

November 20, 2017

Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for General Purposes on Monday, November 20, 2017, immediately following the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA 18503.

President Sheridan called the meeting to order at 6:33pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Casey, Douaihy, Duffy, Lesh, McAndrew, Oleski, Schuster and Sheridan.

(Director Timlin resigned last meeting)

Public Comment:

Joan Hodowantiz, Scranton resident and taxpayer questioned the board regarding the district and spending more money than they take in, resulting in a discussion between some directors and Mr. Gregg Sunday indicating for the record in 2011 the year ended the year in the positive with \$1,000,000,000 and the 2012 budget required the district to borrow for the budget.

Ms. Hodowantiz added that while she knows there are individually excellent teachers in this district but as a whole, the districts' performance is low and referred to a June study in the newspaper.

Ms. Hodowantiz concluded that she will happily pay the tax but wants to see a return in her investment.

Kevin Kays, SFT, spoke of revenues in the last nine years subtly increasing each year and noted the expenses incurred by transportation and again urged the board to bid out the transportation contract.

Rosemary Boland, SFT, spoke of pension concerns, NEIU and CTC contributions and money spent to renovate buildings, health insurance premiums, and concerns of cancer in just about every building in the district.

Ms. Boland spoke of the lack of substitutes in Scranton adding that substitutes do not want to come to this district when they can go to another district without fear of being choked, bit, kicked or sworn to. Ms. Boland also noted that Kelly Services is being paid \$123 compared to \$90 that the district would pay. Director Oleski said she thought the purpose of Kelly Services was to save money.

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Dr. Kirijan spoke up and said there is a shortage of subs in the whole area not just in Scranton adding that Kelly Services recruits, trains and does the payrolls so naturally we would pay a little more for that.

Ms. Boland referred to an earlier speaker this evening regarding the districts performance and said there are 2,000 special education students, many with severe disabilities that nobody cares about come testing time, every student has to take the same test regardless of their IQ or learning disability including students who don't speak English and spoke of the unfairness of this and how teachers are evaluated based on test scores.

John Kirby, spoke of tax anticipation notes and moving to a fiscal year budget. This led to a discussion with administrators, directors and Mr. Gregg Sunday pointing out that the idea was brought up years ago when Dr. John R. Williams was superintendent adding there are legal issues in levying taxes, PDE allowing us to operate a 12 month or 18 month budget, the legality of whether to levy taxes was not even clear to PDE attorneys and in order to interpret the tax code and what needs to be done, they weren't determined so we couldn't operate six months without levying some type of tax and you can only to a certain percentage so now you would have to double that percentage in order to do it twice in one year so there are ramifications from PDE.

Mr. Kirby also spoke of PSSA testing and the lack of substitutes. Ms. Boland said a lot of retired teachers would substitute but they will not go through an agency.

Resolutions:

Director Schuster asked the Board Secretary about the PlanCon K resolution that is missing from the packet.

Mrs. Orr responded that it was not provided.

Dr. Kirijan also responded that she thought it was coming from Mr. Judge to the Finance Office.

Director Schuster asked Mr. Sunday if removing it not voting on it will affect the timelines.

Mr. Sunday said yes, adding that a resolution stating the board authorizes the submission would be sufficient.

A motion to pull B-3 from the agenda was made by Director Douaihy, seconded by Director Lesh passed unanimously on roll call.

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

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B-1

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

WHEREAS, the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, requires the formation and approval of the Preliminary Budget; and

WHEREAS, the obligation for the approval of the above is placed upon the School Board based upon information and exchanged between the Administration and the School Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the School District of the City of Scranton is hereby in position to carry out its legal obligation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Preliminary Budget, as attached for the year 2018 is hereby introduced for consideration by the Scranton School Board in order that same, or any amendments thereto, may be approval in accordance with law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the Preliminary Budget, as adopted, be made available for public inspection through the Office of the Secretary of the School Board and the Board of School Directors said officer shall advertise the action hereby taken in accordance with law, and be subjected to approval of all documentation by the District Solicitor.

The resolution was seconded by Director Oleski and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) negative vote on roll call. Director Sheridan cast the negative vote.

ON THE QUESTION:

President Sheridan commented that there should have been more budget discussions, we're not receiving the subsidies we should be from the state and thinks there is a lot more that could have been done to close this budget gap therefore he will be voting no.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

B-2

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

WHEREAS, there will be a Capital Working Deficit in the beginning of the year 2018 and,

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WHEREAS, it is necessary to borrow funds to meet said deficit in the first part of the year 2018 until revenues are generated, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Board to borrow said funds through the use of Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Board of Directors to seek bids from local lending institutions for the first Tax Anticipation Note for the year 2018.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RATIFIED AND RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

THE BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AUTHORIZED TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FROM LOCAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS IN THE SCRANTON AREA FOR THE FIRST TAX REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE FOR THE YEAR 2018.

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

B-3

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

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Scranton School District wish to have CaseCon Capital apply for PlanCon K reimbursement from the state of Pennsylvania Department of Education,

Now Therefore be it resolved, the Scranton School Board hereby approves this Resolution and approves the submission of PlanCon K's.

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

The following was submitted by Director Oleski.

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

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KR-ODR # 19373-16-17, SL-ODR # 19415-16-17, DM and NJ; 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 Directors of Special Education are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matter.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director McAndrew asked if the settlements are about services or monetary.

Attorney Minora said that he did not handle the claims upon further recommendation from PFM they were handled by Special Ed counsel and he has not received summaries yet.

Dr. Kirijan recommended there be a process in place that the settlements are brought through the Superintendent before being brought to the board because she was not aware of these.

Director Schuster asked if this is something that needs to be discussed at a committee meeting.

Dr. Kirijan said she should have been made aware of the claims to present to the board – what is presented to the board should go through her.

Director Oleski indicated they were discussed.

A motion to table was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Schuster. Resolution N-1 was tabled with seven (7) affirmative and (1) one negative vote. Director Oleski cast the negative vote because she believes the claims have already been discussed.

At this time President Sheridan asked for a moment of silence for the passing of our Principal, Dan Gilroy's wife, maintenance personnel Debbie Rokita and retired Principal Joe Caputo.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Oleski, seconded by Director Duffy and the meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.

By: _____
Secretary