ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Mead School, 75 Ford St., Ansonia, CT 06401
DATE: October 08, 2025 TIME: 6:30 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Rich Bshara, President.

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance
B. Roll Call – Mr. Bshara called a quorum

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
MR. RICH BSHARA, president	X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO		X	
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X	
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X	
TOTAL	4	3	0

II. Public Session

Mat Hough, President of Ansonia Federation of Teachers told the Board that a week ago the union voted to accept the new contract. He thanked the Board for going through the mediation process and said the contract represents a great compromise. Mr. Hough said is shows they are able to work together for what's best for the kids. He said the teachers understand when things were good, the Board was able to give more and when times aren't, the teachers recognize that.

Mr. Bshara asked to add an Action item, to be entered letter C.

MOTION: To approve adding letter C to Action items.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		4	0	0

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated September 10, 2025.

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated September 10, 2025.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	2	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		4	0	0

B. Discussion and possible action re: Ansonia Federation of Teachers Local 1012, AFT-CT, AFL-CIO contract

Superintendent DiBacco said they went to mediation with the teacher's union and like Mr. Hough said, they came to a middle ground and voted on a contract that was in the best interest of all parties. Superintendent DiBacco said he thinks there is a reasonable salary increase each year and also an increase in benefits. He said he would hope the Board can make a motion on the new contract as presented.
Mr. Bshara said the basic rate increase was 0%, ½%, and ½% for a three-year contract, with a step in each year and an additional step on the last. Mr. Bshara said there were minor things discussed and an agreement was met. He said he is thankful to all parties there were no significant changes.
MOTION: To approve the Ansonia Federation of Teachers Local 1012, AFT-CT, AFL-CIO contract for 2026-2029.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	2	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		4	0	0

C. Discussion and possible action to approve submission for McKinney-Vento Grant.
Discussion was had regarding the yearly grant that needs to be submitted each year for our homeless population.

MOTION: To approve the submission for the McKinney-Vento Grant.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	2	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		4	0	0

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives
Weston Ahearn and Abdalla Hanaif
Student representatives were not present. Both Weston and Abdalla had soccer games. Mr. Bshara told the Board, Abdalla was voted Athlete of the Week.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report
Mr. Bergin greeted the Board. He said he wanted to highlight Prendergast School and their involvement in the process of Commissioners Network. He said the first year was more of a planning year, and this year has gotten more intense. He said right now they are performing walk throughs and collecting data. Mr. Bergin said he wanted to emphasize how great Liz Nimons and Steve Marchetti have been leading their team. He said he and other members Kayla Jarrin, Johnnie LaRovera, Bridget Calabrese, and Superintendent DiBacco have all been working as a team consulting with a firm that will be assisting for the next few years. He showed the Board the areas of improvement that will be taking place. He said there are wonderful things already happening in areas for growth and improvement in the learning environment.

C. Special Education Director
Nicole Fenech, Special Ed Director, said since the last Board meeting numbers have gone from 477 to 489. She said there were 13 referrals since October 1. She told the Board 12 of the 13 referrals were Pre-K. Nicole said she will be meeting with Pre-K staff to assist in understanding what preschool referrals should look like. She said she began meeting with the Pre-K team once a week to discuss the process of referrals. Ms. Fenech told the Board they are learning different ways to perform referrals that will prove more efficient than the ways they are currently being done. She said she would like to develop an Early Childhood Assessment Team based out of Prendergast School, where most of the Early Childhood Programs are. There were no questions.

D. Technology Report
Mr. Pastore reviewed his report. He went over the number of Help Desk tickets, his work with CT Communications to replace old Frontier copper lines with Comcast for a large savings, and said he received notification that Category 2 Erate funding has been extended for another 5 years.

E. School Business Administrator Financials
Mr. Bshara talked about a budget transfer to the high school.

MOTION: To approve budget transfer as presented

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	2	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		4	0	0

1. **2024-2025 Year-to-Date**
2. **Grants and Other Income**

Mr. Marriott talked briefly about the McKinney-Vento Grant which was discussed earlier in the meeting. He said they are waiting on the State for a number of other grants to come through. He said there were two transfer of funds within the budget to be voted on. He said it would be wise to get the Finance Committee together to begin the 2026-27 school year.
Mr. Bshara agreed to have Finance Committee meetings for the upcoming budget.

F. Director of Food Service

Mr. Kevin Benham reviewed his report, saying the beginning of the year is showing the department in pretty good shape. He said Food Services had some staffing challenges but it is looking much better.
Mr. Bshara asked Mr. Bergin to work with Mr. Marriott at some point to see budgetary numbers for next year.

G. Athletic Director's Report

Mr. Brockett was not present. The Board reviewed his report, there were no questions.

H. Enrollment.

Mr. Bshara reviewed the Enrollment Report. There was discussion about the large Freshmen enrollment number.

I. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi greeted the Board and reviewed his September report, there were no questions.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Evans said the start of the school year went well. He told the Board there is an issue with one of the contractors on the high school roofing project and it is going to be put on hold from the advice of the legal team. He also talked about replacing the oil tank located at the high school for emergency purposes. He said the funds are going to be requested at the next Board of Alderman meeting.
Mr. Bshara talked about additional costs from the oil spill and costs that will be reimbursed by the state as well as split with the city.

J. Director of Equity and Communications Report.

Dr. Morales went over his report, highlighting the National Hispanic Heritage celebrations, expulsion updates, as well as McKinney-Vento information.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco said starting in 2025, every superintendent will need to report to their Board on the certified staff turnover, workforce partnerships, and community-based organizations that are providing support services. Superintendent DiBacco reviewed his report, saying the Workplace has been amazing to the district with certificate programs like PCT, Phlebotomy, and HCC. He told the Board our partnerships with Sikorsky, Budderfly, Farrel Corporation, as well as others for student internships are growing and going great. Superintendent DiBacco talked about the South Korea Project and the Social Work Services Program provided by BHCare.
He said the grand opening of the new football field took place and the chargers won the game. He talked about the visit from NEASC on October 21 to the high school. He said NEASC is The New England Association of Schools and Colleges who accredits our schools. He said they come to offer framework for school improvement. Superintendent DiBacco said he made sure the high school is looking good for their visit.

L. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

Mr. Bshara congratulated Ben Brejwo on his Yale Book Award.

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. RICH BSHARA, president		X		
MRS. TRACEY DELIBERO				
MS. OCASIO-GONZALEZ	2	X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	1	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		4	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 10/15/2025