

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting via Zoom **DATE:** 11 November 2020 **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Rich Bshara

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call – Mr. Bshara called a quorum

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 (6:40 p.m.)
TOTAL	4	2	1

Mr. Phipps asked all in attendance to pause for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Ilene Kennedy, former Ansonia Public Schools tutor.

II. Public Session

Mr. Mat Hough, Ansonia Federation of Teachers, president, said he wanted to speak on the new teachers' evaluation model. He said in his opinion, this program should be utilized across the state. He said planning involved all staff in the district to resolve any current issues.

Mr. Hough said the plan was set up to be easier to follow, with clear language, and training that would show consistency across the board. He said this plan will help teachers improve and focus on building relationships and assist and set up the students to excel. Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Hough and said it is nice to see the new evaluation plan is welcomed by the teachers and staff.

III. Action items, consideration of approving the following items

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated October 14, 2020(regular), and October 23, 2020(special)

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes
Dated October 14, 2020(regular), and
October 23, 2020(special).

	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	

B. New staff evaluation process

Discussion: Mr. Phipps asked Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin to speak regarding the new teacher evaluation plan. Mr. Bergin said as Mr. Hough stated, this document was tabled last month for the Board to review. He said Mr. Hough did a great job explaining the new plan that has the full support from staff as well as administration. He said the plan is going to use observation and coaching to get the teachers exactly where we all want to be. He said the plan is not going to change the current evaluation process; it is just updating the rubric. Mr. Bshara said after reviewing the rubric, it looks like it will be a smooth transition and will benefit the current process.

MOTION: To accept the new Teacher
Evaluation Process as presented by
Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin.

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

C. Reopening status

Discussion: Mr. Phipps asked Superintendent DiBacco to speak regarding the reopening process. Superintendent DiBacco said he would like everyone to know, he has had many conversations with Dr. Casablanca, medical advisor. He said all meetings have been targeted for the safety of our students and staff. He said any plan to move forward will be based on the suggestion of Dr. Casablanca and the Valley Health Department. Superintendent DiBacco said he will be paying close attention to the rising number of cases in Ansonia. Superintendent DiBacco asked Dr. Casablanca to give his opinion to the Board and all in attendance. Dr. Casablanca thanked everyone for having him. He said right now Ansonia is in the red zone, meaning a high transition risk. He said the CT tracker shows a 4.76% positive, compared to a few months ago being below 1%. Dr. Casablanca also told the Board the area hospitals are beginning to have many more admissions with COVID compared to several weeks ago. He said the better news is there are only 4 or 5 reported positive cases with students in our district. He said the majority is with staff coming in contact outside the district. He said the numbers are coming out again tomorrow and he would like to see these. He said if the outcome is what he suspects and the numbers are still rising, he will suggest to close the district and learn remotely. He said most of the surrounding districts have chosen to do this. He also said the beginning of flu season will also be a challenge. Superintendent DiBacco said between the students wearing their masks the entire school day, and custodial staff keeping the buildings disinfected, we are in good shape. He said the problem and concern are the rising numbers in the town of Ansonia. He said Ansonia's numbers will help make the decision. He said he completely respects Dr. Casablanca's opinion. Superintendent DiBacco said he applauds our staff and students for doing this amazing job of following the rules and keeping distance between everyone in the buildings. Mr. Phipps said he believed he saw the recommendation from the state was once the numbers reach 25 people out of every 100,000 the schools should go fully remote. He thanked Dr. Casablanca for his time and advice. Superintendent DiBacco said he gives so much credit to Nurse Monica and Assistant Superintendent Bergin for their dedication spearheading this anxiety ridden task of tracking. He said they are doing a great job with communication and controlling the district during this time.

Dr. Casablanca said he would like to commend Superintendent DiBacco and the entire district for doing an excellent job with this. He said he is very proud of the way Ansonia is handling this situation.

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Bergin said he wanted to also thank Nurse Monica for her wealth of knowledge and amazing communication. He said the staff is also to be commended for their support. He said if the fully remote model is put in place, the district is completely ready. Assistant Bergin said he has been meeting with administrators to try and align with a regular school day. He said the curriculum will be taught in a rigorous manner. He said teachers have been spending time in meetings for professional development along with new teaching methods. He told the Board there is a great relationship between administrators and staff and so far all needs are trying to be met. He said feedback will always be welcomed. Assistant Superintendent Bergin said he also wanted to mention there are many positives happening within the district that was included in his report.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Mr. Kevin Keating, Special Education Director presented his report. He said his staff continues to do a really great job providing students with the best possible education under these circumstances. There were no questions.

C. Technology Report

Superintendent DiBacco said Mr. Pastore is not present tonight. He gave a summary of the Technology Report. Superintendent DiBacco said he gives so much credit to the entire IT Department for adapting to the substantial burden of overseeing technology during the pandemic. There were no questions at this time.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2020-2021 Year-to-date
2. Athletics

Mr. Tom Brockett said right now athletics are paused. He said he believes it was a good decision to end the regular season, but safety was getting to be an issue. He said the athletes had a great experience with no cases within our program. He said we will wait to see what the future holds.

3. Food Services
4. Grants and other income

Superintendent DiBacco said Ms. Cegan could not attend the meeting and he can update the Board on the financials. He said right now the end of year audit is taking place at Central Office. He said the COVID relief and alliance grants were recently approved and will need to be submitted by deadlines. He said the health account is looking well and spending is on trend. Superintendent DiBacco reviewed the report, there were no questions.

E. Enrollment

Superintendent DiBacco gave the report, there were no questions.

F. Youth and Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Bob Lisi said he has been busy with residency and welfare issues of our students. He said if the district goes fully remote, the food service will be ready.

He also said he wanted to give a shout out to the high school students for volunteering at the Toys for Kids Program.

F. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Bob Evans, Facilities Director, gave his report. He said purchases continue for sanitizing products. He said there has also been part time custodians added for each building. Mr. Evans reviewed his monthly report. He thanked the Board members who attended the special meeting on October 23rd. He said the grant was submitted on time. Mr. Evans thanked Superintendent DiBacco and Eversource for the assistance and quick response during the recent gas outage. Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Evans and his department for keeping up with sanitizing the buildings at this time.

G. Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Report

Ms. Rebecca Adams gave her report, thanking Nurse Monica for all of her knowledge and assistance at this time. There were no questions for Ms. Adams.

I. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco thanked the Board. He said he wanted to let everyone know there is an updated annual report that was sent out. He said the things happening in the district need to be highlighted and Mrs. Eileen Ehman put together an amazing display of it. He agreed with Mr. Evans on the timely manner the gas problem was resolved. He said Mr. Evans and Mr. Walsh stayed until the end and he appreciates that. He said moving forward, inclement weather days will be remote and a snow day will not be needed. Superintendent DiBacco said the ability to staff our buildings has a huge impact on the district. He said if this cannot happen safely, the schools will not be able to remain open. He told the Board he has been working with the state on community events, funding applications, and Alliance Grants. He said partnerships are still happening and in the works. He said some things are still moving forward but there are also things that are at a standstill. He said he would like to extend a big thank you to everyone in the community for their support. Mr. Phipps asked if he will be letting people know tomorrow about a decision. Superintendent DiBacco said he will let everyone know as soon as a decision is made. Superintendent DiBacco said he will make the decision that will continue to keep the students and staff safe.

J. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie

Venson

Recording Secretary

Date: 11/14/2020