

February 7, 2022

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular Board Meeting on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508.

1. Call to Order – President Yanni called the meeting to order at 7:19PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – By the Secretary

Present: Directors Cheseck, Cleary, Cruz, Fox, Gilmartin, Holmes, Hume, McAndrew and President Yanni.

Absent: All Present.

4. Motion to Approve Agenda

Director Cheseck asked that Items 12.19 (D-5), 12.25(E-1) and 12.26(E-2) be removed from Consent Agenda. Director Fox asked that Item 12.27(E-15) is removed from the Consent Agenda.

Director McAndrew made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Director Holmes seconded; motion duly passed 9-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

Director Hume asked if when anyone is speaking to please pull their mask down as she has difficulty hearing.

5. Communications to the Board

Board Secretary Virginia Orr announced that Executive Sessions were held on January 3, 2022, January 14, 2022 and this evening to discuss Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Negotiations.

6. Solicitor's Report - Attorney John Audi – no report.

7. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Melissa McTiernan

Mrs. McTiernan updated the school community on the following:

- STEMM Academy and the ability for students to be able to participate in sports and extra- curricular activities in their home schools. Mrs. McTiernan spoke to a representative from PIAA and explained the situation and was told that students from the West Scranton boundaries that attend the STEMM Academy can participate in their home school activities as long as it becomes part of the Scranton School District policy so the next step is for discussion to develop that policy at the February 28th work session.
- Social Emotional Learning Program and the faculty and staff in each building are working extremely hard to build core level teams that will participate in a series of orientation sessions which are happening now and after the core teams have completed their training they will train the rest of the staff. Mrs. McTiernan thanked Mr. Gentilezza and everyone that stepped up to spearhead this important initiative for our kids.

- Publically recognized the nursing staff as the district continues to navigate through the pandemic adding these past few weeks have been an incredible challenge and the nursing staff has done an excellent job in each of the buildings handling all of the requirements that are necessary in a school setting that are associated with Covid-19.
- Recognized and thanked all school counselors for National School Counselors week, their day is never the same and thanked them for making a difference everyday in our students' lives.
- Mrs. McTiernan expressed heartfelt sadness of Mr. Paul Dougherty leaving the Scranton School District and wished him the best in his new position as Superintendent at Tunkhannock School District.

8. Report from Student Representatives

Jeannie Rafferty, Scranton High School, spoke about the following:

- The scheduling portal is now open for the 2022-23 school year and students have been meeting with counselors to finalize their classrooms for next year
- Justin's, the company that provides the school's caps and gowns held a virtual meeting for all seniors to start the ordering process
- Scranton High students participated in the Scholastic Art and Writing competition with the help of Mr. Schulte and Mrs. Padden. In the writing entries, Riley Bittenbender, Nadia Colon, Gabrielle Josselyn and Zayury Ponce all won Honorable Mention. In the Art entries, Anthony Santos, Giovanni Sariti, Nick Lolli, Paige Cadwalder, Michael Hegedus, Irwin Jimenez and Julia Rizzo all were awarded recipients in Photography.
- Sophomore Finely Bittenbender broke the Basketball record and became the school's all time leader in a single season for three-pointers and Senior Jason Shields scored his 1000th point of his career on January 24th.
- At Isaac Tripp Elementary many students participated in the Reflections contest:
 - 1st Place Photography – Christopher Chesek and Sagan Suda
 - 1st Place Literature – Mathew Syrylo
 - 1st Place Music Composition – Anthony Sabatell and Gregg Russo
 - 2nd Place Music Composition – Liam Manley
 - 3rd Place Music Composition – Hudson Jones
 - 1st Place Visual Arts – Lucas Syrylo and Mathew Syrylo
 - 2nd Place Visual Arts – Cassandra Calvey and Mason McDermott
 - 3rd Place Visual Arts – Ella Arcangeletti and Landon Sweeney
- Neil Armstrong 4th grade students are participating in the year's American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge called Jump on Board. The goal is to raise at least \$250 for the local American Heart Association to benefit kids with heart health issues and the event will take place on Tuesday, February 15th at 6PM in the gym. The jump roping challenge is a way to focus on moving, being kind, drinking water and helping others
- The PTA at Armstrong is coordinating a tie-dye and tutus event for 2-22-2022. The students will be celebrating this interesting day by adding tie-dye clothing or a tutu to their uniform for school. Participants are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items to benefit food banks servicing the North Scranton area.
- Throughout the month of February the Scranton Show Choir will depart for Massachusetts on the 11th and Virginia on the 18th to compete against several show

choirs. The group has been practicing since the summer and is beyond excited to compete again.

Tyler Michel, West Scranton High School, reported on the following:

- John Adams PTA is starting a program called John Adams Reads 2022 where all students K-4 are going to try to read 2,022 books from now until the end of the year and students are busy creating a rainbow, one color per grade, in the main hallway, to show and track their progress of reading.
- At Whittier Elementary, 96% of Mr. Bayer's 4th grade ELA class increased their overall score in a cadence from the beginning to the middle year benchmark. A cadence assesses skills which are essential for reading and comprehension.
- Kindergarten students at McNichols Plaza have been learning about and celebrating different holidays and traditions. They celebrated the Lunar New Year, Groundhog Day and Black History Month and have been busy reading stories and creating crafts. First grade students participated in World Read Aloud Day and had scholastic authors zoom into their classrooms and read stories to them. 2nd graders had the opportunity to watch the live news broadcast of Punxatawney Phil, create a groundhog pop up, learned about the history and traditions of our winter seeking friend and trace the roots of this legend all the way back to Germany. 3rd grade students are participating in PPL Bright Kids program. PPL will be zooming into 3rd grade teaching students about reducing energy use and sending them home with an energy efficient gift. The 4th grade has been implementing some SEL practices all year with a daily virtual check-in. Students are checking in with teachers using their chromebooks each day during breakfast and providing teachers with input on how they are feeling. Teachers check in one on one with students throughout the day based on feedback. In Physical Education the students are learning about the Olympics and exploring various sporting events. In Art, 3rd and 4th graders are designing their own color wheels and having a friendly competition between grades. In Music, students in 4th grade are learning about Black History Month through song and exploring music and spirituals and learning to play percussion instruments.
- West Intermediate Student Council came in 6th place in this year's Steamtown Trim a Tree contest at the Electric City Trolley Museum. The Student Council also sponsored a Betty White Challenge that benefitted the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter and students raised \$108 and collected a truck load of blankets, animal food, towels and bedding for the shelter. Students from Mrs. Nemitz's 8th grade science class participated in the Electrify America's rEV program and raffle winners were Christian Saunders and Maggie Barr. 7th grade student Olivia Murray was a first place winner of Lackawanna County Office of Drug and Alcohol's annual holiday poster contest and her poster will be featured on a billboard in the city of Scranton throughout the month of April. 7th grader Cali Ebersole was a 1st place finalist in this year's annual Patriot's Pen Essay contest. This year's theme was "How Can I Be a Good American". January's Students of the Month were 8th grade Elias Rios for Fine Arts and 8th grade Isabella Stanton for Organized.

9. PSBA Report

Director Catherine Fox reported on the following:

- Fiscal impacts of the governor's 2022-2023 state budget as the governor unveils his new budget and districts will be examining how the proposed funding levels will impact their own local budgets
- Join PSBA's Government Affairs Staff on February 9th from 12-1pm, the day after the governor releases his new spending plan, for a deeper dive into the numbers and a discussion on the impacts and trends in state appropriations for public education and bring your questions
- February 11th from 12-1pm, a Charter School Performance Framework, the school district of Philadelphia which authorizes more charter schools than all school districts in the state will go into depth on the successfully implemented Charter Performance Framework that the district uses as part of its evaluation of charter schools for renewals and other decision making processes
- February 15th from 12:30-1:30pm there will be a School Directors Monthly Exchange. She, Director Cruz and Director Gilmartin were able to get on recently and it was very enlightening as you have the chance to ask other districts questions, hear their concerns, how you relate and what problems you both have and solutions that might be available
- Senate Health and Education Labor and Pensions Committee hosted a Hearing titled Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Responding to Growing Crisis; the Hearing was bipartisan in nature with members from both sides of the aisle acknowledging the need to expand access to mental health services and respond to rising drug overdose deaths in America. The Legislative Advisory Council discussed this issue as well and PSBA will continue to work with legislators on forthcoming legislation regarding this matter. Ms. Fox added that Director Gilmartin was able to relay this information because she is an Advocacy Ambassador for PSBA, sections 3 and 4 and we're very lucky to have that local resource
- Spring Advocacy Day will take place on April 25, 2022 at the Capitol, this is a complimentary event and also available virtually.
- Congratulated Laura Johnson from Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding was recently recognized by PSBA as the 2021 Allwein Society inductee
- Applications will open for Pennsylvania State Board of Education Student members and is an exciting opportunity for our students who might be interested and this information will be posted on the district's social media.

10. Public Comment

Kyle Callejas, Senator Flynn's office, addressed the board regarding a letter sent to the district regarding \$1.8 million dollars that Mr. Flynn has secured for the district. Mr. Callejas read the letter from February 3rd and noted that Senator Flynn has yet to receive any correspondence regarding the legalities of accepting the funds, and Senator Flynn is requesting that Mr. Audi confer with his clients and inform them what is lacking in the existing law that prevents them from taking these funds, and they are requesting answers by Friday, February 11th.

President Yanni asked Mr. Audi if it is appropriate for her to respond. Mr. Audi said yes it would.

Mrs. Yanni responded that Mr. Callejas is correct; they did receive notification from Governor Wolf's office that the Scranton School District may receive an additional \$1.8 million in supplemental funding to be granted upon transition to the Payroll Preparation Tax. As he just read, that letter does specifically state that would be granted if we were to make the transition so we are not in receipt of those dollars. We are extremely grateful to both Governor Wolf and Senator Flynn for their assistance in obtaining this funding as the funding gap of \$1.8 million dollars was a major concern during the board's many discussions and many considerations of this transition. Because of the timing of the receipt of these dollars the potential conversion at this time does become more complex. So with this additional funding and how to be made available to the district, we may now revisit this issue with this major concern behind us. Again, she wants to thank the Governor and Senator Flynn for their help in securing this funding as they previously stated as we start to prepare for the 2023 budget and the vote, the transition from the Business Mercantile Tax to the Payroll Tax will be thoroughly reviewed and again it is encouraging now that we have a solution for the anticipated shortage in funding and this assurance should certainly help drive our discussions moving forward.

Mr. Audi echoed President Yanni's comments and certainly they're all very appreciative of this opportunity, however, the difficulty that arises in implementing this particular tax, this year, is that there already is a Business Privilege Mercantile Tax that's been levied when the budget was passed in November, 2021 for the 2022 year and Act 1 prohibits us from implementing two taxes of this nature in one year so that is an impediment. The other impediment that he sees is the 30 day notice requirements and then finally Section 687, he believes, also requires them not to amend the budget until 90 days after the passage of a budget so that takes us into April and at that point the Business Privilege Mercantile Tax will have already been billed and in the process of being collected so we would then have many people, by May, who had already have paid the Business Privilege Mercantile Tax so that would leave us with a very serious issue of how to handle that and whether or not we would have to refund that money, assuming we could even get past Act 1 and then the 30 day notice requirements, so there are a plethora of legal, and in his opinion pragmatic problems with putting out a tax this quickly, we don't know for example, have a way to collect the tax, we wouldn't know how to do that, he is not a naysayer and if there was some legislation or some passage that he felt comfortable with that we wouldn't be breaking any laws he'd be fully telling the board they could consider this now and take a vote on it but that's not what they see so far, but again he would just thank Senator Flynn and the Governor and say we would certainly be considering this in the appropriate time.

Director Gilmartin asked Mr. Audi if these are all items that they can discuss at a future Budget and Finance Committee Meeting. Mr. Audi said absolutely.

Director Gilmartin added that they are all aware that Mr. Laffey keeps in contact with the City and is aware of the steps they've taken in this process and they will continue to communicate. Ms. Gilmartin also thinks it's important to be on record stating that they were all in receipt of this letter and as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, President Yanni immediately notified her, and she and Superintendent McTiernan included it in the weekly packet.

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Chris Gaidos, resident and taxpayer, spoke about West Scranton basketball having to play at Scranton High and he believes West Scranton deserves their own gym and asked for support for the students. Mr. Gaidos also believes STEMM should also be held at both Scranton High and West High.

Holly Meade, teacher at Northeast, thanked this board and administrators for settling the contract and it means a lot to the teachers to be appreciated and compensated appropriately.

Mrs. Meade also thanked those board members who were able to attend the recent Fair Funding seminar with her students.

Ms. Meade offered a temporary solution for the lack of substitutes, and that is to create ½ days for professional staff because currently if someone has a doctor appointment they have to use a full day and ½ days would allow for teachers to only have to cover one or two classes for a fellow colleague instead of covering for the whole day and it wouldn't cost the district any money and it would relieve some of the stress of covering for teachers who are absent. With the lack of staff now and the way things have changed now is the time to allow your professional staff to use ½ days.

Mrs. Meade spoke about a recent discussion at a work session about behavior occurring in the hallways at the middle schools. Mrs. Meade said it should be noted that at Northeast where she works, they always had their students use hall passes, have the resource officer meet with challenging students and the Principal and Vice Principal meet with students. It was suggested that these were new interventions that will improve behavior when all three middle schools have used these interventions for years and years and these really did work extremely well in the past with the addition of adult supervision but now most of the adult supervision is gone and it's not the fault of the Principal, teachers or students but the blame is solely placed on the schedule. Mrs. Meade said the board can ask for a detailed report on exactly how many teachers it would take to go back to that original schedule that included a duty period for supervision, how much will it cost, how long will it be until it's implemented, we have been told it won't change until the 2023-2024 school year so that means 2 ½ years of students not being supervised in certain areas and receiving less related arts classes. Mrs. Meade implores the board to take active role in this issue.

Mrs. Meade concluded by saying that she has been approached by two people who have received new health card cards that are no longer district employees and she hopes someone will look into that.

Roseann Polishan, parent and advocate at the ARC of NEPA, spoke about the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and that many of their clients are Scranton School District students. Ms. Polishan spoke about their rights to special education and that she emailed board members and suggested they look to provide family engagement and sensitivity training to the staff as parents have complained they are treated disrespectfully or told they expect too much at an IEP meeting. Ms. Polishan provided some suggestions and resources on these topics and she hopes they will look into them, adding that many board members did respond to her.

Ms. Polishan said parent and guardian training is part of the IEP process and there should be no question that parent counseling and training include helping parents acquire skills that will help them support the implementation of their child's IEP. Ms. Polishan has offered to host training for Scranton parents or any staff on the topics of special education and the ARC has developed a number of trainings and they are available to groups to be hosted and they also collaborate and arrange trainings with other professionals throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania including Zoom presentations. Ms. Polishan announced a free Bilingual English and Spanish one hour presentation on IEP Basics on February 17th at 7PM and also hosting a presentation in March for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month "What I Wish Professionals Knew about my Child with Disabilities". The presentation will have stories and experiences directly from families that can be used to help better serve families and serve their special education students. Ms. Polishan hopes the district will share the events with the families in the district and maybe board members will consider attending as well.

At this time, Mr. Kyle Callejas said that Senator Flynn reached out to him and requested in writing the Board's legal concerns and that he'd wants to start a dialog to work together and figure things out.

President Yanni responded that they did offer and tried to set up a time to meet with Senator Flynn but he wasn't available so they did try to make that work but they are always willing to communicate and work together. Mrs. Yanni thanked Mr. Callejas.

11. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2021, December 6, 2021, and January 3, 2022 for the Board Vacancy and January 3, 2022 for General Purposes.
Director McAndrew made a motion, seconded by Director Chesek; motion duly passed 9-0.

12. Motion to Approve CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED - One Roll Call to Approve Items. Please announce if any items(s) removed prior to vote. *Items 12.19 (D-5), 12.25(E-1) and 12.26(E-2) and Item 12.27(E-15) were previously removed from the Consent Agenda.*
Director McAndrew made a motion, seconded by Director Holmes; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

The Consent Agenda included the following:

12.01 {B-1} Approve Bill List [B-1 Bill List 2-7-2022.pdf](#)
List of Bill Payments: \$1,113,712.86

ALSO

12.02 {B-2} Approve Exception Bill Lists [B-2 Bill List 2-7-2022.pdf](#)

<u>Bill Payments</u>		<u>Payrolls</u>	
January 7, 2022	\$551,571.76	January 7, 2022	\$2,619,995.80
January 21, 2022	\$1,436,661.10	January 21, 2022	\$2,990,212.57
January 31, 2022	\$157,672.76	February 4, 2022	\$2,700,178.25
February 4, 2022	\$808,765.86		

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Bill Payments: \$2,954,671.48

Payrolls: \$8,310,386.62

ALSO

12.03 {B-3} Approve October 2021 Delinquent Tax Report [October 2021 Delinquent Tax Report.pdf](#)
Delinquent Tax Report for the month of October 2021 as collected by the Lackawanna Tax
Claim Bureau.

	\$146,866.89
Penalty	\$12,701.97
Interest	<u>\$16,179.22</u>
Total	\$175,748.08
Commission	<u>\$(8,787.60)</u>
Net to District	\$166,960.48

ALSO

12.04 {B-4} Approve November 2021 Delinquent Tax Report [November 2021 Delinquent Tax 2.7.22.pdf](#)
Delinquent Tax Report for the month of November 2021 as collected by the Lackawanna Tax
Claim Bureau.

	\$164,226.47
Penalty	\$8,543.79
Interest	<u>\$10,193.20</u>
Total	\$182,963.46
Commission	<u>\$(9,148.43)</u>
Net to District	\$173,815.03

ALSO

12.05 {B-5} Approve December 2021 Delinquent Tax Report [December 2021 Delinquent Tax Report 2.7.2022.pdf](#)
Delinquent Tax Report for the month of December 2021 as collected by the Lackawanna Tax
Claim Bureau.

	\$166,468.31
Penalty	\$14,513.13
Interest	<u>\$15,957.88</u>
Total	\$196,939.33
Commission	<u>\$(9,847.08)</u>
Net to District	\$187,092.25

ALSO

12.06 {B-6} Approve October 2021 Treasurer's Report [October 2021 Treasurers Report 2-7-2022.pdf](#)
Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 2021 as prepared by the Business Office and
confirmed by First National Bank.

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Opening Balance	\$36,001,960.04
Monthly Revenue	\$4,069,700.49
Transfers and Refunds	<u>\$612,810.49</u>
Total Available	\$40,684,471.02
Total Disbursements	<u>\$19,848,697.27</u>
Balance in General Account	\$20,835,773.75

ALSO

12.07 {B-7} Approve November 2021 Treasurer's Report [November 2021 Treasurers Report 2-7-22.pdf](#)
Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 2021 as prepared by the Business Office and confirmed by First National Bank.

Opening Balance	\$20,835,773.75
Monthly Revenue	\$8,556,537.00
Transfers and Refunds	<u>\$1,234,179.22</u>
Total Available	\$31,626,489.97
Total Disbursements	<u>\$8,609,957.62</u>
Balance in General Account	\$23,016,532.35

ALSO

12.08 {B-8} Approve December 2021 Treasurer's Report [December 2021 Treasurers Report 2-7-22.pdf](#)
Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 2021 as prepared by the Business Office and confirmed by First National Bank.

Opening Balance	\$23,016,532.35
Monthly Revenue	\$20,750,666.78
Transfers and Refunds	<u>\$2,749,549.77</u>
Total Available	\$46,516,748.90
Total Disbursements	<u>\$20,530,129.26</u>
Balance in General Account	\$25,986,619.64

ALSO

12.09 {B-9} Approve Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector
Pursuant to 72 Pa. Stat. §5511.22 the Scranton School Board does hereby approve the appointment of a Deputy Tax Collector for the Single Tax Office as recommended by the Single Tax Office.

Daniel King, Oswald St., Scranton, PA 18505

ALSO

12.10 {B-10} Approve Disposal of Assets [Disposal of Assets 2-7-22.pdf](#)
Approve the disposal of the attached District property in accordance with Policy 706.1. Approve District Administration has determined these items to be obsolete and not of use anywhere else

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in the District. Any sale of property will be reported to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

ALSO

12.11 {B-11} Approve Transfer from Memorial Stadium Fund to Capital Fund
Per policy 618 – Special Purpose Funds the Board approves the transfer of \$500,000 from the Memorial Stadium Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund to support the ongoing scheduled capital improvements of Memorial Stadium track and bleachers.

ALSO

12.12 {B-13} Approve Capital Improvement Bill List [Capital Bill List 2-7-22.pdf](#)
Approve Capital Projects Bill list attached.

ALSO

12.13 {C-1} Approve Donation from All Points Media [Donation All Points Media 2-7-22.pdf](#)
Accept donation from All Points Media as indicated in the attached.

ALSO

12.14 {C-2} Approve Donation from Marywood University [Donation Marywood Winter Clothing Drive Morris 2-7-22.pdf](#)
Accept donation from Marywood University Physician Assistant Program Winter Clothing Drive for Robert Morris Elementary.

ALSO

12.15 {C-3} Accept Tier 2 PBIS Grant of \$8,000
Accept the award of the Tier 2 PBIS Grant from PATTAN for the 21-22 SY.

ALSO

12.16 {C-4} PATTAN Grant of \$10,000 for Universal Design for Learning Implementation (UDL)
Accept the award of the Universal Design for Learning Implementation Grant from PATTAN for the 21-22 SY.

ALSO

12.17 {D-1} Approve Permission to Attend [Permission to Attend 2-7-22.pdf](#)
Approval of staff attendance to conferences and meetings contingent upon the required approval of all supervisors, principals or administration.

ALSO

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12.18 {D-2} Approve Out of State Trips for Scranton High
Approve Scranton High School Show Choirs and Knight Amplified Show Band to travel to their competitions for the 2022 season:

February 11th -12th – Sturbridge, MA

February 18th -19th - Midlothian, VA

March 12th – Inwood, WV

March 25th – 26th – Powhatan, VA

ALSO

~~12.19 {D-5} Approve Appointment of Mental Health Expert to the Reopening Advisory Committee - removed from Consent~~

ALSO

12.20 {G-1} Approve First Read Policy 626-Procurement Procedure Attachment, 006-BOG-0 Public Notice of Board Meetings and 122-Extracurricular Activities

ALSO

12.21 {G-2} Approve Second Read Policy 006- Meetings, 123-Interscholastic Athletics, 610 - Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, 611-Purchases Budgeted and 706.1-Disposal of Surplus Property, Supplies & Equipment

ALSO

12.22 {H-1} Approve Special Education Settlement Agreements:

2700946-GJ

3004090-KF

3003264-NO

3010171-DM

ALSO

12.23 {H-2} Approve ProCare Therapy Services Agreement [ProCare Client Services Agreement 2-7-22.pdf](#)

ALSO

12.24 {H-3} Approve 2022-2023 NEIU #19 General Operating Budget
Approve the General Operating Budget of the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU #19) for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

~~12.25 {E-1} Motion to Approve the Move of Grade 5 Students from Isaac Tripp, Charles Sumner and Frances Willard Elementary Schools starting in the 2022-2023 School Year - Removed from Consent~~

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~~12.26 {E-2} Motion to Approve STEMM Academy 7th and 8th Grade Students to Scranton High School and Approve Scranton High School as a 7-12th Grade Building beginning the 2022/2023 School Year Removed from Consent~~

~~12.27 {E-15} Approve Lackawanna College Spring Contract Removed from Consent~~

13. NON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE (Budget, Real Estate and Leases)

14.01 {B-12} Motion to Approve Cooperative Purchasing Agreements for the 2022 School Year Per Board Policy 613 the Board approves for the 2022 calendar year the use of cooperative purchasing contracts CoStars, Keystone Purchasing Network, PEPPM, Sourcewell, Collaborative Purchasing Solutions, Municibid, Omnia Partners, GovPlanet.com and GovDeals.com. Director Gilmartin made a motion, seconded by Director Cheseck; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Gilmartin asked Pat Laffey to give them some information regarding the motion.

Mr. Laffey explained that in the middle of last year they authorized the use of Cooperative Purchasing for the 2021 school year and the policy recommends that this be approved every year so they are again bringing this to the Board for consideration. Mr. Laffey further explained that a Cooperative Purchasing contract allows some flexibility with the district and allows them to contract with approved vendors that had won bids or contracts with various other state or municipal governments and those listed meet the criteria for the state and many federal purchasing requirements. Municibid, GovPlanet and GovDeals were added and these sites are online government auction or surplus property and they deal with different government and educational entities for the sale of surplus assets both new and used to the public and school districts. Mr. Laffey's research and he's seen a lot of school districts utilizing Municibid for any sale of surplus assets and at past meetings they have been disposing of district equipment or district assets and this would be one vehicle for them to put up for public sale. Mr. Laffey added that all of this is pending the review of the Solicitor and the confirmation that it complies with PA School Code.

15. COMMUNITY RELATIONS (Intergovernmental, Public Relations) – no items under Non Consent

16. EDUCATION (Education, Technology and Vocational Ed)

16.01 {D-3} Motion to Approve Howard Gardner Renewal Application
Motion to approve the Howard Gardner Charter School's application/renewal
Director Cruz made a motion, seconded by Director Gilmartin; motion passed with (8) eight affirmative and (1) one abstention. Director Hume abstained due to her relationship to a Howard Gardner Board Member.

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ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume indicated she will recuse herself from this motion as she has a close family member who is on the board of Howard Gardner.

ALSO

16.02 {D-4} Motion to Approve Finals site Contract for District Website
Motion to approve Five Year Contract with Finals site as outlined in the attached.

Financial Impact:

Set up: \$12,000

July 1, 2022 – \$34,900

July 1, 2023 - \$34,900

July 1, 2024 - \$34,900

July 1, 2025 - \$34,900

July 1, 2026 - \$34,900

\$186,500

Director Cruz made a motion, seconded by Director Cheseck; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

12.19 {D-5} Approve Appointment of Mental Health Expert to the Reopening Advisory Committee

Motion to appoint Liz Hemphill as Mental Health Expert to the Reopening Advisory Committee

Director Cruz made a motion, seconded by Director Gilmartin; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Cruz congratulated Ms. Hemphill, adding that she is certain she will bring invaluable knowledge and insight. Ms. Cruz also thanked the other candidate who applied.

Director Cheseck thinks this is a wonderful committee and very valuable right now for the district and asked for confirmation that the process Ms. Hemphill went through is the same process that other members serving on the committee went through, just for transparency purposes.

Director Cruz, with the help of Ms. Gilmartin explained that a notice was created and posted on district pages, and two letters were received and she received the consent from the Directors of Secondary Education, Elementary Education and Special Education, herself, as well as the new Board Member joining the committee.

17. OPERATIONS (Buildings & Grounds, Health & Safety and Athletics & Stadium)

12.25 {E-1} Motion to Approve the Move of Grade 5 Students from Isaac Tripp, Charles Sumner and Frances Willard Elementary Schools starting in the 2022-2023 School Year

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Motion to approve West Scranton Intermediate School as a school for grades 5-8 starting in the 2022-23 school year. Fifth grade programming at Isaac Tripp Elementary, Charles Sumner Elementary and Frances Willard Elementary will be eliminated at the end of the 2021-22 school year. All Scranton School District elementary schools will service students in grades K-4 starting in 2022-23

- 5th grade Isaac Tripp Elementary students from 1000 N. Everett Avenue Scranton PA 18504 to West Scranton Intermediate School, 1401 Fellows St., Scranton, PA 18504 and
- 5th grade Charles Sumner Elementary students from 372 N. Sumner Ave., Scranton PA 18504 to West Scranton Intermediate School, 1401 Fellows St., Scranton, PA 18504 and
- 5th grade Frances Willard Elementary students from 1100 Eynon St., Scranton PA 18504 to West Scranton Intermediate School, 1401 Fellows St., Scranton, PA 18504

Approve motion as indicated above as required by PDE guidelines.

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Gilmartin; motion passed with (8) eight affirmative and (1) one negative. Director Cheseck voted in the negative.

ALSO

12.26 {E-2} Motion to Approve STEMM Academy 7th and 8th Grade Students to Scranton High School and Approve Scranton High School as a 7-12th Grade Building beginning the 2022/2023 School Year

Motion to approve the Scranton School District STEMM Academy and approve Scranton High School as a school for grades 7-12 starting in the 2022-23 school year. The Scranton School District STEMM Academy program for students in grades 7-12, will be at Scranton High School. Students from West Scranton Intermediate School, Northeast Intermediate School, South Scranton Intermediate School and West Scranton High School will have the opportunity to apply for entry into the Scranton School District STEMM Academy.

Students that attend private schools can also apply if they reside in Scranton.

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Cruz; motion passed with (7) seven affirmative and (2) two negative. Directors Cheseck and Holmes voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Holmes, while he thinks the STEMM program is a phenomenal program he believes when you build a program you should start as early as possible, in other words in elementary school and then build it as that class goes through but he also has a problem with taking away a library that serves 1,500 students and multiple programs. Mr. Holmes also can't see pulling kids from West and Scranton and sticking them in there and the amount of money we're going to spend so for that reason he cannot support this motion.

Director Cheseck also thinks the STEMM Academy is phenomenal but wishes they had a central location that we didn't have to pull West Scranton students from their home school and because of that she will be voting no as well.

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Director McAndrew believes the update they received today from Superintendent McTiernan letting them know that the West students will still be able to participate in their home school activities, he thinks that's a first step, he is in favor of this, they have to get this program up and running and he thinks for them as a Board and as a district they need to plan something further on when we have some more money and to get it into West High School but right now he thinks this is the opening stages and it's a needed program.

Director Fox agrees with Mr. McAndrew adding that we are way behind other districts in regards to a STEMM program so she is glad that they are finally starting to catch up and fingers crossed that we get close to fair funding tomorrow so we can afford a STEMM program for everybody in the district.

Director Gilmartin asked Superintendent McTiernan, will moving some of those students from West Scranton have any negative impact on opportunities that are available to them, as Director Yanni referenced AP courses at the work session, will there be any negative impact on the outcomes, the scores of that building and if there are how do we mitigate the effects of that.

Superintendent McTiernan believes they're going to talk about policy as she stated previously and she thinks this is a good idea of what the administration is talking about at this point and to answer the question, as far as scores being attributed back to their home school so currently we have Lincoln Jackson Academy, we have the students that are in Monticello, we have the Cyber program so we currently have programs that are established right now that students may not be participating in their home building but their scores are attributed back to that school so this program, depending on what the student decides, what we're talking about in the background and will discuss further at the work session on February 28th is 7th and 8th grade students will be attributed back to their home school. Once they reach 9th grade they will have to determine what they're leaning towards whether it's engineering or medical, they'll also have to decide if they're going to be Scranton High School students or are they going to be West Scranton High School students so we're talking about giving them the opportunity to make that decision in 9th grade and then that will follow through for four years so that might answer your attribution question. As far as negatively impacting them, Mrs. McTiernan asked if Ms. Gilmartin is talking about the elimination of AP courses, because those students would come over and she thinks she discussed that already that we do not want to eliminate any AP courses for our children, in fact we want to continue to add them so although there may be students that would qualify for AP classes at West Scranton High School, they decide they want to go to the STEMM Academy, they are admitted into the STEMM Academy, the impact on the children that are still at West High in those AP classes, we will not be cutting AP classes and she knows Dr. Finan is an advocate for that also so we do realize that generally speaking some AP courses already have low numbers in them and this could impact that of course but that's not the direction they're going in.

ALSO

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17.01 {E-3} Motion to Approve Mask Requirement

The Scranton School District will continue to require all students and staff to wear masks. Athletes while competing are not required to wear masks. Coaches and student athletes while not competing during competition are required to wear masks. All spectators and visitors in our school buildings are required to wear masks at all times. After board approval this information will be updated in the Health and Safety Plan.

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Gilmartin; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director McAndrew knows they reviewed two surveys and it was overwhelming that the parents and staff wanted the masks to be worn and he thinks they can continue to revisit this. Mr. McAndrew said he is a firm believer in a parent's decision for this and overwhelmingly they spoke and the same with the employees so he is in favor.

President Yanni agreed.

Director Holmes said he is also in support of this because the number one responsibility is to protect everyone and with this virus being as transmittable as it is and trusting the science and what information is being provided to them, they need to do everything they can to reduce the numbers because at the end of the day the goal is to keep the students in person for learning so if wearing a mask keeps this virus from spreading and keeps our kids in school we definitely need to be doing this.

ALSO

17.02 {E-4} Motion to Approve a Building's COVID Case Count Reset

Currently the PA Department of Health recommends a school closure if 5% of the school population (*students and staff*) are confirmed positive COVID cases within a maximum 14-day rolling window. If a school building in the Scranton School District must close because the 5% threshold has been met, the building's case count will reset after the period of the building closure. The closure will allow time for case investigations, contact tracing, and intensified cleaning and disinfecting of the school building prior to reopening. The 14-day rolling period will restart with the first new positive case after the school building reopens. If approved by the Scranton School Board, this information will be added to our district's Health and Safety Plan. Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Cheseck; motion failed with (4) affirmative and (5) negative. Directors Cheseck, Fox, Gilmartin, Holmes and McAndrew voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume believes this makes a great deal of sense because as everyone else she has been doing the best research she can from the most reliable sources she can find and it seems clear that if you look at the curves, in-school transmission is not the primary cause of spikes in transmission. In-school transmission in fact is lower and we can see this by the fact that after holidays and places where kids are not wearing masks when they're not in school and they're out

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and about with a lot of people we normally get the spikes at that point and that this drops off when the students are in school wearing their mask and observing precautions, it makes no sense at all that under new guidelines a student can test positive on day one with symptoms, be cleared after 5 days without symptoms cleared by the negative test, she thinks Mr. Gentilezza will correct her if she's wrong but after 5 days a child that originally tests positive or a staff member who originally tests positive can return to the school after 5 days and yet that still counts continually on the rolling count. So while this person is deemed safe to be there the tick on the wall is still there. There was talk earlier of changing this guideline, it was in fact posted for a little while to shorten that period then that guideline was removed. She believed that the 14 day rolling window has not kept current with practices in other areas like isolation, returning to school after testing, etc., and she believes this makes sense for keeping kids in school. She believes that we can keep the kids in school the better for their education, health and mental health. We lose hundreds of school days if we close the building unnecessarily and she is totally in favor of this.

Director Gilmartin remains a little bit confused and thinks the way Ms. Hume just explained that clarified a lot of it but is this in-line with PDE/DOH (Pennsylvania Department of Education and Department of Health) guidance?

Mrs. McTiernan said it is not.

Director Gilmartin asked is it contrary to that or have they removed it and they don't speak to this any longer.

Mrs. McTiernan said no, this is not; the DOH continues to do the 5% and continues to do the 14 day ruling.

Director Holmes and Yanni asked the Chief School Nurse how it affects her staffing and her input on rolling the numbers back to zero and restarting them once back from a closure and starting the count at zero.

Melissa Dailey, Chief School Nurse, responded that Superintendent McTiernan did say this is not what the DOH recommends but her question is for how long of a time are they considering to reset it, if it just closes for one day then they would reset to zero?

Superintendent McTiernan responded no, they talked about two days, just similar to what they raised last time.

Ms. Dailey said it is in the literature that they could close a school for two days and that it didn't say it would roll back to zero but she would say that she would feel comfortable with a two day closure in cleaning the school and then coming back. If you look at what happened after holiday we were inundated but when we did close, our numbers have consistently been returning to a lower amount so we are seeing that because of the closure we are having less cases even though we're still counting it in a 14 day window. We're still staying in a low percentage so she thinks that's reasonable even though it's not following DOH.

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Director Cleary asked if they should be considering reevaluating the benefits of contact tracing and there are several districts in the area that have given it up because it's become so cumbersome and it appears that the outcome isn't really giving us the positive cases and asked Ms. Dailey what she is seeing as far as the contact tracing.

Ms. Dailey said it is a lot of work and it is not just during the school day, it's at night and on weekends and she is having a problem with staffing. Ms. Dailey added that Abington Heights is no longer doing that extended contact tracing.

Ms. Dailey said she doesn't see that the kids are giving it to each other; it is more family members giving it to them.

Director Cleary knows there is an exorbitant amount of time spent on this and safety is the priority and one of her concerns is having students in school because she thinks the outcome of them not being in school is detrimental.

Ms. Dailey said children who are vaccinated no longer have to quarantine but kids who are not immunized and are in close proximity, it's difficult to have their kids sitting three feet apart and making sure they are wearing masks, it's frustrating for the parents.

Mrs. Cleary said her biggest concern is keeping kids in school and how much time a child is missing because they keep getting exposed but they never get sick.

Superintendent McTiernan spoke about frustration within the school community and the asymptomatic and she thinks if they can be creative in some way to accommodate that because she gets a lot of emails that kids feel fine and they're sitting home so the board is looking for any way to allow those students that are asymptomatic and how we can keep them in school.

Ms. Dailey mentioned policy and that it needs to say they're able to wear a mask and that they remain asymptomatic.

President Yanni thinks they should continue with this motion and ask Ms. Dailey to stay with us as they continue to the Test to Stay motion and if they were to consider language, they can look at it at that point.

President Yanni asked Director Hume to read the motion again and asked the board if anyone wanted to change any language to this motion.

Director McAndrew thinks they need to stay with the DOH policy as we started using them as a guideline and he doesn't think they should pick and choose what they follow so just to be uniform he will be voting no and stick with the DOH as they update.

Director Hume spoke about making a friendly amendment to the language and having to revisit this if the DOH changes.

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Mrs. McTiernan responded that they wouldn't have to because it says in our Health & Safety Plan that we're following the Department of Health so we wouldn't have to change anything.

ALSO

17.03 {E-5} Motion to Approve 2022 Summer District Wide Abatement Project

The scope of work for the 2022 Districtwide Summer Abatement Projects has been reviewed by the administration and District's environmental consultant, Pennoni. In order to proceed with the plan of the District's Environmental Task Force to remove asbestos-containing materials from the District's buildings, work will be performed at the following locations in the District:

1. Administration Building
2. Charles Sumner Elementary School
3. McNichols Educational Plaza
4. Memorial Stadium
5. South Scranton Intermediate School
6. West Scranton High School
7. West Scranton Intermediate School
8. William Prescott Elementary School

A copy of the updated Project Budget is attached for reference.

The motion is to approve the authorization to proceed with design and bidding for the 2022 District wide Summer Abatement Project.

This information was reviewed with the Board at the January 31, 2022 Work Session.

Financial Impact: \$362,867 Estimated Total Project Cost

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Gilmartin; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume noted that this was extensively discussed at the work session and at present no students are in any contact at all with asbestos materials and the objective is eventually to have all of our buildings free and asbestos management plans.

ALSO

17.04 {E-6} Motion to Award Armstrong HVAC Project Bids and Contracts

Bids were received and publicly opened on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. for the Neil Armstrong Elementary School HVAC Renovations and Environmental Abatement Project. A mandatory pre-bid meeting yielded a total of 26 interested contractors (5 general contractors, 7 HVAC contractors, 8 electrical contractors and 6 environmental abatement contractors) with 3 bids received for each of the Prime Contracts. A copy of the Bid Tabulations with recommended selected Alternates are attached for reference.

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The bids were reviewed by the appropriate administrative and supervisory personnel, and the recommendation of the award is based upon the lowest priced, responsible bidders meeting the requirements of the Contract Documents.

The sum of the overall bids for the prime contracts including the value-added Alternate for installation of a new sprinkler system is recommended to complete the infrastructure improvements. A copy of the Updated Project Cost Sheet is attached for reference. Please note that a most of the contingency is used to provide for the alternate sprinkler system. The low bidders, including select value added alternates are as follows:

1. **General Contract:** \$2,887,000 Base Bid
Contractor: D&M Construction Unlimited, Inc.
2. **Mechanical Contract:** \$4,087,627.00 Base Bid + Alternate No. 4
Contractor: Scranton Electric Heating and Cooling Service, Inc.
3. **Electrical Contract:** \$1,879,000 Base Bid + Alternate No. 4
Contractor: Urban Electrical Contractors, Inc.
4. **Environmental Abatement Contract:** \$12,300 Base Bid
Contractor: Datom Products, Inc.

Professional Services Contracts were also solicited for a Commissioning Verification Authority / Testing-Adjusting-Balancing Services and Construction Testing and Special Inspection Services. These services are required as part of the overall Construction Project and were included in the Project budget. The low proposers' costs are below the project budget of \$75,000. The costs are as follows:

1. **Commissioning Verification Authority / Testing Adjusting Balancing Services (CVA/TAB):** Not to Exceed Cost of \$35,000.00 to Air Balancing Engineers, Inc.
2. **Construction Testing and Special Inspection Services:** Not to Exceed Cost of \$38,000 to Kleinfelder, Inc.

The motion to approve the Construction Contracts and Professional Service Agreements are subject to proper execution of the Contracts, insurance, and bonding as required in the Contract Documents.

This information was reviewed with the Board at the January 31, 2022 Work Session.

Financial Impact: \$10,148,708 Estimated Total Project Costs

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

17.05 {E-7} Motion to Approve KCBA Architect Contract

The SSD Administration was presented with several renovation options for the West Scranton Intermediate School Renovations Project, and on November 30, 2021, the Board authorized the Design Team to proceed with the "Option 2" scope with the option to increase the scope of the Project to either "Option 4" for a total Project cost of \$20.5M or "Option 3" for a total Project

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cost of \$29.8M, pending approval of ESSER funding. Since the District is seeking use of federal funding for the Project through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and no notification has been received from PDE as to the status of the ARP application, the recommendation is to authorize KCBA Architects to proceed with the Option 2+ design as reviewed with the Board at the January 10, 2022 Facilities Committee meeting for the Total Estimated Construction Cost of \$4,100,700 and the Estimated Total Project Cost of \$5,905,846.

Motion is to award the Architectural Design Firm Agreement for the West Scranton Intermediate School Renovations Project to KCBA Architects at a fee of 7.00% of the estimated Project Construction Cost of \$4,100,700 (\$287,049) plus a reimbursable expense allowance fee of \$15,000, subject to proper execution of the Agreement and insurance as required by the Agreement. The Agreement between SSD and KCBA Architects has been previously reviewed by the solicitor.

The information was reviewed with the Board at the November 30, 2021 and January 31, 2022 meetings.

Financial Impact: \$302,049

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

17.06 {E-8} Motion to Award West Intermediate Temporary Parking Lot Installation Project to D & M Construction

Bids were received and publicly opened on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 10:00AM for the West Scranton Intermediate School Temporary Parking Lot Installation Project. A mandatory pre-bid meeting yielded 9 interested contractors with 6 bids received. A copy of the Bid Tabulation is attached for reference.

The bids were reviewed by the appropriate administrative and supervisory personnel, and the recommendation of the award is based upon the lowest priced, responsible bidder meeting the requirements of the Contract Documents. The Project bid is below the budget; see the attached Project budget for all approved costs including the previously approved modular bids.

Motion is to approve the Construction Contract for the West Scranton Intermediate School Temporary Parking Lot Installations Project to D&M Construction Unlimited, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$142,500 subject to proper execution of the Contract, insurance, and bonding as required in the Contract Documents. This information was reviewed with the Board at the January 31, 2022 Work Session.

Financial Impact: \$142,500 Construction Costs

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

17.07 {E-9} Motion to Approve West Scranton Intermediate Project Option 2+ Budget

The SSD administration was presented with several renovation options for the West Scranton Intermediate School Renovations Project and on November 30, 2021, the Board approved proceeding

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with the “Option 2” scope. This option converts the 5th Grade area open concept classroom spaces to conventional-type rooms and provides select Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) upgrades for an estimated project cost of \$2.4M.

The Board also authorized increasing the scope of the Project to “Option 4” for a total Project cost of \$20.5M, or “Option 3” for a total Project cost of \$29.8M, pending approval of ESSER funding. The District is seeking approval of federal funding for the Project through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. No notification has been received from PDE as to the status of the ARP application; therefore, the recommendation is to authorize the Option 2+ design and budget reviewed with the Board at the January 10, 2022, Facilities Committee Meeting for the Total Estimated Construction Cost of \$4,100,700 and the Estimated Total Project Cost of \$5,905,846. The updated Project Cost Sheet is attached.

This information was reviewed with the Board at the November 30, 2021, January 10, 2022, and January 31, 2022, School Board Meetings.

Financial Impact: Option 2+ Estimated Construction Cost: \$4,100,700

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

17.08 {E-10} Motion to Approve Change Order #1 for West Intermediate Temporary Modular Classroom Installation Permit

Motion to approve the West Intermediate Temporary Modular Classroom Installation Change Order No. 1 for Building Permit Costs and NEIC Inspection Fee as indicated in the attached.

Financial Impact: Contract Price prior to Change Order: \$1,779,600.00

Increase of this Change Order: \$40,236.00

Contract Price incorporating this Change Order: \$1,819,836.00

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume noted that this change order is because our practice of not including permits and fees in RFPs and RFQs.

ALSO

17.09 {E-11} Motion to Approve GPI Fee Proposal for McNichols Exterior Stair Replacement and Stormwater Improvements

Motion to approve the McNichols Plaza Exterior Stair Replacement Project Budget and GPI Survey and Civil Engineering Services for McNichols Stormwater Improvements as indicated in the attached.

Financial Impact: \$334,278 Total Estimated Project Costs

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

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ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume remarked that they have just approved substantial contracts for work for our school district, we are moving to bring our buildings up to 21st century education standards and thinks this is an exciting night for all of them to see the substantial progress they're making with capital improvements and bring our district forward.

ALSO

17.10 {E-12} Motion to Approve Test to Stay Program (TTS)
To implement the Test to Stay (TTS) Program for the Scranton School District
Director Hume made a motion.

Director Hume asked Ms. Dailey to speak about this program.

Ms. Dailey explained the Test to Stay program and testing students and that it is very limited as to who they can test and who can participate. Ms. Dailey visited a local school district this past week along with Director Holmes and it is a program that is very involved and as Certified Nurses, on top of Covid, they have their mandated services with the state and they have to screen students for hearing, vision, height and weight, scoliosis and physicals and dentals at certain grades and she feels that if they add one more thing it's just too much for the nursing staff. Ms. Dailey added to just get the program up and running is going to require training, they have to write their own protocols for it because it's not provided to them, there is inventory that has to be done every time they receive a shipment, scanning each test into the computer and also the consents from the parents whether they're online or sometimes the nurses have to transcribe everything into the system in order for the student to be eligible. Ms. Dailey thinks at this time that it might be too much for the nursing department that she has and it's going to take at least a month to get it rolling. Ms. Dailey added that they are only half through the school year and she's had two resignations.

President Yanni appreciated Ms. Dailey's input and knows that we have a Memorandum of Understanding for additional LPNs and asked if they are all working.

Ms. Dailey said they are working but they have had so many people contract Covid and it seems that there is always somebody out and staffing this year has been difficult.

Director McAndrew asked if there is an opportunity for us to work with the medical college or any of the hospitals, maybe the Wright Center or Hometown Health to help out or look to the community for volunteers to help with the burden of implementing this.

Superintendent McTiernan responded that we would have to be very careful with replacement of union work.

Mr. McAndrew understood and maybe that's a conversation they should have with the unions.

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Superintendent McTiernan spoke about other districts having difficulty implementing the program and getting the program started.

Director McAndrew mentioned a friendly amendment to start with the training process and then meet with the unions to see if we can get some outside help.

Mrs. McTiernan said in order to implement this she has to sign the assurance and once she does that they are committing to the program.

Mr. Bert Gentilezza now spoke up and said all health agencies are struggling; it's not only the school district.

Director Holmes shared his observations and their visit to a neighboring district and staff said if this is something our district can avoid doing they should because they have been doing this for months and they have a much smaller footprint and it was literally consuming their day and it was with additional help. Mr. Holmes added what they witnessed, and the amount of work that goes into it is a tremendous burden for nurses.

Director Hume asked if this eliminates the contact tracing. Ms. Dailey said no it would not eliminate it and expanded on her experience of testing kids. Director Hume added she will be in favor of eliminating contact tracing in the future.

Ms. Dailey addressed Director McAndrew and said there is a community outreach group called Kick Covid, explained the program and they have given them resources for tests and there is more community resources available to people and there are other options out there for people.

Director Fox spoke about contact tracing and that it would be good to know some of the data.

Director Gilmartin asked Superintendent McTiernan that if signing the assurance commits them to the program, are there repercussions if we're not able to fulfill this, that we tried and we found it truly to be too cumbersome or not as effective as they might hope.

Mrs. McTiernan responded that she would have to get those details as to what the consequences are and added that unless the board agrees to this she is not comfortable signing the document.

Director Cleary shared the research she has done and her concerns about this and she will be voting no.

Director McAndrew made a motion to table E-12, seconded by Director Holmes; motion to table passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

17.11 {E-13} Motion to Approve STEMM Academy Equipment Purchasing Quotes

[Motion STEMM Equipment 2-7-22.pdf](#)

Motion to approve the Scranton School District's phase one equipment purchase for the STEMM Academy at Scranton High School in the amount of \$543,928.00 as per the attached.

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This was discussed at the work session on January 31st.
Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Gilmartin believes they need an amendment to clarify the construction budget and proposed a motion to a friendly amendment to insert STEMM renovation/construction budget of \$3,718,983 inclusive of equipment and would change the financial impact.

Mr. Laffey added that the intent of the motion was to approve the project in its entirety and also authorize the purchase of the equipment with Miss Katona Miller has provided a summary of that are approved through various cooperative purchasing agreements that were approved this evening.

Mrs. McTiernan believes it was discussed at the work session in detail.

Mr. Laffey added that within the project cost of \$3.7 million it includes the \$543,928 of equipment that needs to be purchased.

Director Gilmartin now repeated the friendly amendment and motion:

The motion is to approve the Scranton School District phase one equipment purchase \$543,928 and STEMM renovations/construction budget of \$3,718,983 inclusive of equipment at Scranton High School. The financial impact changes to \$3,718,983 inclusive of \$543,928 phase one equipment quotes.

Director Hume suggested removing the \$543, 928 and only state the total of \$3,718, 983.

Director Gilmartin yielded to Mr. Audi as he suggested this language.

Mr. Audi believes they need to have a total amount in the motion so they may remove the \$543,928 and insert the final amount which is the \$3 million; if they do that, that will be fine.

Director Gilmartin rescinded the friendly amendment and made a new friendly amendment to strike out phase one equipment purchase, \$543,928 and simply insert STEMM renovations/construction budget of \$3,718,983 inclusive of equipment.

Mr. Laffey confirmed with Mr. Audi that the language will allow them to move forward with the purchase of the \$543,928 of equipment and those quotes. Mr. Audi said that's correct because it's included in the \$3 million.

Director Cruz seconded the friendly amendment; motion passed with (8) eight affirmative and (1) negative. Director Holmes voted in the negative.

The original motion as amended passed with (7) seven affirmative and (1) negative. Director Holmes voted in the negative. Director Cleary had stepped out.

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ALSO

17.12 {E-14} Motion to Approve Signage for Scranton Veteran's Memorial Stadium
Motion to support the erection of a sign over the main gate of Scranton Veterans Memorial Stadium in honor of our Veterans and Service members, subject to final Board approval of design and subject to outside funding for the project being obtained.
Director Holmes made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Holmes said he spoke with Mr. Ahern who is quarterbacking this project and explained the difference between the Memorial Park which already exists there and that is for all service members who were killed in action for WWI and WWII. The sign will honor all veterans in their service and eventually his goal is to obviously build up a memorial area to support and identify all soldiers killed in action through all of our wars and thinks it's a fitting tribute to all military veterans especially a stadium that is already named Memorial Veteran Stadium. Mr. Holmes added the outside funding will come from grants and they are also speaking with veterans organizations.

ALSO

12.27 {E-15} Approve Lackawanna College Spring Contract
Approve Contract Agreement with Lackawanna College for the 2022 spring season effective March 28, 2022 until May 7, 2022. Dates and pricing indicated in the attached agreement. [Lackawanna College Spring Contract-2022.pdf](#)
Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Holmes; motion passed with (8) eight affirmative and (1) one abstention. Director Fox abstained due to her employment with Lackawanna College.

ALSO

18. PERSONNEL (Human Resources and Labor Relations)

18.01 {F-1} Motion to Approve Personnel Report
Motion to Approve Personnel Report as attached. [Personnel Report motion and attachment 2-7-2022.pdf](#)
Director McAndrew made a motion, seconded by Director Holmes.

President Yanni asked for a friendly amendment for the position of Director of Leadership and Accountability as we need to adjust the salary, it was incorrectly reported and the correct salary should be \$117,311.50 per the Act 93 Salary.

Director Gilmartin made the motion for the friendly amendment, seconded by Director McAndrew.

Mr. Laffey explained that when he job was originally posted was \$116,150 but the current Act 93 Agreement as amended included a 1% increase to the scales so the 2022 salary increased by 1% and is a replacement of an already budgeted position.

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ON THE QUESTION: (regarding the Personnel Report)

Director McAndrew spoke about the Director of Leadership position and he is happy with the structure change, happy we followed the process and protocols with interviewing but he thinks going forward, us as a district and us as a School Board, we need to implement some programs to help grow our employees and invest in the people who invest in us so he would like further discussions perhaps at a Personnel Committee meeting to discuss that if our principals or vice principals who might want to move up to administration, do we do mentoring during the years or also if there's another opening do we use an interview process for in-house employees.

The motion for the friendly amendment passed unanimously on roll call.

On the original motion, motion passed with six (6) affirmative and three (3) negative. Directors Cruz, Fox and Gilmartin voted in the negative.

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REPLACED	NEW	SALARY
A.PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS						
1.Paul Devine	Health/Phys Ed	Monticello/LJA	12/13/2021			
2.Alaina Garubba	Autistic Support	WSIS	12/23/2021			
3. Heather Schmidt	Grade 2	Willard	12/6/2021			
4.Tara Walsh	Biology	WSHS	1/28/2022			
5.Paul Dougherty	Director Secondary Ed	Admin. Bldg.	2/17/2022			
6.Jacqueline Batcha	Science Teacher	SSIS	1/19/2022			
7.Jessica Heise	Special Ed 7-12	Scranton Cyber	T.B.D.			
8.Alison Mackey	Autistic Support	Kennedy	2/7/2022			
9.Sabrina Pacifici	School Counselor	LJA	T.B.D.			
10.Megan Johnson	Autistic Support	LJA	T.B.D.			
B.PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS						
1.Corey McNulty	Social Studies-APEX	WSHS	11/22/2021		X	\$46,971.00 pro-rated
2.Shelby Valvano	Guidance Counselor	SHS	1/3/2022	A.Tigue		\$42,280.00 pro-rated
3.Colleen Needham	Grade 2	Sumner	12/3/2021	S.Dennehaum		\$41,377.00 pro-rated
4.Kerri Smith	ESL Teacher	NEIS	1/3/2022	N.Egan		\$46,507.00 pro-rated
5.Maria Rozaieski	Grade 6 Teacher	NEIS	12/20/2021	D.Lench		\$47,203.00 pro-rated
6.Lindsey Fortese	Program Director	Monticello	12/13/2021	D.Engles		\$85,850.00 pro-rated
7.Amanda Fasciana	Sp. Ed Learning Support	WSIS	12/13/2021	J.Gilhooley		\$46,740.00 pro-rated
8.Danielle Sacchetti	Grade 2	Willard	12/13/2021	H.Schmidt		\$44,055.00 pro-rated
9.Anthony Prudente	Health/Phys Ed	Monticello	12/13/2021	P.Devine		\$46,275.00 pro-rated
10.Catherine Buckley	School Counselor	Scranton Cyber	1/3/2022		X	\$42,280.00 pro-rated
11.Chelsea Mahle	Sp Ed Autistic Support	Armstrong	1/3/2022		X	\$41,477.00 pro-rated
12.James Weiss	Science	SSIS	1/18/2022	J.Batcha		\$42,280.00 pro-rated
13.Jordan Answini	Grade 5 Teacher	NEIS	2/8/2022		X	\$41,377.00 pro-rated
14.Erica Pizur	Sp Ed Autistic Support	Kennedy	1/28/2022	A.Mackey		\$41,377.00 pro-rated
15.Jason Gvazdauskas	Biology	WSHS	1/31/2022	T.Walsh		\$47,436.00 pro-rated
16.Jacob Sholtis	Dir.Leadership/Acct	Admin Bldg	T.B.D.	P.Dougherty		~~\$116,150.00 pro-rated~~
17.Paul Devine	Learning Support	LJA	1/31/2022	L.Fortese		\$50,334.00 pro-rated
18.Ann Marie Healey	Ass't Business Manager	Admin Bldg	2/8/2022		X	Per Act 93 pro-rated
C.RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUB POSITIONS						
1.Jenna Black	Social Studies	SSIS	12/20/2021	K.Niemotka		
2.Amanda Martyn	Grade 1	Scranton Cyber	1/3/2022	A.Gambo		
3.Rochelle Rodriguez	School Counselor	SHS	1/3/2022	A.Bevilacqua		
4.Trudy Enslin	Kindergarten	Kennedy	12/23/2021	K.Sabol		
5.Brooke Newhart	Sp Ed Learning Support	NEIS	T.B.D.	C.Matis		
6.Kylene Johnson	Autistic Support	WSIS	1/18/2022	A.Garubba		
7.Calah Dougherty	English	NEIS	12/6/2021	C.Angeli		
D.PROFESSIONAL UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE OF ABSENCE						
1.Ashley Bevilacqua	School Counselor	SHS	FMLA 1/10/2022-4/5/2022			
2.Rachel Harshbarger	Grade 3	Whittier	3/25/2022 – 4/1/2022			
3.Megan Johnson	Sp Ed Autistic Support	LJA	FMLA 1/18/2022-2/14/2022			

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4.Nicole Lewis	Emotional Support	WSIS	FMLA 9/20/2021-1/13/2022
5.Brittany Shuta	APEX Cyber	WSHS	FMLA 11/22/2021-3/1/2022

E.NON-PROFESSIONAL RETIREMENT

1.Carolyn Lee	Guidance Clerk	WSHS	1/3/2022
2.Frank Major	Maintenance	District-wide	4/29/2022

F.NON-PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS

1.Patrick O'Malley	PCA	McNichols Plaza	1/7/2022
2.Patti Yesu	Clerk 230	Willard	12/31/2021
3.Lisa DeRobertis	Paraprofessional	SHS	1/3/2022
4.Patricia Flowers	PCA	NEIS	12/12/2021
5.Ana Pena	Maintenance	District-wide	12/3/2021
6.Ronald Monroe	Maintenance	District-wide	12/1/2021
7.Donna Ferko	LPN	Itinerant	1/28/2022
8.Ashley Gurnari	PCA	Monticello	1/18/2022
9.Susan McAndrew	PCA	WSHS	1/13/2022
10.Gayle Klink	PCA	Kennedy	11/4/2021

G.NON-PROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1.Lisa DeRobertis	PCA	SHS	FMLA 9/3/2021-12/23/2021
2.Patricia Stanvitch	PCA	Sumner	FMLA 2/28/2022-4/7/2022
3.Michelle Cunningham	Para	Armstrong	FMLA 2/3/2022-4/25/2022

H.NON-PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

1.Patricia Flowers	PCA	NEIS	12/6/2021		X
2.Miquelina Ortiz	PCA	Tripp	11/8/2021		X
3.Lynette Morren	PCA	Monticello	1/6/2022		X
4.Michele Donovan	PCA	Monticello	1/5/2022		X
5.Nicole Romanoski	Hall Monitor	NEIS	1/10/2022		X
6.Michael Gowarty	PCA	McNichols	1/4/2022		X
7.Cruz Garcia	PCA	Whittier	1/10/2022		X
8.Brittany Bloom	PCA	Kennedy	1/18/2022		X
9.Matthew Sutton	Maintenance	District-wide	1/10/2022		X
10.Kelli Esgro	Maintenance	District-wide	1/10/2022		X
11.Anna Lopez	Maintenance	District-wide	1/3/2022		X
12.James Harmer	Maintenance	District-wide	1/31/2022		X
13.Matthew Talarico	PCA	Monticello	1/31/2022		X
14.Kevin McConlogue	Hall Monitor	SSIS	2/2/2022		X
15.Jasmine Cobb	LPN	Itinerant	2/14/2022	D.Ferko	\$25,610 pro-rated
16.Jeffrey Jones	Security Guard	District-wide	T.B.D.		\$31,250
17.Catherine DelPrete	Confidential Secretary/ Purchasing Agent	Admin Bldg	2/8/2022		X \$60,000 prorated

I.RECALL TO EMPLOYMENT

1.Fran DeLeo	Clerk 230	SSIS	1/6/2022	X J.Hopkins
2.Paula May	Guidance Clerk 230	WSHS	1/10/2022	X C.Lee

J.COACHING RESIGNATION

1.Dave Powell	Var.Head Coach Track	SHS	12/2/2021
2.Michelle Reed	Var.Asst. Coach-Track	SHS	12/2/2021
3.Jason Orlando	JH Head Coach-Track	SHS	12/2/2021
4.Edward Thomas	JH Asst Coach-Track	SHS	12/2/2021
5.Holly Scacchitti	JH Asst Coach-Track	WSHS	12/17/2021
6.Maureen Kenny	Asst Coach-Track	WSHS	12/15/2021
7.James Williams	JH Head Coach-Football	WSHS	1/5/2022
8.Joseph McGuire	Asst Coach-Soccer-Girls	SHS	1/4/2022
9.Edward Roche	Asst Football Coach	WSHS	1/5/2022
10.Antonio Ortiz	Asst Coach Freshman Football	WSHS	1/6/2022
11.Scott Grecco	Head Coach Track & Field	WSHS	1/12/2022
12.Paul Devine	Asst Coach Track	WSHS	1/25/2022

K.COACHING APPOINTMENT

1.Jason Bittenbender	Freshman Boys Basketball	SHS	11/30/2021	X.AJ McKenna
2.David Leonori	Asst Wrestling Coach	SHS	11/20/2021	X N. Villafane
3.Brad Turi	Head Soccer Coach-Girls	WSHS	12/28/2021	X J. Cook
4.Brenda Dixon	Head Coach Softball-Girls	WSIS	2/7/2022	X M. Emiliani
5.Paul Stefani	Head Football Coach	WSHS	2/7/2022	X D. Hricenak
6.Paul Devine	Asst Coach-Track	WSHS	1/25/2022	X P.Devine
7.Doug Boyle	Asst JH Wrestling Coach	WSHS	11/19/2021	X R. Barrasse

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L. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WINTER SCHOOL

1.Fred Falbo	Math Teacher	WSHS	1/24/2022-3/2/2022
2.Michael Faris	Science Teacher	WSHS	1/24/2022-3/2/2022
3.Scott Grecco	Social Studies Teacher	WSHS	1/24/2022-3/2/2022
4.Laura Pavlowski	English Teacher	WSHS	1/24/2022-3/2/2022
5.Kathleen O'Neil	Social Studies Teacher	WSHS	1/24/2022-3/2/2022
6.Cheryl McDonald	Technology Coordinator	WSHS	1/24/2022-3/2/2022
7,Gail Rozelle	Clerk	WSHS	1/24/2022-3/2/2022

ALSO

18.02 {F-2} Motion to Approve Elimination of Elementary Clerk 205 Positions (11) and Addition of Elementary 230 Clerk Positions (11)

Motion to Approve the elimination of eleven (11) Elementary Clerk 205 positions effective June 30, 2022 and addition of eleven (11) Elementary Clerk 230 Positions effective July 1, 2022.

Director McAndrew made a motion, seconded by Director Cruz; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director McAndrew clarified that these jobs are not being eliminated they're just being restructured as 230 positions.

Superintendent McTiernan clarified that the jobs will be posted and bid by seniority.

19. POLICY (Policy & Legislative) Directors Fox, Cleary & Gilmartin

{G-1} Approve First Read Policy 626-Procurement Procedure Attachment, 006-BOG-0 Public Notice of Board Meetings and 122-Extracurricular Activities

Director Fox made a motion, seconded by Director Cheseck; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

{G-2} Approve Second Read Policy 006- Meetings, 123-Interscholastic Athletics, 610 - Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, 611-Purchases Budgeted and 706.1-Disposal of Surplus Property, Supplies & Equipment

Director Fox made a motion, seconded by Director Gilmartin; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

20. SPECIAL EDUCATION – no items under Non Consent

21. VENDOR RELATIONS (Purchasing, Food Services, Transportation) – no items under Non Consent

22. NEW BUSINESS

Director Hume spoke about a presentation by Mr. Skotleski's and the exchange program and they will be looking for families to organize and become host families

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Director Hume now spoke highly of Mr. Paul Dougherty, expressed sadness of his departure and wished him well at Tunkhannock School District.

Director Gilmartin brought up item E-6 and the Armstrong HVAC project and asked Mr. Laffey to speak about it.

Mr. Laffey said the district was fortunate enough to receive a \$3 million dollar grant from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program and the district previously applied to partially fund two projects with that, the South Intermediate boilers and the HVAC project at Armstrong and due to some requirements on projects costs they had to shift course and focus on Armstrong and to amend that they need to submit an application of amendment to the Office of Budget and one of the components of it is letters of support of the project scope from our local legislators and we're thrilled that Senator Flynn, Representative Mullins and Representative Welby submitted three letters of support of the Scranton School District to amend our budget and we thank them.

Director Gilmartin sent good wishes to our Career Technology Center students who are competing in Hershey this week at SkillsUSA and she is sure she will be reporting back with some good news.

23. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – no report.

24. ADJOURNMENT

Director McAndrew made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Cheseck and the meeting adjourned at 9:34pm.

By: _____