

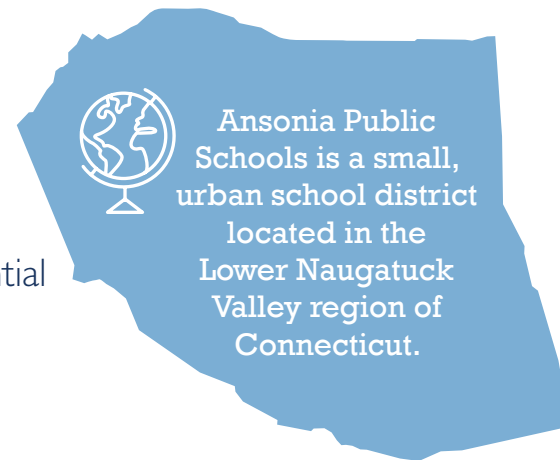


# ANSONIA STRONG

2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# Ansonia Public Schools

The Ansonia Public Schools, consisting of a partnership between the community, parents, and educators, is committed to providing a safe, progressive learning environment that ensures students achieve their maximum individual potential with the confidence to take intellectual risks and become curious, lifelong learners.



## OUR MISSION

The mission of Ansonia Public Schools is to successfully prepare students with a sound and intuitive understanding of their own and others social and emotional well-being while developing their individualized capacities to compete in a global society.



## OUR VISION

Ansonia Public Schools will be a high-performing district that engages families and partners with our community to prepare all students to be globally competitive in college, career, and life.

## ANSONIA STRONG



Working Together

FAMILIES • SCHOOLS • COMMUNITY

## A Message from the Superintendent

### Dear Board Members, Colleagues, and Community Stakeholders:

The 2019-2020 school year is behind us and we have weathered so much as a community in just a year's time, from watching the excited faces of students, parents, and teachers on the first day of school to having the most memorable high school graduation ceremony in recent memory. We started our year off proudly, letting the world know that we are **"Ansonia Strong"** only to realize that COVID would test our strength and resolve.



However, as I stated to our hundreds of staff members who crowded into the Ruth Feinberg Connors Auditorium in Ansonia High in late August 2019, I made a pledge to remain positive in the face of any challenge. In August 2019, we began our year with 17 teaching positions restored and much lower class sizes. We had hundreds of applicants from which to interview and hire. What those numbers mean to me is that people want to come here because Ansonia is a special place.

How special is Ansonia? Check out our stories about our new partnerships and expanded opportunities for Ansonia students; the unique ways we are rolling out the welcome mat to our families; and how we leverage funds to get the supplies our students need.

Last year was my first as Superintendent of Ansonia Public Schools. I have never been more excited and energized about anything in my professional career. We have a phenomenal team, and we are getting stronger every day. Even in the midst of COVID, we continued to grow. Our schools were closed in mid-March 2020, but our hearts and our minds remained open to a brighter future.

I wish you could have all witnessed how Ansonia's team pulled together in those first days of our school closing: Staff from throughout the district removing chromebooks from carts, sanitizing equipment, and getting them ready for distribution to students. Our food service department and our bus company stepping up to get meals out to our students, only a couple of days after schools closed, and serving hundreds of children every day.

As a parent of three young children, I have to tell you: I am extremely proud. We kept our focus on our students and we are making it through this pandemic positive and steadfast. **Stay tuned for big things to come for ANSONIA STRONG!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Joseph DiBacco".

Dr. Joseph DiBacco,  
Superintendent of Schools



### CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Joseph DiBacco

Assistant Superintendent  
of Schools  
Stephen Bergin

Director of  
Special Services  
Kevin Keating

K-12 Language Arts  
Coordinator  
Bridget Calabrese

K-12 Math/Science  
Coordinator  
John LaRovera

Business Administrator  
Joanne Cegan

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

#### ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL

Principal  
Paul Giansanti

Assistant Principal  
Sara Crooks

Director of Alternative  
Education and Student Affairs  
Tom Brockett

#### ANSONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal  
Pete Colaccino

Assistant Principal  
Steve Marchetti

#### JOHN C. MEAD SCHOOL

Principal  
Amy Cosciello

Assistant Principal  
Robert Durand

#### JOHN G. PRENDERGAST SCHOOL

Principal  
Liz Nimons

Assistant Principal  
John Coppola





# We Are Ansonia Strong!

The theme for the 2019-20 school year is emblazoned in white across the navy T-shirts that were provided to staff as they entered the lobby of Ansonia High School on Aug. 26, 2019, two days prior to the opening of school: “We Are Ansonia Strong.” For the more than 250 teachers, administrators and support staff who reported back to work, it was a welcome relief and a positive start to the school year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph DiBacco said he hoped that Ansonia staff liked the shirts, as well as his invitation to wear them on the first Friday of every month this year. It was clear that the staff liked the shirts; just about everyone wore them on Aug. 27 for the second day of Professional Development.

Dr. DiBacco, in welcoming back the staff, announced that the “We Are Ansonia Strong” shirts were in memory of the late Dom Golia, Ansonia’s Food Service Director, who “wanted to make sure that everyone was part of the team.” It was two of Mr. Golia’s friends and colleagues who

came up with the slogan and design of the T-shirt. Vin Pastore, the district’s Network Director, and Bob Evans, the Director of Facilities, worked behind the scenes with Dr. DiBacco to ensure that the shirts gave a clear and positive message. “People were excited to get something and to feel appreciated,” Pastore said. “I’m looking forward to the road ahead, and I hope we do more things like this.”

Dr. DiBacco gave a clear promise of more great things to come. “We have a phenomenal team and we are getting stronger every day ... My number one goal is to honor the strong foundation that has been laid and contribute to the immense pride of the Ansonia community.”



Prendergast School Staff



“We Are Ansonia Strong” T-Shirt Design



Ansonia Middle School Staff



Ansonia High School Staff



Mead School Staff

## Sweet Music Brought to Ansonia High



“Play like champions.” That’s the sign that is hanging in the corner of the instrumental music room in Ansonia High School, where music teacher Maria Tangredi preps the band for home football games and for the concerts in the auditorium.



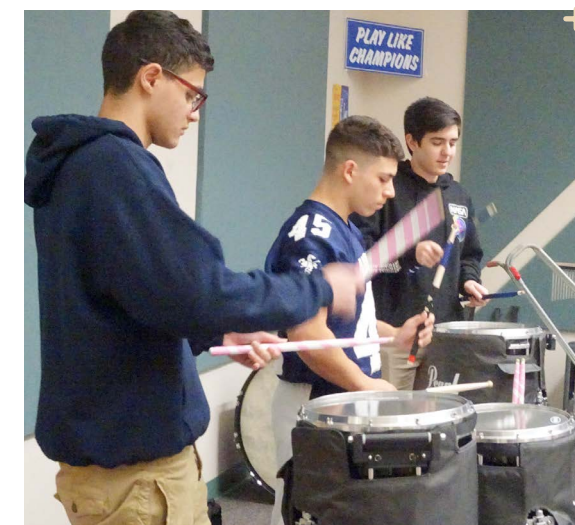
A combination of funds raised in the May 2019 Great Give campaign and a grant from the Katharine Matthies Foundation resulted in the purchase of 13 drums, carriers and covers and two concert instruments – a marimba and vibraphone. A portion of the annual VFW Endowment to the AHS Band covered the balance needed for the \$21,000 price tag.

“Everyone is really excited,” Band President Idalisce Martinez said, as the 35-plus band members held their final rehearsal before the Ansonia-Derby home football game at Nolan Field. “This has changed everything for us.”

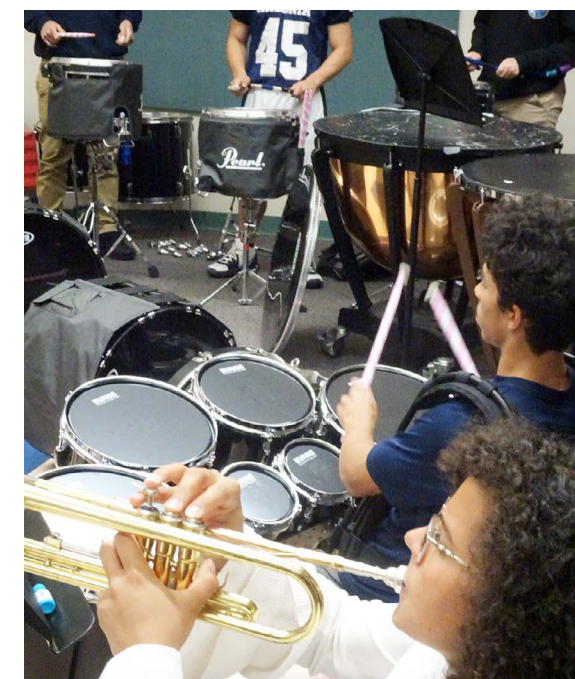
Idalisce said the new sound that comes out of the new drums is a “9 out of 10,” compared to what came out of the old instruments, which she assigned a 4 out of 10. “It’s not that I was embarrassed of our performances in the past. It’s that we weren’t able to show who we are,” she said. “Now, it’s game on.”

As for Friday night’s home game, Idalisce gave a clear prediction: “They’re going to play those drums like never before.” And when Thanksgiving rolls around and Ansonia plays Naugatuck, Idalisce said they will be ready with their 38 members playing as loud as Naugatuck Band’s 98 members.

“We’re a family, and now we’re going to be heard.”  
– Maria Tangredi, Music Teacher



Senior Gabriel Magarin, sophomore Jayden Esquilin and junior Alann Ferreira play the snare drums.



Senior Idalisce Martinez on the trumpet playing with percussionists in the background.

New Instruments purchased with fundraising & grant funding:  
**13 Drums,**  
with carriers & covers,  
**Marimba,**  
**Vibraphone**





# Dual Enrollment College Courses Bring Great Opportunities



The number of college and career opportunities for Ansonia High School students increased significantly from 2018 to 2019, with two additional agreements signed in the month of November alone. Those new agreements, with Post University and the University of New Haven (UNH), were announced by AHS Principal Paul Giansanti and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph DiBacco. The opportunities translate to significant savings for students and their families.

UNH is offering a minimum merit-based scholarship of \$18,000-\$20,000 per year based on admissions criteria; one free course at UNH for AHS seniors; and a 25% cost reduction for a UNH Summer Academy.

The agreement takes effect immediately and is currently open to AHS students. The second agreement is for a new Criminal Justice/Emergency Management & Homeland Security Track with Post University. This new track, which requires students to take specific courses starting in their sophomore year, will result in 15 earned college credits to be used toward a double major in Criminal Justice and Emergency Management & Homeland Security at Post University.

These two agreements join several approved last year and the list now includes the following:

COLLEGE OR BUSINESS	AGREEMENT DETAILS	# OF STUDENTS INVOLVED
King's College in Pennsylvania	Certain criteria leads to automatic acceptance and a minimum of a \$16,000 scholarship, renewable for four years.	11 seniors have applied, of which 9 meet the GPA and SAT requirements, and 7 have received early acceptance.
University of Bridgeport	Six new dual enrollment credit courses offered for the 2019-20 year; credit is transferable to UB.	97 students currently enrolled in UB courses, including 12 juniors and 85 seniors. 25 seniors applying to UB.
University of New Haven	Certain criteria leads to minimum merit-based scholarship of \$18,000-\$20,000 per year; one course at UNH free to any Ansonia High senior.	25 seniors have applied, with 21 meeting the minimum requirements, 19 meeting the higher GPA requirement, and 13 have received early acceptance.
Griffin Hospital	Patient Care Technician Program for 10 students each year; students must take specific courses at AHS each year and volunteer at Griffin Hospital before completing course work during their senior year.	10 AHS sophomores enrolled in the program during the 2018-19 year; a second cohort of students will be enrolled this year.
Teamsters-Sikorsky Career Pathways Union Mentoring Program	Eight-week paid summer internship program, pairing high school students with veteran union members.	3 AHS juniors enrolled in the summer of 2019.
Post University	New Criminal Justice/Emergency Management & Homeland Security Track, with course work beginning in the spring semester of the student's sophomore year. Will result in 15 earned college credits to be used toward a double major in CRJ and EMH at Post University.	Program begins in 2020-2021 year.

“This is incredible. We are expanding our college tracks and career opportunities for Ansonia students, and there is more to come. Our goal is to provide as many choices to our students as possible. These agreements are what sets us apart from other high schools.”

– Dr. DiBacco, Superintendent



Three Ansonia High students taking advantage of the new dual enrollment college courses include (from left) Seniors Joe Cortez and Jere Mae Pintacasi and Junior Michael Szewczyk.

“We couldn’t be more proud of our students,” said Mr. Giansanti, who has been instrumental in securing several of the new programs. He credited a number of colleagues with opening new doors for Ansonia students and also hinted at several more agreements that are on the horizon. “They are taking advantage of these incredible opportunities, and I know their parents and guardians join me in thanking these colleges, university and corporations for forming partnerships with AHS.”

## Awards & Recognitions

### TEAMSTERS-SIKORSKY CAREER PATHWAYS UNION MENTORING PROGRAM



Three juniors at AHS (from left) Matt DeFelice, Anna Msciwujewska and Ian Gifford, are Ansonia High's first students to be accepted into the Teamsters-Sikorsky Career Pathways Union Mentoring Program.

### CONGRATULATIONS AHS Cheer



SECOND RUNNERS UP  
CIAC Connecticut High School Cheer Championships



CONGRATULATIONS!  
EVAN GARRETT MIKE TYLER  
TITAN BUSINESS CHALLENGE  
SECOND PLACE





## School Buses Bring Meals to Students During COVID closure

When it became apparent that Connecticut schools would be closed in mid-March due to safety concerns related to COVID-19, Dr. Joseph DiBacco knew he would have to figure out a way to feed students breakfast and lunch each day. With the help of All-Star Transportation, Central Office and food services staff, and security officers from the schools, the Mobile Meals Distribution Program was launched on March 18, 2020.

Each day, starting at 6:30 a.m., about 20 food services staff members begin preparing the meals, then packaging the breakfast and lunch for distribution. Four school buses are used each day, and they follow the same route and approximately the same time schedule. Each bus leaves AHS by or before 11 a.m. with two food services workers and a security staff member. When the program began on March 18, they served an average of 450 youths, or 900 meals, each day. As of April 20, the number of youths served increased to 550, or 1,100 meals.

“People have been very good about following social distancing guidelines,” said Bob Lisi, the district’s Youth Outreach Officer who is assisting with the program. “They are also incredibly appreciative of our food services department.”



**“Teachers and administrators impress me more and more each day. They are resilient, open to trying new things, and they are staying positive!”**

– Dr. DiBacco, Superintendent



The menu varies slightly each day. Breakfast menus change each day but each meal contains a 100% fruit juice, second fruit choice and a milk in addition to one or two



grain or protein foods. Lunch choices include a variety of sandwiches, a bagel/cheese/yogurt meal, or chef salad choice. These items are packed along with fruit and vegetables choices, and a milk serving. All meals meet the USDA meal pattern standards.

**“We know that these meals go a long way in keeping high nutrition standards for kids, who are in their major growth years.”**

– Christine Wallace, Nutrition Consultant

Christine Wallace, a nutrition consultant for the Ansonia Nutrition Program, said she rode Bus 1 on March 18, the first day of the program. She described the scene as the bus was pulling into the parking lot at Nolan Field. “You should have seen all of the people who were waiting for us,” she said. “Most were in cars, but some had walked. It’s a very visceral reminder of the impact that this [COVID-19] situation is having on people.”

The Meals Distribution Program continued throughout the summer of 2020.

## Drive-up Graduation for Class of 2020



Planning a high school graduation ceremony in the midst of a COVID pandemic in a city that values its traditions was quite a challenge for AHS Principal Paul Giansanti. But, with advice from many others and input from his seniors, Giansanti set the stage for what may become Ansonia’s newest tradition.

“We heard from Ansonia High seniors, their parents and guardians and community members: Our seniors want to walk across a stage to receive their diplomas,” Giansanti said. “Dr. DiBacco picked the 20th day of the year 2020,” Mr. Giansanti said. “This is a day for the city to celebrate our seniors, many of whom worked during the past two months in addition to adjusting to distance learning. We hope the city will ‘Go Blue’ and celebrate our students. We really are Ansonia Strong.”

It was a picture perfect day for Ansonia’s 162 seniors, who arrived with their family in cars, following a motorcade comprised of Ansonia police, fire and emergency services personnel. Community members lined the route on Pulaski Highway, and Ansonia High staff cheered on the seniors with signs and balloons on the high school campus. Each senior, in cap and gown, walked across the stage that was set up near the entrance to AHS, where a masked up Giansanti presented the diploma.

The event was live streamed and the speeches names of scholarship recipients were pre-recorded. The following video clip, prepared by a professional videographer, provides a synopsis of the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hh0GNxaYpkU&feature=youtu.be>

Mr. Giansanti noted that the school district purchased the caps and gowns and paid for one professional photo of each graduate. Students also received a lawn sign, celebrating their achievement. “The Class of 2020 deserves all of this and more,” Mr. Giansanti said.



**“This is a day for the city to celebrate our seniors, many of whom worked during the past two months in addition to adjusting to distance learning. We really are Ansonia Strong!”**

– Paul Giansanti, AHS Principal



# Our Year at a Glance

Ansonia Public Schools began the 2019-20 year on a high note and was on a trajectory for a year of numerous achievements – and then, the COVID-19 pandemic raced into Connecticut and led to school closures from March 13 through the end of the school year. Dr. DiBacco brought his district team together to have teachers prepare two weeks of learning packets for all students; chromebooks were sanitized and nearly 1,500 were distributed to students; and daily meals were delivered by school bus to numerous stops throughout the city. Distance or remote learning became the new normal for school districts and for students and their families. We are proud of the successes we realized, even in the unprecedented face of COVID-19.

“

Looking now from a teacher perspective, Jennifer Mastroni embodies all the characteristics that you learn about in your college education classes ... She pushed her students to be as good as they could be in the classroom and out of it.

– Courtney Hart, colleague

”



August/September

The homes of more than 150 incoming kindergarten children were visited Aug. 17 by teams of school district staff and volunteers, who formed the new **Ansonia Public Schools Welcome Wagon for students and families.** Dr. DiBacco, who helped coordinate the first ever Ansonia Kindergarten Canvass book drop-off, said, “This was a wonderful opportunity for our Ansonia faculty to meet our new kindergarten families by going to their homes to drop off a book.” The book is “Kindergarten, Here I Come.” “This initiative is an important step in forging a positive relationship with families.”

**Two new principals were named to their posts** following a lengthy interview process by two separate committees in July. The two new administrators are Peter Colaccino as the principal of Ansonia Middle School, and Amy Cosciello as principal of Mead School. Cosciello, an Ansonia native, and Colaccino, of Southington, were the unanimous choices for their respective positions by the committees. Ms. Cosciello is no stranger to administrative roles in Ansonia, having served as assistant principal of AMS and Prendergast. Colaccino has spent nearly his entire career at the middle school level, including more than six years as an assistant principal of Lincoln Middle School in Meriden.



October

Mead staff and guest, Dr. Joseph DiBacco, got whipped cream pies thrown in their faces as part of “**The Valley Goes Pink Week**” in October. The event, dubbed “Toss It Thursday,” was one of a week long series of events that teamed up Mead School with Griffin Hospital for breast cancer awareness. The class that sold the most pink tattoos got to throw the pink pies in the faces of their teachers. The school, as a whole, raised nearly \$750.

**Hispanic Awareness Month activities** were held throughout the district in October. At the two elementary schools, two evening programs for students and families featured music, art and dance to celebrate the city’s diverse Hispanic heritage. Ansonia Middle School also held a celebration with food, music and art during the school day on Oct. 8, with community members invited. Dr. Miguel Cardona, the Commissioner of Education (pictured above), toured the school and spoke with students at both AMS and Ansonia High School.



November

Jennifer Mastroni, a business education teacher at AHS, is this year’s **Teacher of the Year in Ansonia.** She started her 21st year of teaching in late August 2019. It was her first teaching job, and it has become her home, she said. “When I wrote my speech [for convocation], I thought of all of the former students who have gone on to do great things – and that makes me feel proud. My speech wasn’t about data. I told my colleagues to look to their left and to their right. These are the individuals who make education great.” One of those former students is Courtney Hart, who is also now a colleague.

“Her classes taught ‘real life’ lessons with ‘real life’ applications. She aimed her teaching away from the theory and more towards how to use it in the future,” Courtney wrote of Mastroni’s teaching style, when Courtney attended Ansonia High from 2001-2005.



December

Four Ansonia students were among those honored at the **34th Annual CAPSS Superintendents’ Award of Excellence program** on Dec. 5 at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. The Valley Superintendents host this program, honoring middle and high school students for their academic and school/community achievements. The honored students were Lexi Brinkmann and Matthew DeFelice of Ansonia High School and Fahmida Chowdhury and Jonathan Kish of Ansonia Middle School. They were presented with their awards by Dr. Joseph DiBacco, Superintendent of Schools, and their school administrators, AHS Principal Paul Giansanti and Assistant Principal Sara Crooks and AMS Principal Pete Colaccino. The students’ parents were also invited guests.



Mead Art Teacher Ashley Preneta, who is leading an eight-week painting class for 21 Ansonia Middle School Charger Club members, shared the attached photo of her students and their first completed piece of art work on Dec. 18, 2019.



Students at Ansonia Middle School looking for a club to join after school have a wealth of new choices: Robotics, Chess Club, Art Club, Gaming Club, and Student Council. These clubs have had a strong turnout since club meetings began in October. Principal Pete Colaccino asked his staff to tap into their expertise and interests in order to offer more to the seventh and eighth graders. "If teachers are able to create clubs and activities that focus on their skills and interests, it creates a more authentic experience that readily translates back to the students. In turn, students learn from someone who has a genuine passion for what they are doing," said Colaccino.



Mead staff strutted their musical acumen in "Mead's Got Talent" on Jan. 31.



Elementary school students selected for the annual Art and Music Awards presented by the Connecticut Association of Schools were honored on Feb. 10 at a banquet at Aqua Turf in Southington. The student winners are, from Prendergast, Sabrina Discso and Peyton Santiago and from Mead School, Mackenzie Mitchell and Carmella Tatum.



Ansonia schools observed Black American History Month in February, with special guests visiting classrooms and students completing research assignments. At Ansonia Middle School, students hosted an Open House on Feb. 28, with judging for a Door Decorating Contest, student performances and guest speakers Alderman Diane Stroman and State Sen. George Logan.



**Student of the Month and Staff of the Month Programs:** Five students and one teacher were honored by Dr. Joseph DiBacco, Superintendent, and members of the Board of Education on March 11 in a reception prior to the regular Board meeting. They are the first honorees in a new program established by Dr. DiBacco. The students are kindergarten students Armando Coache of Mead and Amaya Mahabir of Prendergast; fifth graders Anika Zivojinovic of Mead and Maritza Santos of Prendergast; and AHS freshman Jackie Brown. Fourth grade teacher Meg Silva of Prendergast was selected as the Staff member of the month.



## December

AHS Principal Paul Giansanti announced the results from On Site Decision Day that AHS Guidance hosted on December 11th. The following schools were represented: King's College, Southern Connecticut State University, University of Bridgeport, University of New Haven, Western New England University, and Western Connecticut State University. A total of 27 students participated in the college admissions event.

The On Site Decision Day netted 56 admissions to six different colleges, and our students were awarded \$602,000 in scholarship money! Go Chargers!

## January



Prendergast School held its annual Spelling Bee, with 12 students competing. Sadie Sharkey outlasted her classmates and won the Bee. Everyone did a great job and we are proud of all the participants!

Nine students enrolled in Lisa Goggi's fifth grade class from Mead School last year were honored by the Ansonia Board of Education at the Jan. 9 meeting. The students had participated in a writing contest sponsored by Young Writers, USA. Nine of their "mini-sagas" have been selected for publication in Crazy Creatures 2019 - Stories from New England. The students are: Jayda Conquest, Sophie Chen, Hailey Hanson, Lily Markoya, Mackenzie Mitchell, Cassidy Pawlak, Janelis Stewart, Romeo Vega and Myzara'e Williams.

## February



On Feb. 21, Ansonia High School welcomed Sikorsky / Lockheed Martin Systems Engineer Michelle (Montepara) Andersen (Class of 2001). Mrs. Andersen spent lunch with female students interested in science and engineering. Students were able to ask questions about career paths, education, job outlook, and the broad field of engineering



The AHS Unified Sports team, led by Coach Kelly Matute (right), played their annual basketball game vs. Oxford High on Feb. 19. We are so proud of our students who participated. We would like to thank all our students, staff and families who came out to support our team!

## March

"We have wonderful students who come from wonderful families," Dr. DiBacco announced at the start of the program. "If you are here, you did such a good job. And I know this didn't happen all by itself."

Saying afterwards that he felt like "a proud papa," Dr. DiBacco said he established the program in order to highlight the students and staff that exhibit Charger pride every day. Students, who are nominated by their teachers, must show perseverance, pride, cooperation and courtesy. Staff must show high quality of work, innovation and motivation, cultural competence, punctuality and excellent attendance, and high personal expectations. Each month, students and staff members will be selected from different grade levels and different schools. [The program will begin again in 2020-21.]





On May 4, vans from five food pantries serving needy families in the Valley picked up nearly 11,600 servings of pizza, chicken, pasta and other items from the Ansonia Public Schools Nutrition Program. The frozen food had been purchased for student lunches for the district and couldn't be used due to the closing of schools in March. The hand off was coordinated by Bob Lisi, the district's Youth Outreach Officer, and David Morgan, president and CEO of TEAM Inc. of Derby.



Teachers and school staff held parades in the parking lot of Ansonia High School, parking their cars and holding signs as families drove slowly by, with students and parents waving. The schools planned the events as a show of support as spring arrived and schools remained closed.



The Ansonia Public Schools Facebook page featured many photos of Ansonia High students who continued to work, as essential employees, to help keep open the supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, and restaurants.

Your Ansonia family thanks you for all that you do!



As the 2019-20 school year wound to a close, students began to explore well beyond their home classrooms. This Mead teacher, Mrs. Schulls, took her students on a tour of the Statue of Liberty – remotely, of course!



April



May



June



As schools closed throughout the country and students moved to remote learning from home, Ansonia Public Schools **recognized the many students who continued to work in the community.**

TEAM has been overseeing the Food Security Task Force, which includes five key Valley food pantries and multiple community partners, including Ansonia Public Schools. Lisi and Joe Gonzalez, director of the Ansonia Nutrition Program, serve on the task force for the district. "This generosity of Ansonia Public Schools is making a meaningful difference for hundreds of children and families turning to the pantries every single week," Morgan said. He noted that each month, the pantries distribute about 65,000 pounds of food to about 877 households, or nearly 2,000 individuals. Of that total, nearly 600 are children.

"These monthly numbers were prior to the pandemic," Morgan said. "The food pantries are witnessing an increasing surge of households needing to access the food pantries, so this donation comes at a critical time."



Community members sent wishes to the Class of 2020 by posting a banner for anyone to sign.



Graduation and year-end programs took place either virtually or by using the drive-up model at Ansonia High School. The Ansonia Charger Club program held a Drive Up Awards Ceremony on June 9, with 50 students and their families receiving awards from their teachers, a family meal prepared by the Ansonia Nutrition Program, and a new backpack for the 2020-21 school year.



Moving Up Ceremonies for sixth graders were also held, as well as Pre-K graduation events. Lawn signs were either picked up or delivered to student homes.

Above Mead Elementary School PreK graduate awards and flowers await pickup at their graduation event.

We have wonderful students who come from wonderful families.

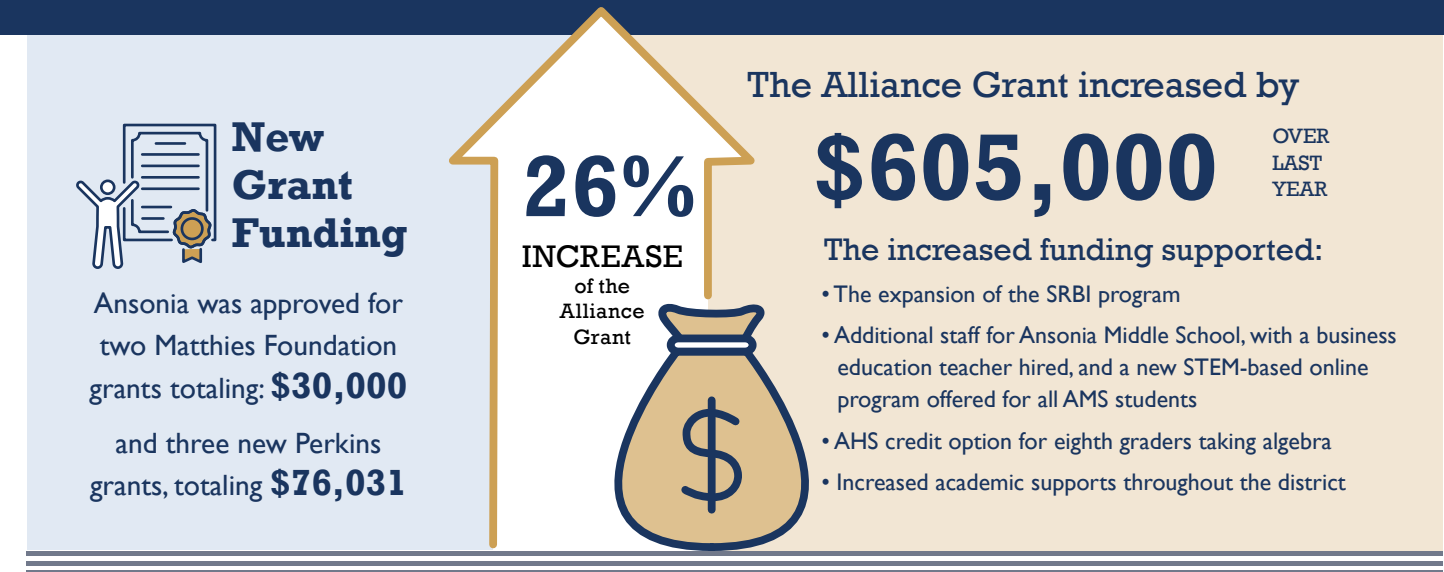
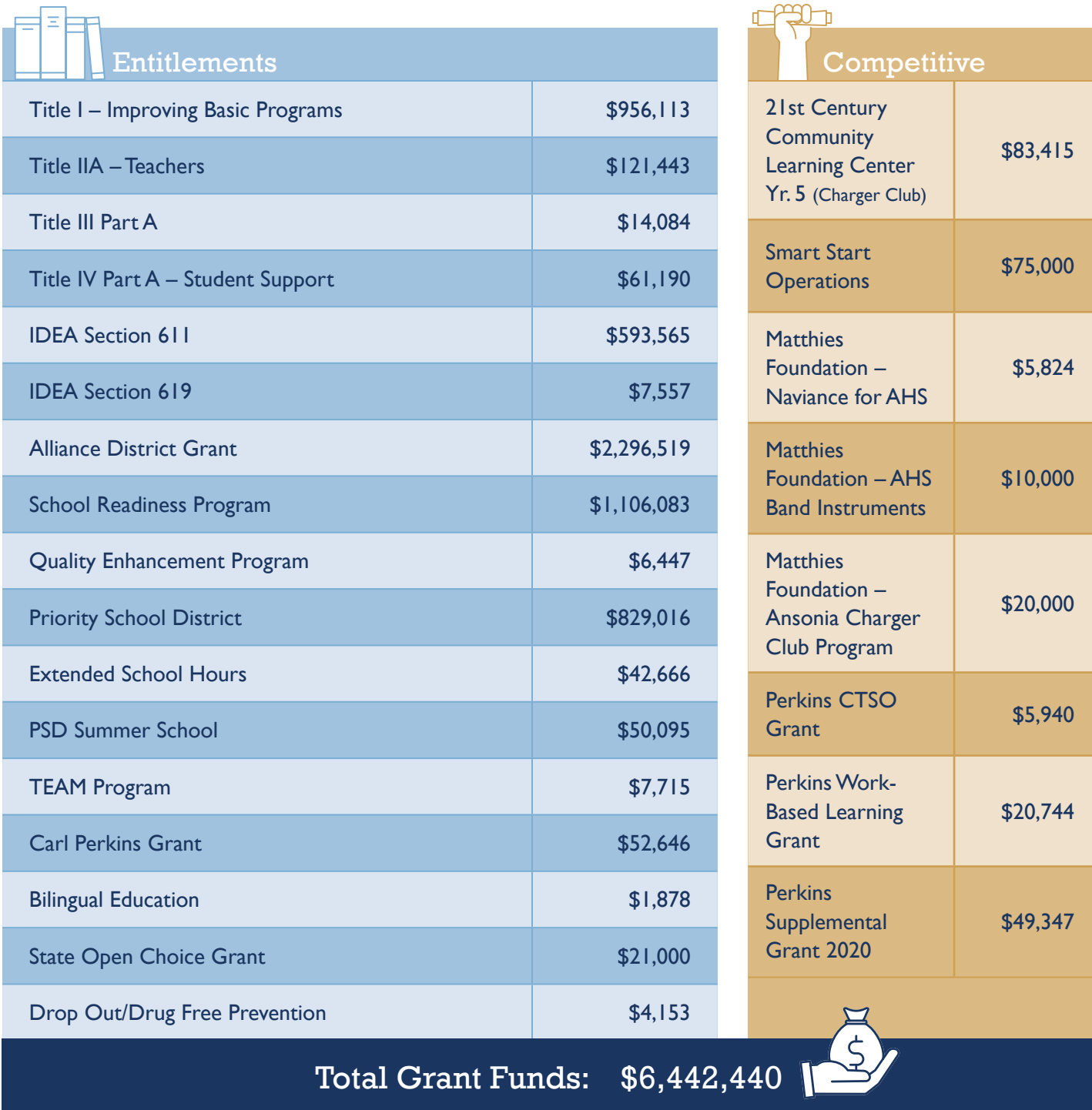
– Dr. DiBacco, Superintendent



## Grant Funding

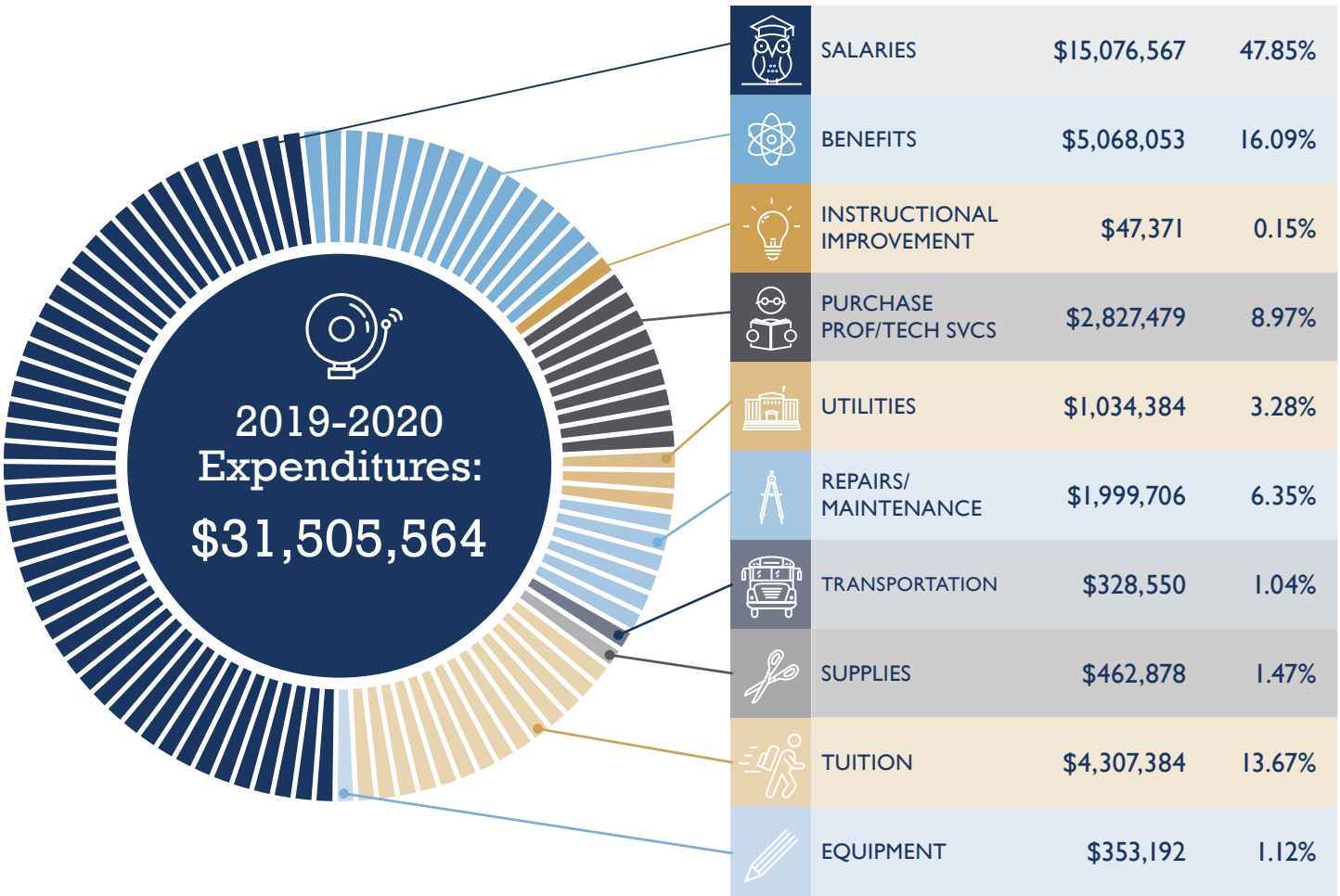
Ansonia Public Schools is a Priority School District and an Alliance School District in the State of Connecticut. These designations are for districts with high need, and grants are awarded to these districts for data-driven school improvement programs. Detailed applications outlining those plans are required for nearly all of the grants, as well as follow-up reporting.

The chart provides an overview of the Entitlement Grants awarded to Ansonia from state and federal grant programs, as well as the Competitive Grants that were approved for Ansonia:

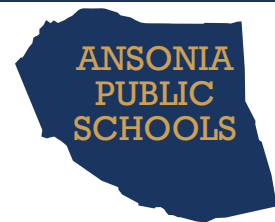


## Expenditures

The expenditures outlined below are based on a carefully crafted budget which starts with educational and operational needs identified by building administrators, curriculum coordinators and department heads. Meetings are held and budget requests are examined before the Superintendent brings a budget to the Ansonia Board of Education. The final budget amount is set by the Ansonia Board of Aldermen in late spring, and the Board of Education votes to adopt a detailed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.







In the 2019-2020 school year Ansonia Public Schools was only able to provide STAR scores from the Fall '19 and Winter '20 testing windows. Students in Ansonia are tested in the Fall, Winter and Spring each year using STAR Early Literacy, STAR Reading, and STAR Math. STAR testing has evolved into a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) in multiple content areas. The CAT testing adjusts the difficulty based on the students' previous answer. The computer-adaptive tests allow students to stay actively engaged in the testing because it is adaptive and predictive. The district uses the information from these assessments to drive instruction and to provide strategic interventions or enrichment for learners.

It must be noted that the Fall and Winter testing doesn't have a direct correlation. Additionally, the test content changes considerably in each assessment based on the scope and sequence of the content. Lastly, the end of year testing is the most accurate growth score because it factors in two other data sets. Unfortunately, in the 2019-2020 school year, we were unable to provide to parents and families an end of year growth score due to the closing of schools in March 2020. Ansonia Public Schools is focused on using multiple measures to see student growth over time. We try not to use a single score or a single data point to make instructional decisions.

The testing targets were set by STAR; the target set by STAR is the 40th Percentile Rank, which measures students meeting At/Above grade-level benchmarks

The District Accountability Index in 2018-19 was 66.8 for Ansonia Public Schools. Prior to COVID our district was on-track to eclipsing that score.



ELA PROFICIENCY				
GRADE	ASSESSMENT	FALL '19	WINTER '20	CHANGE
K	STAR EARLY LIT	23.5%	47.5%	24.0%
1	STAR EARLY LIT	47.5%	65.5%	18.0%
2	STAR READING	38.5%	54.5%	16.0%
3	STAR READING	42.5%	57.0%	14.5%
4	STAR READING	59.5%	56.5%	-3.0%
5	STAR READING	37.5%	35.0%	-2.5%
6	STAR READING	29.5%	33.0%	3.5%
7	STAR READING	30.0%	32.0%	2.0%
8	STAR READING	38.0%	34.0%	-4.0%
9	STAR READING	29.0%	27.0%	-2.0%
10	STAR READING	34.0%	30.0%	-4.0%
11	STAR READING	36.0%	33.0%	-3.0%
12	STAR READING	N/A	N/A	N/A



For Advanced Placement (AP) and UConn Early College Experience (ECE), Ansonia Public Schools offers 11 AP course and 6 ECE courses. Due to COVID closings, there are no AP or SAT test results to report this year.

MATH PROFICIENCY				
GRADE	ASSESSMENT	FALL '19	WINTER '20	CHANGE
K	STAR EARLY LIT	23.5%	47.5%	24.0%
1	STAR MATH	61.0%	69.5%	8.5%
2	STAR MATH	44.5%	51.5%	7.0%
3	STAR MATH	54.5%	66.0%	11.5%
4	STAR MATH	68.5%	68.5%	0.0%
5	STAR MATH	47.0%	53.5%	6.5%
6	STAR MATH	42.5%	47.0%	4.5%
7	STAR MATH	51.0%	45.0%	-6.0%
8	STAR MATH	47.0%	53.0%	6.0%
9	STAR MATH	39.0%	46.0%	7.0%
10	STAR MATH	52.0%	55.0%	3.0%
11	STAR MATH	38.0%	49.0%	11.0%
12	STAR MATH	N/A	N/A	N/A

## ELL, Students with Disabilities, Poverty Percentages



**5.2%** ENGLISH LEARNERS



**20%** STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



**67.8%** FREE/REDUCED MEALS

Ansonia is a CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) district, which allows for all students to receive free breakfast and lunch.



**2,265**

Enrolled Students  
in Pre-K to Grade 12

This data is from October 1, 2019, which is the date the Connecticut State Department of Education uses for all state reporting.

**PRE-K** Ansonia  
Pre-K Program  
93 Students

**GRADES  
PRE-K  
to 6** Mead  
Elementary School  
620 Students

**GRADES  
K-6** Prendergast  
Elementary School  
639 Students

**GRADES  
7-8** Ansonia  
Middle School  
356 Students

**GRADES  
9-12** Ansonia  
High School  
557 Students

## Race Ethnicity of Ansonia Students

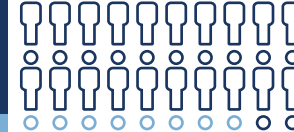
**18.9%**  
BLACK



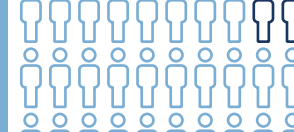
**42.8%**  
HISPANIC



**30.4%**  
WHITE



**7.9%**  
OTHERS



## Board of Education

### MEMBERS OF THE APS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**President,** William Nimons  
**Vice President,** Fran DiGiorgi  
**Secretary,** Christopher Phipps  
**Member,** Rich Bshara  
**Member,** Tracey DeLibero  
**Member,** John Izzo

**Member,** Joseph Jeanette  
**Member,** Beth LeBerge  
**Member,** Vinnie Scarlata  
**Member,** Beverly Tidmarsh  
**Member,** Sharon Voroschak

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

In compliance with the Ansonia Board of Aldermen's resolution of January, 1992, requiring an attendance log of meetings, here is a table listing 18 regular and special meetings and board members' attendance records:

DATE	DiGiorgi	Izzo*	DeLibero	Nimons*	Phipps	Jeanette*	Scarlata	Tidmarsh*	Bshara	Voroschak	LeBerge*
7/2/2019 (spec)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
07/31/19 (spec)	P	A	A	P	P	P	P				
09/11/20 (reg)	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P			
10/09/19 (reg)	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P			
10/30/19 (spec)	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P			
11/18/19 (spec)	P	-	A	P	A	A	P	P			
11/18/19 (reg)	P	-	P	P	A	A	P	P			
11/22/19 (spec)	P	-	P	P	P	A	P	P			
12/6/19 (org)	P	-	A	-	P	-	P	-	A	A	
12/18/19 (spec)	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	P	
01/7/20 (spec)	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	P	
01/08/20 (reg)	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	P	
01/16/20 (spec)	A	-	A	-	P	-	P	-	P	P	
02/03/20 (spec)	A	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	P	P
02/12/20 (reg)	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	P	P
03/11/20 (reg)	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	P	P
05/20/20 (spec)	P	-	P	-	P	-	A	-	P	P	P
06/24/20 (spec)	P	-	P	-	P	-	A	-	P	P	P

\* Mr. Izzo resigned from the Board of Education on July 31, 2019. Beverly Tidmarsh was appointed to complete his term of office.

\* Mr. Jeanette resigned in November 2019 after his election to the Board of Aldermen. Beth LeBerge was appointed as an interim member in January.

\* Mr. Nimons completed his term in November 2019. Mr. Bshara and Ms. Voroschak were elected to the board and began their terms on Dec. 1.



# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

42 Grove Street Ansonia, CT 06401

PH: 203-736-5095

[www.ansoniam.org](http://www.ansoniam.org)

