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SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00pm in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA.

President Gilmartin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Cruz, Fox, Hume, Malloy, Schuster, Welby, Yanni and President Gilmartin. (*Director Fox attended via teleconference*)

Absent: Director Dixon.

President Gilmartin asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Patrick Dougher, an employee of the Scranton School District who passed away last week and asked that we keep the Dougher and Angeloni families in our thoughts this evening.

Ms. Gilmartin thanked everyone for being here this evening adding that seeing such a great turnout is a testament to the fact that the safety of our students and staff is an utmost priority and she thinks she speaks for the entire board to say that we are united with the administration in all of our efforts to get the most accurate and correct information and answer as many questions we possibly can this evening.

Honor and Recognize

The following was submitted by Director Yanni.

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that the following be approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors are always eager to recognize educators who have made outstanding academic contributions to the Scranton School District; and

WHEREAS, South Scranton Intermediate School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, Ms. Katona Lyn Miller, was selected as a finalist for the 2020 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Award for her outstanding dedication to students and innovative teaching skills; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the official congratulations of the Board is extended to Ms. Katona Lyn Miller for her excellence in teaching.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

Communications to the Board

Secretary Virginia Orr announced executive sessions were held on January 2, 2020, January 27, 2020 and this evening to discuss Personnel, Staffing, Negotiations, Real Estate, and Litigation.

Solicitor's Report

No Report.

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### Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Melissa McTiernan thanked the SSD community for their cooperation and support during this difficult time adding that health and safety is their number one priority. Mrs. McTiernan announced that Datum and Alicon are here tonight to represent our environmental professionals; Guzek Associates have been unexpectedly detained at this time and will not be here. Mrs. McTiernan said that any questions specific to their work will be recorded by our Secretary, Mrs. Orr and we will work with Guzek Associates to get answers to your questions and will post them on our web page.

Mrs. McTiernan also said at this time Northeast Intermediate will remain closed until the plan to relocate our students is complete and for the record, the plan is not complete. Mrs. McTiernan said current details that the administration is currently working on includes, building capacity, student schedules, technology, transportation and the movement of furniture. Mrs. McTiernan said when the plan is complete the Northeast Administration will hold parent and student meetings and we are working as quickly as possible to finalize this plan and to get students and staff back to school.

Mrs. McTiernan again appreciates cooperation and she understands we can't move quickly enough but we're trying.

Mr. Paul Dougherty now reported on the following:

Mr. Dougherty said it is exciting to see such a huge crowd because some of the things he's going to say, quite honestly, he spoke last Monday evening about the same things and he stood in front of this school board last Monday and he is going to say things publically that needed to be said and probably has never happened before, so he is very happy to recap that and thrilled to see such dedicated faculty, parents and students here tonight because it is important that you're involved in this process.

Mr. Dougherty welcomed TJ Jimmie from Datum and Christa Knorr from Alicon; her company has been doing a lot of air quality testing in our building.

Mr. Dougherty said last Monday he talked about some environmental issues; they started receiving lead and water reports in mid January and when that occurred the reports said that they need to go back and compare to the 2018 reports and that is when things got real for him very quickly because it was obvious that things were not addressed. Mr. Dougherty said as the reports rolled in, they took appropriate action and ultimately found 33 sinks and 5 fountains that required action and most all the fountains were turned off, the sinks were turned off where possible but even with a higher lead content, washing hands and dishes is allowed so there were some sinks that remained on but none that students had access to.

Mr. Dougherty talked about the lead back in 2018, there was an Act 39 of 2018 which required school districts, if they lead tested to report elevated levels to the state. Mr. Dougherty said our district did not do that, they did not file the report. Mr. Dougherty then reached out to PDE and filed the 2018 report, and additionally in the past week he filed the 2019 report. Mr. Dougherty said all of our lead testing results for all of our schools are on the website right now, as are the asbestos reports. Mr. Dougherty said, that same evening, last Monday, he identified 202 priority areas that they were working with Guzek Associates on for addressing asbestos concerns within our schools. He said throughout the fall, Guzek would notify him when reports were coming out, and as reports would come in, they would say there's something that you have to take care of immediately so they made four or five emergency fixes throughout the fall. Last Monday as he said he identified 202 priority areas that we needed to look at over the course of the summer, Guzek was working with them on putting together a spec sheet so they could start soliciting bids for that work and the good thing after his talk on Monday is it caused a heightened awareness within all of the school which was a good thing.

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Mr. Dougherty explained that on Wednesday morning he started receiving emails, receiving pictures via texts of things that people were concerned with, from faculty, from administrators and certainly he is going to take every situation that comes to his attention as serious and he will be the first to say that he's not an environmental expert, so it started at Northeast on Wednesday morning, when Mr. Hanni, the principal, sent him a picture of debris that had fallen from the ceiling from the old section on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor adding that he didn't know what that debris is but when he referenced the asbestos reports he knows it's thought to be asbestos in the plaster of the walls and the ceilings. That day Mr. Hanni kept students from going in to four or five classrooms and at that point they invited and met with environmental specialists, Wednesday after school, with TJ from Datum and associates from Guzek, Chris and Brent. Mr. Dougherty said at that point, not being a scientist, the question always comes down to right now, they'll speak very technical and they're very intelligent people but really the question comes down to, is this safe for children and staff; is it safe to occupy this space and when they look at you and tell you, no, we can't say that right now, it becomes very real, very fast and it's going to force the hand of what's going to happen the next day. As Mr. Dougherty talked to them, the next question became do all of our facilities have asbestos in the plaster of the walls and ceilings. Mr. Dougherty said Willard Elementary School, they had some cracking that needs remediating and TJ can speak on that because his company did that work but it did not rise to the level of what they're seeing at Northeast with the debris that is falling from the ceiling. Mr. Dougherty reported that further discussions where Mr. Coleman at Robert Morris had reached out to Mrs. McTiernan and said they had a fitting underneath a sink that was basically falling apart and they knew the fittings underneath the sinks didn't contain asbestos but what had changed from the reports was that now it's worsening and he is sure TJ could also speak and confirm that.

Mr. Dougherty said that what they started finding district wide, is items that were significantly worse than when reports were issued so that is going to cause them to take immediate action and certainly when he has environmental people telling him they need to take action then certainly they're going to take action and as he says all the time, he's been working in this school district fifteen years, in buildings for 10 hours/day for the last 15 years; his son graduated from West High and his daughter is at West High now so it is as important to him as it is to all of you that our buildings are safe for kids and ultimately, that's what matters. The facilities are not in great shape and when you start comparing 2016 asbestos reports to the 2019 reports, they're very similar, so you can infer what that means for yourself and over the last week they're chasing a couple things that maybe should have been addressed decades ago.

Mr. Dougherty now reported that there was a law passed in 1988 called the AHERA Act, which districts had to test for asbestos and they had to develop a management plan to deal with it; he can't say whether that did or didn't happen but he can tell you that there's no documentation to say whether it happened.

Mr. Dougherty said being that we were forced with some of these items, we were dealing with a lot and everyone in this room has been dealing with a lot in the last 7 days, they engaged Datum to do building walkthroughs in all of the facilities and had them remediate, do maintenance on anything they thought needed to be done and air quality testing was done in every single building, he received the last report this evening and they will be on our website tomorrow and all the air quality tests that have been done over the last couple days will be out there on the same site as the lead and asbestos tests. Mr. Dougherty, also speaking for himself, assured everyone that no one is sitting up there on this board, they have nothing to hide and he wants you to have information and unfortunately our plan was to put a big bid together to get work done over the summer and we just didn't get to that point, conditions deteriorated and forced us to take action much sooner than we thought we would have to.

Mr. Dougherty was perfectly honest that what is going on at Northeast, perfectly honest with you, he was an intermediate principal for 14 years at West Intermediate, intermediate school is where his heart is and what is happening at Northeast is a little bit sickening. He doesn't know how else to say it.

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Comments and questions started coming from the audience regarding a finalized report. Mrs. McTiernan responded that she respects what has been said from parents and the only way she can put this in perspective is they are trying to move 900 kids, most people who have a situation like this or a building situation, it takes a year to a year and a half to move kids...audience members began yelling out questions and President Gilmartin rapped the gavel asking for decorum and said they are trying to answer questions and if anyone has signed up for public comment they will hear what you have to say and if you have a question, once they're through with public comment they are welcome to submit it.

Mrs. McTiernan continued to say that all she can promise is that the number one priority of this board and administration is the students and staff, and number two is getting the kids back in school as quickly as possible. More questions coming from the audience with Mrs. McTiernan responding that they will address all of it when the plan comes out. Once again President Gilmartin asked for decorum and said they are trying to get as much information out as they possibly can and to please let Mr. Dougherty continue with his report.

Mr. Dougherty continued to say that there's a lot of frustration, you have the right to be frustrated and he knows it probably means little to you, but if you don't know him but he is as frustrated as everyone else and no one wants to do this to children but all he can do now is stand in front of you and tell you that he is trying to do what's right, do the right thing and make up for history and he wished he could do it faster but he can't.

More comments from the audience that things should have been done years ago, with Director Yanni saying that they want to hear you speak if you signed up to speak but they cannot hear if the audience is yelling out. Mrs. Yanni said she is also a parent of Scranton School District students, all of us have kids and family so we're feeling the same things but we're trying to put a plan together.

More yelling from the audience prompted President Gilmartin to rap the gavel and again ask for decorum, they need to let Mr. Dougherty continue his report and they have the environmental experts here to answer questions, please let him get through the information.

Mr. Dougherty continued that it's what direction do we take with Northeast and he thinks there are a couple options and he'll ask TJ to speak about some of those options and how to potentially clear that building, adding there are two schools of thought with it and it becomes, if one of the rooms is contaminated, are all of the rooms contaminated because it's in the plaster. Mr. Dougherty didn't have an answer to that because he is not an expert and that's why there is an expert here, there may be another way, potentially, but we have to explore every option and see which one is best for our kids.

Mr. Dougherty now asked TJ from Datum to assist with explanation.

TJ Jimmie, from Datum said based on the Guzek report, a certain number of samples by law has to be taken out of the plaster and he's not sure of the number of samples taken since Guzek was going to speak on that. Mr. Jimmie said if one of 30 samples comes back as containing asbestos then that entire homogenous area is considered as being asbestos. Mr. Jimmie said what they originally tried to do on the first night, Wednesday night, was there were four specific rooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor that were closed, that were showing crumbling from the plaster. They took additional plaster samples from the ceilings and walls in each one of those rooms and all of those samples were put on a rush turnaround time and all of the samples with the exception of one came back as not asbestos. Samples from one room came back as less than 1% for asbestos, and by OSHA standards means that room should be treated as asbestos so that is the discussion going on between the experts and at some point is getting the federal agents involved to get a determination because there's two lines of thinking. Mr. Jimmie said that three rooms that they

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sampled, walls and ceilings that show less than 1% , they can be treated as homogeneous areas. They took the appropriate number of samples, those samples came back, they are not asbestos. Some people say because now the original rooms that showed asbestos can never be considered non asbestos because of that one sample. That's the thoughts going out because that obviously is going to determine long term feasibility. If you sample each individual room, each individual hallway and those samples come back as not being asbestos, then obviously you're down to two rooms, the abatement costs and everything would maybe be feasible and abated plaster there and having the other areas non asbestos abated you don't need an abatement contractor to do that. So that's the train of thought going on with Northeast. When they met that night they saw the two schools that had plaster throughout, Northeast and Willard, so they went over to Willard. The difference between the two cases is at Northeast, the plaster was actually crumbling, it was almost a powder adding there was dust which could have been chalk dust; we don't know the answer to that. At Willard there is a crack, it's not in the best shape, however there's nothing powdery coming off and the flaking that was occurring was paint. When they had the meeting they went in to stabilize it and by no means is it a permanent solution. It was a stabilization, which it's encapsulated, they encapsulated each crack, in different areas they were stabilized first then in some cases they went to stabilize it with HEPA vacuum; had to seal it and clean the areas before some of the plaster came off and they were in a room, an additional room today, they did all of the stabilization and DEP did come to Willard while they were there and they walked through the building with them to see what they were doing, they issued a report and then the area was cleared. Today there was a concern about a room, a general concern in that room was that previously a ceiling had come down, not anytime recently, but there was debris still from when that ceiling came down several years ago, on the light fixtures and dust. So that room they recommended to keep the kids out for right now and testing is going to be done specific to that room.

Mr. Jimmie said that Guzek has been in contact with the EPA and when they finished the encapsulating procedure, Guzek performed air sampling throughout the building. There was a certain amount of sampling taken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, a certain amount taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and also in the basement and basically what they've been doing the last several days after the plaster, is taking the priority report that the district had repaired areas and walking through with the administrators from each building and inspecting these areas and determining if action needed to be done for the safety of the students. What determines an immediate action? Is it an area that the students had immediate access to, is it an area being disturbed giving a chance to create further problems, if those criteria were met the action was taken. It was all maintenance that was performed with a long term plan to be prepared to be further addressed.

Director Gilmartin asked if he could talk a little bit about the report, they received some information today building by building that can be made available to the public.

Mr. Jimmie said they went based on that report with the priority levels and situations have changed as reports were given to the principals he would take them where there were specific complaints, and that's a great thing, everybody is looking, everybody is aware and in several cases there was ripped insulation but it's fiber glass insulation, it's not asbestos insulation. There may be a cracked floor tile that was taken care of, most of the immediate work they did was more for being recorded by the teachers, faculty and administration. They made those minor operations repairs whether it be wrapping a fitting, encapsulating it, removing a floor tile and some of the floor tiles showed signs of cracking, where they would put temporary laminate over the flooring, and now they're preparing what step two is, they took the action, if they're going to need further action, sooner rather than later, and if it shouldn't wait until the summer.

Director Schuster asked if all of these concerns came through the administration and passed on to you.

Mr. Jimmie said originally they were going off of the AHERA report.

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Director Gilmartin asked to please explain the AHERA report.

Mr. Jimmie said Guzek will come in and inspect the building every six months and they have been doing that, they physically walk through the buildings and do the inspection and each item is given a number 1-7 with 1 being the most concern and 7 being the least concern, the school district, he believes was given a list, a summary list of buildings and they had all the areas he believes 1-4 that were listed to see if immediate action was needed and that's how they started this last Wednesday.

Director Schuster asked so if the cases that needed immediate action were taken care of and air quality studies were done on those areas.

Mr. Jimmie said not in all circumstances because some of the areas that are listed as number 1 are not in accessible areas, they're not being disturbed.

Director Schuster asked for more explanation so everybody understands.

Mr. Jimmie gave an example that some will be in an encapsulated wall cavity behind the bathroom, some of the pipe may be damaged, this is in an area that is not getting disturbed, it's not an area that students have access to, that they can go in and start ripping it further, or they're in locked doors and they're not an immediate threat to the children but they would have to be addressed. They are worried about areas that were immediately accessible to the children in the classrooms or in common areas like hallways, situations like that.

Director Schuster asked if air quality studies were completed and what were the results.

Mr. Jimmie said yes they were completed but he didn't see the clearance reports; that was Guzek Associates.

Mr. Dougherty said the only failing air quality reports we have right now are Northeast Intermediate.

Director Hume said the only failing air quality report is Northeast, so essentially the immediate risk of any of our kids, apart from Northeast being exposed to asbestos, you have gone in and encapsulated and sealed off.

Mr. Jimmie said yes, some of the things that we've done are not long term and one of the areas is at Bancroft, the Kindergarten room, a floor tile was cracking, so they put a laminate floor over half the floor, and now that floor tile is assumed to be asbestos, it wasn't sampled so Guzek is going in tomorrow at some point to take samples of that tile and his recommendation based on his second report is if that does come back that it be taken care of prior to the summer because it's in a Kindergarten class. The laminate is temporary; they're not exposed to asbestos but the laminate is going to be very hard to keep clean with the winter months but it's not a permanent solution.

Director Hume so, the immediates have been taken care of, and then there is some work that needs to be done prior to the summer.

Mr. Jimmie said he calls it priority areas in the summer report.

Director Hume asked if there's no risk until summer.

Mr. Jimmie agreed, adding they're undisturbed areas.

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Director Hume and some can safely wait until the summer.

Mr. Jimmie said yes.

Director Schuster asked if it is a possibility looking at asbestos management plans in the district, can Mr. Jimmie give a general overview of what an asbestos management plan is so everyone understands.

Mr. Jimmie said the purpose of the report and why the law was enacted, is if in this room, if this was an older building, and you had a roof collapse in this building, you should be able to go look at that plan, look in the auditorium and they will have listed in each room what is asbestos and if it says it's asbestos then that's when you would need to bring in an abatement contractor when it's beyond the regular maintenance staff.

Audience members yelling questions; Ms. Gilmartin regained decorum.

Director Gilmartin asked about other options, possibly bringing in some federal agents and how do we do that.

Mr. Jimmie said he thinks meetings need to be held about doing additional sampling and talking with the federal agents about it and that is something Guzek has started the process with.

Director Schuster asked about compliance and is covered by the federal government and EPA?

Mr. Jimmie said EPA and DEP yes.

Director Schuster asked if they are going to be at these buildings in the near future and if they were at Willard Elementary.

Mr. Jimmie said he can't say, that's up to them, they can show up anytime they want and DEP was at Willard.

Mr. Jimmie said whenever an abatement is going on notification needs to be filed and they have the right to show up and that's why when the schools were shut down someone might ask, why take asbestos out, because we're doing operation and maintenance under emergency conditions so notifications by law have to be submitted covering a certain amount of quantities of asbestos if you exceed removal, you need to submit proper notification so the agencies are aware of what is going on and there is a reassessment of each schools error report every six months.

Mr. Dougherty asked Ms. Christa Knorr of Alicon, her company has been doing air quality sampling in a lot of the buildings.

Ms. Knorr said Alicon has not done any work in Northeast, again that was Guzek Associates but since Thursday evening her company has tested Adams, Armstrong, Bancroft, McNichols, South Intermediate, Sumner, West High, West Intermediate and the Whittier Annex. All results have been received back from the lab, all samples taken have determined not to contain any asbestos fibers. Areas that were sampled in each building were chosen based on the reports provided by Guzek and areas that were identified as being a concern.

Director Hume said at this point the air quality that you've done in the areas that we would have found problems had there been problems, are clear and the air quality is okay.

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Ms. Knorr said correct; they still have to do Memorial Stadium, ECA and the Administration Building which is going to take place tomorrow evening.

Director Hume understands there has been air quality testing at Northeast but not by your firm.

Ms. Knorr said she cannot speak on Northeast.

Director Hume asked if there has been air testing at Northeast.

Mr. Dougherty said we're going to need direction from the board on do we want to go in and sample every classroom at Northeast.

Director Schuster asked how the air quality has been conducted.

Mr. Dougherty said we knew that Guzek Associates was out of town and tried to get back this evening but couldn't.

Mr. Dougherty explained that the samples Guzek found, the original AHERA report, they know there's asbestos in rooms on the second floor of the old section and now from the new testing they know there's asbestos in a room on the third floor, where some material was falling and at this point, a larger discussion has to happen. Mr. Dougherty tried to get into that building today and he was told it wasn't safe. Again Mr. Dougherty said they need direction from the board.

Director Yanni asked Dr. Finan to address the law regarding the asbestos.

Dr. Finan said Mr. Dougherty did address it and that in 1988 there was a law passed that required all public schools in Pennsylvania to test for asbestos and direct a plan for either encapsulating or remediating or removing the asbestos. That plan was to be updated every year and a plan for what was in each building had to be hanging or available in each building, in every school. At that time in 1988 the districts that she was working with at the time made a decision to encapsulate what they could and remove everything else at that time. Later on because that building was going to be replaced the encapsulation worked. However, if you encapsulate, you must inspect and that's why that manual of what is contained in each building has been located in that building, for example, if someone were to drop something and end up cutting a tile or if a portion of a ceiling fell down, immediately the maintenance and administration in that building were to look in that book to see whether or not it contained asbestos and then immediately call for remediation or whatever the experts recommend at that time. It is unfortunate that many of the buildings that we're talking about were standing in 1988 and obviously some of that was not done. She can't speak directly whether or not it was done, she just doesn't have any evidence that it was and that's why we're dealing with it now. Certainly the health, safety and welfare of all children in this district is of the utmost importance and the law, when it was passed was to protect children because we do know research has shown what the result of asbestos in the air can do to children and adults. So that's what the law said and that's what the district she was responsible for and how they handled it back in 1988.

Director Gilmartin asked if there was any oversight from the state on this.

Dr. Finan said she can't speak to that, she doesn't know, but she knows, as we heard this evening that DEP does come in to inspect, she doesn't know if they came in, she's not familiar with what happened here but generally the answer would be yes.

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Director Hume asked Dr. Finan if asbestos has been detected, airborne asbestos, in a school building, is it safe to put children back in .

Dr. Finan said it is her understanding it is not safe; it's certainly not safe if it's friable and in the air.

Director Hume said and that's why Mr. Dougherty hasn't been able to go into the building, she is assuming.

Audience became louder and Ms. Gilmartin asked for order.

Solicitor Audi commented that we can't take questions from the audience in this manner because not everyone is hearing them, we have to be orderly, and we're trying to get this information out to you as smoothly and transparently as we can so if you have specific questions, there will be public comment and we'll get there but what we thought you wanted to hear first was the information we have.

Director Gilmartin to Mrs. McTiernan, she understands she is not in a position to share a plan that is still developing, that has run into some road blocks that need to be adjusted but can you talk a little bit about the process of what you have been working on over the last several days.

Mrs. McTiernan said she has been working with the middle school principals, trying to keep the Northeast students within a school in our district. We have looked at alternative options with buildings around the area, the problem we're coming up with is certain buildings may have space for us but they can't fit a whole grade. That's one example and we reached out to the Chamber and again somebody said there's a factory available but that's not suitable for a school. So at this point in time, looking at all those options, what we're trying to do is take the Northeast students and appropriately place them in the other two intermediate schools. Some of the challenges that we've had she addressed before, for example, every desk that comes out of Northeast has to be HEPA vacuumed by appropriate experts, they had a tractor trailer there today, we were able to remove approximately 300 desks, obviously they need to move another 300, and we continue to work on that. Transportation – one of the issues is the kids that walk to Northeast, obviously we need to work on transporting them. Resources and Technology – once we have classrooms set up for the students we need to have materials ready and again we can't get into the building to get the resources, that's been an obstacle. Technology – setting up computers for teachers, our technology department is working on that. Student schedules – as it sits today the student schedules probably will not be the same when they get to the other building, they're trying to make it as easy as possible for students to enter a building they've never been into. Those are some of the things, she can tell you again the team has worked throughout the weekend and we will continue to work until this plan is done, she doesn't want to roll something out or have a parent meeting when she doesn't have all the information so she understands that everybody wants to know what is happening and what the plan is and unfortunately there was an article in the newspaper today that doesn't have all the facts but they want to say something before we have that plan, she wish they would help us out a little bit and wait. We want to get that plan to you as soon as possible. There's nothing more frustrating than not being able to move as quickly as she can and in this case we've come up with things and obstacles happen, again we have building capacities at West and South, that we need to abide by so we need to make sure that our Fire Department goes through and as we put these kids into the school that it's appropriate so that we don't get shut down. Those are some of the obstacles that we want to make sure that everything is as smooth as possible for this difficult situation. She can promise you that we will continue to move as quickly as we can and she promises that once the plan is complete, she apologized, she is as angry as you, she feels that every day is a new adventure of clean up, that's how it's been in the past 2 months since she's taken this job, all she can promise is she will do her best to make sure she takes care of the kids and teachers. That is where we're at and she promises as soon as the plan is complete there will be a one-call from Mr. Hanni inviting you to the appropriate place to tell you what the plan is and to make sure you know exactly

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what's happening. She cannot give that to you today, wishes she could, but she can't. She doesn't know when that will be, ran into another obstacle today, thanked all of you because this is a difficult situation and promises she will do everything she can for your kids.

Audience thanked Mrs. McTiernan with applause.

Director Hume to Mrs. McTiernan, as she understands, with the building at Northeast we now had involvement from the DEP, probably best, and certainly we have to do a great deal more so we don't know when that building could re-open; it could be a week, three weeks, a month; the reopening of that building will not be up to the board or administration. The immediate problem is we have 900 kids whose education needs to move on and she thinks that the fact we are working proactively as we can to ensure that we're not sitting back with children at home is a great thing because that's the immediate issue facing us and the second issue is potentially at this point is out of our control is what will happen with the building at Northeast because once we know the extent of the problem and the potential solutions the board can make a decision about how we approach Northeast but we all need to be working together, the parents, the staff, the administration and the board to get this immediate issue we don't want the children sitting at home any longer than you do. There will be a time for us to figure out how we got in this mess, who is responsible and what we can do to work it out but the primary focus needs to be moving the kids, should be what is best for the kids and that's their education.

Mrs. McTiernan said she understands it's hard at this time but she is asking for us to unite, asking for the SFT, the parents, all need to unite as best we can at this time, there's people that need to be held responsible for what they didn't do and that will take care of itself. At this point in time, if we are colliding that's not going to help us and at the end of the day, the SFT, Administration and the Board have one responsibility and that's our kids and that will always be the number one priority. She asks for everyone's support and cooperation, she understands you're angry and you deserve to be but at this point we can't change the past we can only work towards the future.

### PSBA Report

President Gilmartin announced Advocacy Day coming up on March 23, 2020 and will be an opportunity for all of us to meet with our legislators which we have done and will continue to do.

Ms. Gilmartin also announced she received the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Outreach schedule through Senator Blake's office and there are sessions coming up in Carbondale, Throop, Dickson City and Scott Township and perhaps we can share this on our own social media.

Director Hume, as new PSBA Representative for this year now reported on the following:

- Upcoming Conference in Philadelphia at the end of March A Focused Foundation: School Design + Construction Planning.
- PA School Funding Lawsuit trial has been moved from June to sometime in the fall.
- Advocacy Day, March 23, 2020.

Governor Wolf's budget comes out tomorrow and he is proposing funding increases for public schools and the immediate concern is funds for lead and asbestos remediation and a bond back loans into finance the issues because this will have a financial impact on our budget and the recovery plan.

Prior to public comment, Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti asked to address the board.

Mayor Cagnetti congratulated the board, Superintendent McTiernan adding she knows Scranton looks out for the kids and families and the people on the stage are here for the same reasons, she knows, having

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worked with nearly everyone on the stage they are here for the kids, the teachers, the district, so she knows the news is terrifying, is very difficult and you're angry and to add to Mrs. McTiernan's point, you deserve to be, she appreciates her words about coming together and moving forward, she is dealing with the same thing in her position as Scranton's new mayor, a lot of things that happened decades and years before, right now it doesn't matter what happened before, we have to figure out the immediate needs and how to get our kids in the schools they need to be in, how to get your kids educated, in terms of what happened decades ago, we can figure those things out as needed, some of these we're never going to figure out. The report that was filed or didn't get filed in 1988, we're probably never going to know what happened with that, so we have to just move forward. She thinks you do all as parents, students you're all in good hands here and everyone on stage is here for the right reasons and again congratulated the board and superintendent adding they have already communicated to see if there is anything the City can do, working together to see what path, fire department and building inspectors are ready to be helpful, anything we can do to help, looks forward to working with all of you.

President Gilmartin thanked Mayor Cagnetti for being here this evening, she knows she has been in communication with Mrs. McTiernan, and has been on the phone with Mr. Gaughan, City Council President, so if there was ever a moment that things were going to change in this community it is now and we are working together, we are friends, and working through all of these struggles together.

#### Public Comment

Michelle Dempsey, resident and parent of two children currently enrolled in Northeast Intermediate School, thanked Mr. Paul Dougherty for clearing up some of her questions. Mrs. Dempsey explained that in addition to her children attending NorthEast, her husband is a teacher in the district so her entire world lives in district buildings 6 hours/day, 5 days/week and frustration does not begin to describe how she feels. Mrs. Dempsey spoke of the sudden closure of Northeast which was unexplained and unsettling. Mrs. Dempsey thanked Mr. Dougherty and appreciates his honesty for explaining why it happened the way it did but wished that information was made available prior to this evening.

Mrs. Dempsey is disappointed because her children were in this health hazard all day last Wednesday and now somehow this building is potentially closing completely. Mrs. Dempsey expressed concern that her children along with teachers and staff have been in that building since September and also hearing rumors from friends who are teachers and administrators that our green team will be jammed into South Intermediate and the white team into West Intermediate, and if ripping them away from their school and friends mid-year isn't bad enough, children are potentially going to be confined in rooms as to not create more traffic in the hallways and the teachers would be switching classes.

Mrs. Dempsey said she reviewed the asbestos report from South Intermediate and her concerns are rooms 211, 211A, 316A and 317 are slotted for our students yet they have all been flagged as a hazard. Mrs. Dempsey asked would it be a consideration to allow for a panel of parents from NorthEast to be involved in the decisions and where their children end up.

Director Gilmartin, speaking to Mrs. McTiernan about an opportunity for a few parents to have some input.

Matt Barrett, resident and parent of 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Northeast said he still does not have clarity why Northeast is closed and where on the district site are the reports.

Mrs. McTiernan responded the asbestos and lead reports are on the website under the District tab, then under the Maintenance tab adding that the last three or four air quality reports were received today and will be posted also.

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Mr. Barrett asked if the previous air test will be posted as well; the 2016 reports.

Mrs. McTiernan could not guarantee they would be posted but they will certainly look for them.

Mr. Barrett said he realizes Alicon did not do the Northeast testing but asked if they do testing under PCM or TEM and if we know if Guzek did TEM or PCM.

Ms. Christa Knorr from Alicon said they used TEM.

Mrs. McTiernan said there is no one here that can answer what Guzek used.

Mr. Barrett suggested scheduling another meeting addressing Northeast air quality because although it is great to have Datum here, they remediate but they're not air testers.

Mr. Barrett asked if we have an understanding as to whether or not the air quality tests for Northeast came back with asbestos airborne or just that there is some asbestos in classrooms, in the plaster adding that they went through this a couple years ago at Prescott and he commends the board and administration for wanting to be proactive in response to the problem but when they say there's no plan, if 300 desks were cleaned off and already moving in a direction, his concern is that without testing if you don't know if it is airborne or not, moving 900 students doesn't make sense.

Mrs. McTiernan said, from an educators stand point, she's not an environmentalist, when the reports come back, she asks one question which is, is it safe for students and staff to go into the building and for every building the answer was yes, but for Northeast the answer was no.

Mr. Barrett said he does not fault her for that but asked who the person is she is asking, the person has to be knowledgeable enough to answer that question, adding that he is not suggesting she did anything wrong but if they're not certain if it's chalk dust or asbestos dust. Mr. Barrett said Alicon will tell you that PCM doesn't test for asbestos TEM does, so you need to know what tests were done and if it is airborne then take the appropriate action.

Mr. Barrett said with regards to whatever plan is developed he encouraged to make sure to incorporate parents, think outside the box, look for open buildings in town, move to a school that has been fully tested and recommends to identify an expert at Northeast that would be retained, he has nothing against Guzek Associates but they're an engineering firm and there may be more firms out there with qualifications dealing with this particular issue.

John Lufburrow, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, have been a partner with the Scranton School District for 50 years and he understands there's a possibility that this body is evaluating a move to a referenced based priced model for medical benefits for teachers. Mr. Lufburrow, as an experienced person in the industry, the disruption that the teachers will be significant adding that the balance billing, the members and patients put into a model like this is a mistake. Mr. Lufburrow said it is heartbreaking to hear about the situation that the district is in, the difficult times don't mean desperate measures, on the medical benefits side they are willing to work with the school district reminding them that it wasn't long ago that Blue Cross floated the district \$8 million dollars to continue benefits when the district had difficulty paying its bills.

Mr. Lufburrow asked for a working meeting with this body so they can discuss the medical benefits for the teachers.

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Courtney Novak, taxpayer, teacher, talked about the plan to eliminate Preschool program. Ms. Novak said preschool prepares students for Kindergarten for 54 years and is a program that the district uses \$2.1 million out of approximately \$5-6 million from the Title I grant.

During a meeting with Dr. Finan, she told them that Pre-K is not a requirement and Ms. Novak wanted to let everyone know that neither are the programs that they want to implement to increase the children's math and reading scores adding the requirement is to put interventions in place to help improve reading and math skills for our children. Since it has not been done before we have collected data from Pre K students and followed them up to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and they compared them to their DIBELS scores with their classmates who did not attend our Pre K program and they scored significantly higher than their peers. The DIBELS measures reading outcomes. This data will be shared at another time and lately our attention has been switched to environmental issues in our schools. These issues were known about earlier in the school year and all of the sudden on January 29<sup>th</sup> some schools were deemed unsafe. Ms. Novak thanked Mr. Dougherty for clarifying some concerns and as a parent she would have felt more comfortable knowing that before the school s closed. Willard was also deemed unsafe and no information was shared with them what needed to be done. Her classroom was one of the rooms worked on, a section of her ceiling was missed, she alerted her principal, showed him where the ceiling is still cracked. Mr. Williams assured her that they would be back to do more repairs. Mrs. Novak asked will children be in the room when they're making the repairs? Who did the final walk through to ensure all the work and cracks were sealed. Mrs. Novak also commented on the 3 year old preschool classroom next to her also had plaster pieces on the carpet where the children play and on chairs and toys. Was anything covered when work was being done. Has any board member walked through Willard? Or any building at this point? Where are the reports that were done every 6 months and why haven't they been made public. The requirement of water samples that EPA says for lead testing, they need to be tested immediately and at 6 degrees Celsius or less. She shared these documents with Director Yanni and she said she shared them with the rest of the board. No samples at Willard were below 6 degrees Celsius and there were held for four days. Only South and Whittier were tested the same day reflected. The rest were held for 3-4 days. Only West Intermediate, Sumner, Whittier, Plaza, Nativity and the stadium were done under the required temperatures. Some of the schools were done at 10 degrees Celsius. When will the buildings be retested for mold and other things that were previously removed. Asbestos was removed at Willard two years ago; where are the air quality tests to ensure those buildings are safe. Some of these issues were known in the summer and in early school year.

President Gilmartin asked Mr. Dougherty if he is able to address the lead testing scenarios or is that a question for Guzek.

Mr. Dougherty said he is unable to answer that.

Ms. Gilmartin asked if he could inquire and make that information available.

Director Schuster asked, with regards to Mrs. Novak's questions, when repairs are done will there be children in the classrooms.

Mr. Dougherty replied no.

Director Schuster asked about the work that was done in her classroom currently. Has it been encapsulated? And there are still some cracks or something in the classroom that will be completed later but at this time, is it encapsulated?

Mr. Dougherty did not know that answer to that.

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Ms. Gilmartin asked Mr. Jimmie to share a little more information about the cracks.

Mr. Jimmie said they made a conscientious effort to do most severe cracks, some minor cracking was deemed that it wasn't necessary to encapsulate and as things come about we were back at Willard, until today he wasn't aware of this classroom – as the reports come in, they go back in and look and determine at that time if additional work is necessary to get it done.

Mrs. Novak asked if it wasn't deemed safe Wednesday night and there is still very large cracks and another classroom on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor has three large holes that weren't there before. She is worried about the safety of the children in the school.

Mr. Jimmie said the three large holes are what he addressed earlier, in room 212 that was encapsulated.

Mrs. Novak asked when it was encapsulated.

Mr. Jimmie said over Thursday/Friday adding that the testing wasn't done until they were finished and Guzek came in for air testing after Datum completed encapsulating.

Mrs. Novak asked if the new holes are encapsulated. Mr. Jimmie said yes, that was all part of encapsulating, the area is stabilized, HEPA vacuumed and they can't encapsulate unstable material. The holes are part of the plaster that was removed because it was unstable. The hole, basically what you are seeing is the plaster is not there anymore, it's behind the plaster now and the other areas are encapsulated. That was the room that had the previous concern of the debris on the ceilings so that's the room that additional work will be performed in.

Mrs. Novak asked if the children weren't allowed in that room today but they're allowed to be in the rooms around it?

Mr. Jimmie said they were in there today and he was only told of that room.

More questions from the audience regarding who did the walk through and checked the work.

Mr. Jimmie said Guzek Associates.

Director Yanni assured Mrs. Novak that she shared all of her concerns with the engineer and all your questions, and she can ask administrators here to have Guzek respond on the website.

Mrs. Novak said she would like them made public.

Mrs. Novak asked that some directors visit the building so they can show their concerns.

President Gilmartin said we are all happy to come, we are letting the administrators and the environmental experts do their work, she certainly doesn't want to interfere but we are all happy to come by.

Vivian Williams, parent and taxpayer, thanked Mr. Dougherty for some of the clarifications, however some are still concerning. Her 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Willard came home today and told her that three classrooms were closed and students were displaced into the library, the cafeteria and in other classrooms so if they are displacing three sets of classrooms into other areas she doesn't know how that is deemed safe. Ms. Williams also asked who hired Guzek and if there is an RFP.

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Ms. Williams said the information that was shared is to be commended because it's never been done before, but the air quality that was reported safe to return to school, no reports were made public on why they were deemed safe, commends Willard for sharing the report but then it was taken down. Ms. Williams commented that Guzek was at the meeting last week but it was not a public meeting and there should have been an emergency meeting called.

President Gilmartin informed her that it was a public meeting and that our meetings are the last and first Mondays of each month at 7:00pm and work sessions are held at the Administration Building and board meetings are alternated between West Intermediate and Scranton High Schools.

Director Schuster, with regards to emergency meeting, this information came to light last week and we're here tonight.

Ms. Williams said that when you're told your schools are not safe and reports are on the website but a normal citizen would not know how to read those reports and will become more concerned. Ms. Williams suggested timelines, walkthroughs, open the buildings that are deemed safe and be more transparent and share everything. Ms. Williams said this is your time to change and regain trust in the Scranton School District and suggested more parent input and encourage the board to form a small panel so they feel like they have a person to contact.

President Gilmartin said she worked with Vivian to compile a list of liaisons, appreciates her support connecting the principals, the PTA, and board directors and the first steps have been taken.

Ms. Williams said a lot of parents do not want to send their children to school tomorrow and asked Mr. Dougherty to speak about room 111 at Willard and the other classrooms.

Mr. Dougherty said he is unaware that classrooms were emptied, this is the first he's heard it and speaking of room 111, he agrees the reports are difficult to understand and he is "over his skis" on this but in room 111, in a sample, he will get further clarification, he knows one asbestos fibroid was in the sample and he knows that's below what the EPA states is a danger.

Ms. Williams asked is it safe for students.

Mr. Dougherty said from the information they received, yes it's safe.

Mrs. McTiernan, again said we thank you for being here and the questions that she asks is the same as yours and the answer she got was yes and that's why children are back at Willard.

Mrs. Williams said her children told her they were displaced from their classrooms and for you guys to not know that, she does not feel safe sending her children to school tomorrow.

Suzanne Furey, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Armstrong, urged trust, transparency and communication, spoke of the mold issue at Armstrong, they weren't allowed in the building for the entire summer and were never given a reason why, never spoken to directly. She remembers getting a piece of paper with a circle and a line drawn through it that said "Don't Drink the Water" and she was told to hang it near her sink and someone whispered in her ear that there's lead in it. Mrs. Furey added she realizes you have a daunting task and you are not responsible for what happened in the past but she hopes you try to look at things from the perspective of parents, students and teachers. We have very little direct communication. Thank you for what you do put on the website but almost never do we get communication from a person.

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Lisa Tunis, parent of students at Northeast Intermediate, middle school is a huge adjustment, knows this isn't your fault, and honestly believes you're going to try and work with us, but right now is not the right time to split up the kids. We all want our children safe and hope we can all work together for a solution for our children.

Christine Gutekunst, 3 year Pre-school teacher at Whittier, spoke of the importance of Preschool programs and urged the board to keep 3 & 4 year preschool.

George Polemitis, spoke of asbestos and lead issues when questions asked, no definitive answers, asked Mr. Pat Laffey if Northeast has been sold to the medical college. Mr. Laffey said no. Asked the Solicitor the same question. Mr. Audi said no. Asked if there has been a sale of Northeast to the medical college. Mr. Audi said no. Mr. Polemitis is asking everyone to be upfront.

President Gilmartin asked Mr. Audi and Mr. Laffey to clarify that there has been no sale of the Northeast Intermediate School and if anyone is proposing.

Mr. Audi said there has been no sale and there is no possibility, no discussion, he has no knowledge, this is the first he has heard of that.

Ms. Gilmartin, just as a matter of procedure, were that ever to become a scenario that we considered it would be discussed, it would come before this board, she believes it would require a series of community meetings.

Mr. Audi said there would have to be Act 33 meetings.

Director Hume added that no one on this board or administration is happy about the children being displaced but you would be justifiably livid with this board and administration if we did not take this question seriously, we are acting only to keep your children safe. Please don't think we're not cognizant of what the disruption means for the kids; we don't want the kids to have to go through this but we would be negligent if we didn't take this with the gravity that is merited. Not one of us would put any child at risk.

Judy Lasky, parent of 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Northeast expressed concern of autistic support, not once were special needs kids considered, change is hard enough for a regular education student, concern is where are they going to go, she is praying her son stays in the class he is in because he has a lot of medical issues and she trusts the teacher he is with to take care of him. Mrs. Lasky said changes are detrimental to special needs and autistic children.

Dr. Sharon Baddick approached Mrs. Lasky, said she knows this is difficult, she is advocating everyday with central administration and your children are of utmost importance to us and we are aware of their needs, we will do everything we can to keep your children as stable as possible and consistency and continuity, we recognize that, doing the best we can and ask for their trust and she agrees there needs to be more transparency, but this board and administration is trying very hard to keep your kids as stable as possible and with their teachers and paraprofessionals.

Director Yanni, regarding Willard, she was not aware of Willard students being displaced and in an effort to be transparent, we do want to get those answers so if anyone has questions you can email and we can get you those answers. Send your questions to her or Mrs. McTiernan in an email so we can get you those answers.

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Amy Sandrowicz, graduate of Scranton High, teacher at Northeast for 18 years, she has spent ½ her life at 721 Adams Ave. and she is deeply saddened and angry about the fate of Northeast and its direct impact on all middle school students in the district. For the past 2 ½ years, middle school students and their teachers have taken hit after hit from the district, we have had our schedules changed resulting in the loss of a variety of related arts classes, including but not limited to library and music classes. Class periods have gone from 46 minutes to 56 minutes so middle school teachers essentially teach a longer day, every day and now you will close Northeast and split our 900 students and teachers into South Intermediate and West Intermediate resulting in not only over crowded buildings but also what will surely be mass confusion in the middle of the school year and also two months before PSSA testing. Ms. Sandrowicz also moderates the Panther Press at Northeast which is the school's newspaper. She has a staff of 33 amazing 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will now be in two different buildings; how will this club, which helps foster a love of writing and allows children to grow as writers, continue. Will you provide activity school buses for Northeast students who are involved in clubs such as Yearbook, Art, and Student Council, Honor Society, etc. We are so proud of our Lady Panthers Basketball team who were champions of the fall league this year and we will continue to cheer on our boy's basketball team. How will the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys who attend West Intermediate get to after school practices. Will you provide transportation for them, for our cheerleaders and our Jr. High wrestling team? How will you address spring sports? Northeast Jr. Softball will have players in both South and West. Will you provide transportation to a shared location for their practices? Ms. Sandrowicz loves her job, her students, her coworkers and Northeast Intermediate School and she knows they will adapt to this enormous change because they've done it before; they always do. But she hopes you continue to make plans and find ways to ensure that all of the middle school students in the Scranton School District don't take any more hits and find ways to transport Northeast kids so they can continue to participate in the clubs and teams they worked so incredibly hard to be a part of.

President Gilmartin, to Mrs. McTiernan, would imagine clubs will be addressed as part of the plans.

Mrs. McTiernan said they will do whatever they need to do to make sure the kids get to practice and activities.

Chris Hughes, resident and parent of Willard students, takes pity on this panel and commented that past boards and administrators did nothing and thanks to those officials they put our most vulnerable citizens in this position and they trusted they would be educated.

Kathleen McIntyre, resident and taxpayer, retired teacher expressed concern about her children and grandchildren's health due to years of exposure to asbestos and lead in the water and asked if they should be tested after years of exposure. Mrs. McIntyre spoke of the closure of North Scranton Junior High, which was closed for safety reasons but the school still exists. She hopes you don't use this as an excuse to close and urged to do all you can to keep Northeast Intermediate open.

Tiffany Ordoñez, resident and parent of student at Northeast asked about the plans for emotional support, autistic support and special needs students because it's a difficult adjustment and her son has been having daily panic attacks, will there be extra social workers or therapists on hand to work with these kids.

President Gilmartin asked Mrs. McTiernan to speak on that; will there be Emotional Support available to these students.

Mrs. McTiernan said yes, that is what Dr. Baddick spoke of earlier and looking at all options and making the transition as smooth as possible.

Director Schuster asked if we know how many special education classes are at Northeast.

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Mrs. McTiernan said there are three self contained.

Suzanne Weidner, (*spoke instead of Mirhia Noldy*) a teacher a Northeast, said she spoke to EPA to help her understand the charts. Ms. Weidner asked who is the designated person who is supposed to receive this, if the person who knew there may be probable asbestos in her ceiling and they let the plaster fall, creating dust on the desktops, books, window sills, finally the damage that had been there was repaired a few times, but then in the report it says her wall has been poorly repaired. She would like to know what is in her ceiling and what she and her students have potentially been inhaling, not just her room but many rooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Ms. Weidner respectfully requests you plan a community forum with a panel of experts about health and safety. Ms. Weidner said she did contact Guzek and he told her he's not allowed to talk to her. Ms. Weidner also said her brother, who is a doctor, suggested she get an x-ray.

Ms. Weidner suggested a Question and Answer period.

President Gilmartin said we can all agree that it is unfortunate that Guzek isn't here and certain we can create forums to continue to bring more information forward.

Ms. Gilmartin said she is concerned that Ms. Weidner spoke to someone at Guzek Associates and she was told they weren't supposed to speak to her.

Ms. Weidner said he was very polite and said it is a timing issue, he insinuated that perhaps in the future he could but she just wanted to know about her room.

Ms. Gilmartin informed everyone that no one from this administration is prohibiting him from communicating with anyone and asked Mr. Audi if she is correct in saying that.

Mr. Audi said no one has directed anyone not to speak to them.

Holly Meade, teacher at Northeast Intermediate, spoke of the changes over the last 5 days and specifically the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class who had fellow students pass away each year since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Meade said she knows Northeast has been slated to close according to the Recovery Plan but please don't do it under the guise of it being unhealthy. Mrs. Meade is also concerned about South Intermediate and sending students and staff to a building that has 136 areas of concern. Mrs. Meade said they have complained about debris falling from the ceilings at Northeast since 2011; that's how far back her email records go and this is about neglect and somebody needs to contact child services on previous administration for neglecting the health and welfare of the students and teachers. Mrs. Meade said we are required by law to report abuse, why didn't previous administration take action and it is a blatant example of neglect. Mrs. Meade is also suspicious that Guzek isn't here and that Northeast is the only building that didn't pass air quality tests.

Stephen Knight, resident and parent, asked about using West and South to send kids to; he looked at the reports and there is actually a lot of lead and asbestos in those buildings as well. He honestly does not see the sense in sending the kids to other schools with the same problems.

President Gilmartin asked Mr. Dougherty to speak about the rankings, the 1-7 scale that Mr. Knight is referencing.

Mr. Dougherty said there is a removal priority scale, 1-7, with 1 being the most critical and 7 being the least critical.

Mr. Knight asked what is at West and South.

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Mr. Dougherty did not know at the top of his head; South's list is extensive and when we did the building walkthroughs with Guzek the conditions as compared to Northeast are far better at South.

Mr. Knight said just because its better doesn't mean its okay.

Mr. Dougherty said he understands but when you're told it's clear to have kids in the building, he doesn't have the level of expertise to disagree.

Mr. Knight said, no offense, but he didn't think you need a level of expertise; they made it very easy using a scale of 1-7. Mr. Knight added that the people who didn't address this issue need to be held accountable.

Caroline Cobby, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Northeast Intermediate, is frustrated that she hasn't been in school the last five days. She loves Northeast, they have stuck together through multiple losses including losing classmates, teachers and classes. Ms. Cobby is upset that there was never a back-up plan for a situation like this and there was very little communication this week. Ms. Cobby asked board and administration to do what it takes to stabilize the school so they can get back in the building as soon as possible.

President Gilmartin said Ms. Cobby raised a very good point; they absolutely need to look at making a plan because at any point something could happen to a building and she agrees they need to have a plan in place.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, said the mold, asbestos and lead issues are not new occurrences; West Intermediate has had medical issues with members of her union who have been ill because they taught in that school.

Ms. Boland announced that tomorrow she has industrial hygienists coming to her office from New York and New Jersey and Philadelphia, and she is asking for the hygienists to be allowed in the schools with her and she will trust in what they tell her. Ms. Boland said the SFT is offering help and cooperation that will not cost the Scranton School District anything.

Ms. Boland also said that there is no excuse for Guzek Associates for not being here tonight.

Brit Banull, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at South Intermediate, said not being informed leaves students and teachers an uneasy feeling and suggests keeping everyone informed and give the staff time to sort out what they need to do and get settled. Brit asked about the books and personal belongings left in the lockers at Northeast and about the teachers' daily lesson plans.

President Gilmartin asked Mrs. McTiernan about the students' belongings.

Mrs. McTiernan said she can't give any information on that because they will not allow us into the building.

Kevin Kays, SFT, encouraged parent and teacher involvement in discussions going forward. Mr. Kays also asked to reconsider the elimination of Preschool programs and thanked Mr. Barrett for some really great questions this evening.

Mr. Kays thinks the problems can be fixed in the older buildings; they don't have to be closed or sold.

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At this time an audience member read from an article in the January 12, 2020 Scranton Times newspaper which Dr. Finan said some schools need more capital improvement than others and some schools could be deemed more valuable for prospective buyers including Northeast Intermediate. Dr. Finan was asked to address that and why Northeast was called out specifically.

Dr. Finan said it's all in the plan; all of the schools are under investigation for potential shuttering, including South Intermediate. Dr. Finan said many of the board members have toured some of the buildings and many schools in the Scranton School District need millions of dollars of repairs but they're not talking about that tonight, they are talking about the immediate issues of lead and asbestos. Dr. Finan said that was not identified in the Recovery Plan because no one shared that information with her or the team she currently works with who were in the district three years prior to her arrival. Dr. Finan added that it was asked for and had it been given to her the facilities chapter probably would have read differently and now that they have that information it's another factor to weigh in the decision of where to move forward in the district.

Dr. Finan said there is no doubt, not an educator in this room that would ever think moving children in the middle of the year is an appropriate thing to do and at no point would anyone wish to move children unless they were told they can't return adding they can't even get in the building to retrieve personal items. Dr. Finan said, in all fairness, she's heard the word conspiracy, and that they're going to close and sell the building and absolutely none of that is true.

Dr. Finan said the fact that asbestos testing has turned out what they see, they have to address the health and safety and welfare of students and if a test comes back and says you cannot put children in that school, there's not one board member nor administrator that would ever put children in a school with that now would our legal department allow it, so the truth is there is no conspiracy, the facts are speaking for themselves.

An audience member asked why the desks are being moved, why taking those steps and if Guzek Associates or EPA said they cannot go in the building, and if it is Guzek can they get a second opinion from a different firm.

Dr. Finan responded they are using a firm to clean them, using a HEPA vacuum and being cleaned by a hazardous material company.

Mrs. McTiernan said the board would have to make the decision about a second opinion if that is how they want to move forward.

President Gilmartin asked Mr. Audi if it is appropriate to bring this up under New Business.

Mr. Audi said absolutely; new business is what we're talking about this evening.

An individual who did not sign up to speak, was given the opportunity and said she is concerned about getting her son's notes for school, asked if the students are still Northeast Intermediate students and will they graduate as Northeast students with their peers they went to school with for 2 ½ years.

Mrs. McTiernan said yes, the students are still considered Northeast, they will still have Northeast sports teams and clubs and they will graduate as Northeast students.

Following public comment President Gilmartin asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of November 24, 2019, December 3, 2019, December 16, 2019, two meetings of December 23, 2019 and January 2, 2020.

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Director Schuster made a motion, seconded by Director Cruz and the meeting minutes were accepted and passed unanimously on roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Gilmartin asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda and asked if there is a request to remove any items.

Director Yanni asked that B-1 Bill List is pulled from the Consent Agenda.

B-1 Bill List was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Director Schuster made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Director Hume and the Consent Agenda passed unanimously on roll call.

The Consent Agenda included the following: *(B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, D-1, D-2, D-3 and H-1)*

B-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Budget and Finance Committee that the following resolution be considered:

The Exception Bill List as per the bill payment approval policy for the period ended February 3, 2020 be approved as per the attached.

Be it resolved that exception payments in the amount of \$4,359,730.76 have been paid in accordance with the approval payment policy.

December 27, 2019	\$1,505,660.10
December 31, 2019	\$ 2,105.79
January 10, 2020	\$1,449,917.35
January 24, 2020	\$ 582,487.59
January 31, 2020	\$ 819,559.93

Be it resolved that payrolls amounting to \$7,293,396.88 paid in accordance with the approval for payment policy.

December 27, 2019	\$2,473,194.64
January 10, 2020	\$2,347,048.00
January 24, 2020	\$2,473,154.24

ALSO

B-3

The Superintendent of Schools and the Budget and Finance Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

February 3, 2020

Be it resolved that the Delinquent Tax Report for the month of December, 2019 be accepted. A copy of the monthly detail is available for review in the Business Office.

Tax	\$199,528.84
Penalty	\$ 17,757.52
Interest	\$ 22,143.58
TOTAL	\$239,429.94
Commission	\$(11,971.57)
NET TO DISTRICT	\$227,458.37

ALSO

B-4

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Budget and Finance Committee that the following resolution be approved:

**WHEREAS**, In accordance with the Real Estate Tax Law any property not sold at Judicial Sale shall be listed in a Repository of Unsold Properties. The following properties have been sold and will be returned to a tax paying status with the Tax Claim Bureau:

Hector Gordon            222 Rear Prescott Ave.            Map No. 15754-010-005            \$2,000.00

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School District of the City of Scranton does hereby approve the above referenced properties for a repository sale pursuant to the real estate tax sale law and section 627 of said act. This resolution is subject to the approval of other taxing bodies.

ALSO

B-5

The Superintendent of Schools and the Budget and Finance Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

Be it resolved that the Treasurer's Report for the period ending November, 2019 be accepted as follows:

Opening Balance	\$20,216,760.40
Monthly Revenue	\$ 4,742,458.63
Transfers & Refunds	\$13,736,847.14
TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$38,696,066.17
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$25,131,833.42
BALANCE IN GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$13,564,232.75

ALSO

February 3, 2020

D-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that approval of staff attendance to conferences and meetings for professional development be approved as per the attached spreadsheet.

WHEREAS, Board approval is contingent upon the required approval of all supervisors, principals, or administration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Directors hereby approves the attached staff attendance to conferences and meetings.

**Professional Development  
Board Meeting: February 3, 2020**

NAME	CONFERENCE/MEETING	LOCATION	COST	DATES	PAID BY GRANT/ ORGANIZATION	SPONSORING ENTITY	SUBSTITUTE REQUIRED
1 Ann Grebeck	Reading Apprenticeship Training	Archbald, PA	\$635.00	2/24 - 26/2020	Y	NEIU	
2 Amy Rummerfield	Reading Apprenticeship Training	Archbald, PA	\$675.02	2/24 - 26/2020	Y	NEIU	Y
3 Jennifer Moran	Reading Apprenticeship Training	Archbald, PA	\$635.00	2/24 - 26/2020	Y	NEIU	Y
4 Maggie Bryan	Reading Apprenticeship Training	Archbald, PA	\$635.00	2/24 - 26/2020	Y	NEIU	Y
5 Cait Mattildi	ER&D Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	10/9, 11/14, 12/2/19, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5/20		SSD	Y
6 Christina Home	Transition Network	Archbald, PA	\$8.38	1/28/2020	Y	NEIU	Y
7 Meghan McDonough	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	11/14, 12/2/19, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5/20		SSD	Y
8 Julie Maloney	PDE Data Summit	Hershey, PA	\$1,124.60	3/15 - 19/2020	Y	PDE	
9 Ann Genett	Transition Network	Archbald, PA	\$14.50	1/28/2020	Y	NEIU	
10 Ann Genett	School-Based Intervention Strategies	Archbald, PA	\$14.50	1/21/2020	Y	NEIU	
11 John Coyle	TSI	Harrisburg, PA	\$133.40	12/4/2019	Y	PaTTAN	
12 David Schulte, III	ER&D Mentorship Program	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/16/2020		SSD	Y
13 Brenda Holzman	ELECT Statewide Conference	Boalsburg, PA	\$539.92	4/15-17/2020	Y	PDE	
14 John Ray	Teachers in the Workplace	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/13-17/2020	Y	Johnson College	Y
15 Dalvana Gillette	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	10/9, 11/14, 12/3/19, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5/20		SSD	Y
16 Nathan Beichler	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	10/9, 11/14, 12/3/19, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5/20		SSD	Y
17 Marcela Niagron	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	4/7/20		SSD	Y
18 Janet Selden	Teachers in the Workplace	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/13 - 1/17/20		Johnson College	Y
19 Janet Selden	Investment & Stockmarket Challenge	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/24/2020		Marywood	Y
20 Jamie King	Educators in the Workplace	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/13/2017		Johnson College	Y
21 Joseph Watral	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	10/9, 11/14, 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5		SSD	Y
22 Kayla Dewey	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	10/9, 11/14, 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5		SSD	Y
23 Stacey Shrive	Neuropsychology of Math	Archbald, PA	\$100.00	12/19/2019	Y	NEIU	Y
24 Maggie Newcomb	ELECT Statewide Conference	Boalsburg, PA	\$539.92	4/15 - 4/17/2020	Y	PDE	
25 Joseph Hanni	PDE Targeted Support	Harrisburg, PA	\$148.40	12/4/2019	Y	PDE	

Professional Development  
Board Meeting: February 3, 2020

26	Joseph Hanni	SCM Recertification	Mechanicsburg, PA	\$913.13	11/17-18/2020	Y	Safe Crisis Management Co.	
27	Greg Gianacopoulos	Observations	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	12/17/2019		SSD	Y
28	Kayla Wolthoff	Observations	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	11/14/2019		SSD	Y
29	Amelia Waibel	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	9/18, 10/17, 11/6, 12/10/19, 1/15, 2/12, 3/4, 4/7/20		SSD	Y
30	McKenzi Gedman	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	10/9, 11/14, 12/3/19, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5/20		SSD	Y
31	Maria Tomczykosi	Curriculum Meeting	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/27/2020		SSD	Y
32	Kayla Wolthoff	Foundations	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	9/18, 10/17, 11/6, 12/10, 1/15, 2/12, 3/4, 4/7		SSD	Y
33	Katona Lyn Miller	SAS Teacher of the Year Ceremony	Scranton, PA	\$131.08	12/8-10/2019		PDE	Y
34	Katona Lyn Miller	Computer Science Prep Course	Archbald, PA	\$850.00	4 dates (TBD) Feb-May 2020	Y	University of Texas & NEIU	Y
35	Colleen Pauley	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	10/9, 11/14, 12/3/19, 1/7, 2/4, 3/10, 4/16, 5/5/20		SSD	Y
36	Ellen Rasimovich	Mentorship ER&D	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/16/2020		SSD	Y
37	Lynne Michael	Mentorship ER&D	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/16/2020		SSD	Y
38	Hayley Wang	ER&D Meeting	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	9/8, 10/17, 11/6, 12/10, 1/5, 2/12, 3/4, 4/7		SSD	Y
39	Michael Coleman	PDE Data Summit	Hershey, PA	\$978.77	3/15-18/2020	Y	PDE	
40	Paul Devine	Mentorship ER&D	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	12/11/2019		SSD	Y
41	Karin Stang	Math Curriculum Committee	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/27/2020	Y	SSD	Y
42	Ashlei Kishel	MTSS	Harrisburg, PA	\$250.33	1/22-24/20	Y	PaTTAN	Y
43	Nicole Weber	MTSS	Harrisburg, PA	\$250.33	1/22-24/20	Y	PaTTAN	Y
44	Christina Karaffa	Math Curriculum Committee	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	12/16/2019	Y	SSD	Y
45	Cyndi Gravelli	Curriculum Meeting	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	1/21/2020	Y	SSD	Y
46	Erin Moore	Math Curriculum Committee	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	12/16/2019	Y	SSD	Y
47	Lisa Jennings	Foundations Coaching Day	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	12/11, 3/11, 5/13	Y	SSD	Y
48	Simon Williams	Restorative Practices	Philadelphia, PA	\$282.34	2/2-3/20	Y		
49	Carol Rothenberger	Trauma Informed Workgroup	Archbald, PA	\$13.23	12/16/2019	Y	NEIU	
50	Simon Williams	Principals in Special Ed Leadership	Malvern, PA	\$562.36	1/23, 2/27, 4/2, 6/2/20	Y	PaTTAN	
51	Lisa Evans	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$330.00	12/10-21/19	Y	NEIU	Y
52	Casey Petroshuk	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	9/18, 10/17, 10/20, 11/6, 12/10, 1/15, 2/12, 3/4, 4/7		SSD	Y
53	Kayla Kowalski	Induction	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	9/18, 10/17, 12/10, 1/15, 2/12, 3/4, 4/7		SSD	Y

Professional Development  
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54	Rachelle Waibel	ADHD Conference	Archbald, PA	\$0.00	1/21/2020	Y	NEIU	Y
55	Renne Miller	Math Curriculum Committee	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	12/16/2019	Y	SSD	Y
56	Kelly Coyne	The Neuropsychology of Math	Archbald, PA	\$100.00	12/19/2019	Y	NEIU	
57	Tara McGarrin	The Neuropsychology of Math	Archbald, PA	\$117.17	12/19/2019	Y	NEIU	Y
58	Shannon O'Donnell	Wilson Training	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	12/11/2019	Y	Wilson	Y
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February 3, 2020

ALSO

D-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, a request for approval has been submitted to the Board of School Directors for West Scranton High School's Drama Club to be permitted to travel to New York City, NY on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 and returning on the same day; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the trip will be self-funded by participating students at no cost to the District; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board hereby approves the West Scranton High School Drama Club's field trip to New York City, NY.

ALSO

D-3

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, a request for approval has been submitted to the Board of School Directors for West Scranton High School's French and Tutor Club to be permitted to travel to Camden, NJ on Thursday, March 26, 2020 and returning on the same day; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the trip will be self-funded by participating students at no cost to the District; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board hereby approves the West Scranton High School French and Tutor Club's field trip to Camden, NJ.

ALSO

H-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Special Education Committee presents the following for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton is subject of administration proceedings and civil suits, wherein the appropriateness of the student's special education program has been challenged or suits have been filed in matters of  
KM - ODR #22740-19-20; and

WHEREAS, the parties have reached a settlement agreement in this matter upon the terms and conditions previously provided for your consideration; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the settlements as indicated above be approved upon the terms and conditions as described and the Superintendent or Director of Special Education are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matters.

**\*\*END CONSENT AGENDA\*\***

February 3, 2020

The following was submitted by Director Yanni.

B-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Budget and Finance Committee that the following resolution be considered:

The list of bill payments in accordance with the bill payment approval policy be approved as Per the attached.

February 3, 2020                      \$886,941.60

The resolution was seconded by Director Cruz and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) abstention. Director Yanni abstained due to possible conflict with a relation to a vendor.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Yanni.

B-6

Whereas, the Scranton School Board of Directors has previously authorized by motion the Solicitor to seek proposals for appraisal services when there is a reduction of current assessment by the Board of Assessment Appeals or a receipt of proposal to settle by an interested party in an amount greater than or equal to 15% of the current assessment;

And whereas, the Solicitor has received appraisal proposals on the following properties:

Tax Payer Name	Parcel ID	Address	Appraiser	Appraisal Cost
Three Forty Five Partners	14583020020	345 Wyoming Ave	Valbridge Property Advisors	\$4,500**
Southside Station LLC	15618030002 15618030003	1108-1114 S. Washington/ 121 E. Locust St	Valbridge Property Advisors	\$4,500**
FNCB Bank	15627020016	419-421 Spruce St.	Valbridge Property Advisors	\$4,500**
The North Washington Group LLC	15635020006	116 N. Washington Ave	Valbridge Property Advisors	\$4,500**
Diamond 307 LLC	15716010035 15704010002	125 Scranton Pocono Highway	Henkelman (consulting svc's only)	\$600
JBAS Realty LLC	145203000202	225 Penn Ave	Henkelman (consulting svc's only)	\$600

\*\*10% discount if 2 or more are approved

Be it resolved the Scranton School Board of Directors approves the above proposals for appraisal and consulting services and authorizes the District Solicitor to execute the required documents on the District's behalf.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

February 3, 2020

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked about the amount of decreases the individuals are asking for and if Mr. Audi has the amount they're looking for. Mr. Audi apologized he did not have the numbers.

President Gilmartin asked Mr. Audi to clarify the last two that are consulting costs. Mr. Audi said they wouldn't go in to do a full appraisal; they would give a rough idea of whether or not it would be worth doing a full appraisal.

President Gilmartin also asked to confirm that the last firm listed, is also the firm that owns Electric City Academy, who we pay rent to and they're looking for a decrease.

Mr. Audi said we believe that is correct.

ALSO

B-7

The Superintendent of Schools and the Budget & Finance Committee presents the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, Act 32 7 505(b) requires bodies of school districts, townships, boroughs and cities to appoint voting delegates and one or more alternate delegates to serve as their Tax Collection Committee (TCC) representatives, and

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Scranton School Board hereby appoints Tara Yanni as Primary Delegate, Tom Schuster as First Alternate Delegate and Pat Laffey-as Second Alternate Delegate to the TCC and they are hereby authorized to vote on behalf of the Scranton School District.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Yanni.

B-8

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Budget & Finance Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, the Lackawanna County Commissioners created the Lackawanna County Land Bank in an attempt to restore vacant, abandoned and tax delinquent properties; and

WHEREAS, the Lackawanna County Land Bank Commission has formed an Advisory Board of persons knowledgeable in Scranton's tax sale procedures, vacant properties, redevelopment and condemnation and those who may benefit assisting the Land Bank Commission; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board of Directors hereby appoints Director Katie Gilmartin as First Delegate, and Sarah Cruz and Jim Malloy as co-delegates to represent the Scranton School Board.

February 3, 2020

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call vote.

ALSO

C-1

The following was submitted by Director Fox.

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Community Relations Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District and the City of Scranton are municipal bodies, encompassing the same taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to share services, costs and expenses with the City of Scranton, the Scranton School Board desires to form a "Shared Services Committee" to explore/recommend shared services opportunities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Scranton School Board hereby appoints Directors Tom Schuster and Katie Gilmartin to represent the Scranton School District.

The resolution was seconded by Director Hume and passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

D-4

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District participates in the ERATE funding program; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has engaged the services of Tritt Schell Consulting Services for the 2020 Funding Year; and

WHEREAS, Tritt Schell Consulting Services will handle the application for the Districts Category 1 (telecommunications) application and conduct/assist with the applications and bidding of Category 2 (equipment); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Scranton School Board of Directors approves the agreement with Tritt Schell Consulting Services for Category 1 services in the amount of \$10,000 and Category 2 services in the amount of \$3,000 plus 3% of the committed amount.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

D-5

The following was submitted by Director Fox.

February 3, 2020

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District participates in the ERATE funding program; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has available Category 2 (Equipment and Services) ERATE budget for the FY 2020 funding cycle; and

WHEREAS, ERATE will pay 85% for allowable equipment purchases; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has issued 3 PEPPM mini bids for internal connections equipment and have selected the following vendors;

Vendor Name	Equipment Type	Amount
CDWG	Liebert UPSs	\$73,805.00
Dauphin DataCom	Ruckus Wireless Access Points	\$156,396.60
EPlus Technologies	Cisco Switches	\$44,590.69
Total		\$274,792.29
ERATE Discount -85%		(\$233,573.45)
District Share – 5%		\$41,218.84

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board of Directors approves the purchase of the above listed ERATE Category 2 equipment at a net cost to the District of \$41,218.84 to be funded by the District Information Technology Department Budget.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked if this is set in stone or if items that we didn't need, would we be held to purchase them.

Mr. Laffey responded that it is his understanding that we're able to adjust.

President Gilmartin referred to the resolution that was just passed (D-4), it is tied to this, is a Category 2 expense and we would be looking at the cost to the consulting services of \$3,000 plus 3% of the committed amount which is \$41,218.84.

Mr. Laffey responded that the committed amount s what your discount is which is \$233,573.44, so 3% of that or roughly \$7,000.

President Gilmartin said it costs us about \$10,000 to be able to take these savings.

Mr. Laffey said yes, for Category 2 and \$10,000 for the Category 1 as well.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Hume.

February 3, 2020

E-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Operations Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has received a proposal from CONXX Smart Technologies to install a community wireless network antenna to support a back-up link to the Geisinger Hospital Call Center on Montage Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the rooftop of West Scranton High School has been determined to be the most suitable location for the wireless network antenna; and

WHEREAS, CONXX has proposed to donate \$1,000 annually in exchange for the access to West Scranton High School's roof; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has directed these funds be deposited with the Business Office; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Directors accepts the proposal of CONXX Smart Technologies pending review by the District's Solicitor.

Director Yanni seconded.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Malloy, referring to paragraph 10 of the Facility Access Agreement, he is not certain if it's a substitute problem he has with it or stylistic. but he can't imagine any version of paragraph 10 would make him happy if it in fact requires us to indemnify the company that were basically letting have access to this roof so rather than debate that or insist on a rewrite he thinks doesn't think the vote is very much in question, he'll just vote no.

Director Schuster asked Mr. Audi, if he were to make a friendly amendment that this be passed contingent upon Mr. Malloy's request, would that be sufficient, adding that the person from Conxx seems to be agreeable to any of our suggestions.

Mr. Audi said we could make that proposal, adding it is a mutual release and it does make exceptions for gross negligence or willful misconduct, so there are some protections but he certainly understands the concerns and if they would like to approve it with the requirement that we strike that provision, they're the ones that want the tower there, so we could bring that back to them and it would likely be approved.

Director Schuster asked Mr. Malloy if he would rather it be taken out or reworded.

Director Malloy said he would rather it be reworded, it just needs to say they indemnify us but we don't indemnify them.

Director Schuster made a motion for a friendly amendment that we include Mr. Malloy's wording.

Mr. Audi thinks that is perfectly appropriate and if they don't accept it, they don't accept it.

Director Yanni seconded the motion for friendly amendment.

Friendly amendment to E-1 passed unanimously on roll call.

February 3, 2020

Director Schuster seconded the motion on the resolution and passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

F-1

It is the recommendation of the Personnel Committee that the list of Appointments, Assignments, Resignations, Leaves of Absences and Professional Contracts is approved:

Appointments are effective upon receipt of proper criminal records, immigration, and medical and child abuse reports.

Salaries are in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

The resolution was seconded by Director Yanni and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked Mr. Castrovinci to explain the hiring process for coaching, clerks, PCAs, LPNs and temporary maintenance employees.

Mr. Castrovinci explained the interview process for athletic coaches is proscribed in the teachers contract, board members are included for contracts along with an Athletic Director and two teachers recommended by the SFT and for the other positions it depends on the position who is involved but for a clerk and PCA, most recently involved the building principal and himself and special education for a PCA for they're available. For temporary maintenance it would involve Mr. Pugliese and himself.

Director Schuster asked if there are a lot of people applying. Mr. Castrovinci said three to five at the most.

President Gilmartin said she understands that one of the coaching positions said they would be interested in coaching on a volunteer basis but there is a salary reflected and if that is something that will be amended if that is in fact the case.

Mr. Castrovinci asked if she is referring to the individual in item 5. Ms. Gilmartin agreed.

Mr. Castrovinci said that person was interview and was the high point person from the interview panel and received salary per contract.

Ms. Gilmartin said she thought that person said he would waive the salary and is that something that should be reflected here.

Mr. Castrovinci responded this is the first he is hearing of this; they talked to him today to ask if he was still interested in the position and waiving the salary was not mentioned.

Ms. Gilmartin asked, in general, how would we pursue something like that?

Mr. Castrovinci said he's never come across that and deferred to Mr. Audi.

February 3, 2020

Mrs. McTiernan spoke up that she is unaware of anything that Ms. Gilmartin mentioned but she imagines that if they are waiving the salary it would go back into the budget.

Ms. Gilmartin asked Mr. Castrovinci if he would pursue that because she doesn't believe she dreamt it.

Ms. Gilmartin now inquired about the salary adjustment in Section K.

Mrs. McTiernan explained there was \$50,000 in her budget; \$30,000 was put back into the general budget, \$20,000 left with \$10,000 set aside for additional duties of one of our staff members to help with grant writing.

2-3-2020

A. LEAVE OF ABSENCE-PROFESSIONAL						
NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REPLACED	NEW	SALARY
1 Anne Spindler	Technology Teacher	Scranton High School	ROH 2nd Semester 2019-2020			
2 Michelle D. Cole	Learning Support	West Scranton High School	Incontinua FMLA 3/7/20-6/30/20			
3 Sento Zanghi	Physical Education	ECA	ROH 2nd Semester 2019-2020			
4 Andrea Lynch	Grade 5	Summer	FMLA 3/25/20-last day 2019-2020			
5 Kallryn Cawley	Spanish Teacher	Scranton High School	ROH 2nd Semester 2019-2020			
B. NON-PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS						
1 Gisel Hidalgo	Language Guide	Itinerant	1/13/2020			
2 Fransceza Nieves	Language Guide	Itinerant	1/17/2020			
C. NON-PROFESSIONAL RETIREMENTS						
1 Jeffrey Kelly	Maintenance	Stadium	1/27/2020			
D. NON-PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS						
1 Cindy DeLuca	Clerk 230	South Intermediate	1/13/2020	X. K. Kizer		\$26,402.00 Pro-Rated
2 Gail Curry	Kindergarten PCA	Bancroft	1/7/2020		X	\$18,950.00 Pro-Rated
3 Michelle Diana	PCA	Northeast Intermediate	1/7/2020	X. K. Moran		\$26,950.00 Pro-Rated
4 Valerie Bonner	LPN	Prescott Willard	2/26/2020	X. I. Maconeghy		\$15.00/Hr.
5 Roberto Pires	Temp Maintenance	Itinerant	1/27/2020			\$15.00/Hr.
E. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSIGNMENT						
1 Breda Holmes	English Teacher	Scranton High School	1/13/2020	X. J. Brotherton		\$38,377.00 Pro-Rated
2 Brooke O'Brien	Pre-K	Bancroft	2/3/2020	X. M. Conforti		\$38,377.00 Pro-Rated
3 James Spangler	General Science	West Scranton High School	1/15/2020	X. S. Klinket		\$38,377.00 Pro-Rated
F. RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSIGNMENT						
1 Lauren Coggins	Spanish Teacher	Scranton High School	8/26/2019	X. K. Cawley		\$38,377.00
G. COACHING RESIGNATIONS						
1 Mark Sedelnick	JV Softball Coach	West Scranton High School	1/16/2020			
2 Donnie Jackson-Bey	Ass't Track-Field Coach	West Scranton High School	1/14/2020			
3 Robbie Judge	JV Softball Coach	Scranton High School	1/27/2020			
4 Dave Demas	Ass't Varsity FB Coach	Scranton High School	1/27/2020			
5 Marc Farkaly	Assistant Football Coach	West Scranton High School	1/29/2020			
H. COACHING APPOINTMENTS						
1 Kaylyn Schmidt	Var. B'Ball Cheer Coach	WSHS	2019/2020 Season	X. I. Maconeghy		\$1,561.00
2 Sean O'Shea	Boys Baseball Coach	South Intermediate	2020 Spring Season	X. J. Shields		\$2,185.00
3 Dennis Hricensk	Head Varsity Football Coach	WSHS	2020 Fall Season	X. B. Fahey		\$6,493.00
4 Paul Hughes	Varsity Softball Coach	Scranton High School	2020 Spring Season	X. S. Rucker		\$3,780.00
5 Mario Emiliani	Head Coach Girls Softball	West Intermediate	2020 Spring Season	X. R. Butka		\$3,190.00
I. PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATION						
1 Debra Sherman	Diagnostician	Itinerant	T.B.D.			
2 Heather Prehotsky	Special Ed-Learning Support	Scranton High School	T.B.D.			
J. NON-PROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE						
1 Ashley Selge	Paraprofessional	Isaac Tripp Elementary	1/27/20 to last day 2019-2020 year			
K. SALARY ADJUSTMENT						
1 Niam Giordano	Confidential Secretary	Administration Building	2/4/2020			
			\$10,000.00			
			FROM SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET			
L. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WINTER SCHOOL						
1 Cheryl McDonald	Technology	West Scranton High School	1/13/2020			\$29,50/Hr.
2 Fred Falbo	Math	West Scranton High School	1/13/2020			\$29,50/Hr.
3 Michael Farris	Science	West Scranton High School	1/13/2020			\$29,50/Hr.
4 Kyle Coslett	Social Studies	West Scranton High School	1/13/2020			\$29,50/Hr.
5 Laura Pawlowski	English	West Scranton High School	1/13/2020			\$29,50/Hr.

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ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

F-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Personnel Committee to accept the hearing examiner's proposed decision regarding employee #3720.

The resolution was seconded by Director Cruz and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) abstention. Director Hume abstained because she was not present for the discussion regarding the hearing.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

F-3

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Personnel Committee that the following is accepted:

WHEREAS, Director Barbara Dixon has submitted her resignation to the School Board on January 31, 2020; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board hereby accepts the resignation of Director Dixon effective immediately.

The resolution was seconded by Director Yanni and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Ms. Gilmartin thanked Mrs. Dixon for her services.

At this time, Dr. Finan mentioned, for clarification that Mrs. Dixon moved out of the area, therefore is resigning but it is important to note because a board member isn't really allowed to leave the board while in recovery.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Cruz.

G-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee that the following resolution be approved:

**WHEREAS**, The following policies (233 and 626) first read has been *revised* by the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA), and

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<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>POLICY REVISIONS</b>
Policy 233	Suspension and Expulsion
Policy 626 (attachment)	Procurement Procedure Attachment

**WHEREAS**, The following policies (200, 201, and 204) first read has been *revised* by the Scranton School District Administration, and

<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>POLICY REVISIONS</b>
Policy 200	Enrollment of Students
Policy 201	Admission of Students
Policy 204	Attendance

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Scranton School Board hereby approves as a first read *revision* of Policy Numbers 233 and 626 as recommended by PSBA and Policy Numbers 200, 201, and 204 as recommended by the Scranton School District Administration.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

**ON THE QUESTION:**

President Gilmartin regarding Policy 233 and 626, that they are still first read and we can still refer those back to the committee; she would like to see Policy 626 be part of discussion regarding Policy 610 and all of the adjacent issues regarding bidding services adding she and Ms. Cruz have had discussions about a Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Gilmartin also spoke of advertising the vacancy position and to perhaps schedule an evening to appoint a new director the same night and hopes Mr. Audi's colleagues will be available for the parliamentary training as well.

Director Hume asked if the previous vacancy candidates could be reached to ask whether they wish to leave their applications on file and need not re-apply.

Ms. Gilmartin is fine with that if it is appropriate.

Mr. Audi said he thinks that is fine.

Ms. Gilmartin asked Mrs. Orr to reach out to the other candidates to ask if they would still like their applications considered.

Mrs. Orr will advertise again and applications will be accepted until noon on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**ALSO**

The following was submitted by Director Cruz.

G-2

It is the recommendation of the Policy Committee that the following is approved:

Be it resolved, that Director Ro Hume be designated as the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) representative for the Scranton School Board for the term ending December 31, 2020.

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The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Cruz complimented Director Hume and that she is the perfect person for the PSBA representative.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Welby.

I-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Vendor Relations Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has a need to replace 2 electric convection steamers in the main production kitchen at South Scranton Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has received 3 quotes based on the PA State Contract Pricing; and

WHEREAS, all Capital Expenditures exceeding \$5,000 must be approved by the Division of Food and Nutrition; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has applied to the Division of Food and Nutrition for approval to purchase 2 electric convection steamers at a total cost of \$39,251.16 from Singer Equipment Company; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Scranton School Board of Directors approves the purchase of 2 electric convection steamers per the attached quote to be funded by the District's Cafeteria Operations Fund.

\*Purchase authorization is contingent upon approval from the Division of Food and Nutrition.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

Mr. Laffey provided an update that late Friday, after the resolution was prepared, approval was received from the Division of Food and Nutrition.

Director Hume spoke of a grant of \$980,000 for the upgrading and purchase of cafeteria equipment that was approved a couple of weeks ago; she will resend the email but there is \$980,000 up for grabs.

Mr. Pat Laffey said we did not plan on funding this with the \$980,000 grant Ms. Hume mentioned, however whenever we receive correspondence that there is funds available to serve the cafeteria program we do apply.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Welby.

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I-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Vendor Relations Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, Aramark Corporation has made monetary donations to support and promote the Cafeteria Operations of the Scranton School District; and

WHEREAS, attached are the Intent to Give/Grant/Donation Form as required by Policy 702 listing the purpose of the donations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board of Directors approves Aramark Corporation donation to support and promote the Cafeteria Operations of the Scranton School District.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

President Gilmartin apologized if she missed it but she doesn't recall receiving the 'Intent to Give Gift/Grant/Donation Form as per policy.

Mr. Laffey apologized if he missed sending it, he has it in his possession and read the following for the record:

The purpose of the gift, grant or donation is "To promote activities that encourage student participation, use of student end of year scholarships, Aramark's participation in the end of year golfing fundraiser and the amount of the gift, grant, donation is \$7,500.00 for the 18/19 school year and so far this year we received \$2,500.00 for the 19/20 school year and speaking with them today they anticipate more as we reach the end of the school year.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Gilmartin assured everyone that we heard a cry for more information and whatever that needs to look like she is interested to hear from her colleagues their opinions on this; if we need to pursue other opinions about the air quality and the presence of asbestos and what our options may be. Ms. Gilmartin knows they talked about differing opinions even from the experts and we all agree it's unfortunate Guzek wasn't with us this evening and asked what the rest of board thinks.

Director Schuster thinks they first need to look to see if it's possible to meet with Guzek at some point along with parents and teachers.

Director Hume proposed a public meeting with more information to head off any further unrest.

Mrs. McTiernan commented that the hard part, the answers to technical questions, we cannot provide and she would never be able to provide appropriate answers, therefore, she can't speak to their questions and that is one thing they are struggling with and they truly do not have anyone on site that is capable of answering those questions and is one piece that is an issue and she is not sure how to address that. Mrs. McTiernan said the second piece is that she did meet with Northeast faculty at Scranton High School and told them everything she knew, which is similar to what she spoke of tonight and they will continue to work on the plan, she heard the outcry.

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A person from the audience spoke out asking what harm would there be to get a second opinion. Mrs. McTiernan said there is no harm and that is what we're discussing. Director Yanni agreed a second opinion is needed.

Concern from the audience about students attending Willard and Mrs. McTiernan responded that when she asked if Willard was safe the answer she received was yes it is safe and that is why everyone went back to Willard.

Director Hume commented that all of this blew up last Monday night, Mr. Guzek was present at the work session and it is unfortunate that his firm had a prior commitment, made a huge effort to get back for the meeting tonight but unable to. Ms. Hume agreed we need to get a second opinion.

At this time the board all agreed to move forward for a second opinion about Northeast.

Director Schuster asked if we can request the help of EPA and DEP.

Director Welby said the issue is what do we do in the interim; we're trying to make the best decision all around but some people want to go back, some people are afraid to go back. Mrs. Welby is in favor of a second opinion but what do we do with the students in the interim.

Mrs. Welby added that it was brought to her attention that WNEP has already reported that we're closing Northeast, that they're done, which is clearly misinformation because not one of the board members said Northeast is closing permanently and we can't control what the media says.

Mr. Dan Walter, a teacher at Northeast, spoke up that this is an issue of trust, he feels bad for all of them and he is the one that sent the pictures, and has been sending them for five years and they are now paying for the sins of the past but they're not going to building trust in one week.

Mr. Walter added that the ceilings in his room that he has been in for eighteen years, have been falling apart for years, nothing has ever been done, he sent the pictures, has the emails when they were sent, and they were sent to people who are now being investigated.

An audience member asked about half day schedule for the students.

Dr. Candis Finan said that she proposed that to the state and it is not allowed, Scranton has the shortest school day in the state and it would be a loss of 171 hours of instructional time and that would be a loss of about \$1.6 million dollars adding the state will not give a waiver for that period of time; it has been denied.

President Gilmartin said that is indicative of what's gone on here the last couple of days, the administration has attempted to pursue things like that, very valid, very reasonable ideas, and they have run into road blocks. Ms. Gilmartin added it is incredibly challenging and agreed with Mrs. Welby about which direction to go because some want to go here, some want to go there and all of it takes time and she knows everybody's priority s to get these students back in to a safe school so they can continue learning.

Mrs. McTiernan added that they're dealing with how best to accommodate parents who have students in each building so it's not going to work out perfectly but they're trying to address parents with siblings, they're trying to troubleshoot and don't want to miss anything and trying to make it as seamless as possible.

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Director Hume commented that a week ago tonight, Mr. Dougherty stood up and came forward without filters, without hiding anything and told the board what they've never been told before about issues of lead and asbestos. Ms. Hume added that this administration acted quickly and addressed the immediate issues and she knows Mrs. McTiernan would never put the children back in an unsafe building. Ms. Hume agreed this is awful, it should have never happened, she is very angry with people who aren't here anymore but they have to appreciate what has been accomplished in the last week adding they have to work incredibly hard for these 900 students and working as fast as they can.

An audience member asked Dr. Finan about the information regarding ½ days and said it would be great if that information could be shared on the website so people stop talking about it being rumor and that it's not possible and that it will lose too many hours; that there's a reason why it can't happen and to please tell everybody so that's one rumor that's done so people stop spreading it around and that each time they hear a rumor to please address it so people stop talking about it and the media can't take advantage of that.

Director Schuster said he heard himself that the superintendent doesn't want to give any plan because it's not completed and that's where they're at, and they want to make sure the plan is 100% complete before it's put out so the rumors don't occur. Mr. Schuster added they're trying to get the information out as quickly and accurate as they can.

President Gilmartin asks for the public's support, listening to all of this, and hopes they realize the work that has gone on and need their help to promote what it is we're trying to do. Ms. Gilmartin added there are daily statements released that may not contain every detail but we also do not have one dedicated individual to do that and they are trying to make sure what they are saying is appropriate from an environmental perspective and a legal perspective and they don't want to withhold any information but they don't want to send people into a tailspin through rumors and innuendos.

Ms. Gilmartin said the entire board is accessible, please bring questions directly to them, pick up the phone, send an email; they need everyone as partners in all of this and she really appreciates what everyone has done tonight. Ms. Gilmartin added that reasonable discussion took place tonight and she thinks it has to be said that she has not heard one complaint from this group of people and so many people have graciously pointed out the fact that none of them made this mess but she has not heard one person whine, bellyache or complain; all of these people have stepped forward, administration and board, we didn't do this but it is ours now and let's figure it out.

Ms. Gilmartin said the administration needs some direction from this board and let it be said, no one here is closing Northeast, we need more information before it is even something they can consider.

Mr. Paul Dougherty said they need to know if they're going to do air quality in every single classroom, what type of air quality testing and if they are also going to take wall samples out of walls and ceilings from every single classroom.

Director Hume said before they can settle on exactly what needs to be done, they need to identify whoever it is they wish to consult with, then let them come in and see where we're at, get their recommendation of what would be necessary to either clear the school for reoccupation or say what remediation would be necessary to occupy part of the school.

Director Schuster said some items have been identified.

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Mr. Dougherty mentioned that Mr. Barrett asked a great question about what type of testing and again he is not going to try to pretend he's a scientist, we want a specialist to answer that question but he knows there are two types of testing and he needs direction from the board.

Director Welby asked if there is some guidance from the EPA and how would they go about testing a building that has suspected asbestos.

Mr. Dougherty said he and Mr. Jimmie from Datum have been talking about that and EPA is going to have to give us guidance on how to clear a building because not all of the experts are in agreement.

Director Welby commented that in her job she always goes with what the expert guidelines say and she thinks to go by what the guidelines say to best test and how to best treat and mitigate the situation, but this doesn't solve the problem of where the kids can go to school tomorrow or Monday.

Mr. Dougherty said what they do know is there is asbestos in some areas in that building and a plan has to be made for those specific areas and in a situation like this, the more information they have from tests the better and would put them in a stronger position and he certainly thinks the EPA is the way to go.

Director Hume added that being that the other buildings in the district have been deemed safe except for Northeast she wonders if their focus at this point should be completely what to do with Northeast and focus on getting a plan in place.

Mrs. McTiernan asked if she continues moving forward with the plan as is or is she on hold; she needs direction.

Dr. Finan said there's no doubt they can do more testing if that's the direction she is hearing but she really is concerned about getting the children back to school and she thinks they can do the testing but they have to continue with the plan and get the children back in school as soon as possible but they can't look past that someone, unsure who, told them they can't go into that building, they haven't even been able to go in and get personal items.

Mr. Dougherty said he was specifically over the last two days with Mr. Jimmie of Datum and he indicated they can't go in the building.

Director Malloy remarked that means that it was a private contractor, not a government official, who is saying they can't go into the building.

Mr. Dougherty said what he was saying is it's not safe for occupancy adding that the DEP was on site at Willard on Friday to examine the work that was being done.

Director Hume said that once they get the EPA involved in any process to get that building clear for occupancy they need to understand it's not going to be fit for occupancy and they can't have those kids out for that long. Ms. Hume added they are endeavoring to resolve a much unexpected, very dangerous situation, can't tell anyone it will be happening next week because until they get a definitive answer from experts in this area they can't give an answer.

President Gilmartin said they need to move forward with this plan because as much as they would love to wave a magic wand and have all of the answers to all of the environmental issues, it is not realistic in a reasonable amount of time to get the children back to school. Ms. Gilmartin added no one is diminishing the emotional impact, the frustration and upheaval of this problem but the reality of the situation is the determination that's been made at this time is this building is not safe for occupancy and we need to get

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these children back in the classrooms as quickly as we can no matter how uncomfortable and frustrating that it may be and we would like Mr. Dougherty to pursue the EPA or the DEP, whatever the appropriate body is or both, to understand the guidelines and we need to have the conversation with Guzek and that's the only way we're going to understand what the steps are to truly assessing Northeast and she understands there may be factors and things they can't overcome but they are hearing from our community they want to pursue that; we owe it to that building, to these people and the families that came forward from Northeast.

Director Yanni asked Mr. Audi about the asbestos letter that should have been sent home regarding asbestos.

Mr. Audi said it's a letter under the Act that should have been sent home, they don't know if a letter has ever been produced and as far as he knows they don't know where any of the reports are but whatever they have to do to be in compliance it will be done so if a letter needs to go out it will go out.

President Gilmartin was reminded of another very important point that as they are going through this process documentation is being built adding that Dr. Finan has been talking about this since day one that this district is in desperate need of systemization and as unfortunate as this is it is proving to be a good learning opportunity.

Ms. Gilmartin asked if they need a motion to move forward.

Attorney Audi responded that it's not necessary for a motion since this kind of work for professional services doesn't need to be bid out; it is clearly the will of the board to tell the administration to go to an additional expert or two and get further information, but if they want to make a motion that's fine but he doesn't think it's necessary; the directive has already been made.

Director Malloy said as long as it's the understanding that they're looking for both additional private expert assistance and public official assistance from one of the agencies whether state or federal.

Attorney Audi said there is no doubt in his mind they will be looking for us, they will be crawling all over this district by tomorrow and they should, it's their responsibility and they know we are trying to do what's right and they will be there to guide and help us, he has no doubt about that.

President Gilmartin thanked everyone for coming and to the administration, and the police officers, SFT and Sarah Hofius Hall for being here for the long haul this evening.

Director Cruz asked if it is possible for a director to visit Willard.

Ms. Gilmartin said she doesn't see a problem with any of the board to get in touch with Mr. Dougherty for a tour in any building but they don't want to disrupt any of the progress being made in a building.

Mr. Dougherty is happy to accompany anyone to any building.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Hume, seconded by Director Yanni and the meeting adjourned at 11:40PM.

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