

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

PLACE: ANSONIA CITY HALL

DATE: 06 JANUARY 2010

TIME: 6:40 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: PRESIDENT John Lawlor

I. OPENING

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	PRESENT	ABSENT	LATE (time)
MR. GEORGE BOATH	X		
MR. ROBERT CARUSO		X	
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	X		
MR. JOHN LAWLOR, President	X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS		X	
MR. CARMEN PITNEY	X		
MR. EDWARD SHARKEY		X	
TOTAL	4	3	0

II. PUBLIC SESSION

After asking three times if anyone wished to speak, Mr. Lawlor closed the public session.

III. Discussion and Action on Finance Committee's Recommendation for the Ansonia Board of Education Proposed 2010/2011 Budget

ATTACHMENT #1

DISCUSSION: James Gaskins, business manager, explained the budget process used this year. He said the administrators were asked to build up from \$0 as always and don't just add blank increases to any account. Administrators were specifically asked to temper their requests due to the economic climate and realizing the financial restrictions we were going to have. The total increase of the original administrators' request was over 7%. That subsequently was lowered to 6.56% with the reduction of the Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield benefits renewal projection. Mr. Gaskins said the Superintendent further reduced the budget to a 4.9% increase. That budget was presented to the Finance Committee and is being presented tonight. The budget drivers for the 4.9% increase are salaries by nearly 1%, benefits nearly 1.5%, tuition and transportation added a little over .5%, and heat energy and capital improvements added another 1.38% giving us a 4.42% increase. All other requests combined throughout the entire budget are less than .5% to get to our 4.9% increase.

Superintendent Carol Merlone explained the new personnel, initiatives, State/NCLB mandates, and other funding. The high school has a need for a Spanish/ESL teacher because we no longer offer French. There is also a need for a remedial reading teacher because some freshmen are coming in and are unable to read at the freshmen level. The Superintendent said the middle school came in with no increase. Mead School needs an extra third grade teacher because of the shifting of students. We have more second grades in Mead School than third grades. At Prendergast School we have the same situation with second and fourth grades. Mrs. Merlone went on to say that we have a class of approximately 25 first graders that will be retained. We don't do retentions in kindergarten any longer. The Superintendent said when we did projections earlier we realized that we need to house the students and don't have the space. We had Mr. Evans, facilities director, look into portables. The only place where there is room for portables is at Mead School. This means that we would have to move at least three kindergarten classrooms to Mead School, which would create more of a balance for the following year when they move from kindergarten to first grade. Mrs. Merlone said we went with the larger portables without bathrooms. If we need kindergartens with bathrooms we will have to make adjustments and maybe move kindergartens inside and move a different grade level outside. In looking at our District Improvement Plan, that is where the other .5% came in. The \$123,000 is all tied to initiatives at that level.

MOTION: To adopt the finance committee's recommended 2010/2011 budget of \$26,831,475 which represents a 4.9% increase over this year's budget.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. GEORGE BOATH	1	X		
MR. ROBERT CARUSO				
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI		X		
MR. JOHN LAWLOR, President		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS				
MR. CARMEN PITNEY	2	X		
MR. EDWARD SHARKEY				
TOTAL		4	0	0

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MR. GEORGE BOATH		X		
MR. ROBERT CARUSO				
MS. FRANCES DIGIORGI	2	X		
MR. JOHN LAWLOR, President		X		
MR. WILLIAM NIMONS				
MR. CARMEN PITNEY	1	X		
MR. EDWARD SHARKEY				
TOTAL		4	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Perrotti
Recording Secretary
January 11, 2010