

March 29, 2021

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for Transportation on Monday, March 29, 2021 immediately following a Budget and Finance Committee meeting and Work Session at 6:30PM via Zoom.

President Gilmartin called the meeting to order at 9:56pm.

(Pledge of Allegiance was held prior to Budget & Finance Committee Meeting)

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

Absent: All Present.

President Gilmartin announced Special Meeting has been called for Transportation and has been duly advertised.

Public Comment:

Gus Fahey, Recovery Committee Member, spoke about building capacities, equity and keeping neighborhood schools open.

Vivian Williams, parent, spoke about schools not receiving the same experience, no access to guidance counselors, field trip transportation costs, students mental health well being, and schools in this district not treated equally.

Erin Harris, asked the board to push back the vote on closing Bancroft until all reports are complete, the lack of respect and concern for furloughed paraprofessionals and PCAs, crossing guard issues, raises given to central administration, financial accountability and asbestos issues at Northeast Intermediate.

Matt Barrett, parent, spoke about CDC guidelines changing spacing, moving timelines to get kids back to school, delays in returning kids to school, Riverfront use of facilities, collecting taxes but not providing education, synchronous learning, losing students to charter and cyber schools, the Building Advisory Group and expressed his thoughts that the district's processes are failing.

Motions

Motion to approve the Contract Extension and Agreement with Red Top Transportation. This extends the prior 2015 contract through June 30, 2022 as outlined in the attachment.

Financial Impact: \$271,000 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school provided school resumes and transportation is required.

Pricing will remain the same as the 2018-2019 school year rates and is set as follows:

\$248.00/Bus, \$155.00/Van and a Double Run for a van is \$199.00

Local field trip and special events will be billed for the duration of the Extension & Agreement as follows:

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\$49.94 per hour for a bus
\$41.62 per hour for a van
\$36.41 per hour for a mini van.

Director Malloy made a motion, Director Yanni seconded.
Motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Dempsey asked Mr. Laffey if the \$271,000 is the reimbursable amount and what the reasoning is for this.

Mr. Laffey responded the \$271,000 is the amount that the contractor has certified would be his rate less his variable cost and that is allowable under the amended Senate Bill 1216. That will allow us to receive our reimbursement for that vendor and the extension is related to the need when we return to a more fuller instruction and to transport mainly our special education students although he can't say that it's only going to be special education students but it will be needed for he believes the majority of them historically they have been the special education contractor.

President Gilmartin asked Solicitor Audi to clarify this does not violate Policy 610 whereby we will not extend a contract without a bid past five years from the original term; this term was originally 2015-2020, we are extending it through 2022 because we need to meet the needs of these students at this time.

Mr. Audi respond correct, it is in compliance.

President Gilmartin also asked to clarify how this will impact the timing going forward with RFPs.

Mr. Laffey responded the transportation committee has been meeting for multiple reasons, one of them to establish the bus routes for this school year but also to prepare more efficient routing for the RFP which we will be putting out sometime hopefully in the near future for 2022-23 school year. This will allow us to align both contracts, he believes on this same timeline and also for that RFP process the extension is at the 2017-18 levels, but we added a dual run rate of \$199. In the past that was not part of our agreement, we hope that the establishment of the dual run for the 2021-22 school year will allow us to operate more efficient routing and also save us some dollars compared to prior years so we're looking for 2021-2022 to be more efficient but also provide a more streamlined and efficient RFP.

President Gilmartin added that certainly the ideal scenario is a Request for Proposals and going through that whole process but this meets the needs of our students at this time and does put us in some better positions moving forward and may help us with efficiencies in the short term as well.

Mr. Laffey replied obviously putting out the ideal, most efficient route system for the RFP would be the most beneficial for the district moving forward into school year 2022-2023.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Cruz and the meeting adjourned at 10:19PM.

By: _____
Secretary