

December 3, 2019

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA.

Virginia Orr, Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:05pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mrs. Orr now read the School Code:

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

In Accordance with the provisions of the School Code, the members of the Board of Directors of the School District of the City of Scranton will meet in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA 18503 on Tuesday evening, December 3, 2019 at 7:00PM prevailing time for the purpose of reorganization, including the election of President and Vice-President and the adoption of the rules for the ensuing year.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Borthwick, Duffy, Gilmartin, Lesh, McAndrew, Norton, Schuster and Dixon.

Absent: Director Popil.

At this time Mrs. Orr presented plaques to the following for their dedication and service to the Scranton School Board:

Director Tom Borthwick, Director Paul Duffy, Director Robert Lesh, Director Mark McAndrew, Director Ken Norton, Director Greg Popil for his service as Vice President and Director Barbara Dixon for her service as President of the School Board.

Remarks by outgoing board members:

Mr. Tom Borthwick said it has been an honor to be a public servant, it has been a tumultuous time in his short tenure and the most important fight is the fair funding fight and he truly hopes the new board keeps that fight going because it is absolutely essential that the district be treated fairly like every other district in the state of Pennsylvania and our kids deserve to be treated equally. Mr. Borthwick thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. Paul Duffy thanked everyone for their support and echoed what Mr. Borthwick said about fair funding and he has all confidence in the current and new board members that they will continue that fight. Mr. Duffy thanked all administrators and thinks Mrs. McTiernan will do a fantastic job as superintendent, Dr. Finan is a fantastic asset who

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brings a ton of knowledge to the district and he knows she cares and her heart is in this. Mr. Duffy thanked the teachers and maintenance for the job they do every day for the district.

Mrs. Barbara Dixon read a text from Mr. Greg Popil who was not in attendance this evening and Mr. Popil wished outgoing board members good luck in future endeavors and good luck to incoming board members, he hopes they are successful in guiding the district to educational excellence.

Mrs. Barbara Dixon said she is honored to have served with the outgoing board members, it has been a challenge and she looks forward and is honored to work with the new board members.

Mr. Ken Norton said he has learned a lot, honored to work with a great group of people and knows everything is in good hands with the new board members.

Mr. Robert Lesh thanked the citizens of Scranton for giving him the opportunity to serve five terms and having confidence in him; he deeply appreciates it. Mr. Lesh said he has made a lot of friends, wished Mrs. McTiernan the best as well as Dr. Finan, Mr. Audi, Mr. Laffey and Mr. Hanlon. Mr. Lesh urged the new board members to continue the fight for fair funding.

Virginia Orr, Secretary now read the Certificates of Election for the following:

Sarah Cruz, Catherine Fox, Ro Hume, Tom Schuster and Tara Yanni.

Swearing in of new board members now took place.

Judge Margaret Bisignani Moyle swore in Director Sarah Cruz.

District Justice Terrence Gallagher swore in Director Catherine Fox.

District Justice Terrence Gallagher swore in Director Rosaline Hume.

District Justice Terrence Gallagher swore in Director Thomas Schuster.

District Justice Terrence Gallagher swore in Director Tara Yanni.

Secretary Virginia Orr reviewed the list of qualified and legally elected Board Members:

Sarah Cruz	2019-2023	Thomas Schuster	2019-2023
Barbara Dixon	2018-2022	Tara Yanni	2019-2023
Catherine Fox	2019-2023		
Katherine Gilmartin	2018-2022		
Rosalind Hume	2019-2023		

Mrs. Orr now asked for a motion for Temporary Chair.

Director Gilmartin made a motion for Director McAndrew for Temporary Chair, seconded by Director Schuster; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

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Director McAndrew asked for a motion for the office of President of the School Board.

Director Cruz made a motion to nominate Director Gilmartin for President, seconded by Director Schuster and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

A motion to close nominations was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Gilmartin and passed unanimously on roll call.

Director McAndrew asked for a motion for the office of Vice President of the School Board.

Director Gilmartin made a motion to nominate Director Schuster for Vice President, seconded by Director Hume and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

A motion to close nominations was made by Director Schuster, seconded by Director Gilmartin.

Solicitor John Audi now swore in Director Gilmartin as President and Director Schuster as Vice President of the School Board.

President Gilmartin now asked for roll call.

Present: Directors Cruz, Dixon, Fox, Hume, McAndrew, Schuster, Yanni and President Gilmartin.

Absent: All Present.

President Gilmartin now thanked everyone for this opportunity, it is a very exciting and overwhelming time for her, thanked Mrs. Dixon for her service as President the last two years, they have developed a very good working relationship and friendship and she knows that will continue and will be able to rely on her for her educational expertise.

Ms. Gilmartin acknowledged outgoing board members and thanked them for their service and made clear that their service does not end in the board room, it extends out into the community.

Ms. Gilmartin thanked Mr. Lesh for his service to our country as a United States Marine, Mr. Popil for his service to our state in his career with the Auditor General, Mr. Duffy for his service to our city as a police officer, Mr. Borthwick for his service as an educator and Mr. Norton for his service to the children in our neighborhood as a lifelong volunteer for youth in athletic leagues.

Ms. Gilmartin said she is delighted to sit here with all of the new female faces and knows everyone will work hard. Ms. Gilmartin did not forget the wonderful men who work alongside us and it is so important to have both perspectives at the table and that we are able to communicate and collaborate and she has had some wonderful experiences in the last two years and some great gifts have come out of it, chief among them are the two friends who are sitting to her left; she could not have taken on this responsibility without Mr. Schuster's partnership and friendship.

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Ms. Gilmartin remarked to Mr. McAndrew that his service to this school board has been tremendous, he is an advocate for the students here as Director McAndrew and as well as for CTC as Chef Mark and he is a champion of transparency and critic of impropriety and it needs to be noted that in the wake of the Auditor General's Performance Report, it was Mr. McAndrew, on November 14th, who asked for the list of district vendors so the district's bidding timeline could be established, adding that it is very important to know that it was Mr. McAndrew and Mr. Schuster and many of our colleagues have been fighting for transparency and process for many, many years and she appreciates that. Ms. Gilmartin also said she appreciates Mr. McAndrew being here tonight because he could resign his seat and enjoy Christmas with his family and he is fulfilling his responsibility on the school board until the very last moment and that means a great deal to her.

With all of that being said, Ms. Gilmartin continued to say there is a tremendous amount of work to do and she is delighted to get the chance to work with Dr. Finan in support of her recovery plan and make sure we're brought up to speed on that and the community as well knows how that process is going. Ms. Gilmartin is thrilled to be working with Mrs. McTiernan; her leadership is remarkable, the work that we have seen in the last several months in this district, the spirit, the energy, the enthusiasm, is beyond measure so she knows that along with her administrative team we will accomplish a great deal as well as working alongside the SFT and the SEIU BJ32, it is so important that we are all on the same team – Team Scranton.

Ms. Gilmartin is delighted for this opportunity, looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead, the milestones that will be celebrated and all that will be achieved and thanked everyone for their support of her in this role and the support of the work that they will do together.

At this time, Director Schuster stated that he will submit in writing his resignation for the two year school board seat he was elected to and will serve the four year seat he was also elected to.

Director Schuster asked the current board of directors to amend the agenda this evening to accept his resignation of the two year term effective December 3, 2019.

Director McAndrew made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by Director Dixon and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

President Gilmartin asked for a motion to accept Mr. Schuster's resignation of the two year term. Director McAndrew made a motion; Director Cruz seconded the motion and passed unanimously on roll call.

President Gilmartin asked for a motion to adopt the Book of Rules.

Motion to adopt the Book of Rules was made by Director Schuster, seconded by Director McAndrew and passed unanimously on roll call.

President Gilmartin asked for a reading and a motion for the adoption of the Principles of Governance and Leadership.

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The following was submitted by Director Cruz.

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee that the following Principles for Governance and Leadership will be promulgated:

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District agrees to advocate honestly to promote public education as a keystone of democracy to engage in the community by seeking input, building support networks and generating action.

Further, to champion public education by engaging members of local, state and federal legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District wishes to lead responsibly by preparing for, attending and actively participating in board meetings.

Further, working together in a spirit of harmony, respecting cooperation and to participate in professional development, training, board retreats and collaborating with the superintendent, as the team of ten; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District agrees to govern effectively by adhering to an established set of rules and procedures for board operations to develop, adopt, revise and review policy and align decisions to policy.

Further, to differentiate between governance and management, delegating management tasks to administration, allocating finances and resources and insuring compliance with local, state and federal laws; and

WHEREAS, the School Board agrees to plan thoughtfully, adopt and implement a collaborative comprehensive planning process, including regular reviews and annual goals that align with the comprehensive plan.

Further, to develop a financial plan that anticipates both short and long term needs and to formulate a master facility plan conducive to teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School Board wishes to evaluate, consult and utilize appropriate data to make informed decisions, use effective practices for the evaluation of the superintendent, assess student growth and achievement and review effectiveness of the comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School Board wishes to communicate clearly, promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff and community, encourage input and support for the school district from the community, protect confidentiality and honor the sanctity of executive session; and

WHEREAS, the School Board wishes to act ethically, never use the position to improperly benefit themselves or others; act to avoid actual perceived conflicts of interests; recognize the absence of authority outside of the collective board; respect the rule, authority and input of the superintendent; balance responsibility to provide educational programs with being stewards of community resources and abide by the majority decision.

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Director Fox seconded the motion and passed unanimously on roll call.

At this time a discussion was held to schedule the appointment for the vacant two year seat.

It was determined that since the resignation was accepted this evening, we have thirty (30) days to appoint and will advertise per policy for at least ten (10) days, applications will be accepted until Noon on Friday, December 13, 2019 with a Special Meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019 to appoint.

A motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Schuster and the meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

By: _____