

January 25, 2018

Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for General Purposes on Thursday, January 25, 2018 in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA.

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

Roll Call: Bill Gaynord

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

Absent: All Present.

President Dixon asked for a moment of silence for Robert Cavanaugh and Terry Gallagher Jr.

Public Comment:

Bob Bolus, resident, expressed that everyone is accountable for what is happening in the district because everyone allowed the board to no-bid contracts and running rampant with taxpayer money. Mr. Bolus added that the board cannot have unions dictating how the citizens of Scranton should live and pay because of the actions of others and you need to make the changes.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, thanked Mrs. Dixon for acknowledging the passing of Mr. Robert Cavanaugh.

Ms. Boland spoke of a four day work week that Mr. Casey suggested not long ago and noted that it will save 20% of the bussing budget and suggests strongly that the board look into that.

Kevin Kays, SFT, spoke of teacher's salaries, the district's expenditures, the district's revenues, the cost of inflation, the overpayments and bussing contract and the educational programs that will suffer with furlough of teachers.

Suzanne Furey, SFT, urged the board to remember they were elected to make the best decisions for the children in the district, the students did not create the debt and they will be hurt the most by cuts in programs, the failing quality of education in Scranton and teacher furloughing should be the last option not the first option.

Abigail Wilson, student at Northeast Intermediate School, spoke against the cutting of arts and teacher cuts.

Adam McCormick, SFT, expressed that the teachers are the most essential part of the budget, suggested privatizing services and sharing resources with the City of Scranton, spoke of overtime costs and the extra work teachers put in beyond the classroom.

Personnel Committee

The following was submitted by Director Casey.

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

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District Board of Education (Board of Education) is approving the §1124 and §1125.1 Economic Layoffs due to a substantial budget shortfall and/or non-economic alteration and curtailment of programs;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is approving the intent to suspend professional, and all temporary professional employees by majority vote by the resolution;

WHEREAS, the nonrenewal of temporary professional employees are not suspensions within the meaning of section §1124 and section §1125.1;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education's final budget is to be submitted no later than March 28, 2018;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is approving this sixty (60) days prior to adoption of a final budget;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is proposing the suspensions to reduce a budget deficit of approximately \$4,500,000 prior to suspensions;

WHEREAS the Board of Education anticipates the total savings for the 2018 budget after these suspensions to be approximately \$691,033;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has undertaken other cost saving measures such as 40 layoffs in the maintenance and clerical union, 10 additional layoffs in year three (3) of the maintenance and clerical contracts, healthcare savings, vendor savings, and other savings as identified in the proposed budget; (see attachment 1);

WHEREAS, the Board of Education will expend \$161,504,576 in 2018 with these suspensions and will expend \$162,195,609 in 2018 without the proposed suspensions;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education projects total revenue and other financing sources in 2018 to be \$157,668,070;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education projects 28 professional employees (see attachment 2) to be suspended representing 4.06 percent of total professional staff. Administrators, in an equal percentage of the professional employees suspended, will be suspended as follows:

First, the Board of Education will apply for a waiver to PDE;
Second, the Board of Education will utilize budgeted but unfilled positions, allowed;

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Third, the Board of Education will suspend 2 administrative out of 42 total positions representing 4.06 percent of administrative staff.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed the impact of the proposed suspensions on students and finds that students will continue to receive full complement of academic programs. No programs have been eliminated with the exception of Library, which will be integrated into the regular education program by classroom teachers. All class sizes will remain to contract standards. The impact on academic programs, if the proposed suspensions are not utilized, indicates that deeper suspensions and program cuts will be necessary for the next school year. (see Attachment 3);

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between the parties has ended and is in a period of status quo. Any collective bargaining agreement limiting suspension of professional employees does not apply in a period of status quo;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education will suspend an equal percentage of administration if a waiver is denied, as stated herein;

WHEREAS, the order of suspensions will be pursuant to §1124 and §1125.1 of the School Code;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors hereby authorizes the intent to suspend professional employees due to economic reasons and/or alteration and/or curtailment of programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors hereby authorizes and directs the Superintendent to take appropriate actions including notifying effected employees of the intent to suspend the appropriate professional employees due to economic reasons and/or alteration and/or curtailment of programs as described above.

President of the Board of Education
Scranton Board of Education

Dated this _____ day of January, 2018

Secretary of the Board of Education
Of Scranton Board of Education

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ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked the solicitor if §1124 and §1125.1 language meant Act 55. Attorney Minora responded in the affirmative.

Director Cagnetti asked the administration to confirm her understanding that the plan does not include program cuts, with the exception of library and that libraries would remain open and students would be able to access libraries with their teachers. Dr. Kirijan responded in the affirmative.

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

Questions from the audience followed regarding the number of teachers being furloughed and when the affected teachers would receive notification.

Solicitor Minora said 28 tenured and 23 non tenured and they would be notified by letter within the prescribed time period in the statute.

At this time Director Casey asked if there could be a study regarding a four day work week and asked Director Duffy if he would reach out to City Council regarding the sharing of services between the City of Scranton and the School District.

There being no further business President Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Duffy and the meeting adjourned at 7:34PM.

By: _____
Secretary