

April 1, 2019

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the Auditorium of Northeast Intermediate School, 721 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

President Dixon called for moment of silence for Kathryn Martinelli, wife of former teacher and school director Armand Martinelli who passed away recently.

President Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:24pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Borthwick, Duffy, Gilmartin, Lesh, McAndrew, Norton, Popil, Schuster and President Dixon.

Absent: All Present.

Communications to the Board

Secretary Orr announced executive sessions were held on Monday, March 25, 2019 and this evening, April 1, 2019 to discuss Litigation, Negotiations, Workers Compensation, Special Education Settlements, Personnel, Staffing and Real Estate.

Mrs. Orr also informed the board of errors in numbers on resolutions B-3 and B-4 and also VIN number errors on E-1. B-3 should be for the February 2019 Delinquent Tax Report and B-4 should be for Repository Sales. The correct VIN # on resolution E-1 for the 2000 Chevy Pickup is 1GCGK24R6YR120552.

Solicitors Report

No Report

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kirijan presented the Scranton School District Compliant Pre-School Program and announced that despite rumors of the discontinuance of the Pre-School Program there will not be a vote by the board this evening as the board has expressed they would like to continue the program.

Dr. Kirijan said they are aware of the importance of the Pre-School and Kindergarten programs and spoke of the value of these programs. Dr. Kirijan now presented the following regarding compliance.

<..\..\Documents\Presentation Compliant Pre-School Program 4.1.19.pdf>

PSBA Report

Director Gilmartin announced that PSBA is accepting proposals for their 2020 Legislative Platform, suggested checking out the website for the 2019 Legislative Platform and informed incoming board members they must complete ACT 55 training on the PSBA website.

Public Comment

Michael Passero, II, Academy Street resident, respectfully asked again that the district address the former vacant Lincoln Jackson Elementary School, he has asked several times because the building is deteriorating through vandalism. Mr. Passero reported that doors are kicked in, windows are

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broken and he hears there are offers on the table for perspective buyers but never acted on. Mr. Passero said all the neighbors take great care of their properties and should not have to look at that dilapidated building.

Attorney Audi said they are working on the appraisal process.

Director Schuster inquired about a timeline and Director Lesh commented that he has asked many times in the past to sell the building, it has been appraised before and now more money is being spent to appraise it again when it should have been sold a long time ago.

Stacy Nivert, Taylor Avenue resident, spoke in favor of the Preschool program and the value of Preschool and early education results in higher graduation rates and higher income families for the community.

Jean Price, Dickens Street resident and preschool teacher at Adams Elementary spoke in favor of Preschool and her positive experience teaching Preschool and Kindergarten.

Ann Connell, N. Bromley Street resident and retired preschool teacher, gave a brief history of the Preschool Program in the Scranton School District from the late 1980s to the present, spoke of the programs positive impact and urged the board to keep Preschool in the district reminding them that it is federally funded and doesn't cost the district anything.

Rick Bresser, Little Spike Way resident and teacher spoke as a parent this evening and the high school transcript issues. Mr. Bresser said students still do not have accurate grades and provided a copy of his son's transcripts and grades to board members. Mr. Bresser pointed out the errors and said any institution that looks at a Scranton School District student's numbers are not getting accurate grades and looking at lower grades than the student actually has. Mr. Bresser added that the students work hard every day for their grades and for their hard work to be dismissed is a shame.

Dr. Kirijan responded that they are working on the issue and a principal has been assigned in the Central Office to help troubleshoot this issue. Dr. Kirijan added that individual appointments are being made to help with the student's transcripts and working behind the scenes to get the problem rectified. Dr. Kirijan asked Mr. Bresser to call Megan Barrett to make an appointment and sit down to go over everything and make corrections.

Director McAndrew commented that we heard about this problem in the fall and doesn't understand why it is still being talked about.

Dr. Kirijan replied that Director McAndrew would not understand, as well as anyone in the audience would not understand because they're not seeing the system behind the screens; they are visiting every school and going through their master schedules and looking at whether things are coded properly, whether or not exam grades are being included, and not only working with individual schools but also with parents and eSchool. Dr. Kirijan said it is not as simple as it sounds and if anyone wants this rectified it is her. Dr. Kirijan apologized to Mr. McAndrew but said it is more complex than it looks from where he is sitting.

Director McAndrew said he heard of software reasons and a whole bunch of other reasons why it's not happening but he hasn't heard a solution.

Dr. Kirijan said they are working on it.

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Christine Gutekunst, Preschool teacher, is happy they are attempting to fix the problems and mentioned an email she received that the district is moving to a School wide Program. Mrs. Gutekunst quoted from the Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance, Early Learning in the Every Student Succeeds Act, page 10, table 1 “If a school operates a preschool program in school wide program school, all preschool children who reside in the school’s attendance area are eligible to be served” and doesn’t understand how it would apply to us.

Mrs. Gutekunst quoted Mr. Audi from his last presentation regarding the existing federal funds are not sufficient to operate a program for all of the students with Title I monies. Mrs. Gutekunst said there has always been enough money for Title I Preschool, there are the same number of students, staff and supplies and why isn’t that money being ear marked when nothing has changed; Title I Preschool is a federally funded program and not one dollar comes out of the district budget and there has never been an issue before.

Dr. Kirijan responded the district cannot afford to give up other programs that are being funded by the additional Title funds adding that the program is still getting the \$2 million set aside, but the other funding is being used for other Title programs that are supported in the district.

Dr. Kirijan offered to have a face to face conversation with Mrs. Gutekunst, she would be happy to sit with her and Mrs. Gutekunst can share the information with her colleagues.

Mrs. Gutekunst also provided a petition to Mrs. Orr with signatures supporting the preschool program.

Adam McCormick, Scranton School District teacher, thanked Directors Gilmartin and Schuster for their transparency, their interest in the Financial Recovery Advisory Committee and wanting to make the best decisions for the district. Mr. McCormick finds it anti democratic and disheartening that Directors Gilmartin and McAndrew, the top two vote getters, are in the minority and don’t have much of a voice on the board. Mr. McCormick also commented that consistency is needed how open seats are filled on the board and the hiring of hall monitors while cutting programs and teachers.

Suzanne Furey, Armstrong teacher, happy to hear of the continuation of preschool and just because a family doesn’t qualify doesn’t mean the program is not needed. Ms. Furey spoke of the consequences of the cuts in music, library, librarians, and the devastating effects it has on the children and if at all possible bring back these programs.

Ms. Furey asked that the board say yes to a recovery plan that does not include further cuts and the continuation of preschool programs, say yes to every possible dollar sought through grant money and say yes to having the most qualified and experienced leaders at every level.

Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County Community Relations, shared information of upcoming and future events happening throughout Lackawanna County.

Courtney Novak, preschool teachers, happy to hear the preschool program will continue and asked several questions including how the children are going to be tested, how will the children know they are “grandfathered in” and what school they will be attending, who will be doing the screening, the number of preschool classrooms; Dr. Kirijan said Title teachers will be invited to administer the testing as they always have and suggested Ms. Novak email her questions.

Holly Meade, Northeast Intermediate Special Education teacher, welcomed the board to Northeast Intermediate, spoke of the beautiful renovations at Northeast and announced student artwork will be displayed this Friday at the Ritz Theater Building from 5-9pm. Mrs. Meade also suggested adding more board meetings.

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Director Gilmartin said the issue of having additional meetings will be discussed at the upcoming committee meeting on April 22nd.

Director Duffy commented that they will be attending about seventeen PTA meetings this month trying to get the word out about fair funding.

Ro Hume, Scranton resident, happy to hear continuation of the preschool program, asked why the Head Start funding has ceased, spoke of grant programs to enhance the programs and early intervention programs and the issue of compliance.

Matthew Loftus, SFT, spoke of his decision to purchase his home in Scranton was due to the education system and the excellent fire and police service. Mr. Loftus also spoke of the cuts in art, music, library and the reduced number of required credits, none of which put the district in recovery status. Mr. Loftus added how beneficial the preschool program has been for his daughter.

Kevin Kays, SFT, spoke of bidding out the bus contract and the endless amount of funds being wasted in the district.

Mr. Kays also spoke of energy savings from a wind turbine at Scranton High.

The board said they would like to hear more about the turbine at the upcoming committee meeting.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, spoke of the accomplishments of the preschool program and Early Intervention is part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Ms. Boland said preschool is not the problem, the problem is the administration of the program and it should not be touched with so many needy children.

Ms. Boland congratulated Director Duffy with his breakfast idea to gather all the folks from Harrisburg together and the pressure needs to be put on Harrisburg for fair funding.

Ms. Boland said the focus should not be on preschool or closing schools; the focus should be on bidding out contracts.

Kelly Butler, resident and teacher, spoke of the shortened preschool day, related arts classes have been eliminated, students now have 20 minutes less of instruction time per day which is equal to 60 hours per year and the elimination of speech and early intervention positions after servicing students for over twenty years.

Ms. Butler said that preschool classes should be filled and they're not; the teachers assume the district is following federal guidelines to be in compliance; the teachers are doing their jobs and they ask that the district do their jobs. Ms. Butler understands that Preschool is not mandatory but neither is Kindergarten and the \$2 million isn't costing the district or taxpayers a dime.

At this time President Dixon asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda.

Director McAndrew asked to remove D-4, Director Borthwick asked to remove F-1 and Director Schuster asked to remove B-1 and E-1 from the Consent Agenda.

A motion to accept the remaining items of the Consent Agenda was made by Director Popil, seconded by Director Duffy and passed unanimously on roll call.

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The **Consent Agenda** included the following items (B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7, D-1, D-2, D-3, G-1 and H-1).

B-2

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

The Exception Bill List as per the bill payment approval policy for the period ended April 1, 2019 be approved as per the attached.

Be it resolved that exception payments in the amount of \$2,957,596.68 have been paid in accordance with the approval payment policy.

March 8, 2019	\$1,165,577.60
March 22, 2019	\$ 703,172.08
March 29, 2019	\$1,088,847.00

Be it resolved that payrolls amounting to \$5,232,149.51 have been paid in accordance with the approval for payment policy.

March 8, 2019	\$2,489,959.61
March 22, 2019	\$2,742,189.90

<..\Resolutions\B-2 Bill List 4.1.19.pdf>

ALSO

B-3

Be it resolved that the Delinquent Tax Report for the month of February, 2019 be accepted. A copy of the monthly detail is available for review in the Business Office.

Tax	\$444,638.00
Penalty	\$ 46,016.19
Interest	\$ 17,294.10
TOTAL	\$507,948.29
Commission	\$(25,397.60)
NET TO DISTRICT	\$482,550.69

ALSO

B-4

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Real Estate Tax Law any property not sold at Judicial Sale shall be listed in a Repository of Unsold Properties. The following properties have been sold and will be returned to a tax paying status with the Tax Claim Bureau:

Vance Hymes	137 S. Sumner Ave.	Map No. 14518 010 059	\$1,416.24
Rachelle Soussan	612 Farber Ct.	Map No. 15706 020 041	\$1,431.24

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District of the City of Scranton does hereby approve the above referenced properties for a repository sale pursuant to the real estate tax sale law and section 627 of said act. This resolution is subject to the approval of other taxing bodies.

ALSO

B-5

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

WHEREAS, Scranton City Council has requested an amendment to the File of the Council No. 50 of 2018, previously approved by the Scranton School Board on December 19, 2018; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance pertains to the New Home Construction Local Tax Abatement Act; and

WHEREAS, due to a clerical error, Section No. 7 Non-Permissible should be deleted in its entirety; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board hereby approves this amendment as requested by Scranton City Council.

ALSO

B-6

Be it resolved that the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February, 2019 be accepted as follows:

Opening Balance	\$16,803,686.41
Monthly Revenue	\$ 6,020,872.22
Transfers and Refunds	<u>\$11,694,452.13</u>
 TOTAL AVAILABLE	 \$34,519,010.76
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$20,685,027.84</u>
 Balance in General Account	 \$13,833,982.92

ALSO

B-7

WHEREAS the Public School Code of 1949, as amended allows for a budget transfer from one classification of expenditure to another by the Board of Directors in the last nine (9) months of the fiscal year if it is apparent that a necessary surplus funds do exist in another appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District adopted Board Policy #612 has established the guidelines for reporting such necessary budget transfers to the Board of Directors; and

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed budget transfer request be approved as per the attached.

ALSO

D-1

The Superintendent and the Education Committee requests board approval of staff attendance to the conferences and meetings for professional development relevant to their specific duties and responsibilities as per the attached.

NAME	CONFERENCE/MEETING	LOCATION	COST	DATES	Substitute Required
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3/4/2019

1	Brenda Holzman	Pathways out of Poverty	Dallas, PA	\$55.00	5/22/2019	
2	Tracy Capalongo	RTII	Archbald, PA	\$0.00	3/4/2019	Yes
3	Josephine Butka	RTII	Archbald, PA	\$0.00	3/4/2019	Yes
4	Shannon O'Donnell	RTII	Archbald, PA	\$0.00	3/4/2019	Yes
5	Nicole Weber	RTII	Archbald, PA	\$0.00	3/4/2019	Yes
6	Kim Noone	RTII	Archbald, PA	\$0.00	3/4/2019	Yes
7	Ashlei Kishel	RTII	Archbald, PA	\$0.00	3/4/2019	Yes
8	Agnes Jones	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	5/28-30/2019	Yes
9	Valerie Cadugan	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	5/28-30/2019	Yes
10	Tiffany Megotz	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	5/28-30/2019	Yes
11	Patricia Carr	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	5/28-30/2019	Yes
12	Allyn Ferretti	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	3/5-7/2019	Yes
13	Carla Stackhouse	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	3/5-7/2019	Yes
14	Michelle Zick Murphy	SAP Training	Archbald, PA	\$350.00	3/5-7/2019	Yes
15	Tom Egan	N& D Spring Regional	Montgomery County	\$128.76		
16	Suzanne Spinelli	NPCTM Math Contest	Scranton, PA	\$0.00	5/23/2019	Yes
17	Nyssa Cohawitz	Eastern Division CE	Bethlehem, PA	\$75.00	2/2/2019	
18	Megan Barrett	PA Data Summit	Hershey, PA	373.48	3/25/2019	
19	Gina Bennington	A/CAPA	Hershey, PA	\$179.92	4/15/2019	
20	Robert Gentilezza	School and Community Safety Training	Archbald, PA	\$25.00	4/2/2019	
21	Jeremy Guse	Instructors Recertification Program	State College, PA	836.48	3/18-19/2019	

Board approval is contingent upon the required approval of all supervisors, principals, or administration.

ALSO

D-2

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It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, due to inclement weather the Scranton School District was closed on:

1. Friday, November 16, 2018
2. Tuesday, January 22, 2019
3. Tuesday, January 29, 2019
4. Thursday, January 31, 2019
5. Tuesday, February 12, 2019
6. Friday, March 22, 2019

WHEREAS, the following make-up days will be built into the 2018-19 school calendar:

1. Thursday, April 18, 2019
2. Monday, April 22, 2019
3. Tuesday, April 23, 2019
4. Tuesday, May 21, 2019
5. Friday, May 24, 2019
6. Wednesday, June 19, 2019

WHEREAS, the state mandates students receive 180 instructional days in the school year, and

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Scranton School Board of Directors approves the following calendar changes:

1. Thursday, April 18, 2019 all students and employees will report to school /work.
2. Monday, April 22, 2019 all students and employees will report to school /work.
3. Tuesday, April 23, 2019 all students and employees will report to school /work.
4. Tuesday, May 21, 2019 all students and employees will report to school /work.
5. Friday, May 24, 2019 all students and employees will report to school /work.
6. Wednesday, June 19, 2019 all students and employees will report to school /work.

ALSO

D-3

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District receives federal funding through Title I and Title II, Part A (Title II) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, as amended (ESSA) to provide financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards; and

WHEREAS, for compliance with Title I and Title II, Part A, the district must approve an annual Equity Plan highlighting the number of experienced teachers, by building, and the number of novice teachers in each building; in correlation with the percentage of minority and low-income demographics within each building; and

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WHEREAS, The Scranton School District at the end of the school year, reviews changes in equity within the district as faculty relocate or retire or as classes experience shifts in demographics. The administrative team works to fill staff vacancies with qualified, experienced teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Equity Plan also addresses steps the District will take to ensure that all teachers are appropriately state certified and no building has an unfair percentage of new teachers, or inexperienced teachers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scranton School Board of Directors approves the Equity Plan for 2018-2019 as attached.

ALSO

G-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, The following policies 103, 103.1, 104, 222, 247, 249, 323, 707 & 904 second read have been *revised* by the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA), and

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY REVISIONS
Policy 103	Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment-School and Classroom Practices
Policy 103.1	Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities
Policy 104	Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment-Employment Practices
Policy 222	Tobacco/Nicotine
Policy 247	Hazing
Policy 249	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Policy 323	Tobacco/Nicotine
Policy 707	Use of School Facilities
Policy 904	Public Attendance at School Events

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School Board hereby approves revisions to Policy Numbers 103, 103.1, 104, 222, 247, 249, 323, 707 & 904-second read recommended by the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA).

ALSO

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H-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Special Education Committee presents the following for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton is subject of administration proceedings and civil suits, wherein the appropriateness of the student's special education program has been challenged or suits have been filed in matters of MR and MB-ODR #21558-18-19;and

WHEREAS, the parties have reached a settlement agreement in this matter upon the terms and conditions previously provided for your consideration; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the settlements as indicated above be approved upon the terms and conditions as described and the Superintendent or Director of Special Education are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matters.

*****END CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS*****

The following was submitted by Director Popil.

B-8

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

WHEREAS, tax appeals have been received from the Board of Assessment Appeals for the following properties:

OWNER	ADDRESS	MAP NO.	NEW REAL ESTATE TAX ASSESSMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
ELA Properties	1548 Monsey Ave	13517 040 02901	\$14,900.00	1/1/2017
James & Dora Bonello	1008 Olive St	15721 020 039	\$10,500.00	1/1/2019
Michael Golden, John And Karen Eastman	1738 Ariel St	16807 010 007	\$15,000.00	1/1/2019
Electric City Parking Garage	106 Penn Ave	15626 020 03101	\$200,000.00	1/1/2019

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board of Directors approves the new property assessments as negotiated between all the parties.

The resolution was seconded by Director McAndrew and passed with seven (7) affirmative and two (2) negative votes. Director Gilmartin and Schuster voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked what the prior approximate assessment was for the parking garage.

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Attorney Audi said it was 40% higher than it is now.

Director Gilmartin asked if they have to vote on all of these together. Director Popil said yes.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Popil.

B-9

The Superintendent of Schools and the Budget and Finance Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton has engaged E.H. Lynn and Associates to perform a review of an appraisal performed on Electric City Parking Garage.

AND WHEREAS, the cost of the services are \$2,000 for the Commercial Appraisal Review and \$1,750 for the travel, preparation and court testimony for a total cost of \$3,750.

AND WHEREAS, an agreement has been reached between the District and Lackawanna County to share in the cost of the Appraisal Review with the County contributing 25% of the Appraisal Review Cost.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the School District of the City of Scranton does hereby approve the engagement of E.H. Lynn Associates at the above proposed costs.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster asked if these services were put out for bid.

Attorney Audi said we did not have the opportunity because there was a court hearing that we found out about at the last minute.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Popil.

B-10

The Superintendent of Schools and the Budget and Finance Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton has budgeted to sell the 2018 Delinquent Real Estate Tax Claims;

AND WHEREAS, request for proposals were sought publically for the sale of such claims;

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AND WHEREAS, a proposal was received from Municipal Revenue Services;

AND WHEREAS, the District and Municipal Revenue Services have determined a sale of 80% of the Qualified Tax Claims in the amount of \$4,630,288.80 to be the most beneficial option for the district;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the School District of the City of Scranton does hereby approve the sale of the 2018 Delinquent Tax Claims to Municipal Revenue Services per the attached. Approval is subject to the review and approval of the District Solicitor.

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

ALSO

B-1

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

The list of bill payments in accordance with the bill payment approval Policy be approved as per the attached.

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\$665,761.15

[..\Resolutions\B-1 Bill List 4.1.19.pdf](#)

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster questioned why there are still payments on the bill list for the former solicitor.

Mr. Laffey explained the payments are for the last two months of service from Mr. Minora.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Norton.

D-4

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Education Committee that the following resolution be approved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Budget of the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 be approved as previously provided for your review.

The resolution was seconded by Director Borthwick and passed with eight (8) affirmative and one (1) abstention. Director McAndrew abstained due to his employment with Career Technology Center.

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ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Norton.

D-5

**Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526
For School Districts Providing Their Own Cyber Learning Programs**

By the Board of Directors of the Scranton School District

WHEREAS, a growing number of school districts across the state are responding to the need to successfully operate high-quality, full time cyber education programs within their traditional district programs that provide flexibility and personalized options as a choice for students and families; and

WHEREAS, school district cyber programs include rigorous curriculum aligned with the state academic standards and taught by appropriately certified teachers; and school districts can provide their cyber education students with regular and special education instruction and services, tutoring, career counseling and other support as necessary; and

WHEREAS, cyber education programs operated by school districts provide students with a smooth transition to and from the traditional school setting; and give students opportunities to participate in district instructional courses and resources; and students may choose to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, band, music, clubs and social activities such as homecoming and prom; and students may graduate in district ceremonies and receive a district diploma; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is the sole authorizer of cyber charter schools, yet the tuition costs for students attending these schools are borne by school districts and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the majority of cyber schools have consistently place in the bottom 5% for educational performance in the state; further, graduation rates of cyber charters are consistently and substantially below state average; and

WHEREAS, the current funding formula for cyber charter schools is based on school district expenditures with no relationship to the actual instructional costs for regular and special education instruction and services of the students attending the charter school; and funding of cyber charter schools cost school districts and taxpayers more than \$463 million in 2016-17; and

WHEREAS, school districts that operate high-performing cyber programs can do so at significantly reduced costs as compared to paying tuition to a cyber charter school, enabling them to retain critical funding in the district for the benefit of all students; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 supports school districts that provide their own cyber education programs by removing the financial responsibility for resident students who enroll in cyber charter schools instead of the districts' programs;

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School District supports Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 or other efforts to provide a fiscally commonsense approach that will provide savings for school districts operating full-time, online learning programs and are required to make tuition payments for their students to attend cyber charter schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Scranton School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 1st day of April, 2019

Signed,

School Board President

Board Secretary

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

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Lesh.

E-1

The Superintendant and the Operations Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED: the Facilities and Grounds Office will auction the following three vehicles deemed obsolete:

2000 Chevy Pickup	VIN # 1GCGK24R6YR120552
2004 Ford F150 Truck	VIN # 1FTRF14W34NA53102
2004 Ford Explorer	VIN # 1FMZU72K24ZA27636

This action will be taken at the approval of the Board of Directors.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Duffy confirmed with Mrs. Orr that the corrected VIN number will be reflected.

Mr. Audi asked Mrs. Orr to verify the vehicle and VIN.

Mrs. Orr read the 2000 Chevy Pickup, VIN # 1GCGK24R6YR120552.

All in favor of the correction responded yea.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Borthwick.

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F-1

It is the recommendation of the Personnel Committee that the attached list of Appointments, Assignments, Resignations, Leaves of Absences and Professional Contracts is approved.

Appointments are effective upon receipt of proper criminal records, immigration, and medical and child abuse reports.

Salaries are in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

4-1-19

A. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS						
	NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REPLACE	NEW
1	Janine Smith	Special Ed-Emotional Support	Armstrong	4/5/2019		X
B. PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS						
1	Anthony Curmaci	Health & Phys Ed Teacher	Scranton High School	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
2	Patricia Brennan	ESL Teacher	Prescott Elementary	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
3	Ellen Brazil	Pre-K Teacher	Bancroft Elementary	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
4	Gerald Coyne	Health & Phys Ed Teacher	West Scranton High School	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
5	Jeffrey Brazil	Chief Operations Officer	Administration Building	3/29/2019		
6	Lee Ann Burkhardt	Grade 4	John Adams Elementary	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
7	Gayle Plevyak	School Psychologist	Itinerant	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
C. LEAVE OF ABSENCE-PROFESSIONAL						
1	Michelle Borthwick	English Teacher	West Intermediate	5/2/2019 to last day of 2018/2019 school year		
2	Laura Perry Sosik	2nd Grade Teacher	Isaac Tripp Elementary	4/1/2019 to last day of 2018/2019 school year FMLA /Borrowed Days		
D. LEAVE OF ABSENCE NON-PROFESSIONAL						
1	Tammy McHale	Learning Support	Kennedy Elementary	3/25/2019-6/10/2019		
2	James Castaldi	Maintenance	Stadium	Intermittent FMLA 3/4/19-12/31/2019		
3	Dawn Bingham	Paraprofessional	West Intermediate	9/4/2018-T.B.D.		
E. NON-PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS						
1	Angela Troianiello	Para-professional	West Scranton High School	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
2	Eloise Kipp	Para-professional	West Scranton High School	last day of 2018/2019 school year		
3	Janet Incelli	Confidential Secretary	Administration Building	3/31/2019		
4	Glenn Dougherty	Hall Monitor	Scranton High School	6/30/2019		
5	Salvatore Valenti	Maintenance	West Scranton High School	5/31/2019		
F. NON-PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS						
1	Margaret Voldenberg	Confidential Secretary	Administration Building	3/25/2019	X-J. Incelli	
2	Danielle Spano	Para-Professional	Willard Elementary	4/2/2019	X-K. Huthmaker	
3	Maura O'Boyle	Para-Professional	McNichols Plaza	4/2/2019	X-M. Piazza	
4	Tina Cook	Para-Professional	West Intermediate	4/2/2019	X-B. Jenkins	
G. COACHING RESIGNATIONS						
1	Kate Shiffer	JV Girls Softball Coach	Scranton High School	3/5/2019		
2	Corey Bartell	Marching Band Director	West Scranton High School	5/31/2019		
H. COACHING APPOINTMENTS						
1	James McAndrew	Ass't Varsity Baseball Coach	West Scranton High School	Spring 2019	X-R. Simpson	
2	Kraigen Rasalla	Ass't Varsity Baseball Coach	Scranton High School	Spring 2019	X-S. Hughes	
3	Jeff Lee	JV Girls Softball Coach	Scranton High School	Spring 2019	X-K. Shiffer	
I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSIGNMENT						
1	Kimberly Emmert	Art Teacher --Itinerant	Willard/Whittier	3/29/2019-last day of 2019	X-J. Felter	

The resolution was seconded by Director Lesh and passed with eight (8) affirmative and one (1) abstention. Director Borthwick abstained because his spouse is listed in the report.

April 1, 2019

ON THE QUESTION:

Director McAndrew said that he is **not** related to the James McAndrew listed under the Coaching Appointments.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Borthwick.

F-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Personnel Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, a Scranton School District professional employee, represented by the SFT, and the Scranton School District have reached a settlement agreement upon the terms and conditions of the attached; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board hereby approves the settlement as indicated. The Superintendent, or designee, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matters.

The resolution was seconded by Director Lesh and passed with seven (7) affirmative and two (2) negative votes. Directors Gilmartin and Schuster voted in the negative.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Gilmartin.

G-2

IT IS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE POLICY COMMITTEE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS APPROVED:

WHEREAS, local boards of education are entrusted by their diverse communities to uphold the constitution, protect the public interest in schools and ensure that a high quality education is provided to each student; and

WHEREAS, local boards must govern responsibly and effectively on behalf of the students and communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania School Boards Association has developed the Principles for Governance and Leadership for boards of education to advocate earnestly, lead responsibility, govern effectively, plan thoughtfully, evaluate continuously, communicate clearly and act ethically; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Scranton School Board of Directors hereby approves Policy 011 supporting the attached Principles for Governance and Leadership.

[..\Resolutions\011 Principles for Governance and Leadership 4.1.19.pdf](#)

April 1, 2019

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

Director Gilmartin announced that she asked Dr. Kirijan to have the poster of the Principles for Governance and Leadership available for board members to sign.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director McAndrew.

I-1

The Superintendent and the Vendor Relations Committee presents the following resolution for your consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED that the FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL for the 2019-2020 school year be awarded to ARAMARK Educational Services with a guaranteed return of \$1,000,000.00 prior to the Scranton School District costs. This return includes the continuation of the Breakfast in the Classroom Program and the continuation of the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) at all District Schools.

ADDITIONALLY, Aramark Education Services is proposing to operate a break even Summer Feeding Program with reimbursements and operating costs of \$97,854.20.

The state of Pennsylvania Core Contract and any addendums shall be reviewed by the Solicitor and appropriate District officials. This approval is contingent upon approval from the Division of Food and Nutrition.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed with eight (8) affirmative and one (1) negative vote. Director Lesh voted in the negative.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Lesh asked if the \$1,000,000 is guaranteed, if it is federally funded and if any monies come out of district funds.

Mr. Pat Laffey said that it is a true guarantee, it is federally funded and nothing comes out of district funds.

Director Borthwick questioned whether this service was put out for bid. Mr. Laffey said that this is the last year for renewal and next year it will have to go out for bid.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Popil thanked administration for the hard work they've done, Preschool will continue and it is something to be very proud of.

Dr. Kirijan announced that a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) will be developed with everyone's questions and will be posted on the website with answers.

April 1, 2019

Director Duffy spoke of the upcoming committee meetings on April 22, 2019 and Mrs. Dixon adding that the focus is fair funding and everyone knows the per pupil funding needs to increase and our legislators and state representatives need to pay attention to how seriously underfunded Scranton School District is.

Director McAndrew spoke about the potential of putting out the bus contract for bid, perhaps it may be in Dr. Finan's recover plan in May, and also mentioned a declaratory judgment regarding the validity of the bus contract and would like to proceed with that process.

Director Lesh responded that Mr. Minora was going to pursue that matter but due to Mrs. Cognetti's interventions at the time and a few other board members, the board could not come to a conclusion and Mr. Minora could not get the direction of the board at the time. Mr. Lesh said he also asked that the matter be taken to court to find out if there truly is a legal contract that perhaps they entered into something they didn't understand.

President Dixon agreed and added that none of them are attorneys and it is smart for them to find out if they do have a contract.

There being no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Popil, seconded by Director Duffy and the meeting adjourned at 10:07PM.

By: _____
Secretary