

SCRANTON PENNSYLVANIA 18503

A Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503.

President O'Shea called the meeting to order at 7:02pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Barrett, Fox, Martinelli, Ruane, Sheridan, Shrive and President O'Shea.

Absent: Directors Lesh and McGuigan.

Visiting Delegations:

Ron Ellman thanked board for giving him time to speak and commented that the board cannot keep hiring and building new schools, and spoke in opposition of a tax increase.

Marie Schumacher expressed concern about the budget and district test scores and would like to know what is being set aside for pension costs.

Mr. Gregg Sunday addressed the pension fund crisis, adding that pension increases will account for 33% of the budget, this is not just a Scranton School District issue, it is a statewide issue that the governor is going to have to address and we are not putting money aside; we're trying to fund the current pension.

Mrs. Schumacher suggested cuts be made to the Pre-K programs first.

President O'Shea and Mr. King commented on test scores and that they are working on professional development and improving instruction and scores, adding that resources like tutoring and after school programs have been pulled due to budget cuts that affect disadvantaged children who do not have the benefits of educationally rich homes. Mr. King also spoke of Scranton Education Improvement Foundation.

Tom Welby, taxpayer and representative of Marty Flynn spoke on behalf of the lower income students who live in Hilltop which is 4.2 miles from the high school who do not have access to transportation; some families have two or three students in high school and cannot afford the bus passes, adding that if a child is expected to walk that distance in 90 or 10 degree weather it is going to result in absenteeism. Mr. Welby asked for support and that the district finds a way to fund and reach out to the community to restore the discount bus passes.

Mr. Welby also asked that the district continue to fund the music and arts programs from elementary to high school and they are equally important as the sports programs.

Mr. King addressed his concerns about bus passes, letters have been sent to organizations to help reduce the cost of the passes and negotiations with COLTS.

Mr. King also said that the present budget they are working on does not recommend cuts in music or art programs.

President O'Shea asked if there were any more speakers, thanked everyone for coming and encouraged fellow board members that if they have any suggestions to contact the superintendent or Mr. Sunday.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm with a motion made by Director Shrive, seconded by Director Ruane.

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