

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for General Purposes on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA 18503.

President Douaihy called the meeting to order at 7:22pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

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

Absent: Directors Donahue and Ruane.

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

During the public comment period of the meeting the following individuals addressed the board:

Rosemary Boland, SFT spoke of pending grievances, the lease at St. Mary's, a document from AFT about doing away with ER&D which was not true, newly hired teachers and certifications, her opposition of class size increases, discussions in negotiations regarding healthcare, asked for an insurance committee meeting, and the savings that the district should be realizing from recent retirements.

Matthew Loftus, SFT, asked the board for a fair contract, and also spoke of the recent fact finding report in the Federation's favor, recent raises and bus contracts renewed at outrageous figures.

Kevin Kays, SFT, welcomed Dr. Kirijan and spoke of transportation costs and audit reports and that transportation should be bid out.

Director Casey announced that as the chair of the Transportation Committee the transportation contract will be bid out in 2017.

Mr. Kays questioned the recent van contract and Solicitor Minora addressed.

Board President's Remarks:

President Douaihy spoke of the tragic loss of Officer Wilding of the Scranton Police Department, the loss of teachers over the summer and extreme sadness of the loss of two children of the Scranton School District. Mr. Douaihy asked for a moment of silence.

President Douaihy also spoke of the beginning of falls sports practices, 25 years since the merger of Scranton Tech and Scranton Central and wished all students the best in the upcoming school year.

Superintendent's Remarks:

Dr. Alexis Kirijan announced the three week countdown to the start of school has begun and thanked all employees on the job preparing for the opening of school.

Dr. Kirijan spoke of the continuing negotiations with the teachers and maintenance unions to finalize negotiations and is very optimistic about the progress to date.

Dr. Kirijan reminded everyone of the changes in the starting and dismissal times at the schools as the high schools will be starting at 8:10am and dismissing at 2:50pm, the intermediate schools at 8:50am to 3:30pm and the elementary schools starting at 8:10am and dismissing at 2:50pm.

President Douaihy now made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 26, 2015, June 1, 2015 and June 15, 2015 and passed unanimously with a voice vote-all in favor.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Dr. Kirijan presented the following to board members:

Finance

- B-1 Treasurer's Reports for the Months ending April 30, 2015, May 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015
- B-2 Delinquent Tax Reports for the Months of April, 2015, May 2015 and June 2015
- B-3 Community Eligibility Program at the Elementary and Intermediate Schools

Teaching & Learning

- D-1 Penn Foster Agreement for Cyber School Services.
- D-2 West Scranton High School Art Club Field Trip Approval

Policy

- I-1 Volunteer Background Checks and Tobacco Policy Changes
- I-2 Center Based Programs Hiring Policy

Human Resources/Personnel

- J-1 Personnel Reports
- J-2 Permission to Attend Meetings
- J-3 Special Education Eligibility List

Operations/Buildings & Grounds

- M-1 Award Bid for Neil Armstrong Elementary School Kitchen Floor Replacement
- M-2 Award Bid for West Scranton High School Auditorium Doors Replacement
- M-3 Award Paving Project at Charles Sumner Elementary School and Necessary Change Orders
- M-4 Change Order #1 for Bancroft Elementary Roof Replacement Project
- M-5 Change Order #1 for Willard Elementary Step Replacement Project
- M-6 Parking Agreement with Bethel AME for Northeast Intermediate School Faculty and Staff
- M-7 Parking Agreement with Coopers Seafood for Northeast Intermediate School Faculty and Staff
- M-8 New Life Assembly of God Lease Agreement for Lincoln Jackson Academy

Special Education

N-1 To Continue Evaluation Contract with Friendship House

President Douaihy asked Dr. Kirijan if she would recommend a roll call for this approval and Dr. Kirijan confirmed that yes a roll call is recommended.

Director Sheridan asked why the superintendent is submitting the resolutions when the board has committees to do that.

A discussion between board members now took place regarding items on the consent agenda, the approval of those items and compared the new format of the meeting to the NEIU agreeing that the superintendent reads the resolutions.

The consent agenda passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

At this time Solicitor Minora asked for a board vote to approve the administrative special education settlements for the appropriate educational services per the settlement agreements on CM, KP and EA as were previously discussed.

President Douaihy said having been briefed during executive session he felt comfortable moving forward and the settlement agreements passed unanimously on roll call vote.

At this time President Douaihy asked Dr. Kirijan if he would be reading the next resolution regarding the superintendent's electronic signature.

Dr. Kirijan said that as was discussed that he would be reading it.

The following resolution was submitted by Director Douaihy.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, by authority of the **Board of Directors** of the **Scranton School District**, that Dr. Alexis Kirijan, who is the **Superintendent** of the above named body is authorized and directed to sign any and all contract, agreements, grants and/or licenses (hereinafter collectively referred to as contract(s)) with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department); and

WHEREAS, that the body consents to the use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file o the contact via the Department's e-grants system, the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Scranton School District to comply with the terms of said contract; and

WHEREAS, that no writing shall be required in order to make the contract valid and legally binding, provided that the Department and all other necessary Commonwealth approvers affix their signatures electronically and an electronically-printed copy of the Contract is e-mailed or is otherwise made available to the body by electronic means; and

WHEREAS, that the body will not contest the due authorization, execution, deliver, validity or enforceability of the electronic Contract under the provisions of a statute of frauds or any other applicable law. The Contract, if introduced as evidence on paper in any judicial, arbitration, mediation, or administrative proceedings, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other business records

originated and maintained in documentary form and the admissibility thereof shall not be contested under either the business records exception to the hearsay rule of the best evidence rule; and

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED, that the body will notify the Department's Bureau of Management Services promptly in the event that the above named individual is no longer authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the body electronically and that the Department shall be entitled to rely upon the above named officer's authority to execute agreements electronically on behalf of the body until such notice is received by the Department's Office of Chief Counsel.

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

At this time, Dr. Kirijan pointed out that as she presents the consent agenda and completes the reading of the items any board member may elect to pull any items for further discussion and it would be moved to Discussion & Action and then they would take action individually on what was pulled and moved to Discussion & Action.

President Douaihy now asked each chairperson of their committee if they had anything to discuss. Each board member responded nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director McAndrew spoke of item I-1 regarding the volunteers and though he knows it is not required that the volunteers receive training he thinks it would be beneficial for them to receive training in some format.

Dr. Kirijan and President Douaihy both acknowledged there would be further discussion about a volunteer training policy.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Oleski, seconded by Director Duffy and the meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

By: _____
Secretary