

## SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for General Purposes and to elect an Acting Superintendent on Monday, July 28, 2014 at 6:00pm prevailing time in the auditorium of Scranton High School, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508.

President McGuigan called the meeting to order at 6:15pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

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

Absent: All present.

The candidates for Acting Superintendent, Mr. John Marichak and Dr. Patricia Pasierb were each given 25 minutes to address the board giving an overview of their professional history and educational background followed by a question and answer session from the board and the public. Each candidate was sequestered while the other addressed the board.

Director McAndrew submitted the following resolution:

It is the recommendation of the Board of Directors that the following is approved:

That Patricia Pasierb is appointed Acting Superintendent of Schools.

The motion was seconded by Director Donahue and failed with three (3) affirmative and six (6) negative votes. The negative votes were cast by Directors Casey, Douaihy, Martinelli, Oleski, Ruane and Sheridan.

The board now recessed for five minutes (8:33). The board re-adjourned at 8:38pm.

Director Douaihy submitted the following:

It is the recommendation of the Board of Directors that the following is approved:

That John Marichak is appointed Acting Superintendent of Schools.

The motion was seconded by Director Sheridan and passed with seven (7) affirmative and two (2) negative votes. The negative votes were cast by Directors McAndrew and McGuigan.

### ON THE QUESTION:

President McGuigan expressed her disappointment in this board adding that she appreciates Mr. Marichak's interest in the Acting Superintendent position though she feels he is still getting his feet wet and doesn't have a full grasp of the Secondary Supervisor position and she apologized to Dr. Pasierb as she really hoped everyone here would put the needs of our district first and foremost especially the children.

Director Douaihy congratulated Dr. Pasierb for a terrific performance tonight and he absolutely respects her efforts and wished we hadn't put her in this situation and thanked her for coming.

Director Oleski also added that this is only for Acting Superintendent and she hopes Dr. Pasierb will apply for the permanent superintendent position.

President McGuigan said she is offended that a board member would say it is only for acting superintendent as we're almost in crisis mode in this district and she is disappointed somebody would feel that way.

#### VISITING DELEGATIONS:

Rosemary Boland, SFT congratulated and thanked Dr. Pasierb and Mr. Marichak and also commented that the board needs to establish better communication, allow the teachers to go to work and teach and the Scranton Times needs to focus more time on the devotion we give to our kids.

Kevin Kays, SFT expressed his opinion regarding contracts that should be put out for bid.

Judy Gatelli, Scranton, echoed Mr. Kays regarding transportation and feels the bussing should be put out for bid.

Anne Catalano, Scranton spoke of her sadness in the lack of communication and dissention on the Scranton School Board.

The following resolution was submitted by Director Douaihy.

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

The lease for the Lincoln Jackson Academy as per the attached.

\*The resolution was provided by Attorney Minora and read as above at the meeting.

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

10-D-2

The Education Committee hereby recommends the following resolution for your consideration:

*WHEREAS*, the Board of School Directors recognizes the importance of offering multiple pathways toward graduation and receipt of a meaningful diploma from the Scranton School District, and

*WHEREAS*, the Board of School Directors also realizes that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner differs in many ways from students as recent as 20 or 30 years ago, due to the major advances in technology and the establishment of publicly funded cyber charter schools in our state, and

*WHEREAS*, in an effort to meet the educational needs and interests of our students the Scranton School District wishes to engage in a partnership with Penn Foster, a fully accredited educational provider in the City of Scranton since 1890, who offers multiple pathways toward achieving a high school diploma, and

*WHEREAS*, the Scranton School District plans to work with Penn Foster to utilize existing programs and to develop new and innovative programs, as a means of delivering a more cost effective and high quality educational options to Scranton students that include, but are not limited to: credit recovery, hybrid learning models, cyber course offerings, summer and after school programs, student enrichment courses and more..., and

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Scranton School Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute and sign an articulation agreement with Penn Foster that addresses all of these services, after full review and approval of our Solicitor.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

President McGuigan confirmed that it is a renewal of the contract and asked if someone would highlight any changes in the contract.

Mr. John Marichak addressed.

10-J-2

The following resolution was submitted by Director Martinelli.

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following reinstatement is approved as follows:

Be it resolved that Gwen Damiano shall be reinstated to her position as Principal in the Scranton School District.

The resolution was seconded by Director Casey and passed with six (6) affirmative and three (3) negative votes. The negative votes were cast by Directors Douaihy, Ruane and Sheridan.

ON THE QUESTION:

President McGuigan clarified that this is a reinstatement as a principal and the Superintendent always retains the right of an appointment.

The following resolution was submitted by Director Martinelli.

10-J-3

It is the recommendation of the Personnel Committee that the following appointment is approved:

Jillian Roberts	Administrative Assistant
	Lincoln/Jackson Academy
	Salary: \$30,000

Appointment is effective upon receipt of proper Federal Criminal Records, Immigration, Medical and Child Abuse reports.

The resolution was seconded by Director Sheridan.

ON THE QUESTION:

President McGuigan questioned the salary at \$30,000 when at the last meeting an administrative assistant was hired for Monticello at a salary of \$25,000.

Mr. Terry Whalen addressed that Ms. Roberts has been in this position and has received specialized training to deal with the students such as crisis management and de-escalation techniques which is required training for the school.

President McGuigan asked if similar training will be offered to the administrative assistant at Monticello.

Mrs. Gina Colarossi responded yes.

President McGuigan asked for a friendly amendment to adjust the salary to \$25,000, seconded by Director Donahue and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

President McGuigan now asked for a vote on the appointment of the Administrative Assistant at Lincoln/Jackson Academy at a salary of \$25,000.

The resolution passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

The following resolution was submitted by Director Donahue.

10-M-1

The Buildings and Grounds Committee presents the following resolution for your consideration:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the West Scranton High School Wall Flashing Repair Project and the Wall Coating Project, be approved, as per the attached proposals submitted by Dunmore Roofing & Supply Co., Inc.

The cost of the Wall Flashing Repair is, \$23,975.00 and the cost of the Wall Coating is \$10,700 for a combined total cost of \$34,675.00.

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

ALSO

The following resolution was submitted by Director Donahue.

10-M-2

The Buildings and Grounds Committee presents the following resolution for your consideration:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whittier Annex White Board and Computer Receptacle Project, be approved, as per the attached proposal submitted by Urban Electrical Contractors, in the amount of \$9,613.00.

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

The following resolution was submitted by Director Oleski.

The Special Education Committee hereby recommends the following resolution for your Consideration;

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton is subject of administration proceedings in ODR 15195-14-15KE, wherein the appropriateness of the student's special education program has been challenged;

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the settlement identified as ODR 15195-14-15KE, be approved upon the terms and conditions as described above, and the Superintendent or Director of Special Education and Support Services are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matter.

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

ALSO

The following resolution was submitted by Director Oleski.

The Special Education Committee hereby recommends the following resolution for your Consideration;

WHEREAS, the School District of the City of Scranton is subject of administration proceedings in ODR 15227-1415HS, wherein the appropriateness of the student's special education program has been challenged;

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the settlement identified as ODR 15227-1415HS, be approved upon the terms and conditions as described above, and the Superintendent or Director of Special Education and Support Services are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matter.

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

Director Martinelli made a motion to accept the following:

As a member of the majority on the vote to reject the Fact Finder's Report, I hereby request the re-opening of the vote on this resolution.

I move that the Scranton School Board accept the Fact Finder's Report as issued.

The motion was seconded by Director Sheridan and passed with seven (7) affirmative and two (2) negative votes. The negative votes were cast by Directors Donahue and McGuigan.

ON THE QUESTION:

President McGuigan said on the question of reopening this she would expect the directors that are directly related to or tied to any members of that union recuse themselves from the vote.

Director Casey indicated that this is not a conflict of interest as he is currently receiving opinions from the State Ethics Commission adding that when Mr. Bill Fox was a director who voted alongside her on many issues, this was never a problem; why is there an issue now.

Director Douaihy agreed further adding that this has been settled by the State Ethics Commission decades ago, it has been ruled upon long ago and is not a conflict ethically or legally as long as no one benefits outside of the Collective Bargaining Unit that we vote and he will not recuse himself.

Director McAndrew said his only issue is they have yet to sit down and discuss the report and he asked last week for discussion before the vote and nothing took place. He's not against the report but it wasn't discussed.

Director Douaihy agreed that they don't sit enough and discuss a lot of things and this is one of them and they could have spent more time on this collectively.

Director Martinelli responded to Director McAndrew that last week he voted to reject it because he didn't have a copy of the report and could not consciously vote to accept because he didn't know what was in it but has since obtained a copy, read it and in good conscious he could vote to accept the fact finders report adding that when it comes time for budget when Mr. Sunday tells them what we need we don't hold him accountable.

Director McGuigan voiced opinion about putting all contracts out for bid so that they know we're getting the best price and also to be above the appearance of impropriety.

Mrs. McGuigan also said that she knows the Ethics Commission does not require somebody to recuse themselves from a vote but she feels as though it is going to look to the public like certain members are voting in favor of fattening up their own wallets. She is not against giving our teachers a raise and she has always been a great supporter of the teachers but do we have the money? What is this raise that the fact finder said is going to cost us in dollars and cents?

Mr. Sunday's response of the fact finders award was over \$2,000,000.00.

President McGuigan said once we vote for a raise that's just the cost that we have to bear so if there's not enough money then programs have to start to be cut. We have directors who will continually vote to spending money but never bring any ideas to the table of where we can cut costs.

A discussion took place regarding a life insurance proposal that was shot down, was tabled for further review and we're still waiting for a proposal from our broker.

Mrs. McGuigan added that more services need to be put out for bid like the insurance, engineering and architect services including the transportation.

Director Douaihy now made the following motion to appeal in Commonwealth Court PDE's ruling over the Scranton School District firing of Gwen Damiano and request to engage the law firm Buchanan, Ingersol and Rooney to assist Solicitor Minora to prepare and pursue the appeal.

The motion was seconded by Director Ruane and passed with five (5) affirmative and four (4) negative votes. The negative votes were Directors Casey, Donahue, McAndrew and McGuigan.

Director Sheridan and Douaihy both congratulated Mr. John Marichak as Acting Superintendent and look forward to working with him.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Oleski, seconded by Director Douaihy and the meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary