

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

DATE: March 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	X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS	X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK	X		
TOTAL	7		

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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 February 11, 2026 (finance) and February 11, 2026 (regular).

MOTION: To accept meeting minutes dated February 11, 2026 (finance) and February 11, 2026 (regular).

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X	X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

B. Report and recommendation from the Finance Committee.

Dr. Adamowski briefed the Board on the Finance Committee Meeting. He talked about a set of budget transfers from the business admin necessary to balance the third quarter. He said the Finance Committee voted to accept the transfers.

C. Quarterly account transfers as recommended by the Finance Committee.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation by the Finance Committee for the budget transfers as well as including the round up to the dollar as opposed to pennies.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI	X	X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

Dr. Adamowski thanked Erich Marriott for his hard work on the financial process he was given. He said Mr. Marriott is well on the road to being on track for next school year.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Student Representatives

Student Representatives were not present.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bergin addressed the Board and said it has been a difficult month with all the bad weather. He said it was not easy to prepare when the weather was so unpredictable. He said the PEDAC Committee was able to start back up with meetings and they are planning on having strong teacher goal setting in place. He said the committee has done a phenomenal job planning. He said the first year was focused on teacher evaluation geared to the State mandate. Mr. Bergin said our district is quite further ahead than most and the focus will now be more on Professional Development. He told the Board all the components of our development will come together and he is very excited for this.

Dr. Adamowski asked if the Vision of a Graduate is a K-12 implement.

Mr. Bergin confirmed it is a K-12 plan that has been very rewarding the last two years.

C. Special Education Director.

Ms. Fenech gave her report and said the numbers have not changed much. She pointed out a few changes. Ms. Fenech talked about the recent collab between the high school and the middle school to gain a stronger transition between the two schools. She talked about cost saving measures taking place in the department involving outplaced students' testing being done within our district. She said utilizing our staff will save a tremendous amount of money and she thanks them for stepping up.

Dr. Adamowski asked how many Ansonia students are Magnet Students, and how many of the Magnet Students are Special Ed.

Ms. Fenech said she will get the information to him.

Dr. Adamowski also asked if the schools are billing our district. Ms. Fenech said they do bill for Special Ed services but also depends on the needs of the student.

Superintendent DiBacco said for the most part these schools are billing our district since we do not have the ability to send our staff to them.

Ms. Fenech said she chairs all Magnet, Charter, and private school meetings.

D. Technology Report

Mr. Pastore gave his report updates. He talked about the savings switching over to Frontier Copper as well as other IT activities throughout the month.

E. School Business Administrator Financials

1. 2025-2026 Year-to-Date

2. Grants and Other Income

3. 2026-2027 Budget

Mr. Marriott went over the budget handouts. He spoke about the Excess Cost Grant payment updates for the March 1st and the continued big budget items which are Transportation, Health Care, and Special Education. Mr. Marriott said he spoke with Tom Brockett and they will try to see where transportation savings might be found. He said he is working with Nicole to look into Special Services savings as well.

Superintendent DiBacco went over the necessary drivers that might look like increases in the Athletics lines. He talked about trainers, transportation, and security that are necessary.

Mr. Phipps asked about the difference that is seen with the price per trip as opposed to the new price per hour regarding athletic games.

Superintendent DiBacco said the difference is several hundred to a thousand-dollar increase for some athletic trips.

Mr. Marriott said it would be an enormous savings to look into getting a van to transport athletes ourselves.

Mr. Phipps reminded the Board of the 0% increase that is expected.

F. Food Service Director's Report

Mr. Benham gave updates for the Food Service Department. He said the annual Healthy Food Certification coming up. There were no questions.

G. Athletic Director's Report.

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

Mr. Phipps said all winter sports teams did great this season, congratulating the cheerleaders on coming in 1st place for the first time ever in the NVL Competition.

H. Enrollment

Mr. Phipps asked everyone to refer to their packet for this report.

I. Youth Family Outreach Summary

Mr. Lisi reviewed his report, talking about attendance concerns, home visits, and transient data. He said it has been a busy month.

J. Facilities Director's Report

Bob Evans was not present.

Superintendent DiBacco said Bob and his department did a great job keeping up with the snow storms and making sure there were no freezing pipes.

K. Director of Communications & Community Outreach Report

Dr. Morales was not at the meeting. Questions can be emailed to him.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent DiBacco greeted the Board. He said the Boys and Girls Basketball teams did amazing but he thinks the cheer coach may be the most winningest coach we have ever had. He joked that Mr. Brockett may have to take a step back. He said he would like to take a moment to congratulate Diane Stroman, Beth Lynch, and Bev Tidmarsh for all they do in the community. He said they were honored last night at city hall. He also thanked our families, staff, and students for their patience with the recent bad weather causing closures and delays. He said the untimely weather made it difficult to call sometimes. He said he spent a lot of time with the School Building Committee and it is moving forward. He thanked each Board of Education member personally with a thoughtful message for Board Member Appreciation Month.

M. Middle School Project update

Bev Tidmarsh said they met with the mayor and the project is moving forward.

N. Additional; Administrative or Board of Education

There were no additional.

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 7:10 p.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		X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

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		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE		X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ	X	X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
DR. STEVEN ADAMOWSKI		X		
MR. RICH BSHARA		X		
MR. DAVID KNAPP		X		
MS. BETH LABERGE	X	X		
STEPHANIE OCASIO-GONZALEZ		X		
MR. CHRIS PHIPPS		X		
MS. SHARON VOROSCHAK		X		
TOTAL		7		

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Venson

Cassie Venson
Recording Secretary
Date: 3/18/2026