

October 9, 2018

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the auditorium of West Scranton High School, 1201 Luzerne St., Scranton, PA.

President Dixon opened with a moment of silence for Director Carol Oleski who passed away today and thank her for her service for the many children over the years how she touched their lives.

President Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:07pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Solicitor John Minora. (Board Secretary absent)

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

Solicitor's Report:

Attorney Minora announced executive sessions were held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, Monday, September 24, 2018, Wednesday, September 26, 2018 and this evening October 9, 2018.

Superintendent Dr. Alexis Kirijan attended via teleconference.

Report from Student Representatives:

Director Katie Gilmartin introduced Ms. Meg Duffy, Principal at Charles Sumner Elementary.

Ms. Meg Duffy presented a handout to the board highlighting the wonderful programs she has available to the students and parents of Charles Sumner. Ms. Duffy offers after school Social Emotional Supports programs such as Children of Incarcerated Parents provided through a grant from Keystone College to provide support and coping skills for students in Kindergarten and 1st grade who have an incarcerated parent. The Garden Club offers small peer group therapy sessions with the help of school social worker, Fred Bresser.

Homework Diner is offered and provides tutoring for both parent and child, Yoga provided by Yoga West, LLC encouraging health and wellness as well as Kid Fit Club and various sports clinics.

The Book Buddy Program is a program designed by Ms. Duffy to motivate daily reading offering books to students from her own personal library in her office and students have breakfast with Ms. Duffy and share their stories. The Child Study program is offered which is a nine week intervention system to support student academic deficits as well as Title I services and ELD support.

Ms. Duffy also offers uniforms, winter coats, book bags and school supplies, food resources, medical and dental services, hygiene items and seasonal family support fairs as highlighted in the attachment. (Click here for attachment providing more detail).[\..\Documents\Meg Duffy - Sumner Presentation 10.9.18.pdf](#)

Report from PSBA Representative:

Director Cognetti did not have anything new to report except to announce the board will be voting this evening for PSBA officers.

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Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Kirijan, in attendance via teleconference, introduced Mr. Michael Coleman, Principal at Robert Morris Elementary to report to the board.

Mr. Michael Coleman reported that Robert Morris Elementary was granted the Blue Ribbon School Award which is a very prestigious awarded across the country. Robert Morris is one of 300 public schools to receive this award in which Robert Morris qualified under the Closing the Achievement Gap category.

Mr. Coleman added that it is a true honor to receive the award and is the hard work of the teachers that made it possible and it is also a reward to the parents and students of Robert Morris Elementary for creating a positive home school connection, further adding that it is the hard work of the preceding principals and teachers as well and their goal as educators is encouraging student growth; Mr. Coleman thanked Dr. Kirijan, Mr. Gentilezza, Miss Keating, Mrs. McTiernan and all members of the Board of Education and invited all to stop at Robert Morris anytime to meet teachers and students.

Dr. Kirijan added that there are only 19 schools in PA who received this prestigious recognition, she, Mr. Coleman and a Morris teacher will be traveling to Washington early November for the awards ceremony and bringing back a banner to be hung in Robert Morris. Dr. Kirijan thanked Mr. Coleman and his teachers; it would not have been possible without them.

President Dixon offered congratulations on behalf of the entire board for Robert Morris' achievements; she knows how prestigious this award is.

Public Comment

Jerry Baldauff, SFT, addressed the board regarding the resolution to install bleachers at South Intermediate which consists of 12 tiers on each side; West Scranton High School only has 3 tiers on each side. Mr. Baldauff does not believe seating of that capacity is needed at South Intermediate when only a few athletic events occur there and suggested cutting the number of tiers in half to save money.

Mr. Baldauff also spoke against the resolution for the Apex German teacher. Approving the resolution would go against the CBA and during a recent committee meeting the pros and cons were discussed and it was unanimously voted down by teachers and administrators on that committee. Mr. Baldauff urged the board to vote against the resolution.

Diana Harris, resident and taxpayer commended Ms. Duffy and Mr. Coleman for their achievements.

Mrs. Harris voiced her opinion of the wasted money caused by past administration, the teachers are being blamed and the taxpayers and students are paying the price.

Mrs. Harris said she wants to believe this board will do the right thing, increasing taxes and cutting teacher staff is not the answer, mindful spending and checks and balances is the way.

Mrs. Harris urged the board to wait for the state's investigation to be over and follow the state's advice before spending money on an internal investigation.

Luann Henahan, President 32BJ, maintenance union, expressed sorrow over the loss of Director Carol Oleski adding that she was always there for the union, she didn't always give them what they wanted but

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she always listened and that's all they ever ask. Ms. Henehan added that Mrs. Oleski was a great woman, a pillar in the community and will be greatly missed.

Ms. Henehan also spoke of the state investigation and told the board that if they are considering their own internal investigation to make sure it is a fair investigation and make sure they have proof of any wrong doing before making decisions that may lead to lawsuits.

Bob Bolus, resident, responded to comments made by Ms. Rosemary Boland to the Scranton Times, making rude remarks and calling her names. President Dixon informed him that would not be tolerated.

Mr. Bolus continued to make derogatory remarks about district finances and teachers strikes.

Suzanne Furey, SFT, very sorry at the loss of Director Carol Oleski, and spoke of the air quality issues at Armstrong, temperature, odor and moisture throughout the school and the sound of the humidifiers running make it difficult to teach.

Mrs. Furey spoke against the five minute travel time between classes being cut and that children are losing instructional time, the loss of the library and hopes they reconsider those changes.

Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County Community Relations, offered condolences of Carol Oleski and updated the board of recent, current and future community events in Lackawanna County.

Holly Meade, Special Education teacher Northeast Intermediate, spoke of middle school schedules of four continuous hours of instructional time without a break, library schedule of 27 minutes once every three weeks, the loss of fourteen teachers and the loss of computer class.

Mrs. Meade told the board that they are not getting the viable information from administrators; the truth is not being told, there are nine members on this school board who vote on policy not ten and she thinks the board should be allowed to answer questions during public comment and not be silenced.

Rosemary Boland, SFT, believes in the Bill of Rights and the Right to Free Speech, and the board has the right to free speech and should be able to address questions.

Ms. Boland spoke of conditions in school buildings, concern of the energy plan, some classrooms do not have heat and extended deepest sympathies to the family of Director Carol Oleski.

Kevin Kays, SFT, commented about the resolution approved in June regarding the destruction of audio/video of board meetings older than 7 years and wondered who brought that forward to do that and asked why they are not pursuing the \$4 million in fuel charges questioned by the Attorney General.

At this time a motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Gilmartin.

Director Cognetti asked to pull item P-1 from the Consent Agenda. Item P-1 was removed from Consent.

The following items passed unanimously on roll call under Consent Agenda.

Budget and Finance

B-1

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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:

October 1, 2018	\$321,253.30
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ALSO

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
October 1, 2018 be approved as per the attached:

Be it resolved that exception payments in the amount of \$1,375,595.50 have been paid in accordance with the approval payment policy.

September 21, 2018	\$1,281,882.84
September 28, 2018	\$ 93,712.66

Be it resolved that payrolls amounting to \$2,410,329.79 have been paid in accordance with the approval for payment policy.

September 21, 2018	\$2,410,329.79
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ALSO

B-3

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:

Girikrupa, LLC 424 S. Webster Ave	Map No. 15668 010 049\$3,001.00
Girikrupa, LLC 1423 Capouse Ave	Map No. 14605 040 021\$1,500.00
Girikrupa, LLC 965 Providence Rd	Map No. 14507 060 024\$3,485.00

(The properties listed above were previously approved to a Maleek Smith on August 6, 2018 however the sale could not be completed therefore the properties were awarded to Girikrupa, LLC)

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.

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ALSO

B-4

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

Be it resolved that the Delinquent Tax Report for the month of August 2018 be accepted. A copy of the monthly detail is available for review in the Business Office.

Tax	\$334,831.67
Penalty	\$ 31,942.08
Interest	<u>\$ 51,228.77</u>
TOTAL	\$418,002.52
Commission	<u>\$(20,900.41)</u>
NET TO DISTRICT	\$397,102.11

ALSO

B-5

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

Be it resolved that the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 2018 be accepted as follows:

Opening Balance	\$21,134,364.09
Monthly Revenue	\$12,466,106.90
Transfers and Refunds	\$ _____
 TOTAL AVAILABLE	 \$33,600,470.99
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 8,856,394.47</u>
 BALANCE IN GENERAL ACCOUNT	 \$24,744,076.52

ALSO

D-1

The Superintendent and the Education Committee requests board approval of staff attendance to the conferences and meetings for professional development relevant to their specific duties and responsibilities as per the attached.

NAME	CONFERENCE/MEETING	LOCATION	COST	DATES	MANDATED	PAID BY GRANT FUNDED	PAID BY ORGANIZATION	Substitute Required
10/9/2018								
1 Brandon Budd	SAP k-12 Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	10/ 2-4 /2018				

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2	Ann Genett	High expectation for Students with Low Incident Disabilities	State College, PA	\$1,000.00	11/11-14/2018				
3	Cathy Opshinsky	High expectation for Students with Low Incident Disabilities	State College, PA	\$1,000.00	11/11-14/2018				
4	Lisa Calvey	Expanding School Base Health	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	9/13/2018				Yes
5	Erin Keating	2018 Meeting the Challenge: ECEH	Harrisburg, PA	\$209.00	10/24-25/2018			Yes	
6	Alexis Kirijan	Blue Ribbon Recognition Ceremony	Washington, DC	\$120.00	11/7-8/2018				
7	Kevin Pail	Blue Ribbon Recognition Ceremony	Washington, DC	\$120.00	11/7-8/2018				Yes
8	Mike Coleman	Blue Ribbon Recognition Ceremony	Washington, DC	\$960.33	11/7-8/2018				

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

ALSO

G-1

WHEREAS, as a member of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association(PSBA), the Scranton School Board is encouraged to participate in PSBA Election of Officers; and

WHEREAS, PSBA Policy 108 specifies that votes of an entity's board are to be cast at a public meeting; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scranton School Board hereby approves the following:

Eric Wolfgang, President-Elect
 Art Levinowitz, Vice President
 Gary Smedley, Advisor, Section 4, Northeast PA

PSBA Insurance Trustees: (3 candidates)
 -Richard Frerichs, William LaCoff and Nathan Mains

School Board Secretaries Forum:

- Forum Steering Committee (3 candidates - 1 year term ending 12/31/2019)
 Brian Feick, Lorraine Rocco and Bethanne Ziegler
- Forum Steering Committee (2 candidates - 2 year term ending 12/31/2020)
 Peter Bard and Denise LaPera

Pupil Transportation Forum

- Forum Steering Committee (2 candidates -1 year term ending 12/31/2019)
 Randy Williams and JoAnne Yarnall
- Forum Steering Committee (2 candidates - 2 year term ending 12/31/2020)
 Michael Kiehl and Jim Pearson

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ALSO

K-1

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

WHEREAS, the Scranton School Board accepted proposals for advertising from King Outdoor and Times Shamrock Outdoor; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2018 the Scranton School Board approved contracts with King Outdoor Advertising and Times Shamrock Outdoor to lease properties for the construction of billboards; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2018 King Outdoor has decided to withdraw their proposal to place signs on the Scranton High School property as stated in the attached written statement from King Outdoor; and

WHEREAS, Times Shamrock Outdoor has expressed interest in the lease of the Scranton High property in which King Outdoor has withdrawn; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board approves Times Shamrock Outdoor under the same terms and conditions as was submitted by King Outdoor as attached.

END CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following were presented under the NON CONSENT AGENDA.

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

A-1

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

WHEREAS, an agreement between the Athletic Department of Lackawanna College and the Scranton School District. The terms and conditions of the agreement will be in effect for the 2018 fall season time period of Wednesday, August 1, 2018 until Friday, November 30, 2018, 2018 between Lackawanna College and the Scranton School District, and

WHEREAS, A reduced(practice) rental fee will be issued for the use of the PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM for the 2018 fall season for football practices and scheduled games from Wednesday, August 1, 2018 until Friday, November 30, 2018. The day (6 weekend practices-4 Saturdays/2 Sundays) per practice rental fee will be \$250 per practice and the night (no more than two nights per week) per practice rental fee of \$350. The scheduled (3 schedule games for Saturday, October 6, 2018; Saturday, October 13, 2018 & Sunday, November 4, 2018) per game rental fee of \$2500. A detailed 2018 fall practice and game schedule must be provided to Scranton High School Administration, and

WHEREAS, In exchange for a reduced rental fees for the use of PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM during the 2018 fall season the Lackawanna College Athletic Department will

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allow the Scranton School District the use of their gymnasium for three basketball games for the West Scranton High School Boys Varsity Team. The dates for these games are Tuesday, January 8, 2019, Tuesday, January 15, 2019 and Friday, February 1, 2019, at no charge, and

WHEREAS, A Certificate of Insurance must be submitted to Central Administration (Mr. Joe Walsh-SSD Event Coordinator) prior to the start of the fall season, and

WHEREAS, Lackawanna College is responsible for law enforcement if required and to provide adequate adult supervision for the safety and conduct of the players and spectators; and

WHEREAS, Access to facilities shall be limited to the specified area of PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM, and

WHEREAS, Alteration to the PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM area are prohibited and Scranton School District owned equipment shall not be removed from the facility or loaned to the Lackawanna College Athletic Department; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Lackawanna College is allowed to use PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM for practices during the 2018 fall season.

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

A-2

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

WHEREAS, The Valley View High School Swim Team has requested the use of West Scranton Intermediate School's Pool for their practices and swim meets for the 2018-19 season, and

WHEREAS, Valley View High School Swim Team will be charged a rental fee for the use of West Scranton Intermediate School's Pool for scheduled practices and swim meets for the 2018-19 season- Friday, November 16, 2018 until Friday, March 1, 2019 (Monday through Friday-7 PM-9 PM & swim meets 4 PM-6 PM), and

WHEREAS, the rental fees for practices will be \$100 per hour and \$600 per swim meet, and

WHEREAS, So that no scheduling conflicts occur, Valley View High School Swim Team is to provide a detailed practice schedule and swim meet dates to the administration of West Scranton Intermediate School, and

WHEREAS, Valley View High School Swim Team is responsible for the safety and conduct of its participants and spectators, and

WHEREAS, Adequate adult supervision must be provided by Valley View High School, and

WHEREAS, Access to facilities shall be limited to the specified area of West Scranton Intermediate School Pool area, and

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WHEREAS, Alteration to the West Scranton Intermediate School Pool area are prohibited, and

WHEREAS, Scranton School District owned equipment shall not be removed from the facility or loaned to Valley View High School Swim Team , and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Valley View High School Swim Team is allowed to use the West Scranton Intermediate School Pool for practices and swim meets during the 2018-19 season.

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

The following was submitted by Director Cognetti.

D-2

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District strives to provide students with an exemplary and contemporary education experience; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District offers diversity in World Language selection and has conducted an exhaustive search for a German certified teacher; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors supports the implementation and adoption of the contract for German 1 and 2 on the Apex Learning platform for the 2018/2019 school year.

The resolution was seconded by Director Casey.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Casey asked if they have exhausted all possible avenues to find a German teacher in the district.

Dr. Kirijan asked Erin Keating to address.

Ms. Keating referred to a handout that was included in the board's packet which included a timeline and that the person who was appointed to that position over the summer has since resigned, a PennLink was sent out twice, which advertises across the Commonwealth, the job is still advertised on the district's website and they are still unable to secure a German certificated teacher.

President Dixon said she knows that finding German teachers has been a problem for years and as Mr. Baldauff said doing this would be a violation of the CBA and asked if the alternative is to discontinue German.

Ms. Keating said that was one of the suggestions, adding that the board has the motion from the Apex Committee and their suggestions and concerns that were voiced during that meeting and they also have the current course enrollment, registered in the brick and mortar school, and there are a total of 53 students enrolled, and of that number, 34 students would be interested in pursuing it online.

Director Cognetti informed Ms. Keating they were not given that information. Ms. Keating now supplied the board with the handout.

Ms. Boland spoke up for clarification that the German teacher position was one of the positions that furloughed.

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Ms. Keating added that if the program does not continue, they will see that under the enrollment figures, that the students are not permanently scheduled into languages, scheduling complexities could come into play and staffing implications.

Mrs. Dixon asked if the German teacher which was furloughed, was this teacher offered back the position.

Ms. Keating said that Mr. Gaynord is not in attendance this evening and she is unable to speak for him and that she has 53 kids to get scheduled.

Director Lesh suggested tabling the resolution since they don't have all of the information right now.

Ms. Keating, with all due respect said that she has 53 kids she has to schedule.

Mrs. Dixon asked what those kids are doing now.

Ms. Keating said they are basically in a study class because we don't have a certificated teacher to facilitate the class.

Director Cagnetti said that unfortunately she is just receiving this information this evening and as Mr. Baldauff said the Apex committee opposed this, but it is difficult to make this decision this evening and asked who the administrators are on the committee.

Ms. Keating did not have the names but would be able to provide the sign in sheet.

Director Cagnetti asked if it was a unanimous vote.

Ms. Keating said the people who attended the meeting that day, it was an emergency meeting, she was contacted by a member of the Apex committee saying that it wasn't brought forward and thanks to the principals they were able to meet; the board has all of the information from the enrollment figures, the requests, the costs, the Apex committee vote and the Apex committee information.

Director Casey said that the situation at hand is there are 53 kids who are in a study period, the alternative suggested would be finding new placements for them and discontinuing the program or we continue with Mr. Lesh's suggestion to table this and continue this at a special meeting to accept.

Dr. Kirijan, present via teleconference, informed the board that the German teacher at West Scranton resigned the position and is teaching at Abington Heights.

Ms. Keating said that if there is any additional information the board needs she will be out of town this weekend but returning on Monday afternoon, you have all of the information you need to make an informed decision.

(Dr. Kirijan asked if the board heard her tell them about the German teacher position. Mr. Casey and Mrs. Dixon responded yes)

Director Cagnetti said that she certainly does not expect Miss Keating to have this information "on the fly" but we can't be the first district or board to be faced with this type of situation and asked what other districts have done.

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Ms. Keating said you have to consider that every CBA in every district is different so she can tell you what other districts have done but she cannot give the CBA.

Director Cagnetti understood and said that it would be very useful to know what other districts have done and asked if they could get the information by Monday that would be great.

President Dixon asked Director Lesh if he would like to move forward tabling the resolution.

Director Lesh said yes, made a motion to table, seconded by Director Cagnetti.

Director Schuster asked that at this point in time, the district does not have a German teacher?

Ms. Keating responded that the district does not have a certificated German teacher but we will continue to look for a German certificated teacher, there not as easy to find.

Director Schuster suggested changing the wording on the resolution for the special meeting to approve the platform for the 2018-2019 school year ONLY.

The motion to table passed unanimously on roll call.

Dr. Kirijan, via teleconference, confirmed with Mrs. Dixon that the resolution was tabled and a special meeting would be called following the education committee meeting scheduled for October 15, 2018.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Cagnetti.

D-3

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

WHEREAS, the Wells Fargo Foundation established a grant to provide funds to local educational agencies to enable schools to make improvements to student educational experiences,

WHEREAS, the Wells Fargo Foundation desires to contribute to the personal growth, educational development, and the social-emotional well-being of students served,

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District has received notification that the grant proposal as submitted by the principal of McNichols Plaza has been selected to receive \$65,000.00 for the 2018/2019 school year,

WHEREAS, funds will be made available from October 2, 2018 through October 20 of 2018 to begin implementation of equipment and supplies, and planning for a Signature Day of Caring, which will take place on October 20th commencing at 8:00 am. Funds will be distributed to the Scranton School District through the Scranton Area Foundation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School District officially agrees to participate in the Wells Fargo Foundation Signature Day of Caring grant effective immediately.

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Cagnetti.

D-4

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

WHEREAS, PA Schools Work is a coalition of organizations from across Pennsylvania working together to advocate for Pennsylvania public schools, their students and the communities they serve.

WHEREAS, PA Schools Work mission is to ensure that every child, regardless of their background or where they live, is attending a public school that has the funds necessary to help them succeed.

WHEREAS, PA School Work action summit is looking for two leaders from each Pennsylvania school district to advocate for adequate and fair public education funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board hereby appoints _____ and _____ to represent the Scranton School District with PA Schools Work.

Director Casey seconded.

Director Cagnetti said that they received notice in their packet that there is an engagement in Harrisburg on Saturday, November 17th, Communities United for Our Students' Future, she spoke with somebody from the organization and they are trying to get as many districts represented as possible but having not discussed this yet, it might be better to discuss this more at the special meeting.

Director Casey made a motion to table, seconded by Director Schuster and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

H-1

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

WHEREAS, an extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for the Single Tax Office has been proposed per the attached Memorandum of Understanding; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District of the City of Scranton does hereby approve the extension of the 2013-2017 CBA of the Single Tax Office effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this approval is contingent upon the approval of the City of Scranton.

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The resolution was seconded by Director Casey and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) abstention. Director Duffy abstained due to his wife's employment.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Gilmartin.

I-1

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

WHEREAS, The following policy 903-second read has been *revised* by the Scranton School District School Board Policy Committee, and

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY REVISIONS
Policy 903	Public Participation in Board Meetings

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board hereby approves revisions to Policy Number 903 as a second read recommended by the Scranton School District School Board Policy Committee.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Gilmartin pointed out that at the Policy Committee meeting they did add a line which indicates that the presiding officer may refer a question to a committee chair or administrator, or a request that the question be submitted to the board secretary adding that she also was uncomfortable with limiting discussion and the inability to answer questions, she certainly understands putting parameters around it but she thinks this is a happy medium and if they need to address it again they can.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

J-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and Personnel Committee that the attached list of Appointments, Resignations and Leaves of Absence 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.

A

. RESIGNATIONS-PROFESSIONAL

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
1	Michelle Dudley	Grade 3	Sumner	9/10/2018

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2	Christine Clark	Family & Consumer Science	Scranton High School	12/31/2018
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**B LEAVE OF
ABSENCE PROFESSIONAL**

1	Karin Wrobel	Grade 4-Special Ed	Whittier (Annex)	9/17/2018-1/30/2019	Sabattical
2	Brooke Frable	Health-Phys Ed-Safety	Scranton High School	9/4/2018-1/30/2019	Sabattical

**C
COACHING RESIGNATION**

1	Bradley Turi	Assistant Swim	West Scranton High School	
	Kelsey	Freshman Bball	West Scranton	
2	Maconeghy	Cheerleading	High School	9/18/2018

**D RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUSTITUTE TEACHING
ASSIGNMENTS**

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
1	Walter Kulasinsky	Grade 4-Special Ed	Whittier Annex	9/17/2018-1/30/2019

**E
PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

					REPLACEMENT
1	Anna Tigie	Guidance Counselor	Scranton High School	10/1/2018	X
2	Ashley Pietrowski	Guidance Counselor	Scranton High School	T.B.D.	X
3	Christine Grullon	Licensed Social Worker	Itinerant	T.B.D.	X
4	Chiara Zigray	Licensed Social Worker	Itinerant	T.B.D.	X
5	Neena Hurley	Emotional Support	Electric City Academy	T.B.D.	X

**F NON-PROFESSIONAL
APPOINTMENT**

					NEW
1	Mary Alice Kearns	Title Program Admin. Ass't.	Administration Building	10/10/2018	X
2	Casey Cunningham	Learning Support	Morris	10/10/2018	X

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3	Danielle Gray	PCA	Electric City Academy Whittier Annex	10/15/2018	X
4	Kelly Gaughan	Emotional Support	Grade 4/5	10/10/2018	X
G	LEAVE OF	NON-			
.	ABSENCE	PROFESSIONAL			
1	Connie Perry	Administrative Assistant	Electric City Academy	9/17/2018-T.B.D. FMLA	

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

J-2

These employees have completed at least three years of professional service (with satisfactory ratings). For achieving the status of professional employee, under the school code, it is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that professional contracts be issued to the following individuals:

<u>Professional Contracts</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
1. Angie Mera 1333 Brian Lane Effort, PA 18330	September 1, 2015
2. Ashley Curtis 55 Third Ave. Kingston, PA 18704	September 1, 2015
3. Brian Bartnikiewicz 619 Stafford Ave. Scranton, PA 18505	September 1, 2015
4. Brian Carey 1703 Washburn St. Scranton, PA 18504	September 1, 2015
5. Brittany Van Wert 1513 Upper Fords Pond Road Clarks Summit, PA 18411	September 1, 2015
6. Christopher Ort 408 Foster St. Scranton, PA 18508	September 1, 2015

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| 7. Daniel Whetsell
121 Raquels Way
Clarks Summit, PA 18411 | September 1, 2015 |
| 8. Elizabeth Carranza
823 Willow St.
Scranton, PA 18505 | September 1, 2015 |
| 9. Gregory Gianacopoulos
120 N. Merrifield Ave.
Scranton, PA 18504 | September 1, 2015 |
| 10. Helen Morohovech
205 Rinaldi Drive
Taylor, PA 18517 | September 1, 2015 |
| 11. Jaclyn Macey
59 Edward Road
Beach Lake, PA 18405 | September 1, 2015 |
| 12. Jacqueline Waslin
58 Friend St.
Pittston, PA 18640 | September 1, 2015 |
| 13. James Mace
2103 Prospect Ave.
Scranton, PA 18505 | September 1, 2015 |
| 14. Julianne McGloin
120 Carol Drive
Clarks Summit, PA 18411 | September 1, 2015 |
| 15. Kacie Beck
1116 Delaware St.
Scranton, PA 18509 | September 1, 2015 |
| 16. Kalee Lee
611 Timber Lane
Clarks Summit, PA 18411 | September 1, 2015 |
| 17. Kendra Hooper
640 East Grant St.
Olyphant, PA 18447 | September 1, 2015 |
| 18. Lindsey Strapec
3513 Hemlock Farms
Hawley, PA 18428 | September 1, 2015 |
| 19. Samantha Hayden
137 Terrace St.
Carbondale, PA 18407 | September 1, 2015 |

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| 20. Sara Baldinucci
120 S. Merrifield Ave.
Scranton, PA 18504 | September 1, 2015 |
| 21. Tracy Doherty
180 Cherrywood Lane
Madison Township, PA 18444 | September 1, 2015 |
| 22. Carissa Smith
702 Stafford Ave.
Scranton, PA 18505 | September 1, 2015 |
| 23. Melissa Rinaldi
327 Spring St.
Dunmore, PA 18512 | September 1, 2015 |
| 24. Joseph McGuire
326 Putnam St.
Scranton, PA 18508 | September 1, 2015 |

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

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

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District requires an attorney for its general legal services,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Bid Process Timeline put into place by the Scranton School Board, the Scranton School District has sent out a request for proposals for general legal services,

WHEREAS, Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams LLP has submitted a proposal and has met all bid conditions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Scranton School Board hereby appoints the law firm of Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams LLP as its School Solicitor to perform professional services for the district's legal needs. Such appointment is subject to the stipulations set forth in the proposal.

The resolution was seconded by Director Duffy.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Casey asked who this firm would represent if they were to represent the board and also represent the NEIU.

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Mrs. Dixon asked if the NEIU is considered a vendor.

Attorney Minora said you would have to ask Mr. Laffey if there is a contract with NEIU.

Mr. Laffey said the district has a contract with NEIU adding that he thinks Sweet Stevens Katz and Williams represents nine other NEIUs and he is not sure how they will represent.

Director Casey would like clarification and made a motion to table this for now.

Director Cagnetti did not know the answer, if NEIU is considered a vendor but would say that the law firm does represent the Abington Heights School District also.

Director Casey said he brought it up because there is a conflict with another districts firm and vendor and normally he wouldn't question this but those school districts didn't put it in their bid specs but we did.

Mrs. Cagnetti said our RFQ was quite standard in terms of potential conflicts.

Director Lesh seconded the motion to table and the motion passed with five (5) affirmative and three (3) negative. Directors Cagnetti, McAndrew and Schuster voted in the negative.

Director Cagnetti said that we'll need to get the answer how the firm works with other districts and other IUs and for the record the law firm Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams is the only firm that applied for this position.

ALSO

At this time Director McAndrew commented about the resolution to replace the bleachers at South Intermediate that he recalls attending his daughter's basketball games there fifteen years ago and there was a sea of seats available and he would like it if Mr. Brazil could find out if we could replace less seats and save some money.

Director McAndrew made a motion to table, seconded by Director Duffy and the resolution M-1 was tabled unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

N-1

The Superintendent and Special Education Committee hereby recommend the following resolution 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 programs have been challenged or suits have been filed in the matters of LM-20794-17-18, EMcC-20889-17-18, JR-20946-18-19 and MS-20984-18-19; and

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

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

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Lesh.

P-1

The Superintendent of Schools and the Transportation Committee submit the following resolution for the approval of Transportation for the 2018/2019 school year:

<u>CONTRACTOR & ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ANNUAL COST 180 PUPIL DAYS</u>
Monica Lee 1514 Prospect Ave. Scranton, PA 18505	.56 per mile	\$ 928.80
Kathryn Paone 133 S. Van Buren Ave Scranton, PA 18504	.56 per mile	\$6,170.40

Director Casey seconded.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Cognetti questioned Mr. Laffey if the figures were correct. Mr. Laffey was not comfortable answering without more information from Ms. Bevilacqua.

A motion to table was made by Director Cognetti, seconded by Director Lesh and passed unanimously on roll call.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Lesh offered his deepest sympathy to Director Oleski's family adding that she was a sweet person, a wonderful mother not only to her own children but to a lot of children who needed a mother; she will be sorely missed on this board, truly an example of loyalty and steadfast when it came to the children of this district, God rest her soul.

Director Duffy asked to make a notation to schedule an Intergovernmental Committee meeting to discuss the furthering of the bill they would like to present for recurrent funding as well as an update to the intergovernmental relationship between the Scranton School District and the City of Scranton.

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Director Casey suggested that since there have been some boundary changes in South Scranton, and knows that West Scranton was promised renovations to their gymnasium, can they potentially have West Scranton High School play their games at South Intermediate until district finances are more appropriate.

Director Cagnetti responded to Mr. Kevin Kays concerns regarding the policy for board meetings and in her view it was a victory for transparency to now have all public meetings recorded and that the 7 years records retention was a compromise but she doesn't think that fight is over, she doesn't believe any records have been destroyed but everything from that policy from her vantage point is forward looking and very positive for transparency.

Director Duffy believes it was a minimum of 7 years not maximum of seven years and records would not be destroyed without prior approval and until there is more discussion no records should be destroyed.

Dr. Kirijan said that she can assure Mrs. Dixon that no records have been destroyed and what was presented to the board was the records retention schedule that is put out by the state and that was their recommendation but no action has been taken on any records.

Director Cagnetti asked Dr. Kirijan to speak on a time sensitive issue regarding the grades at the high schools and asked what remedies have been taken.

Dr. Kirijan said Bert Gentilezza and Megan Barrett have been on the front lines trouble shooting this issue and asked them to address.

Mr. Gentilezza responded on the discrepancy of the transcripts, the final grades from each year, grades 9, 10 and 11 are calculated by doubling each quarter grade, adding the final divided by nine; that is the traditional way and that is how the un-weighted on the transcript has always been un-weighted is devised on the transcript. The GPA, if a student is a senior they've accumulated 12 marking periods up until this point and it is calculated, we just found this out from our eSchool representative, Connie Mazza, that students' GPA is calculated with the 12 quarter marks rolling into each quarter and getting re-calculated by each quarter but it doesn't include the final. It is the way the eSchool system is set up and that is showing a little bit of a discrepancy.

Mrs. Dixon asked it does not include the final? Mr. Gentilezza said it does not include the final for students' GPA.

Mr. Gentilezza continued that where they found the discrepancy where students are trying to do their hand calculation of what their final grade on the transcript is multiplied by the quality points and then divide by total accumulated credits, that is the way most people thought it would be done but it's not – it is calculated with just the 12 marking period grades without the final, and on students transcripts it does reflect an overall GPA and rank of a weighted and un-weighted average. Also if a teachers record in eSchool will calculate it out 2 decimal places so if a student has a 91.51 that will kick it up to a 92 on the transcript or if a student has a 91.49 it will kick it down to a 91.

President Dixon recalled a conversation that the eSchool system was merged with another program and if that had anything to do with it.

Dr. Kirijan said PowerSchool and eSchool were merged.

Mr. Gentilezza said that a letter has been formulated to indicate what the discrepancies of the transcripts for the student's GPA and it was sent to all counselors to be submitted with all college and scholarship

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applications and the letter will say there are discrepancies within the grading system and there was a little situation with the curving before last year which was corrected so the weighted situation was not accurate.

President Dixon asked if the folks at eSchool are confident that this can be rectified.

Mr. Gentilezza said it will be rectified but right now it's just the way transcripts and GPAs are being calculated and they have to decide on how they would like to change the format to the final grade on the transcript multiplied by the quality points then divided by total credits.

Director Cagnetti asked if students know what they're supposed to put on their college applications.

Ms. Erin Keating now responded that there is going to be a meeting held at each school to go over how the GPA is calculated and also the letter to explain that.

Director Cagnetti said she is very concerned that some applications were due October 1st and if she were a student in this situation she would be absolutely terrified; instead of just a meeting, whatever the remedy is it needs to be "all points bulletin"-on Facebook, emails, twitter, in every way to get this out.

Ms. Keating continued that there is nothing wrong with the way they are calculating the GPAs, the system was in place long before she got to this district and it is accurate how the GPAs are being calculated and that a big part of the problem is the quality points behind the scenes – it can't be mathematically factored out by hand; it's not adding up your five grades and dividing, it's not possible because the quality points sit behind the scenes and Mr. Gentilezza's letter will go into that because the GPAs themselves are calculated correctly and if they are going to change to a different system that is a decision the district has to make.

Director Cagnetti asked if our district calculate GPAs differently than other schools.

Ms. Keating said she does not know the answer to that and would not speak off the top of her head but districts do weight things differently, high schools send out a school profile with the transcripts so they know the weight for AP and what the weight is for honors courses because schools chose to weight differently all over the country and that's why the school profile is sent with the transcripts in addition to Mr. Gentilezza's letter.

Mrs. Dixon asked that moving forward, right now it is being addressed and if she is hearing correctly that eSchool said that they're confident they could fix this, but is there also discussion of changing over to a different system?

Mr. Gentilezza said there has been discussion of that but as Ms. Keating said we could change the system as far as the way the GPAs are calculated including the final and if they do decide to print transcripts that do carry out to the hundredths spot, it's not going to look as neat as possible but it's going to be more efficient and more numerically "right on".

Director Schuster asked if other that use eSchool have the same issue. Mr. Gentilezza did not know.

Director McAndrew wanted to clarify that when referring to eSchool or grade book if they are referring to the CSIU model.

Mr. Gentilezza said that it's all based under eSchool but it's carried out to a decimal spot.

Director McAndrew asked if it is a component of CSIU.

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Ms. Keating responded no, that eSchool is the Student Information Management System that oversees all of the academic endeavors and CSIU is used strictly in the business office and there are schools that use that component but we use eSchool which is now PowerSchool but that is our Student Information Management System that's been in place. Other schools use Skyward, Sapphire, Infinite Campus; in CSIU there is a ton of them you could use but eSchool is our district's Student Information Management System.

Dr. Kirijan said she has been talking to school districts in the area and many of those are using infinite campus which they say there's an ease to using it as a calculation on which very easily be done. The other piece of that is we haven't come to the board about changing our grading system yet but if we did make a recommendation it would have to begin with the 9th grade class of a third year.

Mrs. Dixon asked if PFM is looking at this; Dr. Kirijan said they have not but they can request that PFM do if the board wishes.

Director Schuster asked if there is any way to get the transcripts correct rather than having to send an attachment.

Ms. Keating replied that the transcripts are correct based on how SSD calculates the GPA-everything is correct-we're not calculating based on end of grade, every marking period is counted-if you're a senior and you have four marking periods, four years beforehand all of those marking periods are calculated in an equation far beyond her comprehension to get to what you have as cumulative GPA so what is in the system is corrected-based off of what we've chosen as our cumulative GPA-you can't change or undo and go back a recalculate – you would have to chose a different means of calculation and implement with new cohort.

Director Schuster commented that he was hearing that the 11th grade group was off.

Ms. Keating said they heard the same rumors and the eSchool representative explained how the calculation works and when she explained it, it all made sense so perhaps the representative needs to be the one to explain it.

Mrs. Dixon asked if the eSchool representative would attend the education committee meeting.

Dr. Kirijan said absolutely.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Duffy, seconded by Director Casey and the meeting adjourned at 8:54PM.

By: _____
Secretary