

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a work session and regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508.

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

On behalf of the Scranton School Board and the community President Douaihy asked for a moment of silence for former Solicitor Harry McGrath who passed away suddenly on Monday, September 7, 2015 and offered deepest condolences and sympathies to his wife and children.

Student Representatives

Brian Martin, Student Council President and Cassie Merrill, Class of 2016 President updated the board on the following:

- Successful start of the 2015-2016 School Year as well as fall sports and extracurricular activities.
- PTA Meeting Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Alumni Room of West High.
- Freshman Ice Cream Social Friday, September 11, 2015.
- Back to School Night Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 7:00pm.
- PRIDE Varsity Football Tailgate Friday, September 18th prior to Dunmore game.
- Varsity Football Craft Fair Fundraiser Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 10:00am.
- "ATTABOY" assembly and evening pep community rally September 24th at 6PM.
- Fashion Show Fundraiser to help fight against ovarian cancer September 29th 7PM.
- SAT Workshop October 3rd SATs

Blaise Beebe, 2016 Senior Class President at Scranton High School announced the following:

- Great start to the 2015-2016 School year and fall sports have begun on schedule.
- Senior Class fundraisers and raffle ticket sales are currently being organized and implemented.
- September 18th Northeastern Philharmonic presentation to students who participate in music related classes.
- September 25th WBRE will hold a pep rally at 4:30AM at Memorial Stadium.
- September 29th Blaise Beebe and Aileen Barrett will represent Scranton High School at a luncheon at the Scranton Cultural Center for the 50th Anniversary of Head Start and the Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency.
- On behalf of student body hopes that a fair and equitable contract will soon be reached so students may forge ahead uninterrupted.

President Douaihy reminded everyone of the rules of the public comment, maintaining meeting decorum and waived the rules of the board for Ms. Weingarten of the AFT.

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

Ms. Randi Weingarten, American Federation of Teachers thanked Mr. Douaihy for waiving the time constraints for her and echoed our student's comments for the school board and unions to find common ground so that the educators can be in the classrooms making a difference in the lives of children.

Ms. Weingarten said she was grateful that the memory of former solicitor Harry McGrath was honored and may his memory be a blessing.

Ms. Weingarten understands that Scranton has had its ups and downs and the glue has been the community and labors working together and educators believing deeply that kids have to have their shot in life and *that* is Scranton values.

Ms. Weingarten expressed that respect and collaboration go a long way and when teachers can really collaborate, take risk and have a voice schools do a lot better and that is why she is here today adding that when people work together particularly in education and hard times the most important thing for kids is engagement and professional development has been so great and they know it has to change with the times but it is as important as are nurses and healthcare.

Ms. Weingarten closed by asking for the union and district to find common ground and have a school system where we give all kids the same opportunity.

Rosemary Boland, President of the SFT thanked Ms. Randi Weingarten for traveling to Scranton PA to bring the message home clearly and succinctly this evening.

Ms. Boland spoke of a document from the Scranton School District website that she received, the proposal for thirty five students in a classroom where she questioned numerous times if it was for all classrooms and she received the same answer that yes, it was for all classrooms. Ms. Boland also spoke of a committee that was suggested by the superintendent to discuss class sizes and also that guidance counselor jobs have been cut and current counselors are coming in early and they physically cannot keep up with the workload.

Ms. Boland spoke in opposition of furlough days, the elimination of ER & D programs, and further they are still waiting for a number regarding healthcare and deductibles as well as proposals in writing.

At this time Director Sheridan asked that the 4 minute time limit be waived this evening for all speakers.

President Douaihy explained that there are over 25 people signed up to speak and we have a meeting to conduct and resolutions to act on.

Donna Zaleski, Scranton High School Librarian, spoke on behalf of all librarians in the school district and the importance of libraries in our schools and that closing library doors is not the solution and we should be encouraging reading.

Chris Hughes, parent of two children in the school district voiced significant concern of the lack of a crossing guard at Luzerne St., and Main Ave., and asked that the district act quickly to provide a crossing guard in the morning as well as the afternoon to cross students.

Kevin Kays, SFT spoke of the document that was recently posted on the district website and the positions of a Guidance Counselor, Social Studies teacher, Science teacher and an English teacher which have not been filled yet.

Mr. Kays also spoke of fiscal irresponsibility and transportation costs, the need to bid out transportation contracts and offered numbers of how much over the state formula the district has been paying.

Ms. Jen Partyka, mother of three public school children and also has substituted as an RN in the district, spoke on behalf of school nurses and teachers in the district and commented on the number of students in the Scranton School District as well as demographics in Scranton compared to other districts, and also spoke in opposition of class size increases and that that community will not support that.

Tom Smith, retired Scranton School District teacher spoke on behalf of his grandchildren and urged the board to take back control and get the contract done.

Matt Loftus, SFT Vice President, addressed the board regarding his disappointment with progress of negotiations, urged the board to look at last year's fact finder report that sided with the SFT and things have not changed much and hopes to see a fair proposal in writing soon.

Michelle Dempsey, parent and wife of a Scranton School District teacher spoke in favor of teachers salaries and thinks it is unfair to compare Scranton teacher's salaries to other districts where there is a totally different population of children and urged the board to come to an agreement so kids are back in the classrooms.

Vince Wojnar, West Scranton High School teacher and member of the negotiating team expressed that we cannot afford to move backwards with this contract, we need a fair and equitable contract as well as for the paraprofessionals and urged the board to take a more active role in negotiations.

At this time President Douaihy asked for roll call.

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

Absent: Director Ruane.

President Douaihy congratulated everyone on a great opening day last week.

Superintendent's Remarks:

Dr. Kirijan announced she is pleased to welcome back teachers, students and parents to the new school year and commended all employees who worked at a feverish pitch to ensure all tasks were completed for Day One and shared her experience visiting all 19 schools on the first day of school adding that Day One was truly a team effort in which all administrative teams, their staff and teachers put forth a stellar effort to welcome back students and parents.

Dr. Kirijan spoke about Breakfast in the Classroom being served in all elementary and intermediate schools, the improved district website, new teacher orientation, teacher workshops and bus driver orientation.

Dr. Kirijan sincerely thanked everyone for making the students our top priority and our main focus and welcomed everyone back for the new school year.

The meeting minutes of August 13, 2015 passed unanimously on roll call vote.

President Douaihy asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda.

Director Casey made a motion, seconded by Director Oleski and the consent agenda passed unanimously on roll call vote.

The consent agenda included the following:

Finance

- B-1 The bill list as presented for the Summer Bill Payments for the period June 5, 2015 – September 7, 2015 amounting to \$8,628,154.34 and payrolls for the period June 5, 2015 – August 28, 2015 amounting to \$18,419,930.93 that have been paid in accordance with the approval for the Summer Bill Payment Policy.

B-2 Repository sales of the following properties to net the district \$132,824.30:

Arlene Pasonick	924 Robinson St.	14518 080 01502	\$2,970.57
Arlene Pasonick	110 St. Francis Cabrini Ave.	14518 080 01501	\$3,535.56
Burgit Holdings LLC	1212 Cedar Ave.	15619 010 017	\$67,000.50
Richard J. Lipperini	2019 R. Cedar Ave.	16710 020 007	\$2,501.00
Soko Investments LLC	1038 Capouse Ave.	14609 010 020	\$3,160.00
Dawn Allen	Cedar & Locust	15619 010 017	\$18,510.00
Dennis Smith	Cedar & Locust	15619 010 017	\$10,102.81
Kimberly Vandermark	1142 Providence Rd.	13420 030 011	\$4,502.00
Francine Fitzgerald	Grand Avenue	15719 030 054	\$2,463.74
ACP Realty LLC	1311 Vine St.	15705 040 025	\$2,441.00
ACP Realty LLC	1313-15 Vine St.	15705 040 026	\$3,045.62
ACP Realty LLC	514 Taylor Ave.	15705 040 028	\$5,691.50
River Rise Holdings LLC	2821 Birney Ave.	16717 040 005	\$2,500.00
John A. Epp	429-31 Cherry St.	16707 010 062	\$4,400.00

B-3 Delinquent Tax Report for the month of July 2015 as collected by the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau to net the district \$399,262.94.

Teaching & Learning

D-1 Informal hearings as well as full hearings have been duly conducted in the matters of Expulsion Nos. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of 2015 affording the students the opportunity to challenge the same at time of informal hearings as well as a full hearing and it is recommended that the students be expelled as set forth upon the terms and conditions previously presented for your consideration.

J-2 Permission to attend meetings and conferences including renewal of mandated training and on-going professional development recognized as best practices and necessary for Scranton School District employees which will be paid with appropriate grant funds.

Operations/Buildings & Grounds

Director Donahue asked that the item be removed from consent to Discussion and Action.

M-3 Change Order #1, #2 and #3 for the Neil Armstrong Elementary Kitchen Floor Replacement.

Director McAndrew confirmed that the money needed for this project will be coming from the Food Service.

P-1 Transportation contract with the Western PA School for the Deaf in order to provide transportation to our students who attend the Western PA School for the Deaf.

P-2 Transportation contract with the Dallas and Lackawanna School Districts to share costs of transportation in order to meet the needs of the students attending Western PA School for the Deaf.

The meeting now moved to Discussion and Action

A motion to accept M-1, change order #2 for Willard Elementary Step Project was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Douaihy and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) negative vote. Director Donahue cast the negative vote.

President Douaihy asked for a motion to accept M-2, Scranton High Carpet Project. After hearing no motion M-2 was removed from the agenda and no further action was taken.

President Douaihy asked for a motion to accept item J-1, Personnel Reports including certified appointments, certified resignations, leaves of absences and non-certified resignations.

Director Casey motioned, seconded by Director Oleski and J-1 passed unanimously on roll call vote.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS-CERTIFIED

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION/GRADE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>
<u>DATE</u>			
Bartnikiewicz Brian	Teacher	Plaza Gr 4	9/1/2015
Bianchi Kendra	Teacher	Willard –K	9/1/2015
Brudnicki Julianne	Teacher	Tripp-Gr 5	9/1/2015
Burdett Laurie	Teacher-Music	Music-SHS/SSIS	9/1/2015
Gianacopoulos Gregory	Special Ed. Autistic Support Teacher	NEIS-Autistic	9/1/2015
Grabowski-Stocki Brynn	Teacher	Kennedy Gr 4	9/1/2015
Yablonsky Kathryn	Teacher-Reading	SSIS- Reading	9/1/2015
Bresser Fred	Social Worker	Elementary	TBD

RECOMMENDATION FOR COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Devine Paul	Girls 7 th & 8 th Basketball	Northeast Intermediate
Fallon Kerry	Girls 7 th & 8 th Basketball	South Intermediate
McGowan Kristen	Girls Tennis Coach	West Scranton High School
Gentilezza Chris	Jr. High Asst. Wrestling	West Scranton High School
Gianacopoulos Gregory	Asst. Boys Soccer Coach	West Scranton High School

RESIGNATIONS

Brzycki Sarah		NEIS-Autistic	9/1/2015
Riviello Roxanne	Speech Therapist		9/3/2015
Zilla Gina		Kennedy-Gr 4	9/1/2015

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS – NON CERTIFIED

Lynch Christine	Clerk	Willard #32	9/1/2015
Brudzinski Allison	Para	Isaac Tripp-Gr 1	9/1/2015
Gallagher Robin	Para	West Scranton High-ES	9/1/2015
Klassner Sandra	Para	Whittier Annex-ES	9/1/2015
Kowalyk Nicole	Para	Northeast Int-LS	9/1/2015

Mackin	Ashley	Para	West Int-AS	9/1/2015
McLain	Sasha	Para	Sumner-Pre-K	9/1/2015
Montagna	Nicole	Para	Kennedy – AS	9/1/2015
Newcomb	Carrie	Para	Northeast Int-AS	9/1/2015
O’Hearn	Robin	Para	West Scranton High-AS	9/1/2015
Pocius	Ellen	Para	Morris-ES	9/1/2015
Pizur	Erica	Para	Kennedy-AS	9/1/2015
Turi	Katherine	Para	Whittier-LS	9/1/2015

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Corbett	Maura	Teacher	Isaac Tripp	9/18-11/4/15 Without Pay
Gorczyk	Allison	Teacher	Scranton High	1/1/16-3/31/16 Without Pay
Scanlon	Kathleen	Teacher	Scranton High	9/21/15-2/1/16 Without Pay
Smith	Carissa	Teacher	Whittier	9/3-10/16/15 Without Pay
Zvirblis	Molly	Teacher	McNichols Plaza	9/3-11/15/15 Without Pay

RESIGNATIONS – NON CERTIFIED

Delesky	Joseph	Maintenance	Stadium	9/30/2015
Gavern	Matthew	Maintenance	West High School	9/3/2015
Patchkoski	Eileen	Para	Whittier	8/31/2015
Szynal	Cheryl	Para	Prescott	9/3/2015

LEAVE OF ABSENCE – Non-Professional

Wolff	Molly	Para	Scranton High	9/3/15-6/17/16 Without Pay
Kerrigan	Robert	Maintenance	West High	9/8/15 through Further notice Without Pay
Davis	Tanya	Para	Kennedy	9/3/15 through Further notice Without Pay

The following resolution was submitted by Director Martinelli.

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

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District realizes the importance of regularly revisiting district curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs of our students and to ensure that it prepares all students to be career and college ready, and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School District recognizes that the Pennsylvania Department of Education has mandated that all schools in the Commonwealth align their curriculum to reflect the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Science Curriculum Committee in the School District of the City of Scranton have aligned the required math courses to the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scranton School District adopt the Secondary Science Curriculum reflecting the newly aligned Pennsylvania Core Standards courses for the 2015-2016 school year, and beyond.

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

The following resolution was submitted by Director Donahue.

The Scranton School Board hereby approves the selection of Gary M. Smedley of Carbondale Area School District as the Eastern Section At Large Representative on the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

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

President Douaihy asked all board members if they had anything to report under their committees.

Director Sheridan indicated under Buildings & Grounds that the Willard Step Project funds are coming from the Capital Improvement Fund not the General Fund.

Under the Transportation Committee Director Casey asked that Solicitor Minora arrange a meeting with Mr. Denaples to discuss the bussing contract.

At this time Mr. Minora announced that an executive session was held this evening to discuss real estate, personnel, labor relations, litigation and settlements.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Donahue made a motion to oppose Lackawanna County's acquisition of the Globe Store because of the negative effect it will have on the district's tax revenue by around \$127,000,000.

President Douaihy indicated that while he is not opposed he would like more discussion and in fairness to the board more details and the opportunity to study it more.

Director Casey seconded the motion and the motion passed with six (6) affirmative and two (2) negative votes. Directors Martinelli and Douaihy cast the negative votes.

Also under new business Director McAndrew urged that the crossing guard situation on Main Avenue and Luzerne Street be taken care of tonight.

Director McAndrew also inquired about why there was a resolution in front of them this evening for new carpeting in the auditorium but they never saw a resolution for the new carpeting and floors in the Administration Building.

President Douaihy responded that those projects do not need a resolution because of their value amount and it is maintenance -we have a maintenance obligation.

Director McAndrew said that he had the opportunity to visit West Scranton High School and the locker rooms are utterly deplorable and thinks the money would have been better spent where there are students.

President Douaihy said that building principals are responsible for their buildings and to submit a list of everything that needs to be maintained and suggested that the Buildings & Grounds Committee have a meeting for discussion.

At this time Director McAndrew questioned the existence of a bathroom in the closet on the 3rd floor of the Administration Building.

President Douaihy denied there is a bathroom in the closet.

A heated discussion between Mr. Douaihy and Mr. McAndrew now took place regarding a bathroom in the 3rd floor closet.

Director Duffy and Director Sheridan thanked everyone for coming this evening and they both want this contract finalized.

A motion to adjourn was now made by Director Oleski, seconded by Director Duffy and the meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

By: _____