line.
Mr. Bshara thanked Superintendent DiBacco and let the committee know they will continue to meet.

V. **Public Comments**

Ms. Diane Stroman, Ansonia resident, said being at the schools has shed light on the need for mental health. She said this funding is absolutely necessary after experiencing situations with students at the elementary schools. She said it happens daily and these children need the support st more than ever. She said there is much more staff needed for mental health than just social workers. There were no other comments at this time.

VI. Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 7:25p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA	1	X		
		3	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie

Venson Recording Secretary

Date

1/20/2020