

## SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for the specific purpose of the Proposed Final 2022 General Fund Budget on Monday, October 25, 2021 in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508 following Committee Meetings for Education, Policy and Budget and Finance.

1. Call to Order

President Gilmartin called the meeting to order at 8:13pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted prior to the Committee Meetings.

2. Roll Call

Present: Directors Cruz, Dempsey, Fox, Hume, Malloy, McAndrew, Welby, Yanni and President Gilmartin.

Absent: All Present.

3. Transaction of Business for Which Meeting was Called

President Gilmartin announced the meeting is called for the Proposed Final 2022 General Fund Budget which was duly advertised.

4. Public Comment

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, spoke about an upcoming MOA for Instruction in the Home teachers and she is concerned with the language of that agreement. Ms. Boland said a message has been left for Mr. Audi but she has not received a call back.

Director Hume asked what the agreement is about.

Mrs. McTiernan responded that it is for teachers to work in the homes, it is difficult to get teachers to go into homes to work with the students and this is a possibility of raising the rate per hour.

Mr. Audi said he has not received a call to his knowledge but he will reach out to Mr. Gelman tomorrow.

Holly Meade, teacher at Northeast Intermediate, spoke about libraries not open and books not being checked out and she doesn't know what to tell the students about that. Mrs. Meade also spoke about her concerns about where each dollar of the budget is being spent, asked again about posting each building's budget on the website, spoke of the lack of clerks in the schools, and asked how much money has the district saved by not providing salary increases to the teachers over the last five years, how much has been spent on legal services, what are the financial priorities of this board, and why are we allocating more money on our litigator and less money on our educators.

Mr. Laffey thanked Mrs. Meade for bringing up the school budgets, it is an initiative they want to undertake, they were able to increase the amount to the schools for their discretionary spending by about 2%, they're in the process of using a student weighted average to allocate that and obviously with the movement of 5<sup>th</sup> grade into the intermediate schools and the plan for that to be completed this year and the closing of Bancroft, it was important that we do this to ensure that there is equity so there will be a formula, there will be a schedule to be presented to the board and for the public to view as well.

Mrs. McTiernan now addressed some concerns of Mrs. Meade and said educationally we were able to provide resources for our kids and again that is with the ESSER funds that we're able to do that, we're trying to start the STEMM Academy and cyber option for our kids so she doesn't agree with the statement that we haven't invested in our kids and as far as schools and buildings, she's been in the district since 2005, the amount of work that we're putting into our buildings, and the amount of money that we're putting into our buildings, she doesn't agree that we're not looking at our schools, and as far as students we are investing in our students which is exactly what they should do and as for the buildings, there's more work that's been done, capital wise, since she can remember and addressed all of the environmental issues to make our schools safe and healthy for our kids.

Mrs. McTiernan also said that getting a teacher contract is very important but we have to be able to pay for it and sustain it and we will continue to do that and work with the negotiating team on the other side to do that but as we move forward she doesn't want another Superintendent that comes in after her to ever be in the position that she was in, broke, buildings falling apart, she doesn't think that's fair so please know it is important to all of us to get a teacher contract but we have to be able to pay for it and sustain it, they will continue to work to come to an agreement and it is the priority of this board and this administration to do that.

5. Resolution

{B-1} Approve Proposed 2022 Final Budget [Budget 10.25.21- Final 2022.pdf](#)

Approve the Proposed Version of the Final Budget as attached for the year 2022. The Public School Code of 1949, as amended, requires the formation and approval of the Proposed Version of the Final Budget. The obligation for the approval is placed upon the School Board based upon information and exchanged between the Administration and the School Board and the Board of School Directors of the City of Scranton is hereby in position to carry out its legal obligation. Copies of the Proposed Version of the Final Budget, as adopted, will be made available for public inspection on the district website and the Albright Memorial Library. The Board Secretary shall advertise the action hereby taken in accordance with law, and be subjected to approval of all documentation by the District Solicitor.

Director Yanni made a motion, seconded by Director Dempsey; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

At this time President Gilmartin commented on the article in the Scranton Times Sunday Edition about Sharon Tulenan from Indonesia and a student at Scranton High School who received a full scholarship from Lackawanna College. Sharon's story touched many hearts throughout the district and Ms. Gilmartin wished Sharon all the best.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Dempsey and the meeting adjourned at 8:26PM.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary