

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA 18503.

President Sheridan called the meeting to order at 7:15pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Sheridan asked for a moment of silence for the shooting victims in Las Vegas.

President Sheridan also reminded the public that comment will be limited to items on the agenda.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Casey, McAndrew, Oleski, Schuster, Timlin and Sheridan.

Absent: Directors Douaihy, Duffy and Lesh.

Solicitor's Report (Attorney Minora absent)

Attorney Joe Colbassani announced executive sessions were held on September 12, 2017, September 25, 2017 and this evening to discuss Personnel, Real Estate, Potential Litigation and Negotiations.

Report from PSBA Representative

No Report

Special Education Update

Mrs. Mary Ann Cartegna provided an update of estimated costs of NEIU #19 including tuition, center based costs, Hearing, Vision, Speech, PT and OT as indicated below:

Estimated Cost NEIU 19		Reconciliation done at end of the year			
Student	Grad. Date	Exceptionality	Total Tuition***		
1	2020	Multi-Disabilities	\$54,100		
2	2019	Multi-Disabilities	\$54,100		
3	2021	Multi-Disabilities	\$54,100		
4	2020	Multi-Disabilities	\$54,100		
5	2023	Multi-Disabilities	\$54,100		
6	2020	Multi-Disabilities	\$54,100		
7	2024	Autism	\$65,600		
8	2020	Autism	\$177,000		
			\$567,200		
4 students		Vocational Programs	\$82,000		
		Physical Therapy	\$125,000	For in District Students	
			\$774,200		
		1 extra student in cost \$61,285	\$835,485		

***Total tuition includes tuition, center based costs, Hearing, Vision, Speech, PT and OT

15-16 Cost \$ 1,197,968.80
16-17 Cost \$ 913,484.43
17-18 Cost \$ 835,485.36
Less \$ 362,480.14

10/2/17

We have 13 students in our Electric City Multi-Disabilities Class All students would have to go to NEIU 19 if we didn't have our program	Cost	\$703,300
We had 4 students transfer in for our Emotional Support Center Based Classes, if they had to attend NEIU 19	Cost	\$304,001
We had 6 students transfer in for our Center based Autism Classes, if they had to attend NEIU 19	Cost	\$393,001
If we did not have Electric City Programs, There would be an additional Cost of \$1,400,302 to NEIU 19		
	Additional Cost NEIU 19	\$1,400,302
	Current Cost NEIU	\$835,485
		\$2,235,787

Mrs. Cartegna added that if parents refuse placement it ends up in litigation and the program at ECA is very successful now since its inception and we are at capacity with multiple-disabilities.

Director Schuster asked if there have been any calls from other districts for placements.

Mrs. Cartegna said yes, everyday.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Alexis Kirijan, Superintendent reported on the following:

- Recognized members of the work experience program adding with this program our Special Education students are given the opportunity to develop their skills and work habits by working alongside of Aramark employees. Dr. Kirijan extended gratitude to Elaine Evans and Precious Gilliard for their dedication to this program and thanked them for accommodating our special student needs.
- Dr. Kirijan is pleased to inform you that this is the 2nd year of the Salvadori STEAM program and look forward to continuing the program as well as the valuable partnership with the Scranton Area Foundation and the Women in Philanthropy.
- Scranton School District hosted our 2nd Annual Community Business Partnership Breakfast last week to discuss our plans for upcoming school year. These partnerships have a viable impact on the lives of our Scranton students giving them additional knowledge, community exposure, resources and opportunities outside the classroom focusing on academic goals which are selected by the schools for improving student performance.
- Dr. Kirijan thanked the Moses Taylor Foundation and the Wright Center. The Together in Health Clinic within the West Scranton Intermediate School opened this week to provide primary care services to our students and to the members in our community.

- The Bell Game, Scranton High 35, West Scranton 20 was again an exciting evening for our students and community. Dr. Kirijan congratulated Scranton High School and all of the students and coaches who showed great sportsmanship.
- Dr. Kirijan thanked everyone for their cooperation with the early release schedule last Monday and Tuesday due to the unusually high temperatures adding that having less than a full day with students, impacts instruction plans and the Scranton School District made the decision to dismiss early based on the health, safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff. On Wednesday of the same week due to extenuating circumstances and a change in temperature an early release was not possible and although it was very warm and still uncomfortable the temperatures did drop some and the humidity was not as high. Dr. Kirijan appreciated all of our teachers and administrators for doing the best that they could to get through the day.
- The Department of Education recently used the new proposed ESSA EL Indicator Method to calculate index scores for districts across the Commonwealth. The districts were ranked to see where to set the initial and long term improvement targets for the Pennsylvania state plan. The initial target is set at the current 25th percentile performance level and the long term 2030 goal at the current 75th percentile. EL students in Scranton are performing around the 65th percentile right now which is higher than most of our urban school districts. We received communication from the PDE congratulating us in that area and also informed us that we have reached our maintenance of effort in our Special Education Department.

Public Comment

Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County Community Relations updated the board on current and upcoming events in Lackawanna County.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President expressed sadness in the loss of Karen Kowalski, a paraprofessional in the Scranton School District as well as the loss of Marty Kuhn's son and Beth Burkhauser, a teacher McNichols Plaza also lost her young son, please keep them in your prayers.

Ms. Boland thanked the board for hiring the much needed CSN at the last meeting and inquired about the following:

Outstanding grievances that were heard at the board level and she is still waiting for responses in writing.

PLAN CON money from the state and if the district has received all or part of the money yet.

The Business Privilege Tax and would like an update how much was collected from the City of Scranton.

Substitute paraprofessionals working for the district for several years have been doing the job and doing it well but they have not been hired yet.

Teachers need desk top computers to do their work; not laptops or iPads, not Ebooks or Kindles.

The need of lavatories especially in the elementary schools with enough working toilets.

Budget and Finance

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

B-1

It is the recommendation of 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 2, 2017

\$1,214,904.56

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

B-2

It is the recommendation of 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 2, 2017 be approved as per the attached.

Be it resolved that exception payments in the amount of \$1,128,184.84 have been paid in accordance with the approval payment policy.

September 22, 2017

\$642,841.84

September 29, 2017

\$485,343.00

Be it resolved that payrolls amounting to \$2,539,501.95 have been paid in accordance with the approval for payment policy.

September 22, 2017

\$2,539,501.95

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked when Barbetti's audit will be complete.

Mr. Gregg Sunday said we will receive the final audit this Thursday. (October 5, 2017)

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

B-3

The BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE presents the following resolution for your consideration:

Be It Resolved that the Delinquent Tax Report for the month of August, 2017 be accepted. A copy of the monthly detail is available for review in the Business Office.

Tax	\$	440,132.98
Penalty	\$	43,865.00
Interest	\$	61,546.51
TOTAL	\$	545,544.49
Commission	\$	(27,277.68)
NET TO DISTRICT	\$	518,266.81

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

B-4

The BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE presents the following resolution for your consideration:

Be it resolved that the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 2017 be accepted as follows:

Opening Balance	\$33,460,717.80
Monthly Revenue	\$12,375,690.08
Transfers and Refunds	\$ _____
 TOTAL AVAILABLE	 \$45,836,407.88
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$14,025,781.90</u>
 BALANCE IN GENERAL ACCOUNT	 \$31,810,625.98

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

B-5

It is the recommendation of 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:

George Bahrenburg	818 Cedar Ave.	Map No. 15619 020 076	\$2,531.31
Celeste Solivan & Baron Ramirez	2149 N. Main Ave.	Map No. 13505 070 003	\$4,004.35
Raymond Spear	820-822 Delaware St.	Map No. 13517 050 051	\$2,200.00

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.

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

Education Committee

The following was submitted by Director McAndrew.

D-1

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education approved the 2017-2018 school calendar; and

WHEREAS, a change in the instructional calendar requires the Superintendent to notify the Board to request approval of the change; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent requests the Board to approve the district is closed for Thanksgiving holiday for all staff from Wednesday, November 22, 2017 through Friday, November 24, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the district will reopen on Monday, November 27, 2017; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board of Education hereby approve the Superintendent's request for a calendar change. Upon Board approval, the Superintendent will communicate the calendar change to all.

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director McAndrew.

D-2

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

WHEREAS, a request for approval (as attached) has been submitted to the Board of School Directors for Scranton High School Political Science Club senior students to be permitted a field trip to Boston, MA on Saturday, October 14, 2017 and returning Sunday, October 15, 2017; and

WHEREAS, students will see historic sites and learn the role of Boston during Colonial Times and its role in the American Revolution; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Scranton School Board hereby approves the request as per the attached.

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

Personnel Committee

The following was submitted by Director Oleski.

J-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and Personnel Committee that the attached list of Appointments, Assignments, Retirements, Resignations, and Leaves of Absences 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. RESIGNATION – PROFESSIONAL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE EFFECTIVE</u>
1. Martina Green	Special Ed Teacher	Whittier/Bancroft	TBD

B. RESIGNATION – NON-CERTIFIED

1. Helen Ann Joyce	Paraprofessional	Bancroft	Sept. 25, 2017
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C. RESIGNATION-COACHING

1. Jessica Shelp	Football Cheer Adv.	Scranton High	Sept. 21, 2017
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The resolution was seconded by Director Casey and passed unanimously on roll call vote.

Special Education Committee

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 ODR #19554-17-18/AS; 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.

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

Transportation Committee

The following was submitted by Director Lesh.

The Transportation Committee submits the following resolution for the approval of Transportation for the 2017-2018 school year:

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Director McAndrew asked about APEX and if students are enrolled and taking classes online.

Dr. Kirijan said yes we are enrolled and students have been rolled over from Penn Foster and she believes there are 86 students registered, the teachers are assigned.

Mr. Joe Brazil also addressed that there were some schedule issues because of the transfer over from Penn Foster and a back log in Central Registration and problems with program codes that have been resolved.

Presidents Report:

President Sheridan now asked for a moment of silence for Karen Kowalski, a paraprofessional who passed away.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Oleski, seconded by Director Casey and the meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

By: _____