

August 17, 2017

Scranton, Pennsylvania

The Scranton School Board held a Special Meeting for General Purposes on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 6:15pm in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA.

President Sheridan called the meeting to order at 6:35pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary

Present: Directors Casey, Douaihy, Duffy, Lesh, McAndrew, Oleski, Schuster, Timlin and President Sheridan.

Absent: All Present.

Public Comment:

Joan Hodowanitz, Scranton resident and tax payer expressed how deeply disturbed she is by an article in the Scranton Times regarding performance testing scores in the Scranton School District.

Ms. Hodowanitz also addressed the board regarding the districts' \$40 million dollar budget deficit resulting in the school district being placed on financial watch.

Resolutions:

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 43 PA CSA §1101.802, "Fact-Finding Panel" the Scranton School District and the Scranton Federation of Teachers jointly agreed to participate in fact-finding as set forth in Act 88 of 1992 and the Pennsylvania Employee Labor Relations Act, Act 195 of 1970, and more specifically in the statute referenced above; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 21, 2017, submission of both written and oral testimony at time of hearing on the matter, the fact-finder issued his recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the fact-finder issued an Order directing for the ten (10) day period commencing with a board vote occurring on or before August 11, 2017, the contents of the recommendations were to remain confidential until such time as the parties had the opportunity to consider whether to accept or reject the recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Scranton School Board rejected the Fact-Finding Report on August 10, 2017 and is required to accept or reject the Fact-Finding Report a 2nd time within ten (10) days following the date specified by the PA Labor Relations Board; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Scranton School District hereby **Rejects** the Fact-Finding Report and the recommendations of the Fact Finder.

August 17, 2017

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Douaihy asked President Sheridan if a yes vote is a vote to reject the report.

Mr. Sheridan agreed that a yes vote is to reject the fact finding report.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Oleski.

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and Personnel Committee that the attached list of Appointments, Assignments, Retirements, Resignations and Leaves of Absences 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.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS – PROFESSIONAL:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Brionna Kasper	Special Education	West Intermediate	September 1, 2017
Melissa Martini	Special Education	Electric City Academy	September 1, 2017
Megan Johnson	Special Education-		
	Multi-Handicap	Electric City Academy	September 1, 2017
Martina Green	Special Education	Whittier/Bancroft	September 1, 2017
Allison Mendola	Special Education	South Intermediate	September 1, 2017
Valerie Cadugan	Special Education	Electric City Academy	September 1, 2017
Maureen Abdalla	Librarian	Isaac Tripp Elementary	September 1, 2017
Melinda McPhillips	Grade 4	Isaac Tripp Elementary	September 1, 2017
Michelle Dudley	Grade 3	Sumner Elementary	September 1, 2017
Nicole Notarianni	Grade 4	Whittier Annex	September 1, 2017
Tara Cummings	Grade 5	Willard Elementary	September 1, 2017
Kathleen O'Neil	English	Northeast Intermediate	September 1, 2017
Annette Shepherd	Business	South Intermediate	September 1, 2017
Stephanie VanDuesen	Science	Scranton High School	September 1, 2017

B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS-PROFESSIONAL-RESCIND:

Molly Abdalla	Title Program Manager
Shannon Rucker	ES Program Manager

C. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS-NON-CERTIFIED

August 17, 2017

Catherine Durkin

Clerk 205

John Adams Elementary TBD

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS-RESCIND:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Jacqueline Sparacino	Grade 1	Willard Elemen	September 1, 2017 – further notice
Tara Cummings	Grade 6	Northeast	September 6, 2017 – further notice
Allison Mendola	Special Ed	Scranton High	September 1, 2017-January 1, 2018
Bridget Stanvitch	English	Scranton High	September 1, 2017-further notice

E. LEAVES OF ABSENCE-PROFESSIONAL

Shannon Thatcher	Grade 1	McNichols Plaza	2017-2018 School Year Medical Sabbatical w/o pay
Marissa Vaccaro	Grade 2	Kennedy Elementary	2017-2018 School Year Unpaid Leave of Absence
Heather Jones	Grade 4	Isaac Tripp Elementary	September 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2017 Unpaid Leave of Absence

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Duffy asked if all positions in Section A are absolutely necessary.

Superintendent Dr. Alexis Kirijan responded yes.

Director Duffy, with regards to Section B, he would like those two positions combined into one position and offer the salary of \$75,000 noting the savings from the retirement of Mrs. Anne Salerno's \$108,000 salary.

Director Schuster echoed Mr. Duffy's suggestion on Part B.

Solicitor Minora asked if there is a motion to separate, Director Duffy made a motion to separate, Director Duffy referred to Rule #8 of the Book of Rules that the resolution be put in writing.

Director Schuster asked what day is Mrs. Salerno officially retired. Dr. Kirijan responded that she has already departed.

A discussion between directors and administration took place regarding the savings of recent retirements and with just sixteen positions there will be approximately two million dollars in savings through attrition.

Director Schuster asked if all positions were posted and interviewed.

Mr. Gaynord said all positions came off the eligibility list.

August 17, 2017

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Schuster.

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

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:

Alexander Jackson	1022 Prescott Ave.	Map No. 14618 060 050	\$4,201.99
ZK Partners	524 N. Rebecca Ave.	Map No. 14510 020 009	\$3,500.00
Neville Troy D'Anjou	1003 Luzerne St.	Map No. 15606 040 026	\$3,850.00
Martin Wilson	1103 Albright Ave.	Map No. 14508 030 041	\$4,000.00
Mariah Betances & Hector Rivera	1224 Washburn St.	Map No. 14518 040 018	\$3,620.00

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.

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

ALSO

The following 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 and civil suits, wherein the appropriateness of the student's special education programs have been challenged or suits have been filed in the matters of CH and SA; 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 Directors of Special Education are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matter.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Casey asked Solicitor Minora for the amount of the settlements.

August 17, 2017

Mr. Minora responded one is for \$5,000.00 and the other for \$10,000.000.

Director Douaihy responded to questions recently regarding more discussion about settlement agreements and the fact is that they can't discuss in public.

Mr. Minora further explained that there is confidentiality and privacy laws and we would be violating those privacy acts.

Director Duffy now asked if some of Ms. Hodowanitz's concerns could be addressed at this time.

Directors spoke of the lack of federal and state funding and the burdens on school boards.

Dr. Kirijan spoke of the districts strategic plan, teaching and learning, talent management, improvement of systems and processes, and community engagement.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director Casey, seconded by Director Timlin and the meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

By: _____
Secretary