

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Meeting held at Robert E. Zuraw Admin. Office Building, DTL, 42 Grove St., Ansonia, CT 06401

DATE: November 19, 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			(6:52 p.m.)
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X	
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X	
TOTAL	4		1

Mr. Bshara thanked Tracey DeLibero, for her many years of service on the Board of Education. He wished her well in all her future endeavors.

II. Public Session

There were no comments from the public.

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

A. Ansonia Board of Education meeting minutes dated October 8, 2025 (regular) and October 27, 2025 (special).

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated October 8, 2025 (regular) and October 27, 2025 (special).

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

IV. Informational Items.

A. Student Representatives.

Weston Ahearn, High School Student Representative, greeted the Board. Mr. Bshara asked her to tell them a little about herself. Weston said she is President of her class, member of the Basketball, Soccer, and Softball teams. She said she is captain for each athletic team she belongs to, and is also the class president. Weston briefed the Board on recent events at the high school. She said they recently held their very first Powder Puff Game. She said the game was a fundraiser for the senior class, there were over 400 in attendance. Weston talked about the Homecoming Dance, Canned Food Drive to benefit the Salvation Army, Officer Barry's Stuff a Jeep Drive, as well as the Toy Drive and trip to help set them up. She told the Board October was Manufacturing Pathway Month and there were field trips and guest speakers talking with students.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin told the Board the high school just completed their NEASC Collaborative Conference visit. He said it went incredibly well meeting seven out of the eight areas. He said they feel very strong preparing for the next visit in 2027. Mr. Bergin said everyone did an amazing job. He talked about the final stages of the District Climate Development plans to be approved at the state level. He discussed Safety and Security Plans that were approved, new District School Improvement Plan meetings to finalize for the state, and the great work by staff, administration, and students.

C. Special Education Director

Nicole Fenech gave the Special Education numbers report and explained factors that tend to cause numbers to fluctuate, training for staff taking place, discussion regarding weekly meetings with Pre-K teachers as well as related service providers. She said these are helping everyone gain knowledge on what normal child development should look like at that level. Ms. Fenech said this will assist in educating our staff, parents, and all

partners involved. She said they are in the beginning stages of an Early Childhood Assessment Team which will appropriately evaluate the needs of our students. She congratulated the high school for being able to return a student who was outplaced but now able to have the opportunity to transition back into district, saving the district a large amount of money. Nicole said now that she has absorbed both rolls of director and assistant director, she was able to give stipend rolls in the grammar schools to assist. She said moving forward she would like to explore ways to ensure compliance and perhaps fill a full-time roll in the department.

Mr. Phipps asked if there is push back from parents when being told their student no longer needs special services. Ms. Fenech said yes, there can be but educating the parents on what special needs may look like. She said sometimes it can be a child care need, a language barrier, or some other need beside special education services.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore was not at the meeting. Mr. Bshara said to send Vinny an email if there are any questions on his report.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2024-2025 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

Mr. Marriott said there is a budget transfer request, he is asking the Board to approve. He said it is nothing more than a bookkeeping entry, correcting a line item. There were no questions regarding the transfer.

MOTION: To approve the budget transfer requested by Mr. Marriott.

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

Mr. Marriott said he doesn't have any new updates on the operating budget. He noted the negative numbers referring to Special Education, similar to last year. He said the line items will remain negative until the Excess Cost reimbursement comes from the state. Mr. Marriott said all building administrators have been spoken to about the next budget year. He also said he is working on transportation and healthcare estimates for the new budget. He told the Board the state has released some funds on the grant side.

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Benham gave his report, saying there aren't very many changes. He talked about the reimbursement funds that will need to be spent by January, tentative spending for next year, some projects underway for Middle School and Mead equipment replacement that has been budgeted for. He said staffing has improved.

G. Athletic Director's Report

The report was reviewed, any questions are to be emailed to Mr. Brockett.

H. Enrollment

Mr. Bshara went over the enrollment numbers.

I. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi said October was a very busy month. He said there have been numerous resident checks. There were no questions.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Evans said the fuel spill at the high school has been closed by DEEP, there were some trees removed at the high school that were necessary due to rotting, state inspection of the new hot water heaters has been completed, he has been working on plans to get the buildings generator back on line at the high school with the town, and replacement of old modular classroom flooring. Mr. Evans also spoke about an issue at Mead School with the sewer system. He thanked the City for their assistance. He talked about trouble with the heating system at Prendergast that has also been resolved.

K. Director of Communications & Community Outreach Report

Dr. Morales gave his report, including the Valley United Way Youth Leadership planning sessions, representing Ansonia Public Schools at the ACES Family Engagement in Hamden, expulsion and homeless numbers, and many others.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco said he wanted to thank Tracey DeLibero for all her years of service with the Board of Education. He said he would like to highlight some things in his report. He gave thanks to Chief Williams and SRO Mike Barry for their help on the Hazards Plan. He said their time and efforts toward the plan is appreciated. He thanked the city for working so hard to get the Middle School project going. He told the Board after the roofing trouble at the high school they have learned to get a lawyer who specializes in building construction. Superintendent DiBacco said contracts and RFPs should all be reviewed. He talked about the Griffin Hospital Gala, where he spoke on the high school's Patient Care Tech Program. He also shared The Workplace and the Governor's office are asking to have the district speak about Dual Enrollment and Pathway Programs. He said he met with Quinnipiac University trying to discuss the possibility of obtaining Student Promises to attend QU for free. Superintendent DiBacco said the meeting went very well and he knows if one of our student's can get in, the university will be asking for more. He told the Board he will continue to pursue this plan which would be amazing for our students. He said lastly, he will be having Elected Official Days which will give all elected officials an opportunity to tour the buildings. He told the Board it will be great for students to guide tours and share their education experience.

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION regarding expulsions.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsions at 7:20p.m.

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

Return to regular meeting.

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

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

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

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 11/26/2025