

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School Cafeteria, 75 Ford Street, Ansonia, CT 06401

DATE: December 10, 2025 **TIME:** 6:35 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Phipps, President.

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call – Mr. Phipps called a quorum

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI	X		
MR. RICH BSHARA	X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ			X(6:45p.m.)
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	6		1

Other officials in attendance: Mayor Frank Tyszka, City Clerk Beth Lynch and Seventh Ward Alderman and BOE liaison Anne Lynch.

II. PUBLIC SESSION:

There was no one from the public who wished to address the Board.

III. ACTION ITEMS and consideration of approving the following items:

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated November 19, 2025 (special)

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated November 19, 2025.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI				X
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X	X		
TOTAL		6		1

B. 2026 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

MOTION: To accept the 2026 Ansonia Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X	X		
TOTAL		7		

C. Certified Appointments.

1. Amanda Tamburrino, Grade 5, Mead School

Dr. Adamowski asked the reason for the position. Mr. Bergin explained that this position was open due to another teacher transferring to a Special Education position due to a vacancy there.

MOTION: To accept Certified Appointment of Amanda Tamburrino, Grade 5, Mead School

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

D. Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Phipps explained that the scout is looking to build a GaGa Ball pit at Prendergast School. He explained that GaGa Ball is a game similar to dodge ball but played in a pit and the ball stays on the ground. Players aim to hit players below the knee to eliminate them.

MOTION: To accept the request to build a GaGa Ball pit at Prendergast School for an Eagle Scout Project

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

E. School Governance Position Statement

The packet includes the School Governance Position Statement from CABA. Dr. DiBacco advised all to read this as a refresher for Board Members.

MOTION: To accept the CABA School Governance Position Statement

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Student Representatives

Abdalla Hanaif advised all fall sports teams made playoffs. He spoke positively of the career pathways at the high school and how the PCA pathway has personally benefited him. Mr. Phipps on behalf of the board congratulated him on achieving All State recognition in soccer.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin highlighted and discussed the Chinese Bridge Program and that 5 Ansonia High School students will be travelling to China as part of the program. He spoke about the competitive process to be selected for the program. He thanked Sara Crooks for her involvement in the School Climate Program, as initiatives are coming together. He talked about the Vision of a Graduate updates. He told the Board Ansonia is highly recognized for their responsive classroom instructional support and have been asked to host SEL.

Mr. Bergin also discussed that next year they will begin identifying 3rd graders for the new talented and gifted program. He also noted that they had just received notice regarding selection of Responsive Classroom.

Dr. Adamowski and Ms. Voroshak asked questions related to the gifted and talented program.

C. Special Education Director

Ms. Fenech discussed identifying outplaced students to bring back in to the district as well as over identification of Special Ed needs at the pre school level. She is visiting all schools to identify and provide training opportunities for school staff.

Dr. Adamowski congratulated her on her work related to the pre school identification of students.

Ms. Fenech also talked about this year's SEED Grant funds and spending stipulations, as well as beneficial conversations at building level to implement their own related services like OT and PT which will save a tremendous amount of money for the department.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore discussed security audit and removal of 'old' employee emails. He also discussed removal of the use of BoardDocs on the APS website and now all documents are available directly on the website.

Ms. Laberge noted that there should be a process to remove access as soon as an employee leaves the district. Mr. Pastore assured her that there are processes in place now for this and what he was discussing are very old instances.

Mr. Phipps requested all Board members have an Ansonia email address and asked if Chromebooks can be made available for the Board members again as was previously the case. Mr. Pastore advised he can absolutely do this and to reach out to him for it.

Dr. Adamowski emphasized using Ansonia Public School's email would be the best practice for all.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

Mr. Marriott discussed the budget and he noted that transportation, particularly athletics, is running higher than expected due to the bus company changing billing from per trip to per hour. He spoke of encumbrances and the state of the budget thus far.

Dr. Adamowski questioned budget areas that have encumbrances and he was wondering how those will be paid as well as any with current projected deficits. Mr. Marriott explained that much of this is related to waiting on payment from the state that should be expected in the first quarter of 2026, as well as unknown expenses from additions to IEPs as a result of PPT meetings. Ms. Fenech added there may be new requests such as one-on-one aides or special services.

Discussion led to a full board meeting to discuss the current budget as well as the 2026-2027 budget. The meeting is scheduled for Monday December 15, 2025.

MOTION: To accept the budget transfers as presented.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ	X	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Benham announced that they are in the process of purchasing and installing new equipment at the middle school. He told the Board financially the department is in good shape.

G. Athletic Director's Report.

Mr. Brockett's report was referenced there were no questions.

H. Enrollment

Discussion was had around the high levels of student transitions throughout the school year. APS has been averaging approximately 300 students per year that move in and out of the system within the same year. Mr. Lisi confirmed that the bulk of them come from DRGs at or below Ansonia.

There was discussion from the full board related to this issue noting this is something to be looked at for improvement.

Dr. Adamowski asked how this impacts the absenteeism rate. Dr. DiBacco explained that it does negatively impact the rate as most times there is a lag time between when the student leaves the district and the district is notified by the new district that the child is now in their district.

Dr. Adamowski asked if there is a known reason for the high transition rate and suggested that this is a larger scale community issue and questioned how to work with the landlords, the City Departments and Board of Alderman on this issue.

I. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi reviewed his report. He said there is nothing out of the ordinary this month. He noted the home visits that took place for residence and attendance issues. There was a lengthy conversation about the transient population and how new students constantly come into the district below our DRG and most do not stay for longer than 2 years. The negative impact this has on proficiency testing was discussed and Dr. Adamowski suggested looking into improvement for this excuse.

Dr. Adamowski asked if Mr. Lisi has any data on the persistence rate of students in Ansonia. Mr. Lisi advised he does not have this data. Dr. DiBacco responded to this inquiry with information that he had available.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Evans discussed facility needs but focused on the oil tanks at the schools. He also discussed the need to move the roofing project at the high school forward so that it can be completed over the summer. It must be completed over the summer as students cannot be in the building while it is being completed. There was discussion that the project is in litigation. Mayor Tyszka advised to send him an email with the information and he will follow up with Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Bshara discussed the costs related to the oil spill at the high school this summer.

Mr. Evans also discussed the need to get the generator at the high school back up and available so that it is ready when needed.

K. Director of Communications & Community Outreach Report

Dr. Reese Morales noted that there are 18 homeless children in our district. We are providing transportation for those children even if they are housed in other cities or towns.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco congratulated Mr. Phipps in his new position as President of the Board and thanked Mr. Bshara for his years of service. He also said he is looking forward to working with Mrs. Lynch. He discussed how alumni are coming back to discuss their careers and how the students are learning a lot from this. He mentioned EMS coming in to speak. Mayor Tyszka discussed how Police are needed in the city. Dennis Proto noted that he has had discussions around this and some programming is in the works.

Dr. DiBacco distributed a flyer for Elected Officials Day. He worked with Anne Lynch to create a day where all elected officials can participate in student led tours of each of the schools. The day includes bus transportation to each of the schools starting at the high school. He encourages all elected officials to attend.

Dr. DiBacco told the Board the PCT Program will be funded for the next five years thanks to The WorkPlace, and the plan to hopefully partner with Quinnipiac University in the near future.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

End of meeting public session

Mr Phipps asked for a motion to open the floor to the public to field any comments or questions related to any information discussed tonight, or other business.

MOTION: Have a public session at the end of today's meeting

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

V. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Phipps asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak.

Diane Stroman addressed previous questions around the transient population and housing and the homelessness of students. She noted the rising housing cost and cost of living is causing families to move from place to place where they believe they can afford to live.

Mr. Bshara further explained some background on the roofing project and legal action taking place against the city.

Mrs. Anne Lynch asked further questions around the roofing project. Mr. Evans answered reasons why the project is being delayed.

Dr. Adamowski shared that he went to new board member orientation and said it was very informative. He noted how it is only offered once a year.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION regarding expulsions:

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsions at 8:35p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

Return to regular meeting.

VII. ACTION, as needed, as a result of Executive Session:

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented by the Superintendent regarding expulsions.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X	X		
TOTAL		7		

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 12/16/2025