

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

PLACE: Meeting via Zoom **DATE:** 14 October 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		
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	5	2	0

II. **Public Session–**
There were no comments.

III. **Action Items, consideration of approving the following items:**

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated September 9, 2020

MOTION: To accept minutes dated September 9, 2020(regular)

MEBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA	2	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				
TOTAL		5	0	0

B. **Permission to add a biweekly transition, community based trip to the Ansonia High School Life Skills program.**

Discussion: Superintendent DiBacco said the students in this program go into local businesses to get experience and exposure. He said this has been signed off by building administration, and he would like the Board to accept the program. He said he is asking the Board for permission due to the circumstances. Mr. Phipps asked what the cost will be. Superintendent DiBacco said he does not think there will be a cost because of the other decreased bus runs. Mr. Bshara asked if this is a viable option during COVID. Superintendent DiBacco said there are staff members with the students at all times, taking all precautions with PPE. He said he is very comfortable and feels it is necessary.

MOTION: To approve permission to add a biweekly transition, community based trip to the Ansonia High School Life Skills Program.

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

C. **Report and recommend from the Curriculum Committee.**

Discussion: Mr. Bshara asked Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin to brief the Board regarding the previous Curriculum Committee meeting. Mr. Bergin said the first item was brought to the Curriculum Committee regarding the updated mission and vision statements of the Ansonia district. He said one of the goals was to make the mission more geared to our current situation. Mr. Bergin read the new mission statement and updated vision statement. The Board had positive comments regarding the statements. Ms. DiGiorgi asked if she can receive a printed copy of the new vision and statement.

MOTION: To approve the new mission And vision statements.

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

MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTALS		5	0	0

Mr. Bergin also discussed the new evaluation process for staff. He apologized, saying the changes were not included in the meeting packet. He said the changes made were done by an appointed pilot team. Mr. Bergin said this process started back in June. He said the evaluation process was developed by this pilot team and presented to staff. He said it was well received by all. Mr. Bergin said the pilot committee is looking for approval to make the adjustment to the rubric. Mr. Bshara asked what the timeline for this approval is, since the paperwork is not included in the packet. Superintendent DiBacco agreed, saying he would like the Board to review it. Superintendent DiBacco said he would agree to postpone the approval.

MOTION: To table the new evaluation process until next month, after the Board reviews updates.

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

D. Report and recommendation from the Finance Committee

Discussion: Mr. Bshara updated the Board on the Finance Committee meeting that took place prior to the regular meeting. Mr. Bshara said he is making the recommendation for the Board to approve the presented budget of \$32,492,359.00 as presented by Ms. JoAnne Cegan.

Mr. Bshara said he is making the

MOTION: To approve the presented Budget of \$32,492,359.00 for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin said the discussion continues regarding re-entering into the school. He asked the Board to refer to their packet. He talked about the teacher's workshops, training, and the SEL coursework provided to staff. He said the teachers are continuing on during this hybrid approach, while bettering their own craft. He said the partnership with Sikorsky Aircraft is continuing to grow. Mr. Bergin said the teacher and administrator evaluation process is being updated and will hopefully be in place in the near future. He said the instruction rigor is beginning to take place after the re-opening. Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Bergin. Mr. Bshara said he would like to help the staff as much as possible. Mr. Bshara said there may be things regarding technology or remote classroom where COVID funds can be spent. He said at some point he would like to sit with Board members and staff to have a nice discussion where we are, and what the needs may be. Mr. Phipps agreed, saying it is a great idea to have a sort of round table with staff members and the Board. Mr. Bergin said he totally agrees and this is a great idea.

B. Special Education Director's Report

Special Education Director, Mr. Kevin Keating said Special Education numbers are exactly where they were last month. He gave his report, there were no questions.

C. Technology Report

Mr. Vinny Pastore gave his report, addressing the shipments of new laptops, IT equipment, software and all the projects that are underway in the Technology Department. He said the department has been working endlessly helping staff and students with their technology issues and distribution. There were no questions. The Board thanked Mr. Pastore.

D. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2020-2021 Year-to-date – Ms. JoAnne Cegan said this year is going well. She explained the expenditures and encumbrances. She said it is a great year for insurance claims. Ms. Cegan said she is expecting to have all encumbrances completed by the end of October. She said there was a COVID reimbursement grant that has been submitted. Ms. Cegan said work will begin on the 2021-2022 budget soon. She said everything is going well. Mr. Phipps thanked her, there were no questions.

2. Athletics –

Mr. Tom Brockett gave his report. He told the Board that coaches and players have taken this tough situation and have been making it great. He said there are no cases reported as of yet during this abbreviated sports season.

3. Food Services –

Report was given. There were no questions.

4. Grants and other income –

Superintendent DiBacco reviewed this report; there were no questions at this time.

E. Enrollment–

Superintendent DiBacco gave this report. There were no questions.

F. Youth Family Outreach Summary –

Mr. Bob Lisi gave his report regarding residency. He wanted to mention the help from the football team with handing out of food to needy families.

G. Facilities Director's Report –

Mr. Bob Evans briefed the Board on the latest updates regarding the continued sterilization of all buildings. He noted the start of deep cleaning taking place on Saturdays. He said on Saturday the custodians can clean without any staff in the buildings. Mr. Evans said there are also several projects well underway, including the roadway at the high school and the maintenance garage construction. He said they will continue to move forward and plans on seeing results soon. Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Evans for his work. There were no questions.

H. Director of Human Resources and labor Relations Report – Ms. Rebecca Adams complimented everyone involved in the facilities projects. She said right when quarantine issues are ordered, the salary will be covered by a piece of the grant that was mentioned earlier. She said they are considering the concern that moving forward, there may be a large number of staff out at the same time. She said staff is fantastic and they are assisting in gathering the information needed for this concern. She discussed several projects that she is working on in the office and with staff throughout the district. Ms. Adams said compliance wise, the district is in good shape and she thanked everyone for their positive response. She said she is looking forward to supporting the staff in the new systems being implementing as well as updating the policies. There were no questions.

I. Notes from the Desk of the Superintendent – Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to commend Mr. Evans on his efforts as well as the Board of Aldermen on the roadway project. He said he has several partnerships that continue to grow. He said recently, he met with Dr. Michael Alfano, Dean of the College of Education at Sacred Heart University. Superintendent DiBacco said this partnership is regarding the Teacher Residency Program at Sacred Heart University. He said this will ensure a pathway for our Future Teachers Program that is currently being run at the high school. He said this is an amazing opportunity for our students to be able to hopefully one day, be employed in the Ansonia District. He said there will be more information to follow. Superintendent DiBacco said he applauds Mr. Dennis Proto in his efforts in arranging for us to participate in a Federal Labor Board

Grant, for a \$1.9 million over four years. He said this is an apprenticeship grant for young people in the community, ages 16-24. He said there will also be more information to follow on this as well. He said he owes many thanks to Mrs. Eileen Ehman, Ms. Joanne Cegan, and Mr. Bob Evans for their assistance in helping write the COVID Relief Grant which totals \$ 1.3 million. He said this was such a lot to do in a very short time. He said Parent Square is a new program that will be implemented to assist in the connection with parents. Superintendent DiBacco said he is excited to get this tool which will open up the lines of communication with our parents. He reviewed his report, mentioning the old HVAC system at the Middle School, the pilot of the new teacher evaluation process plan, and training for staff regarding the whole Google Suite Workspace program. Superintendent DiBacco said he has also been building a relationship with Quinnipiac University and expects to also see some type of partnership to come. He said the hybrid method of teaching is moving forward. He said data continues to be looked at and so far, this district is looking very good. Superintendent DiBacco said he believes the five days of education is the most beneficial for learning but he will continue to follow the lead of our medical advisor, Dr. Casablanca. He said he just wants to communicate the effort has just begun and there are no decisions or plans at this time. He said the percentage of attendance remains the same.

V. Executive Session regarding expulsion.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:18p.m.
Pursuant to section 1-200 sub 6, sub 5 to
consider a student discipline matter for records
protected by FERPA.

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

To return to regular meeting.

VI. A. Action as needed. As a result of Executive Session for Expulsion

MOTION: To accept Superintendent DiBacco’s
recommendations to approve the stipulated settlement
as written.

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson

Date 10/24/2020

Recording Secretary