

August 10, 2020

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for the Specific Purposes of the Reopening Plan on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:00pm prevailing time via Zoom.

President Gilmartin called the meeting to order at 7:06PM with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Gilmartin asked for a moment of silence for Pratibha Sarki, 11 years old who passed away recently. Pratibha attended Prescott, John Adams and would have entered 6th grade at Northeast. She is the daughter of Phul Maya Khati and Madhukar Sarki.

An update of the Health & Safety Plan was now presented.

<..\..\Downloads\Health and Safety Plan - FINAL 8.10.2020.pdf>

Public Comment

Angela Brigido, special education teacher, spoke of an unfair and inequitable contract and asked the board to vote for a full virtual reopening.

Angie Krieger, preschool teacher at Bancroft, spoke of the services of teachers and urged the board to vote for virtual learning.

Christina Horne, teacher at Monticello, disagreed with the furlough of recent behavioral techs, spoke of the services of teachers, is not afraid of her students, and also spoke of the lack of support for her students.

Urica Carver - unavailable

Christine Gutekunst, teacher at Whittier, spoke of the loss of the Pre-K programs.

President Gilmartin asked the attendees to please update their names so we are able to identify the people who signed up to speak.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, encouraged the board to vote for the full virtual classroom and she knows they have the best interest of the children at heart.

Holly Meade, special education teacher at Northeast Intermediate, spoke about CARES money, concern of only two maintenance staff during the day at Northeast and the need to clean and everyone needs to unite to make the right decisions.

Cathy Muldoon - unavailable

Dave Beemer - unavailable

Jennifer Zaleski, teacher, spoke of the decision the board has to make this evening and urged the board to take this decision seriously.

August 10, 2020

Vivian Williams, spoke of the vast needs of special education students and she is unprepared to teach her child at home due to his needs and disabilities. Ms. Williams also asked for consistent communication.

Daniel Keeler, Sr. – unavailable

Laura Roche, teacher at Monticello, spoke of the loss of behavioral techs at Monticello and the services lost to the students.

Suzanne Furey, teacher at Neil Armstrong, expressed her sadness of how she feels the board and administrators don't appreciate the teachers and asked that they be treated with respect.

Tom McIntyre, taxpayer and parent, thanked Ms. Boland and her members for their feedback last week, spoke of the transportation contract if the board votes for virtual learning, concern of furloughed staff if the plan is virtual and wished the board good luck moving forward.

Urica Carver was seen in the attendees, her name was called to speak but she left the meeting.

Pat Festa - unavailable

Lisa Michaels, teacher, spoke of her experience and symptoms of contracting COVID-19 in March which she is still suffering from the symptoms today, including COVID fog. Ms. Michaels concluded that it would be a risk to bring back any students and staff in the buildings at this time.

President Gilmartin thanked Ms. Michaels and is sorry for everything she is going through.

Director Welby made a motion to approve the Emergency Declaration Plan, seconded by Director McAndrew and the motion duly passed 9-0.

ALSO

Director Welby made a motion to approve the Health & Safety Plan, seconded by Director McAndrew and passed unanimously on roll call.

[..\Resolutions\Motion to Approve Health & Safety Plan 8.10.2020.pdf](#)

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Yanni responded to Ms. Williams concerns during public comment and assured everyone that administrators and the board will be evaluating the plan at the end of the quarter with the hopes of returning children back to school safely.

Director Hume asked everyone to keep as their main focus the safety of students and staff in the plan and reopening school and thanked everyone for their hard work putting this plan together.

August 10, 2020

Director Cruz expressed she feels the best and safest option at this time is virtual learning.

Director Fox said none of them expected to have to make these decisions and hopes everyone understands how difficult it is for all of them. Ms. Fox also said they will be reaching out to community resources to help the families in the community.

Director McAndrew agreed it is a tough decision but just know it is not a final plan but it will be evaluated but right now it is the safest plan.

President Gilmartin agreed virtual learning is the safest option at this time.

ALSO

Director Welby made a motion to approve amendments to the 2020-21 Instructional Calendar which is changes to professional development days and will not impact student schedules. Director Malloy seconded. Motion duly passed 9-0.

ALSO

Director Welby made a motion to extend the four day work week until further notice at the discretion of the Superintendent. Director Dempsey seconded. Motion passed unanimously on roll call.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Cruz and the meeting adjourned at 8:27PM.

By: _____
Secretary