ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLACE: Robert E. Zuraw Administration Building, DTL, 42 Grove Street, Ansonia, CT, 06401
DATE: December 15, 2025 TIME: 6:30 p.m.
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Mr. Chris 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		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X	
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X	
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, President	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	5	2	0

II. Public Session

There was no one from the public wishing to speak

III. Discussion and Possible Action regarding 2025-2026 Budget

Mr. Erich Marriott explained the structure of the 2025-2026 Finance Report. He went in great detail about the fund, object, and local pieces to this report. He talked about the frequent need for budget transfers, and typical reasoning. Mr. Marriott went over the color-coded columns and what the titles and the line items are. He went over some of the green and red line items on the most recent report. He talked in detail about salary cost, administration costs, and Special Education. Discussion continued, line by line of the budget and reasons why some will need to increase or decrease.

Mr. Marriott explained Healthcare costs and the need to stay on track with costs incurred so line items are on target. He talked about pension and retirement programs under the city. Further discussion was had regarding Special Education Transportation, Liability Insurance, Excess Cost Grant reimbursement, All-Star Transportation increase, and Administration dues.

Dr. Adamowski asked about issues with the Athletic piece Mr. Marriott mentioned earlier. He asked if it was affecting coaching staff. Mr. Marriott said it is not, it is the transportation line.

Discussion of the Capital Improvement piece and correct labeling of Maintenance Projects were discussed.

Membership Dues line item was reviewed.

There was talk and explanation about Fund 10.

Dr. Adamowski asked about ECS Grant and where funds are distributed to and from. He asked about the ECS reimbursement and how it is received into the city. Mr. Bshara explained the portion of grant funding and tax payer raised revenue to Fund 10.

The Alliance Grant funds were briefly discussed and spending of the funds.

IV. Discussion and possible action regarding 2026-2027 Budget

Superintendent DiBacco briefed the Board, explaining the goals for the district budget as well as trends still stemming from COVID. He talked about all the opportunities and vision for the district. He said the increase in all costs and requests coming in are only to maintain the current staff and nothing more. He highlighted the biggest budget drivers and what the budget consists of.

Dr. Adamowski said it would be better to compare last year's budget and cost increases to the new budget. He said the 6.1% increase requested isn't going to fly and he thinks it creates a situation for the Board.

Mr. Phipps said this is the very first pass and very early in the process, they should hear the details.

Dr. Adamowski said he thought as a Policy Board, they might want to give some direction as to what a reasonable increase may be.

Mr. Bshara said it was noted earlier, there are salaries within the Alliance Grant and the increase for the Alliance Grant is 0 for next year. He said it should be noticed the increase that was received prior for Alliance will not be available this upcoming year.

Mr. Phipps said he would like to hear about the budget and how the increase came about.

Mr. Marriott explained the breakdown of each page, details by location, also by employee. He talked about the decrease in Special Education and reasons they were able to get there. Mr. Marriott talked about the Health Insurance currently offered and the savings self-funding has brought. He reviewed each page and pointed out the increases or decreased amounts and explanation for each.

Dr. Adamowski mentioned the accreditation, saying Dr. DiBacco showed him the NEASC report. Mr. Bergin said it was explained to them the criteria were changed and basically no high school met the requirement. He said a big part is curricular writing and they are working on it right now. Superintendent DiBacco explained they are very confident the suggested changes will prove no problems.

Dr. Adamowski suggested any spending going toward NEASC improvement should be addressed in the budget as such.

Mr. Phipps asked with the 6% what type of changes are being made.

Dr. DiBacco said this number is with no changes made to programs or staffing, and added it is mostly due to lack of Alliance Grant funding.

Mr. Phipps said it unfortunately will include cuts.
Discussion about timelines for the Board of Ed to present to the Board of Aldermen.
Discussion about future workshop as well as Board meetings were set.

V. Public Comments

Jacquelyn Daniels, 1st Ward Alderwoman, wanted to thank everyone involved saying it is a difficult job right now.
Also present were Frank Pergola, 2nd Ward Alderman, and Jaylen Daniels, 2nd Ward Alderman.

Diane Stroman, 66 High St., said she thought the meeting was very informative. She thanked Dr. DiBacco for everything he does and working so hard to get the job done. She said it is not easy and until she was in the schools, she didn't have a clear picture. Ms. Stroman said if cuts have to be made, it most affects the child but the entire district as well.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:40p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE				
MS. STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ				
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS, President		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		5	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 12/21/2025