

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for the specific purpose of the Board Vacancy on Monday, November 5, 2018 in the auditorium of Northeast Intermediate School, 721 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

President Dixon called the meeting to order at 9:22pm.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Casey, Cagnetti, Duffy, Gilmartin, Lesh, McAndrew, Schuster and Dixon.

Absent: All Present.

President Dixon read the notice of the meeting and announced the transaction for which the meeting was called.

Public Comment:

No speakers signed in to speak.

President Dixon explained that the candidates will be in a waiting area and Dr. Kirijan would be calling them in one at a time to address the board.

Director Gilmartin explained a new policy has been approved in the proper PSBA format and candidates will be allowed two minutes to speak, the board will ask four questions, the same four questions to each candidate, the board will use a scoring rubric for their own notes but that number will not affect the candidates who are chosen. Ms. Gilmartin further explained that the board will select four names, 1/3 of the total of twelve as the policy states and the Board Secretary will collect the names from each board member and will sit with Mr. Robert Gentilezza and Mrs. Hall from the Scranton Times; they will tabulate those names and if there is a tie the names will be drawn from a hat for who would be voted on first.

The following board candidates were given up to two minutes to speak and respond to board questions.

Pedro Luis Anes  
Gayle Thorpe Baar  
Tom Borthwick  
Sarah Cruz  
Catherine Fox  
Glynis Johns  
Tom McIntyre  
Kenneth Norton  
Michael Oakes  
Gopal Patel  
Greg Popil  
Frank Torquato

Mr. Frank Torquato submitted letter of interest/resume but pulled his name from consideration.

Director Paige Cognetti asked each candidate if, since Pennsylvania Auditor General DePasquale is very focused on the Scranton School District and specifically the school board, would he/she welcome his scrutiny and support transparency in government agencies.

Director Katie Gilmartin asked each candidate what he/she perceives to be the responsibilities of the school board.

Director Robert Casey asked each candidate how he/she would use their role as a board member to ensure that the Auditor General's recent recommendations are implemented and followed going forward.

Director Mark McAndrew referred to district policy 304.1 on nepotism which requires that candidates for full time positions shall disclose, but will not be disqualified, and asked each candidate if he/she has any relationship with current board members or the superintendent or if he/she have a person or special relationship to any director or member of administration or if any member of their immediate family is employed by the school district.

Director Duffy asked each candidate, to maintain integrity, not to discuss any of the board's questions with other remaining candidates.

After board members submitted their tally and selected four candidates, the Board Secretary, Mr. Bert Gentilezza and Mrs. Sarah Hofius-Hall from the Scranton Times together totaled the tallies. Having the most submissions the following resolution was presented by Director Casey.

It is the recommendation of the Scranton School Board that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, due to the passing of Director Carol Oleski and pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code at Title 24 Pa. CSA Sec 3-315, the remaining members of the Board must fill a vacancy within thirty (30) days; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED that Greg Popil is elected to Mrs. Oleski's unexpired term serving through the first Monday of December, 2019.

The resolution was seconded by Director McAndrew.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Duffy announced the four candidates he chose were Mr. McCormick, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Patel and Ms. Johns and that he would be voting against this candidate only because what is most important to him is if the candidate had children in the district and also important to him is he would like to see more ethnic diversity on the board. Mr. Duffy thanked all candidates and appreciates their efforts, interest and dedication to the Scranton School District.

The motion passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) negative vote. Director Duffy voted in the negative.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director McAndrew and the meeting adjourned at 11:09pm.

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