

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

DATE: February 11, 2026 **TIME:** 6:30 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		
MR. DAVID KNAPP			
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK			
TOTAL	5		

Mr. Phipps asked everyone to pause for a moment of silence for the passing of retired teacher Susan Nargi, retired teacher Carol McGuire, retired tutor Janet Gans, and former Administrative Assistant Karen Scarpa.

Attorney Floyd Dugas gave a presentation to Board of Education members regarding the Roles and Responsibilities of Board of Education Members. He discussed various policies, obligations, roles, and much more information on what is expected as a Board of Education Member. Mr. Dugas also answered all questions and supplied each member with a hand out of the presentation.

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 January 14, 2026 (regular), January 21, 2026 (finance), and January 28, 2026 (special).

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated January 14, 2026 (regular), January 21, 2026 (finance), and January 28, 2026 (special).

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

B. Ansonia Public Schools 2026-2027 School Calendar

Steve Bergin gave some details on how the calendar was put together. He stated it is very similar to the current school year's calendar which has been working very well. There were no concerns.

MOTION: To accept the Ansonia Public Schools 2026-2027 School Calendar.

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

C. Certified Appointments

1. Anastasia Layton, Speech and Language Pathologist, K-5 Mead School.

Superintendent DiBacco said this position is replacing a staff member who left and they are very excited to have Ms. Layton aboard.

2. Tiffany Velazquez, Speech and Language Pathologist, PreK Mead School.

Superintendent DiBacco said this is also a replacement hire due to a vacancy at Mead School. He said he is happy to have Ms. Velazquez join the Mead team.

MOTION: To accept new hires Anastasia Layton, Speech and Language Pathologist, K-5 Mead School and Tiffany Velazquez, Speech and Language Pathologist, PreK Mead School.

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

D. Retirement for William Izzo, History, Language Arts, Ansonia Middle School.

Superintendent DiBacco said Mr. Izzo has been a pillar at the Middle School and is very sad to see him go. He said he dedicated many years to the students and he wishes him well.

MOTION: To accept the retirement of William Izzo, History, Language Arts, Ansonia Middle School

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

E. Report and Recommendation from the Finance Committee

Dr. Adamowski briefed the Board on discussions during the Finance Committee Meeting. There was discussion regarding the current budget as well as the budget for 2026-2027. They discussed the need for transfers due to unforeseen costs. He talked about the plan moving forward to have as little need for transfers possible.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Student Representatives

Student Representatives were not present.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin spoke to the Board about his five-day professional training trip with Shandong SDU. He said the trip was very informative and explained about the amazing opportunities in the near future for our students. Mr. Bergin also talked about the development of gifted education initiatives. He said this training will take place later this summer. He also updated the Board on the latest Social Emotional Learning updates throughout the district, as well as the School Climate Committee work and survey results. He thanked Sara Crooks for her continued leadership and support.

C. Special Education Director

Ms. Fenech gave her report. She talked about the latest numbers of students being serviced as well as other staff training and the increased responsibilities due to staff reduction. Ms. Fenech said she is going to ensure staff are well trained and able to assist our students in need the most efficient way possible.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore told the Board the E-Rate category one finding has been submitted and approved for next year. He said the transition from Frontier copper phone lines to Comcast network-based solution has been completed at Prendergast and the remaining buildings will soon follow.

E. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Benham gave a summary of his report and said the department is in good shape. There were no questions.

F. Athletic Director's Report.

Mr. Brockett was not at the meeting. All questions are to be emailed to him.

G. Enrollment

Enrollment numbers were discussed.

H. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi reviewed his report reviewing attendance concerns, home visits, and transient data.

I. Facilities Director's Report

Bob Evans shared details from his report including snow removal, mechanical issues in the buildings, facility updates in all buildings, and future priorities for February.

J. Director of Communications & Community Outreach Report

Dr. Morales reviewed his report. He gave latest updates on McKinney-Vento information, Black History Month activities, fund raisers held throughout the district, Weekly Newsletter information, and details of the Elected Officials Day held on January 30th.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco thanked Attorney Dugas for his presentation. He spoke to the Board about some of his monthly activities including attending the CAPSS Committee meeting, numerous budget-focused meetings with district departments, CAGE budget development, his work with Congresswoman DeLauro regarding potential impact regarding cancellation of grants, ECS funding meeting with the Commissioner of Education, and the SCASA meeting which focused on budgeting for special education students. Superintendent DiBacco also talked about the MLK Program he was honored to speak at along with many of our students. He also talked about numerous other meetings and activities that took place throughout the month.

L. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2025-2026 Year-to-Date
2. Grants and Other Income

M. Additional; Administration or Board of Education

Ms. Diane Stroman commended the students who took part in the MLK Program at the high school. She said it was a great program and the students who took part did an amazing job as always and represented the schools so well.

V. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Phipps asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak.
There was not.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION regarding expulsions:

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session regarding Expulsions at 8:36 p.m.

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

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		
MR. DAVID KNAPP				
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ	X	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK				
TOTAL		5		

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 1/23/2026