

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA.

President Douaihy called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Casey, Donahue, Duffy, Martinelli, McAndrew, Oleski, Sheridan and Douaihy.

Absent: Director Ruane.

President Douaihy reminded everyone of the board rules of speaker's time limits.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bob Bolus, Scranton taxpayer and businessman expressed his dissatisfaction of the speaker time limit and his opinion of the leadership of the SFT, the board and administration.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, spoke of recent proposals offered to the SFT, the unique needs of the Scranton School District, the issues teachers face everyday including the number of languages spoken by the students of the district and also presented the board with 11,000 petitions that she would like the board to read.

Vince Wojnar, SFT, spoke of the budget issues in the school district and urged the board to reach a fair and equitable contract with the Scranton Federation of Teachers.

Ted Anderson, SFT, father of four in the school district and Scranton taxpayer addressed the status of sports, Act 59, Act 101, student practices and forfeited games.

Deb Moran, parent and taxpayer, spoke against the number of children in the classrooms, band and sports practice during the strike and wants her kids back in school and not at the expense of the teachers.

Judy Kilmer, resident and teacher in Scranton School District, spoke of the teachers and paraprofessionals as the lifeblood of the Scranton School District, teachers do not deserve to be demoralized and they need to know they are being compensated and appreciated, the value of solidarity and urged the board to pass a fair and equitable contract.

Blaise Beebe, 2016 Scranton High Class President, spoke against the teachers strike and on behalf of the student body regarding AP tests and the inadequate time to prepare for the tests which will result in lower test scores, the inability to access transcripts as deadlines approach to apply for college and the forfeit of sports as well as other suffering activities such as Speech & Debate, Mock Trial, Orchestra, Chorus, Band and FBLA to name a few. Mr. Beebe urged the board to negotiate in good faith a fair and equitable contract.

Christine Walker, SFT and Scranton resident spoke out against the teacher's strike, attacks against the union, false information, and her opinion of the intent to model the Scranton School District with the APS.

Kathleen Beckwith, SFT, spoke of the lack of money in the district although administrators are attending leadership conferences, recent in-service speaker expenses; money is spent on Monticello and Lincoln Jackson Academy and administrators salaries.

Anne Hartman, parent of children in Scranton School District spoke of the residents of Scranton as the true stakeholders of the Scranton School District and in favor of the teachers of Scranton, she is very impressed with the outstanding job they do and she is grateful for the time and effort they put in everyday.

Kevin Kays, SFT, urged the board to make a motion to bid out all service contracts and set policy for the future.

Claudia Pregmon, Scranton High School student, voiced her opinion of the teachers strike and the affect it has on the students and this is the hardest year for seniors as they have college deadlines and have been unable to meet with college representatives.

Nicole Hartman, Scranton High School student acknowledged a message from the superintendent's secretary regarding free and reduced lunches, addressed the board and administration regarding the inability to access transcripts and teacher recommendations needed for college applications, the great experience that has been taken away from her and fellow students adding that she takes pride in her school work and extra curriculars and she feels that they are all under qualified.

Ms. Hartman asked Mr. Douaihy how he would feel if he were a teacher right now which he responded that it would be very complex.

Tom Smith, retired teacher and Scranton resident, expressed that the students are the ones suffering right now, reminded the board to take back control, and of money spent on the Administrators Retreat at Marywood.

Tammy McHale, Paraprofessional, commended the students who spoke this evening and spoke of the value of the paraprofessionals, invited the board to spend one day walking in the shoes of a paraprofessional and commanded the respect of the board to reach a fair and equitable contract.

Nick Kramer, teacher and parent, spoke of recent Middle States Accreditation at West Scranton High School and asked the board for their help and support to reach a contract agreement.

Chris Hughes, parent, spoke of ongoing safety concern at Luzerne and Main Avenue with the lack of a crossing guard, his disappointment in the district that taught him, leaders struggling over power and money, families forced to utilize St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen so the children could eat during this strike, an emergency lunch program and the reality of this town that people of Scranton cannot afford much more and he hopes an agreement is reached and that it's not on the backs of taxpayers.

Sean Cleary, Scranton resident and taxpayer, spoke of the importance of the education for every child in Scranton and that it should be the number one priority and the importance of the teachers who are not just teachers but mentors, healthcare providers, friends and sometimes parents to the children. Mr. Cleary added that the teachers deserve respect for the jobs that they do and should be fairly compensated.

Mr. Cleary urged the board to moved forward, negotiate in good faith, settle this strike and get the kids back in the classroom.

Sandy Gaul, parent, spoke of her son who will be graduating this year but is unable to obtain transcripts and teacher recommendations needed for college applications due to the teachers strike.

Ms. Gaul also spoke of football practice and trainers and of the scouts who have been unable to see her son play football because of the strike.

There being no further speakers President Douaihy spoke of retired principal Dr. Charlotte Slocum who recently passed away and asked for a moment of silence.

Mr. John Marichak now addressed the issue of sports going forward.

President Douaihy asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 8, 2015.

Director Casey made a motion, seconded by Director Donahue and the motion to accept the meeting minutes passed unanimously on roll call vote.

Solicitor Minora announced that an executive session was held this evening to discuss real estate, personnel, litigation, settlements and student discipline and labor relations.

Solicitor Minora also addressed the teachers and paraprofessionals of the SFT regarding the current financial offer, apologized if anyone has been offended at all during negotiations and Mr. Minora encouraged the teachers to go back to the classroom for the benefit of the students until a state budget is passed and we know more of where we are financially.

There were no reports for board committees except for Director Casey who asked Atty. Minora if there has been any communication with Mr. Denaples about saving the district any money within the bounds of the contract.

Attorney Minora said that there has been some phone conversation but it's been difficult to communicate due to negotiations.

At this time a motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Oleski and the consent agenda passed unanimously on roll call vote.

The consent agenda included the following:

BUDGET AND FINANCE

B-1

The list of bill payments in accordance with the bill payment approval policy in the amount of **\$1,400,283.53** as per the attached.

B-2

The Exception Bill List as per the bill payment approval policy for the period ended October 5, 2015 be approved as per the attached.

Exception payments in the amount of \$995,339.78 have been paid in accordance with the approval for payment policy as follows:

September 11, 2015	\$118,180.10
September 25, 2015	\$299,629.19
October 1, 2015	\$577,530.49

Payrolls amounting to **\$5,018,804.31** have been paid in accordance with the approval for payment policy as follows:

September 11, 2015	\$2,486,779.97
September 25, 2015	\$2,532,024.34

B-3

The Delinquent Tax Report for the month of August 2015 as collected by the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau for a net return to the Scranton School District of \$382,430.33.

B-4

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 31, 2015 prepared by the Business Office and confirmed by First National Bank as follows:

Opening Balance:	\$13,735,048.75
Monthly Revenue:	\$ 4,393,172.94
Transfers & Refunds:	<u>\$(1,854,865.59)</u>
 TOTAL AVAILABLE:	 \$16,273,356.10
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	<u>\$ 8,362,934.75</u>
 Balance in General Account:	 \$ 7,910,421.35

B-5

Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau has approved the repository sale of certain properties therefore the Scranton School District approves the following repository sales to net the District **\$10,133.74**.

David Paramo/Ana Gonzalez	303 Willow St.	15615 010 034	\$2,607.49
David E. Castellani	PA Turnpike	12303 010 003	\$2,419.45
Al Pantuso	439 Phelps St.	14653 020 005	\$2,573.90
Ryan Swift	638 Theodore St.	13407 020 059	\$2,532.90

TEACHING AND LEARNING

D-1

Expulsion hearings were conducted in the matters of Expulsion Nos. 35,36,37,38 and 39 of 2015. Informal hearings as well as full hearings have been duly conducted in the matters stated affording the students the opportunity to challenge the same at time of informal hearings as well as full hearings; it is recommended that the students be expelled as set forth upon the terms and conditions previously presented for your consideration.

HUMAN RESOURCES/PERSONNEL

J-1

Certified Appointments, Certified Resignations, Leaves of Absences, Non-Certified Appointments and Non-Certified Leaves of Absence as follows:

Recommendation for Appointments/Assignments-Certified

Anu Mary Thomas	Teacher-Biology	West Scranton High School	TBD
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Resignations

Douglass Mallas	Teacher-Biology	West Scranton High School	9/1/2015
Matthew Fidati	Phys. Ed.	LJA	8/30/2015

Leave of Absence

Angela Pigga	Reading	South Intermediate	9/11/15-12/3/15 Without pay
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Leave of Absence-Non-Professional

Bernice McAndrew	Paraprofessional	Itinerant	9/21/2015 Without pay
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J-2

Permission to Attend mandated training and on-going professional development relevant to their specific duties and responsibilities to improve the education of our students.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFERENCE/MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Suzanne Conaboy	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Anne Salerno	Sexual Health Education	Harrisburg	\$610.00	10/26-27/15
Anne Salerno	PAFPC Regional Workshop	Doylestown	\$375.00	10/21/2015
Leah Simms	PBIS Leadership Forum	Chicago, IL	\$976.00	10/22-23/2015
Elizabeth Hemphill	PBIS Leadership Forum	Chicago, IL	\$976.00	10/22-23/2015
Jessica Burns	PBIS Leadership Forum	Chicago, IL	\$976.00	10/22-23/2015
Paul Stefani	PAESSP State Conference	State College	0	10/18-20/2015
Laurie Santoli	Teaching AP Calculus	Wilkes Univ	\$1,269.00	7/20-24/2015
Gina Colarossi	2015 Spec Ed Leadership Conf.	Bedford, PA	\$380.38	7/27-29/2015
Maria Flynn	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Donna Ferko	NASN Saving Lives	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Anne Marie Weiksner	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015

Carol Rothenberger	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Colleen Hartman	CSN Professional Development	NEU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Kathy Opshinsky	NASN Saving Lives	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Nicole Ferguson	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Kathy Martin	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Shannon Lewis	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Lisa Calvey	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Elaine Davitt	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Lisa Regan	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Patricia Cosgrove	CSN Professional Development	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015
Erin Keating	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Marci Barnansky	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Colleen Gallagher	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$395.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Patricia O'Gurek	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Sue Sileo	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Patricia Laboranti	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$395.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Karyn Schaeffer	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Maria Calvert	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Molly Popish	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Laura Osmun	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Joseph Castaldo	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$125.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Amanda Montoro	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$395.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Bradley Turi	Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training	NEIU	\$395.00	10/20, 27 & 11/2/15
Margaret Walsh	NASN Saving Lives	NEIU	\$25.00	10/1/2015

OPERATIONS/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

P-1

Mom & Pop Transportation Contract as mandated by PA School Code 23.35 Transportation by Contract- Financial Impact \$2700.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Donahue made a motion to bid out all professional services.

Director Casey seconded the motion.

President Douaihy asked him to repeat the motion.

Director Donahue made a motion to bid out all professional services over \$10,000.00 moving forward.

Director Casey again seconded the motion.

Director Donahue confirmed with Mr. Gregg Sunday the state's benchmark in terms of bidding out professional services as \$10,000.00.

President Douaihy asked for a resolution at the next meeting with a policy change and would Director Donahue feel comfortable with that.

Director Donahue replied no.

Upon roll call the motion passed unanimously.

Director Sheridan thanked Mr. Marichak for bringing up the issue about sports tonight, announced that the board did not have any knowledge of practices.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding sports practices.

President Douaihy indicated that there is an executive session following this meeting to discuss this topic.

Dr. Kirijan said that there was a meeting with the principals this afternoon about different possibilities about sports and several issues were raised that were decided needed to be taken to the board and a meeting with the board is scheduled following this meeting to share those concerns and issues and a decision will be made with the board this evening. Dr. Kirijan apologized and they're going to see why that happened; a meeting was held with the principals this afternoon and we had an agenda where legal issues and training requirements, logistics and such were discussed and they are bringing that to the board this evening to discuss with them for them to make a decision as to the way they would like to proceed.

At this time the board and administrators heard complaints from audience members regarding practices being held earlier today and the board did not know how practice got called this afternoon.

A motion to adjourn was made by Director Martinelli, seconded by Director Duffy, and upon roll call to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

By: _____
Secretary