

June 7, 2021

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular Board Meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00PM prevailing time in the Auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508.

1. Call to Order

President Gilmartin called the meeting to order at 7:23PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call – By the Secretary.

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

Absent: All Present.

4. New Teacher Induction - Holly Meade

The following new teachers received certificates and their mentors were recognized:

Justin Bechaver; mentor Tim McHale, Jennifer Calore; mentor Matt Foley, Corrin Devereaux; mentor Angela Stefani, Alyssa Gambo; mentor Chris Walker, Stephanie Giancini; mentor Christine Nasser, Breeda Holmes; mentor Teresa Roche, Lindsey Humanik; mentor Jennifer Scott, Erika Maxson; mentor Maureen Walsh, Dominic Mazza; mentor Suzanne Weidner, Cassandra Merrill; mentor Holly Scacchitti, Gabriella Nasi; mentor Geralyn Vercerkauskas, Janelle Nestrick; mentor Margaret Walsh, Erin Scanlon; mentor Marissa Bryon, Nicole Sinclair; mentor Maggie Loughney, Erin Van Dusen; mentor Ann Nicastro, Renee Vigil; mentor Karlene Cicco, Mariah Wegielewski; mentor Nicole Shaffer.

5. Motion to Approve Agenda

Director Yanni asked that item E-1 is removed from the Consent Agenda. Item E-1 removed, Director McAndrew made a motion, seconded by Director Yanni; the motion to approve the Agenda duly passed 9-0.

6. Communications to the Board-Executive Sessions were held on May 24, 2021 and this evening to discuss personnel, negotiations, real estate and litigation.

7. Solicitor's Report - Attorney John Audi – No Report.

8. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Melissa McTiernan

Mrs. McTiernan announced the following:

628 students have signed up for our Summer Academy and thanked all staff who is willing to work at the Academy this summer especially after this year which has been very challenging.

U.S. News and World Report prepare a report on Best High Schools and West Scranton High School was mentioned among the top 10 best high schools in the Scranton area which includes

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Lackawanna, Wyoming and Luzerne Counties. According to the report and printed in a recent news article for local rankings was West Scranton High School came in 8th place. Mrs. McTiernan congratulated and thanked faculty, staff and students for that recognition.

West Scranton Girls Softball who defeated Abington Heights last week to win the first ever District Championship in school history, adding the girls played today in the first round of state tournaments winning 6-2 and will move on in the state tournament on Thursday.

John Sinclair, a senior honor student and class officer at West Scranton High School was named the Lackawanna League Tennis Class 3A Player of the Year and John was also selected 2021 All Region Tennis All-Start. Mrs. McTiernan congratulated John and his family.

Two senior honor students at Scranton High School, Sarah McCormick and Margaret Campbell were selected as Scholastic Super Stars by the Scranton Times. Both are exceptional students that are involved in many extracurricular and community activities and Mrs. McTiernan thanked both students, adding this is a really big deal and a huge honor and they are truly stewards for our district. Mrs. McTiernan expressed many thanks and is very proud of these students.

Congratulations to Scranton High School Korey Kruk; in addition to his upcoming graduation at Scranton High School Korey has recently graduated from Lackawanna College with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. Korey achieved this by taking advantage of Lackawanna College's Level Up Program for our high school students so he not only fulfilled his obligations at Scranton High but he will also receive an Associate Degree from Lackawanna College.

Mrs. McTiernan now gave Miss Katona Miller and Mrs. DeAntona much recognition and thanks for their time and efforts and what they do for our kids is unbelievable.

Mrs. McTiernan announced there is an FAQ now available on the SSD website regarding ESSER funds and guidelines and encourage anyone with questions or concerns to the link on the website.

Mrs. McTiernan thanked all new teachers and appreciates the fact we're going through difficult times and they are willing to stay with the district and promises there are better days ahead.

9. PSBA Report - Director Michelle Dempsey

Director Dempsey reported the following: [PSBA Report - June 2021.pdf](#)

10. Public Comment

Holly Meade, Northeast Intermediate teacher, spoke about the seventeen teachers inducted this evening and expressed sadness that they may not be with the district next school year as there has been a mass exodus of staff from paraprofessionals to administration. Mrs. Meade also spoke of the low starting salaries, ESSER funds that are allowed to be used to hire new staff and avoid staff layoffs, LEA may contract with daycare providers and the LEA retention incentive.

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Frances Regan, Bancroft teacher, urged the Board to keep Bancroft open, spoke of cutting the footprint, amending the recovery plan, class sizes, selling the Administration Building and relocating that staff and amending the recovery plan.

Patricia Carr, disagrees with the last best and final offer presented to the teachers and spoke of the reasons she disagrees. Ms. Carr also expressed concerns of ELAP and health insurance.

Breeda Holmes, resident, parent and teacher, spoke against the offered ELAP health insurance and shared her experience in claims processing and the risk of district employees health claims not being paid and billed to the patient and sent to collection agencies.

Adam McCormick, teacher, spoke against the offer to the SFT members and the recent ad in the newspaper creating distrust in the teachers of Scranton and he found it insulting. Mr. McCormick spoke of the offers made, explained the services of extra pay and also spoke against the annual raises and historical wage corrections given to administration.

Laura Christianson, 3rd grade teacher at Bancroft, parent and resident said Bancroft needs to be fixed and not closed and lease the Administration Building to lower the footprint. Ms. Christianson also spoke about money being spent on recruiting teachers, the need for a fair contract, ELAP insurance that was offered when the Superintendent will not even have the same insurance, bump steps need to be addressed, administration raises and that Scranton used to be the best district in the area and now teachers, principals and families are leaving the district.

Suzanne Gallo, Armstrong teacher, spoke of the high temperatures in her classroom today and the need to fix the HVAC, financial debacle of the school district and reckless spending by administration, disrespect shown to teachers and paraprofessionals, the need to keep neighborhood schools, dismantled programs, the loss of teachers, principals and families and urged the board to continue to ask questions.

Samantha Kurilla, parent, spoke against closing Bancroft, needs and wants of school buildings and the hazardous walking route to Isaac Tripp Elementary.

Margie Holmes. Bancroft teacher, resident and taxpayer, asked the board to exercise patience and to vote no to closing Bancroft and to negotiate an equitable teacher's contract. Mrs. Holmes urged the board listen to the public, answer their questions and make their decision when there is an actual plan in place. Mrs. Holmes thanked those board members who have spoken up and asked questions. Mrs. Holmes also spoke about smaller class sizes improving growth and academic success adding that morale is at an all time low and qualified teachers and principals are leaving the district.

Katona Miller, South Scranton Intermediate School Science teacher spoke of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science and recognized the following students who continued to work throughout this school year: Melissa Demir, Jeannie Rafferty, Isabel Eckenrode, Alyssa Hulse, Emily Atonal, Alexander King, Myla Kopa, Kyara Lugo, Kelisha Massey, Madison Mayer, Jocelyn Vinciguerra, Ava Roberto and Emma Grippo.

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Ms. Miller also recognized the following awards:

Engel Ovalles Pena, South Intermediate 7th grade Mathematics, Rubik's Cube received Regional 2nd award, Erin Carey, South Intermediate 7th grade Mathematics, Rubik's Cube Algorithms received Regional 1st Award advancing to the State level to receive a 3rd award, Ivy Neureuter, South Intermediate 8th grade Mathematics, Equations of Circles, received 1st Award and State level 2nd Award, Hope Polishan, South Intermediate 8th grade Mathematics, Law of Sines and Cosines received Regional 1st Award and advanced to the State level to receive another 1st Award, Emma Kearney, South Intermediate 8th grade Mathematics, Matrices, received Regional 1st Award and advanced to State level to receive another 1st Award, Brittain Banull, West Scranton High School 9th grade, Behavioral Psychology on Mask Effectiveness during the COVID 19 Pandemic received Regional 1st Award and advanced to State level to receive another 1st Award, Jade Lewis, Scranton High School 9th grade Ecology, Ocean Acidification, received Regional 1st Award and advancing to States to receive another 1st Award, Kaylee Butler, Scranton High School 10th grade Mathematics, Derivatives, received a Regional 1st Award and State level 1st Award.

Director Fox shared her experience with PJAS and after 15 years she can still remember clearly the experience and thanked Miss Miller.

President Gilmartin asked Mrs. McTiernan if there is anything she'd like to clarify that was brought forward this evening.

Mrs. McTiernan said the Administration Building appraisal will begin tomorrow and will be a three week turnaround.

Mrs. McTiernan also said she believes it was stated that the Superintendent would not use ELAP and that is not correct.

President Gilmartin added that the Act 93 Agreement does include ELAP. Mrs. McTiernan further added that Administration in Act 93 will go over to ELAP and two recently contracted employees are also on the ELAP program so the information mentioned this evening was also incorrect and she will also be using the ELAP program.

Director Dempsey said she understands that the insurance is not ELAP but it is Performance Health. President Gilmartin responded correct, Performance Health is what is referred to as the 3rd party administrator. Director Dempsey added Millennium is still administering just as they would do with Blue Cross Blue Shield and any balance bill goes to Millennium. Mrs. McTiernan said that is correct.

President Gilmartin asked Solicitor Audi if there is anything he needed to clarify.

Mr. Audi said specifically there were a lot of comments about negotiations and last best offers and a reference that he is leading this board blindly and he would like to clarify that's not true. He thinks that Ms. Boland knows that he completely agrees that the pay schedule is wrong; he doesn't know how it ever got to the point where you have a \$39,000 starting salary and a \$20,000 jump step. He wasn't here for that, the only person he knows that was here for that is

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Ms. Boland and it is incorrect and it should be corrected. Mr. Audi added that it is not true what he was accused of, we all want a fair contract, we all do our best, he's done his best and he hasn't raised his rates in seven years and urged everyone to be honest when we talk about it and not make accusations that are not true.

President Gilmartin now asked Dr. Finan if there is anything she'd like to clarify about the feasibility study because she doesn't want any misconceptions and perhaps it is a blend of needed improvements and also some wish list items.

Dr. Finan explained that a feasibility study is a study of every building, all of its working parts from roof to basement and it is a comprehensive review of every issue that is currently either not working properly, not up to code or needs to be replaced. Dr. Finan said the last feasibility study was done in 2012 and generally they are done every 5-6 years and that becomes the blue print for how the capital plan is designed and how the capital monies are spent on an annual basis. It is a long term vision and the items from 2012 had not even begun to be done so the plan as it exists now is not about wishes and needs, it is about what of the buildings need to be brought to a standard that every district expects their buildings to be and unfortunately there's been a very long duration where money has not been spent on the buildings so there are many needs and she believes the total is \$450 million dollars and the district does not have that kind of money to fix every building to the level they should be fixed. Dr. Finan added there will need to be a lot of discussion to put a plan together to see where we can move our buildings from now until the next 5 or 6 years with the money we have available which is miniscule. Dr. Finan said it is very hard to listen to wishes and wants; everything is a need in the plan and where we move from here to be able to afford the most necessary items is a huge challenge; it is not going to be an easy task and that is the goal of the feasibility study.

Dr. Finan also cleared up a misunderstanding that someone inferred that the board members get paid but school board members in Pennsylvania do not get paid, they volunteer their time.

Dr. Finan also announced that the Superintendent did not take a raise this year, no one knew that but she wanted people to know that now.

Dr. Finan cleared up another misunderstanding that two of the administrators who had adjustments that they were raises; they were not raises they were adjustments and since that time Act 93 was passed and some administrators did get a raise but prior to that, that was a misunderstanding.

Director Hume spoke about some confusion about the ability to not do ADA work on a building but to complete other renovations or work but not do the ADA work; her understanding is that once the buildings are grandfathered in, Director Hume asked Mr. Audi to expand on that.

Mr. Audi responded that a building that is untouched may be grandfathered in and not be ADA compliant but immediately when renovations start the ADA requirements kick in and all of the ADA accessibility issues need to be complied with.

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11. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2021

A motion was made by Director Malloy, seconded by Director Dempsey and duly passed 9-0.

12. Motion to Approve CONSENT AGENDA - One Roll Call to Approve Items.

Director Dempsey made a motion; seconded by Director McAndrew and the Consent Agenda passed unanimously on roll call.

The Consent Agenda included the following:

12.01 {B-1} Approve Bill List

List of Bill Payments: \$739,955.97

[B-1 Bill List 6.7.21.pdf](#)

12.02 {B-2} Approve Exception Bill List [B-2 Bill List 6.7.21.pdf](#)

Bill Payments: \$3,185,786.80

Payrolls: \$4,671,797.97

May 14, 2021 \$1,033,599.84

May 14, 2021 \$2,382,052.96

May 28, 2021 \$1,652,454.99

May 27, 2021 \$2,289,745.01

April 4, 2021 \$ 499,731.97

12.03 {B-3} Approve April 2021 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for period ending April, 2021 as prepared by the Business Office and confirmed by First National Bank.

Opening Balance:	\$31,495,676.24
Monthly Revenue:	\$ 4,426,664.21
Transfers and Balances:	<u>\$ 47,464.04</u>
Total Available:	\$35,969,804.49
Total Disbursements:	<u>\$(11,331,011.95)</u>
Balance in General Account:	\$ 24,638,792.54

12.04 {B-4} Approve Capital Improvement Bill List

Approve Capital Projects Bill List \$260,521.89

[Capital Projects Bill List 6.7.21.pdf](#)

12.05 {B-5} Approve April 2021 Delinquent Tax Report

Delinquent Tax Report for the month of April, 2021 as collected by the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau.

	\$1,066,325.40
Penalty	\$ 106,922.99
Interest	<u>\$ 89,988.05</u>
Total	\$1,263,236.44
Commission	<u>\$ (63,163.33)</u>
Net to District	\$1,200,073.11

12.06 {B-6} Approve Repository Sales

The Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau has approved the following repository sales:

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5 Gordon Place, Map #15709-060-022 in the amount of \$3,144.00 to Tarji Barnes.

12.07 {C-1} Approve Donation of Flag for McNichols Plaza

Accept donation of a new flag for McNichols Plaza from Suzanne Shaffer in memory of our men and women lost in service.

12.08 {D-1} Approve Permission to Attend

Approval of staff attendance to conferences and meetings contingent upon the required approval of all supervisors, principals or administration. [Permission to Attend 6.7.21.pdf](#)

12.09 {E-1} PULLED FROM CONSENT – see Non Consent Agenda Items

12.10 {G-1} Approve Second Read 005-BOG-0 Duties of Board Officers and 005-BOG-2 Functions of Standing Committees

12.11 {G-2} Approve First Read Updated Policy 916 - Volunteers, First Read New Policy 800.1 - Electronic Signatures/Records and First Read New Policy 816 - District Social Media

13. NON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

14.01 {B-7} Motion to Approve Disposal of Assets [Disposal of Assets 6.7.21.pdf](#)

Approve assets disposals per the attached.

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

16. EDUCATION (Education, Technology and Vocational Ed)

16.01 {D-2} Motion to Approve Building Reconfiguration Plan as presented on January 5, 2021
Motion to approve the Building Reconfiguration Plan presented on January 5, 2021 which includes the following:

- Permanently close Bancroft Elementary at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

Starting in the school year 2021-2022 implement the following:

- Grade K-4 Bancroft elementary students would attend Isaac Tripp elementary.

Director Welby made a motion, seconded by Director Hume.

ON THE QUESTION:

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Director Cruz asked Mr. Robert Rucker, if this motion is voted down, what is the status of George Bancroft Elementary, specifically what needs to be done to bring it up to code and what is the proposed timeline. Ms. Cruz is asking these questions for people who may be listening.

Mr. Rucker responded that the ventilation system would need complete renovation and looking at just the ventilation requirements, upwards of \$2.5 to \$3 million dollars increase with that and just to make that functional you have to upgrade the electrical which would be another estimated \$1 million dollars. Mr. Rucker added that even if implemented now they still would not be able to get students or staff into the building for the next academic year because they would have to have an engineering study, then design, RFPs go out for bid, lead time on materials and still looking at a year timeline even if voted on today.

Director Cruz asked Mrs. Grebeck what the characteristics for the students and teachers would be if the motion passes and if it does not pass.

Mrs. Grebeck said if the board chooses to operate Bancroft as combined with Isaac Tripp there will be a significant cost savings when you combine sections as combining sections will still keep classroom numbers under the contractual limits according to the current enrollment data that we have and it will also free up additional classrooms. Mrs. Grebeck explained the sections and enrollment numbers.

Mrs. Grebeck added that if the board chooses to operate Bancroft as a school within a school and keep it as it is, it's like running a house within a house; they'll have double of everything, each school will have to maintain two master schedules, two separate staffing groups and maintain enough staff to run two individual buildings.

Director Yanni asked Mr. Rucker, in his opinion if they were to keep the school separate it would take a year to get the work done on the univents that needs to be complete.

Mr. Rucker explained that at a previous board meeting it was presented that there was a January to February timeline and that was put out earlier this year at a board meeting without the vote being pushed then and the requirements being moved forward you're going to have to add the months that have passed so moving that timeline from the January/February up to May, June or July of next year for the complete installation and upgrade of all of this so you're just pushing it along the longer we wait.

Director McAndrew asked if they are the same univents that are under investigation.

Mr. Rucker believes so.

Director Yanni asked Superintendent McTiernan if there is any clarification she can provide on that as she understands it is under litigation. Mrs. Yanni is asking as a director because she reads about it in the newspaper and she doesn't even know who is investigating and is there any broad information that the board and the public could be provided.

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Mrs. McTiernan replied they continue to work with the State Police and the Attorney General's office and it is centered on the energy savings project and that's all she can provide at this time.

President Gilmartin said she is troubled by this continued line of questioning and she thinks they've made it very clear and tried to acknowledge to the public that this is being pursued but she thinks Mrs. McTiernan has made it very clear the circumstances which we are dealing with right now and Ms. Gilmartin would really like to move away from that discussion.

Director Yanni said what she is unclear about is her role as a board member because she would think this would be information that a board of directors would be informed of.

Solicitor Audi said they really cannot discuss this in a public forum.

Director Yanni asked why they haven't been made aware of it in private as and the attorney for the board why is it he can't share it.

Mr. Audi responded that it is not his choice and if Director Yanni feels that they're withholding information that she should have then she is free to contact the State Police.

Director McAndrew asked if the only people that know are Mr. Audi and the Superintendent and who from Administration knows what's going on.

Mrs. McTiernan responded that she thinks there's a misunderstanding that she knows all of this information and she along with many of the administrators are cooperating with the State Police and the Attorney General's Office and they provide information when it's requested but they don't have discussions about the investigation because that is not her job. Her job is to provide information when asked and to cooperate and at this time for all of the board she will pass along the information to the individuals that are the professionals that are working on that to let them know how the board feels and they can take it from there but she is not going to answer any other questions at this time and asked for this discussion to stop.

Director Dempsey asked if there is a potential of a formal update regarding the plan to potentially close other facilities because to her the feasibility study didn't say to close Bancroft but potentially close more than one building, she is wondering what the communication to the board and the community regarding that plan and will there be ongoing formal communication regarding the progress of the comprehensive plan.

President Gilmartin believes they can set all of that up and thinks that is the intention as they move forward, perhaps present a plan and a vision and understand the goals and bring it forward and thinks they can set some realistic timeline and agrees having regular updates whether they're bi-weekly or monthly.

Dr. Finan added that she often gets referred to as the person who decided to do the feasibility study or it's her feasibility study, it's not her feasibility study. Her job was to put a plan together that would get the district to sustainability, to move the Scranton School District from the distressed financial condition in 5 years. That's what the recovery plan does and she's been

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tasked with looking at how we get there and because they didn't have a current feasibility study that was one of the very first things they did after they toured the buildings. Her task is to put together a plan and that's why the feasibility study was done; yes it was with her recommendation and the board voted on it and now they have the feasibility study, it's still in draft form and they're still working on some minor pieces to it. At the Operations Committee meeting they focused on Bancroft but they talked about setting up some committee meetings, this is not something that happens overnight, they will never have the \$450 million dollars needed to put into the buildings, There's another piece, when she wrote the recovery plan it talked about capacity, there is capacity in buildings, there are empty seats in buildings, if you don't have enough money to fix every building and everything in the feasibility study choices have to be made and those choices are where do they put their money and how do they do it. This is not a one, two or three year fix because you can't possibly do all that kind of work in a short period of time. They will have to take this step by step, they need more information from the engineering firm and when dealing with public funds everything has to be bid.

Director Hume now spoke of capacity and enrollment numbers in the next coming years adding that empty seats is losing money.

Dr. Finan continued that this will have to be a lot of discussion and lot of decision making and the vision of the future is not going to be eleven elementary schools, three intermediate and two high schools. They have to reduce the footprint so they can put money into buildings.

Director Hume commented on the Operations Committee meeting last week and they talked about the feasibility study being published on the website and it is the intention of the Operations Committee to hold three meetings focusing on the areas of each intermediate school as there are five elementary schools that feed into Northeast Intermediate, three that feed into South Intermediate and three that feed into West Intermediate. The meetings will allow people to bring forward what they believe should be the future of the elementary schools in each area and what they believe the district should be spending money on and hope to have those meetings before the end of June. They will be seeking input from all stakeholders before any plan is voted up or down.

Director Yanni said she came in this evening wanting to be on board with this, she sees the data Director Hume has presented and thanked her for all of her research, she understands there are reasons that we need to close schools and she's trying hard to get on board but has concerns because they moved 5th grade then decided on Bancroft and she feels like they're doing it in pieces rather than presenting the whole plan and if this vote passes she feels like they need to work to set timelines to hold administration accountable to updates to the board and community. She doesn't want to see the community being dragged through months again and she has serious concerns about the loss of Mr. Emiliani, Tripp's leader, and she would like updates on that. For her to make this decision she needs more information, they've been asking for it, they're getting it slowly and in pieces so she is looking for the overall plan of how they're going to do this so the board can work with administration to effectively do it. She doesn't feel like she has all those pieces. She was on the tour of Bancroft and was told it's because of their systems there that don't work, she needs all the facts to make this decision.

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Director Fox spoke about an email they received from a teacher at Tripp that said they no longer have an art or music room, students are losing time from their specials, Bancroft students academics have been negatively impacted by timing issues and both schools have lost out on gym since Bancroft has come to Tripp and they have lost the gym, the library and the LGI room. She would like it clarified that if Bancroft were to fully close that the students would appropriately fit in at Isaac Tripp and if they keep things the way they are now that students are suffering and not receiving everything they should receive.

Mrs. Ann Grebeck addressed the concerns and spoke about having to come up with a plan they were forced to because of COVID and moving forward whatever the board decides they will be looking at a more permanent situation now that they have time to plan. The enrollment at Bancroft is small enough to be absorbed in some of the existing sections at Tripp.

Director Dempsey asked how many classrooms are being utilized by Bancroft 5th grade and how many classrooms are being utilized by the preschool program.

Mrs. Grebeck responded that one preschool classroom is currently being used and there are currently two 5th grade classrooms sharing the music room.

Director Hume spoke about past, current and future enrollment numbers at Tripp adding there seems to be a conflation between the discussion of the closure of Bancroft as a need as identified in both the PFM report in December 2018 and in the recovery plan of August 2019. Ms. Hume's concern about delaying a vote tonight is that whatever master plan is put forward it will not change the fact that in the Northeast Intermediate School feeder area there are five elementary schools. Ms. Hume gave the enrollment numbers and capacity for each school adding there is no question that out of the four small closely located schools (Adams, Bancroft, Morris and Prescott) the closure of some of them will be part of the master plan, that is just irrefutable logic because we cannot keep four schools open in the Northeast Intermediate area and reduce the footprint by closing schools in South or West Intermediate areas. It is extremely likely in the master plan the uncertainty about Bancroft will continue and she thinks we owe it to the students of Bancroft who will not be able to go back to their school realistically for September 2022, they've been out for two years and four months, she believes it is unfair to leave them with the uncertainty going into September of not knowing whether they may be relocated or not.

Director Fox clarified with Dr. Finan that she must report to the Department of Education.

Dr. Finan responded that yes, anything that is listed in the recovery plan, if any action is taken she has to report everything to her superiors at PDE. Dr. Finan added that the reconfiguration is about reducing the footprint; there are eleven elementary schools feeding into three intermediate schools feeding into two high schools with empty seats and not enough money to repair all of those buildings and as Mr. Audi said earlier, the Scranton School District does not even have ADA compatible buildings and that law was passed in the mid 1980's so any time they start to repair these buildings they have to make them handicapped accessible for everyone and that costs a lot of money and yes, she does have to do a report which she does on a regular basis.

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Director Fox remarked that as a board member she feels they're truly not making progress in Dr. Finan's plan and it worries her because they did not make progress in the financial watch and that's why they're in recovery right now.

Dr. Finan added that this has been the slowest part of it yet.

Director Fox thinks they're not taking the larger steps they need to make and asked about the report from PFM that if they don't make any changes within five years or so they would have a negative fund balance.

President Gilmartin clarified that Director Fox is asking about the five year projection.

Dr. Finan said yes, they talked about that in March.

Director McAndrew commented that a few weeks ago Dr. Finan said if they didn't vote on this she would report it and they possibly would go into receivership and now she's telling them that after this feasibility study they're going to come together and come up with a board's plan.

Dr. Finan responded that she is here as a consultant, she's advising them and given a five year plan and it's very clear, step by step to follow, to get to sustainability which means they can do everything on their own; one would say maybe they're better off in receivership and she will tell you no one who lives in this community would want to see receivership.

Director McAndrew asked why they can't come up with a comprehensive plan instead of doing this in pieces.

Dr. Finan said if they don't follow the recovery plan they could end up in receivership and they must reduce the footprint. Dr. Finan spoke about Bancroft and they cannot continue to kick the can down the road and they owe it to the Bancroft community to make a decision.

Director Yanni said nothing changes if nothing changes but she thinks what she's been asking for all along is for transparency so they can make the right decision. She wants to be on board with this and understands what Dr. Finan is saying and she doesn't think it is fair to the community either.

Mrs. McTiernan said when they were first tasked with this, obviously they were put in a position there was work that was done then the new administration came in and all along they have been very transparent and this is phase one of this project; they said it numerous times. Now, the board is requesting that the next phase would be more comprehensive, but all along, phase one, she's said it over and over, when they were tasked with this and how are they going to attack it and then a pandemic hit, then we talked about new additional buildings but at that time we didn't feel comfortable with that decision because we lost so many students so at that point we're back to phase one and presented that. Many of you are not happy because now you want an all comprehensive one; you're asking that after the fact. What she is asking for tonight is, we will continue to work on that comprehensive plan and we just need a decision tonight on whatever the board decides, they will move forward and continue their work. They now have a directive from

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what she's hearing is they want a more comprehensive plan that involves the whole plan and they are working on that. She understands they don't like it when they do it in phases but they need to move forward for the people of Bancroft, they need to make a decision and have a vote tonight so they can fulfill the timelines of what they need to do as a district. Mrs. McTiernan is requesting tonight that they move forward with whatever that vote is and allow them to move forward so they can make sure they have staffing in place and students where they need to go; all along they said this is phase one.

Motion now passed with seven (7) affirmative and two (2) negative votes. Directors McAndrew and Yanni voted in the negative.

16.02 {D-3} Motion to Approve PDE 520.1 Emergency Instructional Time Template for the 2021-2022 School Year

520.1 Every school district in the state of Pennsylvania is required to submit the 520.1 Emergency Instructional Time Template. This document is for emergency purposes only in the event a school district has to convert from full in-person learning to a hybrid learning or remote learning approach.

Director Welby made a motion; seconded by Director Malloy and passed unanimously on roll call.

16.03 {D-4} Motion to Appoint Student Representatives

Appoint the following Student Representatives for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Scranton High School: Jean Rafferty

West Scranton High School: Tyler Michel

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

16.04 {D-5} Ratify Reopening Committee to Appoint Principals, Chair and Co-Chair

Appoint the following members to the Reopening Advisory Committee:

Secondary Principal: Mike Montoro

Elementary Principal: Brandon Budd

Elementary Teacher: Laura Sosik

Secondary Teacher: Kaitlin Walsh

And;

Appoint Director Hume as Chair and Mr. Matt Barrett as Co-Chair of the Reopening Advisory Committee.

Director Welby made a motion, seconded by Director Cruz; motion duly passed 9-0.

Mrs. McTiernan thanked all of the members for volunteering for this committee.

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

{E-1} Motion to Approve Use of West Scranton Intermediate Pool, Scranton High School Field, Gymnasium and Parking Lot

The following organizations have requested to rent Scranton School District facilities for the summer of 2021:

June 7, 2021

1. Lifeguard Training – West Scranton Intermediate Pool - \$40/hour
2. Lackawanna Babe Ruth – Scranton High School Baseball Field - \$50 per game
3. Equines for Freedom – Scranton High Parking Lot
4. Riverfront Sports Complex – Scranton High Gymnasium

Director Malloy made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed with eight (8) affirmative and (1) one abstention. Director Yanni abstained due to her spouse's relationship with Lackawanna Babe Ruth.

17.01 {E-2} Motion to Award Athletic Training Services

Option #1

Award contract for Athletic Training Services to Geisinger Orthopedics and Sports Medicine per attached proposal. Current contract allocates \$25,000 in marketing cost offsets that would be included in this contract.

Financial Impact:

21-22 \$77,809 - \$25,000 = \$52,809

22-23 \$79,534 - \$25,000 = \$54,534

23-24 \$82,570 - \$25,000 = \$57,570

Option #2

Award contract for Athletic Training Services to Geisinger Orthopedics and Sports Medicine per attached expanded proposal adding a 3rd trainer and an additional 850 hrs of service to cover intermediate schools. Proposal allocates an additional \$28,000 in marketing cost offsets that would be included in this contract.

Financial Impact:

21-22 \$106,564.50 - \$53,000 = \$53,564.50

22-23 \$109,777.50 - \$53,000 = \$56,777.50

23-24 \$113,085 - \$53,000 = \$60,085

Mr. Pat Laffey addressed both options and they are recommending Option #2.

Director Hume made a motion to approve Option #2, seconded by Director Malloy; motion passed with eight (8) affirmative and one (1) negative. Director Dempsey voted in the negative.

President Gilmartin clarified with Mr. Audi that they did not have to do an amendment. Mr. Audi agreed this is fine.

17.02 {E-3} Motion to Approve Johnson Controls Master Clock/Fire Suppression Contract
Approve Johnson Controls to provide fire system and master clock inspections and service for a period of 1 year, starting on 6/8/21 and ending on 5/31/22.

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

17.03 {E-4} Motion to Approve Isaac Tripp Elementary Drainage Survey and Civil Engineering Services

Authorize Greenman-Pedersen (GPI) to provide survey and civil engineering services for the Isaac Tripp Elementary School Drainage Project. The scope of the work will include a topographic survey and construction sketch. Financial Impact: \$1,900.00

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Malloy and passed unanimously on roll call.

17.04 {E-5} Motion to Award School Physician Services

Award contract for School Physician Services to Geisinger Orthopedic and Sports Medicine.

Financial Impact:

21-22 \$15,000 (\$200/hr where applicable)

22-23 \$15,000 (\$200/hr where applicable)

23-24 \$15,000 (\$200/hr where applicable)

Potential marketing offset of \$15,750

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

18. PERSONNEL (Human Resources and Labor Relations)

18.01 {F-1} Motion to Approve Personnel Report

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

ON THE QUESTION:

President Gilmartin asked about the additional positions. Mrs. McTiernan addressed.

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BOARD AGENDA FOR JUNE 7, 2021																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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19. POLICY (Policy & Legislative) – no business under Non Consent.

20. SPECIAL EDUCATION – no business under Non Consent.

21. VENDOR RELATIONS (Purchasing, Food Services, Transportation)

21.01 {I-1} Motion to Award Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Contract for 2021-2022 School Year

Award contract for the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program services to Smart Partners per attached proposal. [Award Fresh Fruit Veg Program 6.7.21.pdf](#)

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

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21.02 {I-2} Motion to Award Food Service Equipment Repair and Maintenance Contract
Award contract for Food Service Equipment repair and preventative maintenance to K&D
Factory Service.

Financial Impact:

Description	21-22	22-23	23-24
Preventative Maintenance Fee	\$11,904	\$12,082	\$12,263
Labor Rate	\$98/hr	\$99/hr	\$100/hr
Parts Markup	List + 10%	List + 10%	List + 10%
Overtime = hrly rate x 1.5 on holidays and weekends			

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

22. NEW BUSINESS

Director Hume spoke about information they received about an insurance program for the
Chromebooks and asked Mrs. Julie Maloney to address.

Director Fox spoke about fair funding and sending letters and tweets to legislators.

23. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Gilmartin thanked everyone for the conversations and concerns shared this evening.

24. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Dempsey; meeting
duly adjourned 9-0 at 9:59PM.

By: _____