

March 7, 2022

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508.

1. Call to Order

President Yanni called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call – By the Secretary

Present: Directors Cheseck, Cleary, Cruz, Gilmartin, Holmes, Hume, McAndrew and President Yanni.

Absent: Director Fox

4. Motion to Approve Agenda

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director Gilmartin; motion duly passed 8-0.

5. Communications to the Board

Mrs. Orr announced that Executive Sessions were held on February 28, 2022 and this evening to discuss Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Negotiations.

6. Solicitor's Report - Attorney John Audi – no report

7. Superintendent's Report - Mrs. Melissa McTiernan

Mrs. McTiernan spoke of the following accomplishments in the district:

Kennedy students recently celebrated TwosDay on 2/22/2022 and participated in lessons and activities related to the number two and also dressed in tie-dye shirts and donated nonperishable items to the Keystone Mission as a way to help the community.

At Armstrong Elementary, 23 students and their families participated in Jump on Board, a jump rope event to benefit the American Heart Association. February was Heart Health Month and PE teacher Miss Johnson coordinated the event to help raise money to support this cause. \$1,238.85 was raised by the students and donated to the American Heart Association.

Also at Armstrong, Mrs. Coyle's 3rd grade class was challenged to promote kindness within their lives and that of others by competing in various tasks beyond their everyday norms. Students wrote thank you notes to Aramark employees, gave out random compliments, made new friends at recess and donated to local charities. All acts of kindness were logged by the students and it quickly became evident that kindness is contagious.

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At John F Kennedy, 3rd and 4th grade recently competed against one another in the MobiMax Math fluency contest and students practiced their math skills in school and at home and individual progress was posted on a leader board that helped to spark added excitement for these students. The top three students were Daniel Panday, Luke Ferguson and Kyla Kilpatrick. In 3rd grade the winners were Ishna Regmi, Safa Barry and Priest Gurung.

John F Kennedy students also recently participated in the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Penguins Robos Readers program and students who elected to participate logged the amount of books they read over a set period of time and were rewarded with free hockey tickets.

At Whittier Elementary, 2nd grade student Rayyan Maktoomi presented an impressive Google Slide presentation on the Ice Age to his class and principal Mr. Wolff. Rayyan created the presentation on his own with help from his classroom teacher Mrs. Amy Beebe and additional guidance from teacher Miss Julie Farrell.

Mrs. McTiernan congratulated all district elementary teachers, principals and students on conducting Read Across America week in correlation with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Scranton School District schools joined schools around the nation in celebrating the importance of reading. Activities included inviting special guest readers from around the district and community to share their love of reading with the students. Mrs. McTiernan thanked the many board members who went into the schools to read with our kids.

Mrs. McTiernan congratulated the following:

Scranton High Boys Basketball who won the District Championship and wished them good luck in the State Tournament

West Scranton Wrestler Shannon Core who won the heavy weight title and is a district champion.

Also Tyson Cook, Jason Williams and MJ Turi who took 2nd place in Districts and Aidan Collochi who finished 3rd in the district competition.

All of the above wrestlers advanced to the Northeast Regional tournament this past weekend and West Scranton's team overall placed 6th.

Congratulated and wished good luck to Tyson Cook, who won by major decision placing 3rd in the 2022 Regional Tournament and advances to the State Tournament next weekend in Hershey.

Mrs. McTiernan congratulated Victoria Watkins who won the 3rd consecutive diving district championship and will compete on the state level on March 17th at Bucknell.

8. Report from Student Representatives

Jeannie Rafferty, Scranton High School, spoke of Read across America in elementary schools with theme days, special activities and readers and Scranton High School students read to

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students at Armstrong and Whittier Elementary. Scranton High School student council created an online platform for cyber elementary students to participate in the fun of Read across America each day. At McNichols Plaza, the PTA hosted a scholastic book fair and the 4th grade hosted a parent and family STEM night where students heard the real story of the Three Little Pigs and created a model house with their families.

At South Intermediate a parent information night for all STEMM Academy parents took place and parents were able to receive a look into what the new program will involve for students. Also at South Intermediate Easter Bunny pictures will be offered on March 22 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

A Scranton High student is close to completing a pre-employment transition program through Johnson College and Kane Logistics and Kane will hire him full time when he is done with the program.

The SADD Club will be encouraging students to take the pledge to Text Less and Live More which is a national campaign to end distracted driving.

Rusbelly Almonte, an advanced ELD student was accepted to Wilson College and received grants and scholarships totaling \$28,682. Rusbelly will be studying Veterinarian Sciences.

In honor of February as American Heart month, student council at Scranton High raised \$350 for the Jack of Hearts foundation, a corporation dedicated to supporting the families of pediatric, cardiac patients in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Scranton High Band members Dayanara Castillo and Nancy Ho both won awards in the PEMA Regional Orchestra Competition.

Lackawanna College held an e-Sports tournament for students and Alexander Moctezuma and Michael Bernotsky both competed in the Mario Kart tournament and Alex took 2nd place and Michael took 3rd place.

On 2/22/2022 the Scranton High school counselors celebrated the class of 2022 by dressing as twins, having pretzels at lunch and creating a photo book.

Scranton High Boys Basketball is now the PIAA District II 6A Basketball Champions. The boys defeated Williamsport on Saturday night and will now play West Chester East on Wednesday night and tickets are available online and on the PIAA website.

Tyler Michel, West Scranton High School, reported on the following:

Charles Sumner students used STEMM based methods on 2/22/22 and built sculptures using toothpicks and marshmallows and during Read across America, students were busy reading and wore crazy hats, hair, and clothes throughout the week and had the opportunity to dress like their favorite character from their favorite book. Students also celebrated 100th day of school and dressed as 100 year old people.

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Tripp 4th grader Liam Manley placed 2nd in the state of Pennsylvania on Island Study Experimental Design's portion of the 4th grade Science Home Run Derby with a score of 11,945

During Read across America week students at Tripp participated in fun learning games and STEMM activities. Mrs. Rucker thanked all guest readers who read throughout the week.

West Scranton Intermediate 6th grade students under the direction of Mrs. Dickson participated in the Mathlete Competition which is the largest network of local and state math competitions. Joshua Carpio, Nathan Rivera, Benjamin Fried, Cali Branning and Emma Schalk all placed in the top 5 in the Mathlete Competition.

West Intermediate Art Club made over 100 valentines for the Gino Merli veterans and were delivered to the center by the club's advisor Miss Corby.

8 grader Reece Griffiths was named February Student of the Month for Citizenship.

West Intermediate Emotional Support classes celebrated Black History month by making a quilt made out of squares that were created after students researched and learned about the achievements of prominent black Americans and their roles in U.S. history.

March is gratitude month at West Intermediate and implementations of the district's SEL program began in March. Weekly activities have been planned and the response from both faculty and students has been extremely positive. The SEL team at West Intermediate is grateful for all that the board does for the school community.

West Scranton High School students from Mr. Hnat's art class were accepted into the Pennsylvania Art Education Association 2022 Youth Art Month Exhibition which is taking place virtually and this exhibition allows only three students from the teacher's home school to be exhibited in this statewide competition. Congratulations to Jasmine Ojeda, Victoria Herne and Lucy Pawluck for their achievements.

West High freshman Alena Lee was awarded the Gold Key award from Scholastic Art in writing for her design titled Picture Card Portraits of the World. Gold Key entries are automatically considered for National awards. Good luck to Alena and congratulations to Tori Herne and Chloe Slater for receiving honorable mention awards.

Seven classes at West High are receiving pre-employment transition group services with Goodwill and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Some of the learning support and emotional support students are taking part in a virtual career fair on March 9th with Junior Achievement and on March 3rd, nine students participated in a virtual youth leadership academy done by the PEAL Center.

9. PSBA Report – Director Catherine Fox

9.01 PSBA Report

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Director Gilmartin reported on behalf of Director Fox who could not attend this evening.

10. Public Comment

Anthony Pamela, resident, asked the following questions:

- 1) Will you asked the Board Solicitor to investigate the following: Does Pennsylvania Law allow a School Board to modify or reject a mandate given it by an agency of the Commonwealth or the Federal Government?
- 2) Will the School Board be willing to hold a public meeting with interested parties to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a particular mandate?
- 3) Will the School Board respect the sensitivities of male and female students when the Board allows transgender students access to bathrooms and locker rooms? Will the School Board review at a public meeting the accommodations that have been made or will be made for transgender students that affect non-transgender students?
- 4) Will the School Board identify who in the Scranton School District has the responsibility to allow or deny an outside agency access to a school building, school classroom or school assembly for the purpose of giving a presentation? Will the Board welcome and provide the opportunity for public input on the content of a presentation by an outside agency which has been allowed or denied access?

Adam McCormick, teacher, spoke of the STEMM Academy curriculum and thinks it's a great idea, knows Kat Miller is an excellent teacher and great choice to spearhead such a project however he has concerns with this plan and questions the decision to eliminate the library at Scranton High. Mr. McCormick feels the STEMM plan is being rushed for the 22-23 school year and is this plan the most effective way to engage students.

Director Hume asked if Mr. McCormick is speaking personally or on behalf of the union as she wants to clarify whether they're his personal views or the views of the union.

Mr. McCormick responded those are his personal views and people have come to him asking some of the questions so he said he would come and speak about it. Ms. Hume asked if it is the view of the union since he is speaking as a union official. Mr. McCormick said it is his personal view that he is speaking to now.

Ryan Hnat, Art teacher, spoke of the Youth Art Exhibition and he will share a link so that everyone can view it because the more views the better as it helps to promote the arts and the Department of Ed receives those numbers. Mr. Hnat also spoke of the PAEA Conference, the Everhart Museum Art displays, and that West Scranton will be trying to establish a new art gallery on the 2nd floor of the annex of the auditorium. There will be an art show with lights and installations that people can walk through on March 31st from 6-8pm and is open to the public. The goal of the space is to try and see if it works as an art gallery and possibly turning it into a full time art gallery.

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Mr. Hnat also spoke of the difficulty using School Dude and the leaky roof and lead paint in his room.

Mrs. McTiernan encouraged him and all teachers to use School Dude to make sure things are tracked and get done and if he is having difficulty or something is confusing someone can help him. Mr. Hnat said there are missing handles from desk drawers in his room and asked if that is something he should put in School Dude. Mrs. McTiernan responded anything that is not up to par to make sure it is addressed.

President Yanni asked Mrs. McTiernan who they should reach out to if they're having difficulty. Mrs. McTiernan said the proper channel would be to go to the principal who would then go to Mr. Rucker.

Karen Bond, resident and sub clerk in the district, sent an email to the board and thanked Mrs. McTiernan and Mr. McAndrew for responding. Ms. Bond spoke of the low wages of subs and this might be her last year subbing for Scranton because it is the 2nd lowest paying district in the surrounding area. Ms. Bond shared the following wages: Riverside is the lowest at \$80/day, Valley View and Mid-Valley pay \$125/day, Old Forge pays \$98/day, Abington Heights has a tier payment system – 1-30 days is \$100/day, 31-60 is \$110/day and after 61 days is it \$120/day, North Pocono is \$100/day. Ms. Bond asked the board to look into raising the wages for subs.

Mrs. McTiernan responded that they did explore the option of using ESSER funds at one point but that is not allowable so right now things are budgeted but they can continue to that it with the board and agrees there is a sub shortage as well as a teacher shortage across the nation and they do need to find a way to pay our substitutes more.

Jennifer Telesco, teacher, taxpayer and parent, spoke about the additional 15 minute time concerns, the recent Article 10, negotiations and the disrespect towards the teachers. Ms. Telesco spoke of the lack of coverage and preps are non-existent and teacher and staff morale continues to be at an all time low and they still cannot trust administration let alone given the respect they deserve. Ms. Telesco is thankful that the board and administration can find the time to visit and applaud the job well done but she questions do they really know how much time and effort it takes to do all that they do. Ms. Telesco hopes they all realize before more of their teachers leave and at this point she can't blame them if they do.

Ms. Telesco spoke briefly of School Dude and one of the issues is not receiving an acknowledgement that their requests have been made.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, spoke highly of Mr. LoU Nardella who was a principal at Kennedy Elementary and recently passed away.

Ms. Boland also spoke of the events happening in the Ukraine and hopes the district does their part to help out and support the people of Ukraine.

Ms. Boland spoke of the loss of the library at Scranton High for the STEMM Academy, disappearing and burning books, no library should ever be destroyed, and they are the foundation

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of this country and this democracy we live in. Ms. Boland hopes the Board acknowledges the fact that this is a mistake and has not been well thought out, not strategically figured out or tactically figured out.

11. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022

Director Cheseck made a motion, seconded by Director Holmes; motion duly passed 8-0.

12. Motion to Approve CONSENT AGENDA - One Roll Call to Approve Items. Please announce if any items(s) removed prior to vote.

Director Gilmartin made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew.

Director Cheseck requested that item B-5, Disposal of Assets, is removed from the Consent Agenda.

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item B-5 passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) negative. Director Cruz voted in the negative.

The following was approved under the Consent Agenda:

12.01 {B-1} Approve Bill List [B-1 Bill List 3-7-22.pdf](#)

List of Bill Payments: \$844,217.99

12.02 {B-2} Approve Exception Bill Lists [B-2 Bill List 3-7-22.pdf](#)

Bill Payments

February 18, 2022	\$1,141,712.29
February 28, 2022	\$ 548,325.52
March 4, 2022	\$ 557,875.55

Payrolls

February 18, 2022	\$2,768,545.48
March 4, 2022	\$2,781,458.09

12.03 {B-3} Approve January 2022 Delinquent Tax Report

Delinquent Tax Report for the month of January, 2022 as collected by the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau.

	\$165,825.32
Penalty	\$ 14,847.23
Interest	<u>\$ 20,939.01</u>
TOTAL	\$201,611.56
Commission	<u>\$(10,080.72)</u>
NET TO DISTRICT	\$191,530.84

12.04 {B-4} Approve January 2022 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for period ending January 2022 as prepared by the Business Office and confirmed by First National Bank.

Opening Balance	\$25,986,619.64
Monthly Revenue	\$ 4,136,232.64
Transfers and Refunds	<u>\$ 1,195,586.74</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$31,318,439.02
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$11,722,889.11</u>
Balance in General Account	\$19,595,549.91

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12.05 {B-6} Approve Capital Improvement Bill List [Capital Bill List 3-7-22.pdf](#)

Approve Capital Projects Bill List as attached.

Financial Impact: \$304,184.00

12.06 {C-1} Approve Donation from Home Depot to Whittier

Accept donation of 35 buckets for drumming in the general music classroom from Home Depot, Dickson City, PA to Whittier Elementary

12.07 {D-1} Approve Permission to Attend [Permission to Attend 3-7-22.pdf](#)

Approval of staff attendance to conferences and meetings contingent upon the required approval of all supervisors, principals or administration.

12.08 {D-2} Approve Out of State Trip for Scranton High

Approve Scranton High School Show Choir and Knight Amplified Show Band to travel to their competition on March 18-19, 2022 to Hanover High School in Mechanicsville, VA

12.09 {D-3} Approve 2022-23 School Year Calendar [2022-23 School Calendar 3-7-22.pdf](#)

12.10 {G-1} Approve Second Read Policy 626-Procurement Procedure Attachment, 006-BOG-0 Public Notice of Board Meetings and 122-Extracurricular Activities

12.11 {G-2} Approve First Read Policy 832 - Educational Equity

12.12 {H-1} Approve Special Education Settlement Agreements

3008031-EDS and 1900285-CG

13. NON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE (Budget, Real Estate and Leases)

14.01 {B-5} Approve Disposal of Assets at Scranton High School - removed from the Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the disposal process for the Library assets in the Scranton High School library to make room for the preparation of the Scranton School District's STEMM Academy following district policy 706.1 as per the attached. [STEMM Motion to approve disposal of assests.pdf](#)

Director Gilmartin made a motion, seconded by Director Cruz. Motion passed with six (6) affirmative and two (2) negative. Directors Cheseck and Holmes voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Cheseck said she will be voting no because she was under the impression that we were keeping the books. Mrs. Cheseck referred back to the Operations Committee meeting on January 10, 2022, after the STEMM presentation she asked what the plan was for the Scranton High School library and Miss Miller responded that she was looking into creating classroom libraries within each of the English and Reading classrooms so that students

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would still have access to the books that are currently housed within the library because at the current moment they are not being utilized effectively and Mrs. McTiernan then stated that they did have a meeting the previous week or the week before and that Miss Katona Miller had a plan in regards to what that would look like and that at the next Education Committee meeting that would be a great place for Miss Miller to expand on what that plan would be and how she had hoped to distribute those books amongst the classrooms more or less libraries in classrooms rather than the library so being that prior to last week's meeting she thought we were keeping the books and that is why she is voting no.

Director Gilmartin apologized that she should have read the second page of the disposal procedure as per district policy.

Mrs. McTiernan added that the board received the whole procedure of how they were distributing the books so what was heard tonight from individuals was not correct, they are distributing the books, there is a schedule, the board has received that in their packet and she believes they received it more than once. Mrs. McTiernan asked Ms. Gilmartin to continue.

Director Gilmartin said the disposal procedure as attached to this motion, the reallocation of assets will occur first within the district, it is currently in progress finalizing March 15, 2022. There will be a sale of remaining library assets then a donation of unsold library assets which will as they discussed at the work session, included students waste paper sale recycling of non denotable library assets and final disposal of library assets to be completed by June 15, 2022.

Director Cheseck responded that from the initial meeting, the Operations Committee meeting, she was under the impression that the books were going to be distributed instead of in the library they were going to stay within the classrooms – that's how she took it.

Director Cruz asked Miss Katona Miller if she said at the Operations Committee meeting that out of the approximately 3,000, around 2,500 are staying within the Scranton High School building.

Miss Miller responded yes that is correct. She can look up the exact number on the form that she's been updating weekly and they are currently at the elementary level but the vast majority of books selected on that list are for teachers within Scranton High School.

Director Holmes asked if they will be in the classrooms at Scranton High.

Miss Miller said yes, that was the intention of the virtual form, all of the books were listed by call number order or sorted by author or by title and teachers have had the last three or four weeks to go through and make any selections on the list so Scranton High received the list first and then it went to ELA departments, then the rest of the body of teachers and then the following week it was opened up to West Scranton High School and Scranton High were still able to continue editing on that form throughout that week after Scranton High then it went to the intermediate schools and again at that point Scranton High, West High and Cyber as well were able to continue editing on the form and now as of this morning it was opened up to elementary but again all four of those levels are still able to keep editing and it will stay open until March 15th. Miss Miller added she even had one day a week, on

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Thursdays available where she stayed within the library for any teacher that wanted to come in and pick books and she has also been helping any teachers that were looking for specific categories of books such as one teacher was looking for World War II and she was pulling books related to that topic for them to keep in their classroom.

Mrs. McTiernan asked Miss Miller if she included that time table and everything discussed in the board's Friday packet.

Miss Miller said yes, she believes three weeks ago she included it on the draft master schedule, last week she included it with the packet and within the drive that Mrs. Orr set up for everyone and also included an updated one in this packet as well.

Mrs. McTiernan said that is three weeks in a row and tonight she heard the word "destroyed" and that is a very inaccurate statement that we're destroying books.

Directors Gilmartin and Cruz both agreed they thought the word "burn" was used and Ms. Gilmartin said no one intends to burn any books.

Mrs. McTiernan added there's obviously been some inaccuracies that have been stated tonight and thanked Miss Miller for continuing to update the board on this process and she is sure Miss Miller will send another update again this Friday on how many books we have left and who else has the opportunity to get those books and we are absolutely, positively not burning any books; she is not sure where that is coming from or why somebody would even say that.

President Yanni thanked Miss Miller for all her work and updates.

Director Hume asked that since the library has been in existence since the school was established, as someone whose qualifications are in English, Reading and teaching, while she is sure the bulk of the books out of the library will find useful homes she thinks it's not realistic to expect that every single volume in that library continues to be relevant or continues to be in a condition where it will find a home so to say that every single book is going is a touch misleading and perhaps disingenuous that every single volume in there needs to be preserved, and as someone who has worked with books her entire life and in publishing, there is a point where volumes reach the end of their life and to take an outdated book or a book that is in poor condition and put in a library simply to pay lip service to no diminishing the number of books she thinks would be disingenuous and not in the best interest of the students. Ms. Hume thinks in the 20 years since the library was established, educational use of informational research is transforming, she thinks classroom libraries is possible and sounds extremely efficient and extremely efficacious. Ms. Hume is also disappointed that the union apparently has reservations about the establishment of the STEMM Academy because she believes it is one of the best innovations in the district in the time she's lived in Scranton.

Director Holmes said they are talking about books but also talking about STEMM and he understands what Ms. Hume said and while he personally believes STEMM will be a fantastic program, he is not convinced it is still the best use of the district's money. It is his belief they would benefit from restoring Pre-K before instilling this program for 120 students and getting rid of a library that services over 1,000 and is more than just a library

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and to him is inefficient use of the space and again it is a proven statistical fact that schools with libraries, the test scores are 10%-15% higher on standardized testing and that is actual fact on the Pennsylvania state website so he thinks the argument isn't just books it's the perception of getting rid of the entire library itself.

Director McAndrew asked Mrs. McTiernan if there is a way to designate space in the high school, a space where students can go to read and study like a library and also is there a way to get these books online, a way that everybody has access to the books and is there a way to find space.

Mrs. McTiernan responded that they can certainly look into something like that because if they're in the classrooms the students should be able to go into any classroom and get that book and thinks that's a great idea. Mrs. McTiernan will talk to Mr. Coyle to see what space is available if any.

Mrs. McTiernan added that she realizes not everyone likes change, she happens to be very excited about this program and she thinks everybody will be.

14.02 {B-7} Motion to Accept the 2019 and 2020 Single Tax Office Audit Reports
Accept the 2019 and 2020 Single Tax Office audit reports prepared by Robert Rossi & Co.
The cost of the service was shared with the School District and the City of Scranton.
Director Gilmartin made a motion, seconded by Director Holmes; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Gilmartin asked Mr. Laffey if everything is as it was at the work session and there no updates. Mr. Laffey said there are no updates.

14.03 {B-8} Motion to Accept the 2020 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit
Accept the 2020 Audited Financial Statements and 2020 Single Audit as prepared by BBD, LLP.
Director Gilmartin made a motion, seconded by Director Cheseck; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Gilmartin asked Mr. Laffey if everything is the same here.

Mr. Laffey responded the version that was reviewed on Monday evening was the draft version and there's been no material changes to the draft document other than maybe a correction of an audit finding that was listed and was corrected or other than minor grammatical errors, the financial aspect of it has remained the same.

Mr. Laffey added he will be posting it on the district's website as well for the public to view.

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14.04 {B-9} Motion to Approve Forecast5 Proposal

Approve of the proposal for Forecast 5, including 5Cast, 5Cast Plus and 5Sight.

Financial Impact: \$21,063.76 (prorated for 9 months) expires 12/31/2022.

The Forecast5 software will aid in multi year budget forecasting, trend analysis for both expenditures and revenue, and year to year budget to actual comparisons.

Director Gilmartin made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

14.05 {B-10} Motion to Approve Real Estate Assessment Settlement

Real Estate Assessment Settlement

Pin #15635020003 – 142 N. Washington Ave.

Reduction from assessed value of \$331,200 to \$183,992.

Financial Impact: Tax revenue reduction of (\$21,048)

Real Estate tax assessment value reduction as detailed above. At the current millage rate of \$142.987 this reduction equates to an approximate reduction of \$21,048.

Director Gilmartin made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed with five (5) affirmative and three (3) negative. Directors Gilmartin, Holmes and Yanni voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Gilmartin asked Mr. Audi or Mr. Laffey to detail the process to contest this, what it would approximately cost the district.

Mr. Audi responded in order to contest this we would have to have our own appraisal which could run approximately \$8,000, then we would have to have the appraiser testify which would be another couple thousand dollars, then we would have the fees for doing the actual litigation which could run anywhere from \$5,000-\$6,000 approximately so he thinks that's around \$16,000-\$20,000.

Director Gilmartin asked if that would be a one-time cost. Mr. Audi said yes, that's a one-time cost.

Director Gilmartin clarified with Mr. Laffey that the \$21,000 reduction is annual. Mr. Laffey said it recurring, correct.

15. COMMUNITY RELATIONS (Intergovernmental, Public Relations)

15.01 {C-2} Motion to Accept Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program Grant

Accept the Fidelity Bank Education Improvement Tax Credit funding to support the Scranton SD Dual Enrollment Program

Director Holmes made a motion, seconded by Director Hume; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

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Financial Impact:

\$18,750 (\$9,375 at each high school)

Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank, Commonwealth Charitable Management has provided \$9,375 in Education Improvement Tax Credit to both Scranton High and West Scranton High School. The funding is to be used to support the Districts Dual Enrollment Programs.

ON THE QUESTION:

President Yanni asked Mr. Laffey to provide a little background of how Fidelity Bank is donating this money.

Mr. Laffey responded that this came to our attention after the work session and as Director Holmes mentioned the specific purpose of it is to assist with the Dual Enrollment Programs. Mr. Laffey added it is specifically to support low to moderate household income and it is run through the Commonwealth Charitable Management and is an Education Improvement Tax Credit. The district will work with the principals at each high school to support this program.

16. EDUCATION (Education, Technology and Vocational Ed)

16.01 {D-4} Motion to Approve ESL Consultant Contract

Approve the ESP Consultant Contract with Educ8Every1 LLC (Melanie Wolf-Greenburg, Consultant)

Director Cruz made a motion, seconded by Director Holmes; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Cruz thanked Mrs. Grebeck for the work she put into this.

17. OPERATIONS (Buildings & Grounds, Health & Safety and Athletics & Stadium)

17.01 {E-1} Motion to Approve to Follow CDC Guidance and Mask Requirement

Motion to approve effective Tuesday, March 8, 2022 the SSD will follow the CDC guidelines on masking in our school buildings and school buses. Universal masking by all students and staff will be optional while Lackawanna County is in the low or medium level of transmission based on the COVID-19 County Check Table.

Universal masking is recommended for school districts in a high level of COVID-19 transmission but is not mandated.

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume said for the last two years the district has followed the CDC guidelines fairly religiously, they have helped us through and we continue to follow the CDC guidelines and in

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her opinion the wise course and certainly anyone who wishes to wear a mask they are welcome to do that.

Director Holmes asked if we do hit the 5% per school, if that will require the district to go virtual and asked if there is a limitation on the number of virtual days they can do if needed.

Mrs. McTiernan said that is correct, the 5% is still in effect as of today and we have the 520.1 work around which was approved by the board and that was strictly meant to be for Covid related days and if we had to close because of Covid then we still can use virtual days moving forward for the rest of the year and they will also have the opportunity to do that next year also.

17.02 {E-2} Motion to Approve STEMM Academy Design Budget Update
Approve Updated STEMM Academy Renovations Project Budget Estimate Attached.

Financial Impact:

\$3,773,386 (Difference from original budget +\$120,386)

Director Hume made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed with six (6) affirmative and two (2) negative. Directors Cheseck and Holmes voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Holmes thinks the STEMM program will be a fantastic program but he is not sure at this time it is the best use of the district funding; he personally believes they would actually receive more from the Pre-K program being restored than a program that will only service 120 students and for that reason he will be voting no.

18. PERSONNEL (Human Resources and Labor Relations)

18.01 {F-1} Motion to Approve Personnel Report

Motion to Approve Personnel Report

Director McAndrew made a motion, seconded by Director Cheseck; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>REPLACED</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
<u>A. PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS</u>						
1. Jessica Heise	Special Ed 7-12	Scranton Cyber	3/10/2022			
2. Sabrina Pacifici	School Counselor	Lincoln Jackson	3/18/2022			
3. Megan Johnson	Autistic Support	Lincoln Jackson	T.B.D.			
4. Kevin Pail	Learning Support	Robert Morris	3/17/2022			
<u>B. PROFESSIONAL RETIREMENTS</u>						
1. Paulette Nestrick	English Teacher	Scranton High	6/30/2022			
2. Deborah Orgill	Kindergarten	Robert Morris	6/30/2022			
3. John Castrovinci	Dir. Human Res.	Administration Building	4/29/2022			
4. William Gibbons	Health & Phys Ed	Scranton High	6/30/2022			
5. Nancy Comerford	Grade 4 Teacher	Prescott	6/30/2022			
6. Pamela Krupski	Reading/Title I	Robert Morris	9/26/2022			
<u>C. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS</u>						
1. Corey McNulty	Soc. Studies-APEX	Scranton Cyber	11/22/2021		X	\$46,971 prorated
2. Jacob Sholtis	Dir. Ldrship/Acct	Administration Building	2/22/2022	X	P. Dougherty	\$117,311.50 prorated
3. Angela Pigga	Reading	Northeast	3/7/2022	X	R. O'Brien	\$46,740 prorated
4. Rochelle Rodriguez	School Counselor	Lincoln Jackson	3/21/2022	X	S. Pacifici	\$42,280 prorated

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5. Jason Talmadge	Sp Ed Autistic Supp	Northeast	3/8/2022	X P. Gaughan	\$41,377 prorated
6. Aimee Hapstack	MDS Teacher	Monticello	2/28/2022	X M. Davis	\$54,800 prorated
7. Angela Ceccarelli	Art Teacher	SSIS/NEIS	3/7/2022	X	

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERMANENT SUB POSITION

1. Katherine DeFrancesco	APEX	West High	9/3/21 – End of School Year
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E. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUB POSITIONS

1. Brooke Newhart	Sp Ed Emotional Support	WSIS	2/23/2022	XJ. Calore
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F. PROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. Heather Carey Shamaski	ESL Teacher	Adams	½ year ROH Sabbatical eff. 3/8/2022
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G. PROFESSIONAL UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. Brittany Shuta	APEX Cyber	West High	11/22/2021-End of School Year
2. Allyn Ferretti	Sp Ed Life Skills	Scranton High	2022/2023 School Year
3. Ashley Bevilacqua	School Counselor	Scranton High	4/6/2022-5/31/2022

H. PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT

1. Sabrina Pacifici	Sec Guidance Counselor	LJA	9/4/2021
2. Kevin Olshefski	Biology	West High	9/4/2021
3. Stacey Moore	Sec Guidance Counselor	Scranton High	9/6/2021
4. Victoria Giombetti	Sp Ed Learning Support	Willard	3/4/2022
5. Daylana Gillette	Fam/Consumer Science	Scranton High	2/6/2022
6. Ashley Bevilacqua	Sec Guidance Counselor	Scranton High	10/14/2021
7. Bryn Grabowski-Stock	Grade 4	Armstrong	3/7/2022

I. NON-PROFESSIONAL RETIREMENT

1. Samuel Vitris	Maintenance	West Intermediate	2/25/2022
2. Gail Curry	PCA	Isaac Tripp	4/29/2022

J. NON-PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS

1. Deborah Evans	PCA	West High	3/1/2022
2. Laquanna Foster	PCA	Armstrong	2/11/2022
3. Angela Valdora	PCA	Kennedy	T.B.D.

K. NON-PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

1. Krissy Kizer	Hall Monitor	Northeast	2/22/2022	
2. Amy Matthews	PCA	Armstrong	2/15/2022	X
3. Matthew Isler	PCA	ECA	3/1/2022	X
4. Elaine Karboski	PCA	Monticello	3/7/2022	X
5. Michael Moskwa	Maintenance	District-wide	2/16/2022	X
6. Yiralet Cevals	Hall Monitor	Northeast	3/7/2022	X
7. Angela Valdora	Language Guide	District-wide	T.B.D.	X

L. COACHING RESIGNATION

1. Jolene Chomko-Hanley	Asst Var Softball	West High	2/15/2022
2. Jerry Skotleski	Golf Coach	West High	2/25/2022
3. Erin McGuire	Softball Coach	South Intermediate	2/10/2022
4. Dave Promovitz	Asst Football Coach	West High	2/8/2022
5. John Ray	Tennis-Boys	Scranton High	2/7/2022

M. COACHING APPOINTMENTS

1. Anthony Prudente	Varsity Asst Track Coach	West High	3/8/2022	X M. Kenny
2. Brad Turi	Varsity Asst Track Coach	West High	3/8/2022	X P. Devine
3. Carissa Kasa	JH Asst Track Coach	West High	3/8/2022	X H. Scacchitti
4. Jeff Lee	Varsity Head Coach-Softball	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X P. Hughes
5. Steve Shumbres	Head Coach-Track/Field	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X D. Powell
6. Evan Prall	Asst Var Coach Track/Field	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X M. Reed
7. William Gibbons	JH Track/Field Coach	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X J. Orlando
8. Greg Hoffner	Asst Coach JH Track	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X E. Thomas
9. Jason Bittenbender	Asst Var Coach-Softball	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X W. Peck

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10. Todd Angeli	JV Coach-Softball	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X J. Lee
11. Basil Bannister	Asst Soccer Coach-Girls	West High	3/8/2022	X B. Turi
12. Jenna Black	Softball Coach	South Intermediate	3/8/2022	X E. McGuire
13. David Beemer	Head Coach Boys Tennis	Scranton High	3/8/2022	X J. Ray

18.02 {F-2} Motion to Approve #804 Settlement Agreement

Director McAndrew made a motion, seconded by Director Holmes; motion passed unanimously on roll call.

19. POLICY (Policy & Legislative)

19.01 {G-3} Motion to Approve STEMM Academy Policy

Motion to approve the STEMM Academy Academic/Athletic Policy for prospective students who would be enrolled in the Scranton School District's STEMM Academy starting in the 2022-2023 school year.

Director Cleary made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed with six (6) affirmative and two (2) negative. Directors Cheseck and Holmes voted in the negative.

20. SPECIAL EDUCATION – no items

21. VENDOR RELATIONS (Purchasing, Food Services, Transportation)

21.01 {I-1} Motion to Approve STEMM Academy Furniture Purchase

Motion to approve the purchase of the STEMM Academy furniture to Corporate Environments, as attached. Pricing is based on OT8147CZ2 Sourcewell #121919-KII Contract at a cost not to exceed \$274,356.88 and subject to proper execution of the Contract.

Financial Impact:

Not to exceed \$274,356.88

(This amount is less than the previously approved Furniture Budget)

Director Cleary made a motion, seconded by Director McAndrew; motion passed with six (6) affirmative and two (2) negative. Directors Cheseck and Holmes voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Cruz is very excited to see the outcome of the design.

22. NEW BUSINESS

President Yanni asked Mr. Rucker to address the faculty and staff concerns regarding building communications and if he has any update on the status of the tools that might be available.

Mr. Rucker responded that he is researching and working with the Business Office, they're looking at expenses that they're currently paying for phone service and right now the phone service is bundled in through the internet and it is very difficult to separate those costs. Mr. Rucker added we are currently under contract with the current provider until March 2023 he believes and if the board wanted to move forward with it they would be stuck paying for what we

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have plus another phone service. Mr. Rucker said they tried to find different solutions short term and he purchased radios to try out and they're getting them programmed right now and they will be deploying them out to different schools and he believes Armstrong is going to receive them also. Mr. Rucker spoke about his hesitancy because each of the radios is about \$80 and a new phone is around \$90 so he made the purchase with the understanding that if they didn't work out they can still be used by maintenance to improve communication throughout the buildings.

Mrs. McTiernan said to summarize, they are under contract until 2023 and believes the zoom phones would cost about \$100,000.

Mr. Rucker said the actual phone service portion is around \$43,000 which is an estimate because they still haven't finalized the numbers.

Mrs. McTiernan asked if that is \$43,000 for the whole district. Mr. Rucker said it is annually, for 1,000 lines. In addition the reason it'd be higher is they would be doing hardware as a service which would be the phones; the phones are not marked up and as he said each phone is around \$90 each for the common area and classroom phones and a little bit more for what they would need for the administration building due to having multiple lines and transferring. The overall cost would be around \$120,000 annually and that is a short estimate as they don't have final numbers yet and it is not budgeted for at the moment.

Director McAndrew asked if there is a termination fee with the contract we have now if they try to get out of it. Mr. Rucker said they'd see liquidated damages.

Director Hume expressed her concerns of safety for the students and staff and has concerns of being locked into contracts.

23. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

24. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Holmes and the meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.

By: _____
Secretary