

ANSONIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

DATE: March 11, 2026 **TIME:** 5:30 p.m.

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call – Dr. Adamowski called a quorum.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI	X		
MR. RICH BSHARA	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
TOTAL	3		

Superintendent DiBacco, Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin, and Finance Director Erich Marriott were also in attendance.

II. Discussion regarding Shared Services

Mr. Marriott reviewed line items and reasons for overage or changes and the need for a transfer. He also talked about certain items being paid through the local budget verses lines paid through grants. Mr. Marriott talked about the need to look at line items for next year that may be moved to different object codes.

Mr. Bshara asked if he can recommend using whole dollars rather than pennies since the system is not helpful when entering dollar amount with pennies.

Dr. Adamowski asked for clarity with the substitute system in place. He was not clear on the difference with the Building Sub and the Kelly Services lines in the budget. He said he was trying to see the cause for the overage. Mr. Marriott said he believes it to be a miscalculation. Mr. Bergin explained the current system that is used is first to call on our building substitutes and then a Kelly Services Substitute if ours are being utilized.

Dr. Adamowski asked to talk about the specific action that the Board would need to approve the transfers. Mr. Marriott said it would be a motion from a Board member to approve the transfers as presented, and then a second with a vote. He said the subcommittee can approve and then present to the whole Board.

There was discussion on the additional cost of special needs students coming into the district mid-year which account for funds that were not expected.

The committee talked about the Excess Cost reimbursement and Food Services funds.

There was also talk about the self-funded Health Care and reserve balance that needs to be kept. Superintendent DiBacco explained the collaboration with other districts. They also explained why the state program and the city's plan would not be cost effective. Mr. Bshara said it is always being reviewed for better deals.

There was discussion regarding the Non-lapsing account and what it can and cannot be used for.

Dr. Adamowski asked what everyone's thoughts were regarding the zero budget that is expected from the city. Superintendent DiBacco said he began by meeting with all building administrators and asked if there was anything their building can do without. He said he met with the mayor and told him the \$923,000 cut will have to be in bodies. He said he does not know who would be cut at this time.

Dr. Adamowski asked about the chrome books and what budget they are in at the moment. Superintendent DiBacco said they put this purchase in the Capital Budget. Mr. Bshara asked if any of the Capital Budget was approved. No one knew the answer to that.

Dr. Adamowski asked if Superintendent DiBacco had a meeting with BOAT committee. Superintendent DiBacco said they did not get a chance to meet with them. Mr. Bshara said the city has not scheduled a meeting with BOAT and he does not know why.

Mr. Bshara said he thinks it is this Board's job to go and plead the case on why the kids need the funding. He said he is not set on a zero increase yet.

Ms. LaBerge said she is not understanding why the Board is not going to referendum for their increase if the town is going to referendum.

Dr. Adamowski said from his understanding a referendum would be to pay debt.

Ms. LaBerge said it gives voters the option to vote separately between the Board of Ed and the city.

Dr. Adamowski said the city contribution is the zero contribution to the school budget and Ms. LaBerge does have a good point. He asked Superintendent DiBacco what his thoughts are on the zero increase. Superintendent DiBacco he is going to hope there may be more state funding. There was discussion on the proposed changes that may happen with state aide, noting nothing has been set and May 7th would be the approximate time to hear any answers. He said they will be meeting with Tom Hamilton to work on the budget as well. Superintendent DiBacco said pink slips haven't been handed out since before COVID.

Dr. Adamowski said it looks like they will have to wait for decisions from legislature.

Superintendent DiBacco said he will be meeting with the teacher's union this week to discuss.

Mr. Phipps reminded everyone that the original proposal was almost 4% higher than the increase the Board of Ed is currently asking for.

MOTION: To recommend the transfers as presented to the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X	X		
TOTAL		3		

III. Public Comments

There was no one from the public wishing to speak.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA	X	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
TOTAL		3		

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 3/18/2026