

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

PLACE: Ansonia High School; Remote, via Zoom **DATE:** 09 September 2020 **TIME:** 6:30 P.M.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: 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 (via Zoom)		
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	4	3	0

Mr. Phipps asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence to remember Ms. Linda Coppola, a long time valley educator and mother of Mr. John Coppola, Assistant Principal, Prendergast School who recently passed.

II. Public Session

Alderman Chicago Rivers said he wanted to commend the district for doing a great job. Mr. Phipps said the comment was appreciated, Superintendent DiBacco thanked the alderman, and said it is great to hear positive feedback.

III. Action Items, consideration of approving the following:

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated June 24, 2020 (special), and August 14, 2020 (special).

MOTION: To approve Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated June 24, 2020 (special), and August 14, 2020 (special).

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

B. Retirements of the following employees:

1. Deborah Rudermen, Special Education teacher, Mead School.
2. Betty Tuccio, Elementary teacher, Prendergast School.
3. Patti Biga, Special Education teacher, Mead School.
4. Susan Nargi, English teacher, Ansonia High School.
5. Gerogiana DeMelis, Para Educator, Ansonia Middle School.

Discussion: Mr. Phipps said he would like to recognize these long time educators who are appreciated so much. He said on behalf of the Board of Education, he would like to thank the staff members for all of their hard work and dedication. Superintendent DiBacco said he would also like to thank these staff members for their hard work and all they have contributed to our district.

MOTION: To approve the retirement of the following Ansonia district employees:

Ms. Deborah Ruderman, Ms. Betty Tuccio,
Ms. Patti Biga, Ms. Susan Nargi, Ms. Georgiana DeMelis.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MS. BETH LEBERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	1	X		
TOTAL		4	0	

B. Food Service Union Contract, effective July 1, 2020.

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said the negotiations with the Teamsters union for this three year contract went well. He said the Food Service members are very hard workers, and continue to help feed our students during this pandemic.

Mr. Bshara asked if anyone has seen this contract. Superintendent DiBacco said he can send the contract to all members of the Board. He said it is not the norm to share contracts, but can if requested. Superintendent DiBacco said the contract consists of approximately \$9,000 in raises for all employees combined. He said in the total three years it will be \$30,000. Mr. Bshara said he would not normally approve a contract without seeing it, but based on the information that was given he will make a motion to approve this three year contract.

MOTION: To approve the Food Service Union contract, effective July 1, 2020.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MS. BETH LEBERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		4	0	

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's report

Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin said he is honored to share information regarding the initial roll out of the school year. He said it has been approximately six months since re-opening our schools. He said he has to express the amount of work that was put into this process has been phenomenal. He said this is not something that anyone here was taught how to do, but together it is happening.

Assistant Superintendent Bergin said everyone has been giving it their all. He said the first seven days were professional days for the staff to reestablish themselves and take time to prepare for the students to come in. He said coming back with the hybrid model, there were some glitches that needed to be cleaned up. He said from where this first started, the new models offered are brand new and will continue to improve. He said along with the superintendent, he will continue to observe in the schools and will be assisting staff.

Assistant Superintendent Bergin said the initial focus will be to slowly get into the learning process, first tending to emotional support. He said he feels honored to be a part of this team and just watching what is being done is very admirable.

B. Special Education Director's report.

Mr. Kevin Keating greeted the Board saying as of September 02, 2020, there are 472 students receiving Special Education services. He said the Individualized Learning Plans that are in place are proving to be very effective. He said they are no longer working with Delta T temporary aides. He said they are now working with ACES and these new employees are much more experienced workers for the special education department.

Mr. Phipps asked how the high needs student plan is going. Mr. Keating said these students are going to attend four days per week and seem to be adjusting very well.

Ms. Varoschak asked how the virtual program is going with the special education students. Mr. Keating said each student is being serviced by the number of hours that is required per their IEP. He said each individual is different and they are serviced accordingly. Mr. Phipps said he wanted to clarify that students are not just being cut from the Special Education Program. Mr. Keating agreed, and said the number of students are being cut for no other reason than the fact that intervention programs are strong enough to support some of these students within the classroom. He said the strongest environment for some of these students are to remain with their peers.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vinny Pastore gave his report with highlighting the large quantity of equipment that was purchased for students throughout the district, as well as staff. He said there was also monitoring software purchased, which will be used to ensure equipment is being used appropriately. He said there will also be two new IT hires. Mr. Pastore said the plan is purchases for many more devices in the coming months.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2020-2021 Year to date

Ms. JoAnn Cegan, interim Business Manager, presented her finance report. She said changes are beginning to happen and there will be a Finance Committee Meeting to explain, and then presented to the Board next month. She said most of the spending are salaries, which has been allocated through end of the year. Ms. Cegan said insurance bills were paid, and the reserve has increased. She went over the Purchasing line items with the Board. She said the audit will begin next month which will take up a great deal of time. Ms. Cegan said the new Purchasing system is being rolled out and the department is doing a very good job implementing Infinite Visions.

2. Athletics

Mr. Tom Brockett, Athletic Director, said for right now, football is cancelled and he will wait for the final outcome. He said girls and boys soccer is scheduled to go on. He said girls' volleyball is also to go on. He said all the coaches are doing a great job trying to keep the kids engaged.

3. Food Services –

Report was presented, there were no questions.

4. Grants and Other Income

Ms. Cegan said there is an available grant from the state and they will be working on it as soon as the details are explained.

E. Enrollment –Mr. Bob Lisi reviewed his report.

F. Youth Family Outreach Summary – Mr. Bob Lisi reviewed his report.

Mr. Lisi spoke about the steady increase in the enrollment numbers, especially in the Special Education students. He said the numbers reflect the changing population.

Mr. Lisi said from March 18th, the last day of school, there has been 58,794 meals distributed to the youth in our community and continue to do this every day. Mr. Lisi said the Food Service Department deserves to be commended for their great efforts.

Mr. Bshara asked if hot lunches are being served in school. Mr. Lisi said meals that are being served in each school are grab and go sandwiches and sides, there are no hot lunches being served right now

Ms. Varoschak asked if there is an anticipated date when hot lunch will be served. Superintendent DiBacco said when everyone can be sure it will be completely safe, hot lunches will resume being served.

G. Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent DiBacco said he would like to echo Assistant Superintendent Bergin and can easily say, he has never been more impressed with a district. He said everyone has stepped up and accepted the challenge and continue to go above and beyond for our students. He said the health and safety is the focus and the community has been making it much easier for our staff. He said to have the support from the mayor's office means all the difference for their success. Superintendent DiBacco said with the relief funds that were received, it has allowed the district to ensure the buildings are going to be safe, clean and maintained for learning. He said he has been in contact with Griffin Hospital to ensure any required COVID testing results will be returned as soon as possible. He said health and safety is what everyone is working for, and they are taking it one day at a time. Superintendent DiBacco said he has been working with the mayor's office to ensure all are responding to their Census survey, because it directly affects our district. He said the partnership using Infinite Visions with the city is going well, and he appreciates all who have been involved in the process.

Superintendent DiBacco said in closing, it feels great to have the students and staff back in the buildings and he is excited about the start of a new school year.

Mr. Phipps said thanks is owed to him, because it all starts at the top and he deserves credit.

H. Additional; Administration or Board of Education.

Ms. Rebecca Adams, Director Human Resources, said she wanted to say the staff has been absolutely terrific. She said people have returned willing and ready to work. She said it is a pleasure working with the staff and will assist with anything that can make their return safe and comfortable

Mr. Bob Evans, Director Facilities, said a lot is going on, just like all the other departments. He said there are several projects happening and they are moving along. He said safety and deep cleaning measures are put in place and his staff has been doing a great job. He said supplies continue to come in and they will work hard to sanitize and keep the buildings clean. He urged any staff members or administrators to reach out for any requests or suggestions.

Ms. Amy Cosciello, Principal, Mead School, said she has been working closely with Liz Nimons, Principal Prendergast School, and both schools had a great opening. She said the students are happy and excited to be back. Ms. Cosciello said the help from Mr. Evans and Mr. Pastore made this much smoother.

Mr. Paul Giansanti, Principal, Ansonia High School, said he agrees with Ms. Cosciello, students are returning very positive and eager to jump into the new school year. He said there were a lot more students logging online than expected, and the high school is off to a good start.

Mr. Phipps asked if any Board member or anyone from Central Office has a problem with beginning the monthly meetings at 6:30 P.M. He said the time is much more convenient for him. Other members agreed, the time change is fine.

MOTION: To change Board of Education

Meeting time from 6:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

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

TOTAL		4	0	
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V. Executive Session

MOTION: To go into Executive Session at 7:33 P.M. and to further invite Superintendent DiBacco, Assistant Superintendent Bergin, Ms. Cegan, and Ms. Adams.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MS. BETH LEBERGE	1	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		4	0	

To return to regular meeting.

VI. Action as needed, as a result of Executive Session.

MOTION: To accept the requests of Superintendent DiBacco regarding Executive Session.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MS. BETH LEBERGE	2	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		4	0	

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	1	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. FRAN DIGIORGI				
MS. BETH LEBERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, president		X		
MR. VINNY SCARLATA				
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	2	X		
TOTAL		4	0	

submitted,

Respectfully

Cassie Venson

Recording Secretary

Cassie Venson

Date: 9/13/2020