

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503

A Special Meeting of the Scranton School Board of Directors was held on Monday, November 26, 2012, in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 7:30pm prevailing time for the specific purpose of Transportation and to approve the Preliminary Budget.

President Lesh called the meeting to order at 7:32pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL: By the Secretary.

PRESENT: Directors Fox, Martinelli, McGuigan, O'Shea, Ruane, Sheridan, Shrive and President Lesh.

ABSENT: Director Barrett.

At this time President Lesh asked for speakers; hearing none he turned the meeting over to Director McGuigan.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The following resolution was submitted by Director McGuigan.

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

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today's school children; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision to impose \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts to almost all federal programs including education that would become effective January 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts, also known as sequestration, would impact education by a reduction in funds of 7.8 percent or more and could result in larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, possible four-day school weeks, loss of extracurricular activities, and teacher and staff lay-offs [including Guidance Counselors, Technology Teachers, Reading Recovery Teachers]; and

WHEREAS, sequestration would impact almost every public school system in the nation and the millions of students educated through programs such as: Title I grants for disadvantaged students, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), English Language Acquisition, Career and Technical Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District, as well as other public schools, would be impacted nationwide by an estimated \$2.7 billion loss from just three programs alone – Title I grants, IDEA special education state grants and Head Start – that serve a combined 30.7 million children; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011, and state and local funding for education continues to be impacted by budget cuts and lower local property tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments have very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts from sequestration, as the Scranton School District has already implemented cuts commensurate to state and local budget conditions; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scranton School District urges Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

President Lesh, Director McGuigan and Director Sheridan all commented on the governor's budget cuts and in the end the board is left with having to make difficult decisions whether programs are cut or teacher's positions eliminated.

ALSO

The following resolution was submitted by Director McGuigan.

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 2013, 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 O'Shea and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ON THE QUESTION:

President Lesh thanked the board, Mr. Gregg Sunday, Mr. Bill Gaynord and Mr. Pat Laffey for their hard work with the Preliminary Budget.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The following resolution was submitted by Director O'Shea.

It is the recommendation of the Transportation Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors recognizes the concerns of our parents, neighbors, teachers and administrators with respect to protecting the health, safety and welfare of our students due to traffic concerns at arrival and dismissal times, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors wishes to seek a proposal from Bogart Engineering, a firm that successfully completed traffic study at Scranton High School, to conduct traffic studies at Isaac Tripp, John G. Whittier and Francis Willard Elementary Schools, and

WHEREAS, the administration will bring back to the Board of School Directors the proposal from Bogart Engineering to conduct these studies for further Board approval, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to request a proposal to conduct traffic studies at Tripp, Whittier and Willard Elementary Schools.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director McGuigan recalled the study at Scranton High School and that the state was involved in that study and wondered if we should involve the City of Scranton in this study.

Mr. King addressed and said that is certainly an option but right now we are only committing for the proposal of the study and perhaps Bogart will see something we don't.

Director O'Shea added that the study would indicate whether something will work or not before spending a lot of money.

Director McGuigan said while she is happy the study is being performed at Tripp because there are obvious problems there but recalled the study already performed at Whittier and that it was disregarded by some people.

A discussion now took place between directors and administrators regarding the congestion and access road at Isaac Tripp, a crosswalk at Main Avenue and Hampton Street for Willard, the increase in enrollment at Whittier and the current situation at drop off and dismissal times at Whittier.

President Lesh now announced upcoming events for Matthew's Mission, Breakfast with Santa, Family Movie Night at Nay Aug Park, Scranton High Chorus Knight Rhythms at Gino Merli Center and the Science and Broadcast vehicle will be ready for 2013.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Secretary