

June 29, 2020

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for General Purposes on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 7:00pm prevailing time via Zoom Webinar.

President Gilmartin called the meeting to order at 7:54pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Cruz, Dempsey, Hume, Malloy, McAndrew, Yanni and President Gilmartin.

Absent: Directors Fox and Welby.

Public Comment

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, expressed concern about the reopening of schools and the need for PPEs, masks and sanitizing of schools.

Ms. Boland referred to the agenda item concerning the Denaples contract and hopes that is successful.

Ms. Boland hopes the school board has a full understanding of negotiations and that they are aware of what is happening during the meetings and that they question everything during contract talks.

Ms. Boland asked that people join them on July 8th in Wilkes Barre at Senator Toomey's office to encourage him and all senators to vote in favor of the Heroes Act as that is the only way districts can receive the funding they need.

Jennifer Zaleski, teacher and executive member of SFT, asked the following four questions:

What plans have the Scranton School District made to ensure that the students and staff can return to their respective schools safely and what supplies will each school receive.

When will the retirees be paid the incentive money owed to them and will this payment include interest.

What savings has the district realized from the renegotiation of transportation contracts and how will the funds be reallocated.

How much longer do the members of the SFT have to wait to be fairly compensated with retroactivity.

Matt Loftus, teacher, asked the board to consider authoring a letter to Senator Casey and Senator Toomey either independently or jointly with the Scranton Federation of Teachers and any other stakeholders asking them to support the Heroes Act. From what Mr. Loftus has read Pennsylvania would receive \$3.2 billion in education funding and the K-12 portion

June 29, 2020

of that would be around \$2 billion dollars; Pennsylvania would receive \$19.2 billion dollars in direct aid and local governments would receive \$18.7 billion dollars in direct aid and there's an additional \$5.6 for Pennsylvania and Medicaid funding.

Pat Festa, 3rd grade teacher at McNichols Plaza, presented his and his colleagues observation on what they feel is the interpretation Scranton School Board's interpretation of recovery and the actions the board has taken so far. Eliminating the pre-k program, furloughing much-needed paraprofessionals, granting administrative raises at a time when there is absolutely no money, ignoring the fact that teachers and paraprofessionals have worked without a contract for three years. Mr. Festa added that the starting salary is ludicrous and a migration of excellent staff from our district is occurring as he speaks.

Mr. Festa commented that during the ongoing pandemic when meetings were held virtually, it is his feeling and the feeling of his colleagues a feeling of a palpable lack of support for teachers and board has remained silent on the underlying systemic root causes of the financial picture of the school district that prompted state recovery.

Luann Henehan, SEIU 32BJ President, said that at a time when everyone is hiring more custodians and cleaners, the Scranton School District is looking to cut back on day maintenance custodial staff. While Ms. Henehan understands that times are tough, however the children of the Scranton School District deserve better when they return to school and we need to do all that we can to ensure their safety. Ms. Henehan said decreasing the numbers will not enable them to meet the CDC standards for sanitization as well as all of the other duties they are responsible for throughout the day.

Ms. Henehan and her membership feels as though they are under attack and there is efforts being brought forward to bust their union and in her 30 plus years has never experienced anything like what is going on lately.

Ms. Henehan commented on unprofessional and disrespectful meetings where they are being asked to do more with a lot less staff adding that they have not asked for more custodial or maintenance workers but needed to keep the staff they had. Ms. Henehan further added that their members have ideas including cost saving ideas that can help the school district and would like to share these ideas.

Frances Regan, teacher at Bancroft, concerned that teachers, paraprofessionals and parents are not being involved in the reentry plan as she feels they are major stakeholders in this process and need to be included and we all need to be working together.

Vince Wojnar, West Scranton High School teacher, spoke of the teachers going into their fourth year without a contract, started negotiating in 2016 and it is now 2020 and during that time there have been no raises and they are falling behind compared to other school districts. Mr. Wojnar said they are willing to go by the fact finders report and the district is now on their third chief negotiator for these contracts and it has not been true negotiations. The SFT has offered other possibilities and it is never good enough; it's always no, take it or leave it. Mr. Wojnar said the last negotiating meeting was very adversarial and feels this has to change as people are leaving the Scranton School District and as an example we could not even fill the Athletic Director position with somebody within the district.

June 29, 2020

Mr. Wojnar said the recovery plan is amendable and we need a contract for our professionals and paraprofessionals and thinks one way to save money is through a true retirement incentive to get more senior teachers off of the payroll and the district will save a lot of money and if the cost of health care is covered he thinks a lot of teachers will leave if they are able to. Mr. Wojnar added that the financial difficulties is not the teachers fault but is due to all the malfeasance in the past.

Mr. Wojnar said Scranton used to be the district to come to, we had the best and the brightest and that is something that is not happening anymore. Mr. Wojnar also said the orals have not been given in a while and thinks it needs to be addressed as it keeps politics out of the hiring process and urges the school board to direct their team to start negotiating in good faith so they can finally start moving forward toward a fair contract.

Holly Meade, Northeast Intermediate teacher, spoke of the fifty teachers that recently completed the blended online summer ER&D courses which included Beginning Reading Instruction, Reading Comprehension, Home School Connections and Foundations of Effective Teaching. Mrs. Meade said they were a smashing success and explained the courses given to teachers. Mrs. Meade said this summer they had the cream of the crop, the All Stars, and they are now prepared to not only help themselves but to help the new teachers coming in to Scranton.

Mrs. Meade shared how some teachers pushed themselves to reach all of their students during this pandemic by making instructional videos on how to get them started on Apex, some made packets to be distributed during the free lunch handouts and others mailed postcards to each child, handwritten every month so they could stay in touch with their families.

Mrs. Meade said to say our teachers did an amazing job would be an understatement and last week the first negotiation meeting was held between the SFT and the Scranton School District in a long time; expectations were high after teachers have been thanked across the country for working so hard and doing such a great job so they were hoping that maybe there would be some change but sadly there wasn't.

Mrs. Meade asked, as an attempt to save some money she thinks Mr. Audi was placed as chief negotiator and wonders how much Mr. Audi's has been paid to work on the SFT contract so far as it seems the longer the contract is unsettled the more money the solicitor will make and asked if he has been given a timeframe to get this done and hopes the board will put their money where their mouth is and value the teachers as they say they do.

Jennifer Telesco, parent and teacher, asked for information regarding the boundary information regarding preschool for the 2020-2021 school year; specifically the street boundaries for each regional school. Mrs. Telesco said she has sent emails and made phone calls asking and she hasn't received a response at all and asked who she can reach out to for that information.

Mrs. Telesco also asked about what school will look like in the fall, if safety protocols have been configured for each building and if every classroom or learning space been measured and desks arranged so you can determine the capacity of space for students and adults per room.

June 29, 2020

Mrs. Telesco asked if the district has sought out the cleaning supplies, the disinfectants, sanitizers, the protective gear for students, faculty and staff that is needed and will a nurse be assigned to each building to take temperatures each day and what is the protocol for those students and staff who do have a fever.

Mrs. Telesco hopes that teachers and parents are expected to be involved in the planning phase.

President Gilmartin now asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 4, 2020 and June 1, 2020.

Director Cruz made a motion, seconded by Director Malloy and motion duly passed 7-0.

President Gilmartin now asked if there were any requests to remove items from the Consent Agenda. Hearing no requests, a motion was made by Director Yanni, seconded by Director Hume to accept the Consent Agenda and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

B-1 Exception Bill List

Approve Exception Bill List Payments for the period ended June 29, 2020.

Bill Payments:

June 12, 2020	\$2,240,892.05
June 25, 2020	<u>\$1,649,721.89</u>
	\$3,890,613.94

Payrolls:

June 12, 2020	\$2,541,359.36
June 25, 2020	<u>\$3,816,148.92</u>
	\$6,357,508.28

ALSO

B-2 May 2020 Delinquent Tax Report

Approve the Delinquent Tax Report as prepared for the month of May 2020 shows net return to the Scranton School District of \$348,442.14 as collected by the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau:

Tax	\$310,413.19
Penalty	\$ 31,510.05
Interest	<u>\$ 24,858.72</u>
TOTAL	\$366,781.96
Commission	<u>\$(18,339.82)</u>
NET TO DISTRICT	\$348,442.14

ALSO

June 29, 2020

B-3 Repository Sales

Approve the Repository Sale of 534 Rear Genet Street, Map Number 16710-040-060 in the amount of \$220.00 to Worthy Solutions, 222RP, LLC, Hector Gordon.

ALSO

B-4 Treasurer's Report ending May 31, 2020

Approve the Treasurer's Report for period ending May 31, 2020 as prepared by the Business Office and confirmed by First National Bank.

Opening Balance	\$30,300,503.00
Monthly Revenue	\$ 7,664,388.61
Transfers and Refunds	<u>\$15,664,422.75</u>
 TOTAL AVAILABLE	 \$53,629,314.36
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$18,350,554.71</u>
BALANCE IN GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$35,278,759.65

END CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

At this time Director McAndrew made a motion to amend the Non Consent Agenda to vote on item F-2 before F-1 in Personnel and to add item E-7. Director Dempsey seconded and the motion duly passed 7-0.

Director Yanni made a motion to approve B-5; the list of Capital Project payment requests for Tripp Access Road, NEIS Portico's and NEIS Asbestos consultation and assessment in the amount of \$22,589.

Greenman Pederson	Isaac Tripp Access Road Survey	\$2,200.00
Palumbo Group	Evaluate Condition of NEIS Porticos	\$2,000.00
Cocciardi	NEIS Consultation and Assessment	\$18,389.00

Director McAndrew seconded and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

Director Yanni made a motion to approve B-6; Appraisal services for properties that are scheduled for a hearing regarding an assessment appeal.

Approve the proposal for appraisal services from Valbridge Property Advisors in the amount of \$8,750.00.

650 Wyoming Avenue	\$3,750
614 and 620 Wyoming Avenue	\$5,000

Director McAndrew seconded and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

June 29, 2020

ALSO

Director Yanni made a motion to approve B-7; Approve Realty Transfer Tax Refund.

W2005 CNL Fargo Mezz I LLC has filed a petition to seek a refund for realty transfer tax to the PA Department of Revenue on 9/18/2018. The PA Department of Revenue granted the refund on the facts presented by the Petitioner on 9/9/2019. The Petitioner now seeks a refund of taxes paid to the Scranton School District in the amount of \$47,412.03.

The motion was seconded by Director McAndrew and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Yanni asked Mr. Laffey to give a little more detail to this motion and explain why we're refunding this money.

Mr. Laffey explained that the type of sale he believes was not a traditional sale, there was a transfer of equity which was deemed not to be subject to the realty transfer tax and the taxpayer had paid the amount of \$47,412.03 to the Recorder of Deeds and has subsequently filed the petition and an attested statement that the transaction was not subject to the tax which has been approved by the PA Department of revenue so that is why is brought forward this evening.

Director Malloy asked, in layman's terms it's basically that they didn't think they owed the tax but they paid it anyway and now they're asking for it back.

Mr. Laffey agreed.

ALSO

Director Yanni made a motion to approve B-8; Approve Real Estate Assessment Reductions.

Diamond 307 – 125 Scranton Pocono Highway – Pin No. 1571601035 Decrease assessment \$242,200 to \$26,500

RSP Enterprises – Route 307 Scranton Pocono Highway – Pin No. 157160120034 (\$35,000 assessment), 1571601003501 (\$2424) and 157601003502 (\$2,500) for a total of \$39,924 decrease assessment for all three units to a combined \$10,600. Total reduced assessment of \$245,024 which equals \$33,720 in reduced tax revenue.

Real Estate tax assessment value reduction for a total of 4 properties listed in detail above. Assessed value is reduced from a combined \$282,124 to \$37,100 or a combined reduction of \$245,024 in assessed value. At the Districts current mileage of 137.62 this reduction equates to a \$33,720 in tax revenue.

The motion was seconded by Director Dempsey and passed unanimously on roll call.

June 29, 2020

ON THE QUESTION:

President Gilmartin asked for more of an explanation as these seem different than some of the others that have come forward and she understands there is a legitimate concern over the change in value on the properties.

Mr. Laffey said as Attorney Barbetta had provided some detail on the significant reduction in the assessed value seems to be by recent resale values on these properties or the fact that the market value in the properties he believes remain to be unsold based off of appraisers that we've worked with; they feel that these reductions and assessments are warranted.

ALSO

Director Yanni made a motion to approve D-1; Approve Parent/Student Handbooks.

Approval of the 2020/2021 Elementary and Secondary Student/Parent Handbooks which includes Elementary Policies, Intermediate Policies, High School Policies and required Sign Off Sheets.

The motion was seconded by Director Cruz and duly passed 7-0.

ON THE QUESTION:

President Gilmartin to Superintendent Mrs. McTiernan, though she did not read them cover to cover, asked if there is a caveat in these that dictates that policy would supersede any of these directives and if there is any reference to policy in the handbooks, specifically the uniforms as we have that policy coming this evening and wonders if the language exists and she overlooked it.

Mrs. McTiernan said it should be parallel if there's a policy on a specific item that's in the handbook and you notice that it's contradictory then we need to know that but our handbook should match our policy.

Ms. Gilmartin, referring to the uniform policy there should be a sentence referencing Policy 253. Mrs. McTiernan said they do that and deferred to Mr. Gentilezza who oversees the handbooks.

Mr. Gentilezza said they could make any adjustments needed but everything does match up with the district's policies and Policy 253 is up for first read tonight.

Ms. Gilmartin said the handbook gives authority to the principal and perhaps there needs to be a line in there saying as it pertains to Policy 253 and suggested a friendly amendment to review that and define the appropriate wording.

Mrs. McTiernan said they can easily add that statement as the handbooks have not been printed yet.

Director Malloy asked if it is worth considering wording to the extent that if there is ever any conflict between the handbook and written policies then the default position should be

June 29, 2020

either the policy or the handbook; he is assuming it would be the policy adding that we're striving for complete uniformity but we're in the middle of a pandemic and everybody is human and makes mistakes so to the extent that there is any kind of conflict he thinks there should be a default position to whatever the policy states.

Mrs. McTiernan understood adding that one supersedes the other and it should be our district policies that we always reflect back and the handbook should dictate what is in the policy.

President Gilmartin said the handbooks are referenced in policies so it needs to be amended to include that language and said to disregard the suggestion of a friendly amendment and we'll add that to the policy agenda.

ALSO

Director Yanni made a motion to approve D-2; Award Elementary Cyber Curriculum Bid.

It is the recommendation that the district award the bid for the Elementary Cyber Curriculum to Accelerate Ed as submitted by the NEIU at a cost of \$200,000 for one year. The cost is \$40.00 per student at a predicted enrollment of 5,000 students and includes:

Digital copy of workbooks, all necessary course materials, training for administrators and teachers, student coursework through 6/30/2021 for 11 elementary schools. (Licensure up to 5,000 students) The software includes the following subject areas with the option of choosing six (6) courses:

- Language Arts (K-5)
- Mathematics (K-5)
- Science (K-5)
- Social Studies (K-5)
- Art (1-4)
- Arts and Crafts (K-2)
- Music: Recorders (Level 1)
- Technology: Keyboarding, Scratch coding

The motion was seconded by Director Hume and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Mrs. McTiernan said that in preparation for the fall as the board is aware we have a virtual platform for grades 6-12 using Google classroom and we are now going to purchase, if the board approves, a virtual platform for K-5 and if there is any specific questions Mrs. Grebeck is prepared to answer those questions.

Director Hume asked for a brief overview from Mrs. Grebeck.

Mrs. Grebeck reiterated what is included in the curriculum and the costs associated with the virtual platform presented.

June 29, 2020

Director Dempsey asked when will the teachers have access to this and does this align with the current Common Core that they're using in the classrooms.

Mrs. Grebeck responded we don't have access yet until it is board approved and the platform itself can be manipulated so teachers are able to align the courses with Common Core State Standards and that needed to be another criteria and we needed to make sure it was aligned. Mrs. Grebeck added that if this is the platform the board chooses to go with then it's going to be very important that training happens between the facilitators and the administrators as well as the teachers and this will be the primary driving platform for our curriculum, there would be consistency throughout the district and everyday math and Pearson and any reading platforms that are online would be supplemental.

Director Dempsey asked how soon the training will happen and if it is group training or online training.

Mrs. Grebeck imagines it would be virtual training and with the amount of teachers we would have to train we would probably have to stagger with multiple facilitators so we can accommodate all the teachers. Administrators would be trained first in the summer then teachers will be trained in August and then teachers along with the administrators would be trained on how to realign the platform so it aligns with our board approved curriculum.

Mrs. McTiernan added that this would be purchased with the CARES money that we received so the funding that we're using to purchase this is the CARES money.

Director Hume asked if we should go to a hybrid model children will be working on the same things, sometimes online and sometimes reinforced in the classroom and there will be consistency of material so that no child will be disadvantaged and something they can cope with in a fixed way. Mrs. Grebeck said absolutely and when they are in the classroom face to face with the teachers, the teachers can support their needs through the cyber platform and will allow the child to advance ahead.

Director Dempsey asked since it is only for one year and purchased by CARES money and if it found to be affective will we be able to afford it after one year.

Mrs. McTiernan said that the CARES money is a one-time thing and given the unique situation we're in right now and as we continue to work on our health and safety plan and waiting on further guidance from PDE to continue with that we needed to make a decision immediately about how we're going to move forward in the fall and knowing that we probably won't be going back to traditional learning in the fall so to answer the question is this something we can afford going forward; obviously Scranton really can't afford much right now so without the CARES money we would probably not be purchasing this and we wouldn't have been purchasing 8300 computers without this money.

Dr. Finan added that we have until 2022 to expend all of the CARES money and this is \$200, 000 this year and we have set aside \$200,000 next year to be able to purchase it next year so we have at least two years of use of this service.

ALSO

June 29, 2020

Director Hume made a motion to approve E-1; Friends of the Poor Use of Scranton High School on July 1, 2020.

The IHM Friends of the Poor will be conducting a food drive on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at Scranton High School from 11:00AM – 7:00PM for set up and clean up.

The motion was seconded by Director Yanni and duly passed 7-0.

President Gilmartin clarified that they will not be using the building and will be similar to the last time they used Scranton High and also at no cost to the district.

Mr. Dougherty said they will not be using the building except for the volunteers needing bathroom facilities and they will be using the area around the gymnasium and not the front of the building as they did last time.

ALSO

Director Hume made a motion to approve E-2; Stadium Track Repairs.

In an effort to keep the Memorial Stadium Track usable and safe for the 2020-21 SY three repair quotes have been provided. Memorial Stadium Track in its current condition is becoming unusable and is becoming a safety concern for any student/athlete to use. Eventually there will be a need for total replacement in the very near future.

Quotes received:

BEYNON

Option 1: \$32,780

Option 2: \$148,973

NAGLE

\$7,849

ATT

\$19,454

Award Stadium Track repairs to Nagle in the amount of \$7,849. Funds will be used from the Stadium Account.

The motion was seconded by Director Yanni and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Dempsey expressed concern that the Nagle pricing seems very low and asked if there are any hidden fees.

Dr. Finan said it is only for repairs and not a total resurfacing.

June 29, 2020

Mr. Gentilezza said we will have to look at it again down the road about resurfacing but we're just repairing right now adding that it's been there since 2002 and is also the top venue that is used for many events in the region and county and he is afraid we will lose those events if we don't eventually resurface which will need to be done down the road.

Mrs. McTiernan said the bottom line it is a safety concern and if we can repair it until we get into a better position where we have to resurface it but at this point we have to do something to repair it.

ALSO

Director Hume made a motion to approve E-3; Athletics Health & Safety Plan.

PDE has required that each school district develop an "Athletic Health & Safety Return to Play Plan" for the Scranton School District. This plan was developed by a committee comprised of: local health officials from Geisinger, Building Principals, Athletic Directors, SSD Nurses, SSD Maintenance Supervisor, SSD Special Event Coordinator, and the SSD Chief Compliance Officer. This plan follows all of the CDC and PA DOH guidelines for preventative measures regarding COVID infection. Once this plan is approved by the Scranton School Board our student/athletes will be allowed to begin preseason conditioning for the upcoming 2020 fall sport season.

The motion was seconded by Director Cruz and duly passed 7-0.

ON THE QUESTION:

Superintendent Missy McTiernan thanked Mr. Bert Gentilezza and his committee which includes our chief school nurse, members of the medical field, and Geisnger for helping to put together the Health and Safety plans adding Mr. Gentilezza worked very closely with the Athletic Directors and asked Mr. Gentilezza to briefly explain.

Mr. Gentilezza responded as Mrs. McTiernan said, we had a nice committee that also included principals and maintenance personnel and is a tier system, a gradual process which PDE requires school board approval of a Health & Safety Athletic Return to Play plan before our kids can return to the field. It is a breakdown plan of high risk, moderate risk and low risk sports, eventually and gradually moving from moderate conditioning drills all the way through actual competitions throughout the summer.

President Gilmartin thanked everyone for their hard work of the committee.

Director Dempsey asked if the levels are decided by the PIAA or the Department of Health.

Mr. Gentilezza said it is through all the PIAA recommendations, CDC recommendations, the Department of Health along with the PIAA; all recommendations were taken into account in their discussions and committee meetings.

Director Dempsey asked how will they know when they can move to level 3 green vs. level 4 green; would the Department of Health tell us?

June 29, 2020

Mr. Gentilezza said no, it's the level according to the sport as indicated in the breakdown of high risk, moderate risk and low risk. Level 2, the low risk sports could pretty much get in to all their activities as fully as possible where the more contact sports, the high and moderate risk will take a gradual approach and eventually when all the restrictions are lifted in the high and moderate risk they could get into the level of low risk and is broken down according to what sport is offered.

Mrs. McTiernan added that it is important to note that many of the decisions are health and safety and since we are educators we are relying on the health and safety officials to help us make these decisions with the plans.

ALSO

Director Hume made a motion to approve E-4; Athletic Trainer Extension.

Approve the (1) one year contract extension of Athletic Training Services with Geisinger Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at a cost of \$75,992 with Marketing Offsets of \$26,000 and the District paying \$49,992. The SSD will also pay \$35 per hr for any hours over 2,300. In the event sport activities cease based on guidance of regulations issued by federal and or state authorities, services will cease and payment will be abated during such time period.

The motion was seconded by Director Dempsey and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

President Gilmartin asked how often do we go over 2300 hours or how much approximately.

Mrs. McTiernan believes they would need to research that and Mr. Laffey added that to his knowledge they've never paid in excess of the contractual costs and this is a service that was bid in the 17/18 school year as a three year contract but he can look into that and get back to Ms. Gilmartin.

ALSO

Director Hume made a motion to approve E-5; Award District Wide Abatement/Remediation Project Bid – Package #1.

The Board awards asbestos containing materials abatement bid package #1 to Lycoming Supply to provide asbestos abatement and remediation services for the SSD Administration Building, Adams Elementary, Bancroft Elementary, Sumner Elementary, Prescott Elementary, Morris Elementary, Armstrong Elementary, South Scranton Intermediate and Memorial Stadium at a cost of \$355,378.00.

Director Yanni seconded.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume expressed concerns along with the next motion of item E-6 because it is package #2 and asked about the time period under which this will be done because as she

understands it, the bid by Lycoming is double the bid from Datom and it is also a firm we've never worked with before. Director Hume added that we've had so much issue with asbestos and Datom have been both efficient, economical, incredibly supportive of the district's efforts and she understands there is some question that they cannot do Package #1 and Package #2 at the same time and her question is that several of the schools have been discussed already as schools that are under discussion for closure. Director Hume asked if the time period on this work is so incredibly pressing that it cannot wait and allow Datom to do them sequentially.

Director Hume's other concern is the bid by Lycoming is more than double what the bid is from Datom and at the very least she would, if the board cannot agree to possibly allow the work to be done by Datom and she would at the very least move that E-5 is tabled until such time that they have some understanding as to why the estimate of costs is double the other bid for this work.

Mrs. McTiernan said her concern is that we will be putting students and staff back in the schools in the fall unless we are in the red or yellow phase and we will not be closing any schools for September. Mrs. McTiernan has to support moving forward with these projects for the safety of our staff and students and unless they are told by the environmental experts that this work at this time does not have to be done and this is work they have said they were going to do in the summer. Mrs. McTiernan now asked Mr. Rocco DiPietro to join in and answer to the environmental questions and also asked that if it is recommended they move forward she is asking the board to move forward.

Mr. DiPietro said this bid package was put together by the former environmental consultants so this is not Cocciardi doing this, it is Cocciardi inheriting the work and trying to be economical and reusing the work that had already been done. Mr. DiPietro pointed out they did not re-inspect all of the buildings; they're still using the 2019 inspection data from Mr. Guzek, that is the inspection of record so these bid packages were put together based on kind of the next series of priority abatements based on what Guzek's firm had identified. All of the emergency stuff has been already accounted for; this is kind of the next layer of medium risk, if you will, it does not eliminate all of the asbestos from many of the buildings particularly the big two being West High and South Intermediate but it does take care of that middle of the road priority abatement stuff.

Mr. DiPietro said they are large packages and Director Hume is correct, the price is double that of Datom but as he indicated in their review from this afternoon given the time constraints which indicated that this work would be completed before the children could get back and would allow you some ability to re-insulate and re-floor and follow this work we needed a little bit of cushion, it just cannot be done by Datom given the constraints, that was their indication and they said they couldn't handle both jobs if awarded; that was part of the specification we had to ensure that and they couldn't so if you opt not to select both of these packages then essentially Package 1 would have to be re-bid and that process is certainly a couple of weeks to go through re-bidding to narrow it down to something more manageable, he doesn't believe they could change the date at this point since all of the bids were based on an end date of August 21st.

Director Hume appreciates that and she is totally supportive of every effort to do this but she believes we are at a time when we are scraping for pennies and doing this; we received

June 29, 2020

these bids recently, she has all the information she has on these bids as she asked Mr. Dougherty to send her the full RFP which she apologizes for not studying them previously, but we are making a fiscal decision of \$200,000 and the last time they were together they talked about another possible use of that \$200,000 which would restore 30 classrooms for this district. Director Hume said it's a lot of money and her question is how urgently must this work be done; must it be done before we start the school year, given that we have so much else going on.

President Gilmartin thinks this has been our timeline all along and she feels as though we represented this to the community, to the people who work in these buildings, this is our plan, we've taken care of the immediate needs, the things that really need to be done right away and our plan is, this the next level of items that we will address over the summer and she thinks it's unfortunate that we have this cost and can't do both projects at the same time, that's certainly to be understood but she would be interested to know what Dr. Finan's opinion is and how it does fit into the larger context of the recovery plan and potential building closures.

Director Hume said her feeling is when they receive bids of this nature, with this much discrepancy adding that the third bid is four times what Datom's bid was, so she believes that she, in terms of fiscal responsibility to the district, she doesn't have all of the information she needs to make the decision about E-5 tonight; she is very happy to move ahead with E-6 but she feels as a director she wishes she had more information about E-5.

Dr. Finan said when she saw the differential she too was concerned and she does not have the answers and is hoping Rocco DiPietro or Mr. Dougherty does.

Dr. Finan understands there were three bidders which she does not think that is a lot of bidders for projects of this size and she suspects it is because of the timing and her concern is when they're looking at Datom vs. the other company, were the projects about the same size or was one significantly larger than the other?

Mr. Rocco DiPietro said they were specifically segregated to be balanced and if everyone remembers the Guzek bid packages that the district paid for, broke this into five bid packages which they (Cocciardi & Assoc) thought was unrealistic and included a fair amount of material that wasn't even designated as asbestos so they reconfigured them to balance. South Intermediate is bid package #1 with a host of other schools that are relatively small projects and bid package #2 is primarily West High with a couple of schools geographically located in that area so they are relatively balanced. West was a little heavy, a little more work there and he thinks that is reflected in at least two of the bids were slightly more work at West for example the Datom bids were roughly \$175,000 for package #1 and \$190,000 for package #2. Consequently the Lycoming bid also is slightly higher for big package #2 but they knew that going in just to keep them geographically the same location so they can send people off to do work and where they kept their main crews at those two primary locations but Dr. Finan is correct, three bidders, we did have a fourth and a fifth, companies that chose not to bid and he suspects this is more to do with the timing than it is the current environment, adding that normally these bid packages are put out in the March, April even May time period, when abatement companies are queuing up their summer work, obviously that didn't work, timing wise for a host of reasons, one being COVID but just the sheer size of your projects are massive, they are large projects and

June 29, 2020

there's not a lot of these projects out there so it takes out of play a host of local companies that just don't have the manpower to support this kind of a large-scale abatement project.

Dr. Finan thanked Mr. DiPietro and she thinks we have a couple of considerations here; number one, you don't have enough time to go out to rebid and as Mr. DiPietro indicated if they really want to do summer projects you need to award them in March, at the very latest in April because you need them to hit the ground running at the minute school is out if you want them done during the summer and these are not your only abatement concerns, there's still more work to be done so it's going to cost money. Dr. Finan added we cannot put children in buildings that we haven't abated when we made a commitment to the community that we were going to do it over the summer and that's the conundrum we're in right now adding that we did not get good responses from the bidding and we don't have time to go out and rebid and we still have more work to do after these projects are completed so there's more work and there's more money to be spent on it. She isn't going to say one is less fair than the other; it's just that if Datom couldn't handle both packages it's because they don't have the manpower so you're probably paying more, a little more for a larger company who can handle the other project. She is the first to say that the district doesn't have any money, she says it all the time, but she just doesn't think they can gamble on not fixing and not abating asbestos because if they open the doors they need to ensure to the children and parents of the community that we've done our due diligence and have abated the asbestos. She realizes she's not giving a clear answer but she doesn't think we have a choice here.

President Gilmartin added that this is something we are dealing with that is going to cost us something someday so we might as well get this work done, move forward and have at least one bit of a worry off our list, one thing that people don't have to be scrambling, wondering if this or that is safe. Ms. Gilmartin thinks Director Hume did make a very good point earlier about this company and that we are very familiar with Datom, we don't want to get ourselves into a precarious situation. Ms Gilmartin asked have we vetted this company, is anyone familiar with them, could we approve this motion pending reference checks if that's appropriate.

Director Hume said the last thing she wants to do is put any child in this district in danger but what she objects to is the fact that she doesn't know what is in the packages, what the work is going to be done, what the ratings of what those works are within the bid packages and she feels personally that we do not have enough information about this at this time to be able to make a fiscally responsible decision however she understands what Dr. Finan said and she will be guided by that but she is concerned about the broad discrepancy and her feeling is she doesn't have enough information to make a fiscally sound decision at this point.

Dr. Finan said she would agree with Director Hume about one bid being too low and the other bid being too high but her issue is she doesn't have a lot of information either but she trusts Mr. DiPietro who has been involved and she would ask him if what was in the bid package is the work to be done so we can put children safely in those schools and if that answer is yes she thinks you have to move forward and she deferred to Mr. DiPietro on that question.

Mr. DiPietro asked Dr. Finan to repeat her question.

Dr. Finan said, the work that we need to have done, the work that we need to have completed in those buildings, that was part of the RFP for whatever was in our bid package, if that is in fact what will accomplish the abatement so that we can move children safely into those buildings in September, if that will do the job so to speak, are you agreeing to that, will they complete the work or do we have to go back in December, or next summer and do more work in those buildings.

Mr. DiPietro wishes he could give a succinct yes/no answer but it doesn't work that way. Two things – one, is that this is based on the inspection from Guzek so in every one of these items, and there's hundreds that are identified, they were assessed by a Guzek & Associates licensed inspector not by Cocciardi, they did not do the building inspections so he is working from Guzek's assessment and their categorization. The only places that that's varied is he had gotten information the district that certain areas needed to be checked because they didn't have good testing data and needed to be retested so there have been omissions from the bid package because Cocciardi went in and retested so for example the floor tile at South cafeteria was originally in the bid package, he tested it and it was non asbestos so it came out of the package. He can't speak to the Guzek inspection as inspection of every single pipe in a single building, that being said, these are building materials so even if they are intact today and they are a very high removal priority so to Director Hume's question, the higher the number in terms of removal priority, the ones, the twos, those are your first things to get rid of because they are damaged and friable and significant; the higher the number the safer it is so something that was assessed in 2019 as a six, may become damaged then it may have to come out in a fall break or over Christmas break because it was in good shape in the summer but now gets damaged so he never wants to say these things are static and just because they didn't do them in the summer doesn't mean they overlooked them it could have been in good shape then but deteriorated because of maintenance activity, kids sticking pencils in it, whatever the case may be. He understands and he is not thrilled with the discrepancy either but he thinks the vendors were put in a very difficult spot by giving them very large abatement packages to deal with in very short time frames with the looming hammer of liquidated damages on the backside so that if you don't have the schools ready there is going to be price to pay which was in the bid packages.

Director Malloy commented that Director Hume's points are very well taken and he thinks that in the future they should be adhered to and we should strive to do better but he is also hearing and knows that we promised to open these doors, promised they'd be safe and we're out of time and that's all he needs to hear and it sounds to him that is what Dr. Finan is saying. Dr. Finan agreed that we are out of time.

Dr. Finan asked Mr. DiPietro if he or his company would be overseeing some of the work. Mr. DiPietro said yes.

Dr. Finan agreed with Director Hume that we need to have more time to review these items particularly when there's a discrepancy and we need to understand why that discrepancy exists adding that we cannot do bidding this late in the year and expect it to be ready for September; it just doesn't work that way in the school construction business. Dr. Finan further added that under these circumstances, we have enough issues with the pandemic,

June 29, 2020

we need to take care of these asbestos issues and unfortunately it is costing us money but we have to move forward.

Mr. Dougherty added that the list he gave to the board back in January when basically everything that was a three or a four was a removal priority within the initial three re-assessments and obviously we had some emergencies come up where we took care of the emergencies so what was left in those bid packages was approximately 200 items that were listed as a three or a four on a removal priority; in reviewing those packages when they came out as a five because obviously we were working with Cocciardi at that point and we wanted them to have eyes on the bid packages before they went out, he thinks we got it down to 99 items on these two packages so it is significantly reduced from the initial packages that were given to us from Guzek.

Director Dempsey asked Mr. DiPietro what his level of confidence in the packages that were submitted given that he did find discrepancies and does he think what was submitted is actually asbestos that needs to be remediated.

Mr. DiPietro clarified again, his level of confidence of what's in the bid packages is in fact asbestos containing material is fairly high; anything that was suspect, they went back in and re-sampled and in some cases confirmed asbestos and in other cases it was non asbestos so he is pretty confident that what is in the bid packages is asbestos.

Director McAndrew agreed that we definitely need to get this done because we promised it and safety is always first but there was mention there may be additions and can we make an amendment that the cost doesn't go beyond what the bid is.

President Gilmartin agreed with Mr. McAndrew about a friendly amendment not to exceed and she thinks knowing that Mr. DiPietro is going to have some oversight as we move through this process will be very helpful.

Mr. Dougherty thinks it's in the best interest of the district is when these projects are complete by August 21st that it's probably in our best interest to engage Cocciardi to do a full reassessment instead of continuing to work off of that 2019 report and thinks it's an opportunity to get some other buildings labeled as asbestos free and that would be nothing but a benefit to our district.

Director McAndrew made a motion for a friendly amendment not to exceed costs. Director Hume seconded. Motion passed unanimously on roll call.

Motion passed unanimously on roll call on original motion.

ALSO

Director Hume made a motion to approve E-6; Award District Wide Abatement/Remediation Project Bid – Package #2.

The Board awards asbestos containing materials abatement bid package #2 to Datom Products, Inc. to provide asbestos abatement/remediation services for the Willard Elementary, West Intermediate and West Scranton High School at a cost of \$189,520.00.

June 29, 2020

Director McAndrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ALSO

Director Cruz made a motion to approve F-2; Approve Act 93 Memorandum of Understanding.

Director Malloy seconded.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director McAndrew knows this is regarding the incentive for retirees and it's nothing against individuals but he knows that the agreement that we had previously has expired in 2017; he thinks with everything going on with the IRS right now that we have been put on hold and with recovery we're cutting staff, he doesn't think it's an appropriate time to be giving out incentives for people retiring. He understands in their five year plan where there could be some savings but a lot can happen in five years. Mr. McAndrew repeated that with everything going on and we just spent a ton of money on asbestos he doesn't think it's the time for this so he will be voting against this.

Director Yanni agreed and she is appreciative of the commitment and the service that our staff members who are considering retirement have contributed to the students of the Scranton School District but agrees that this agreement, this legal agreement to honor this retirement incentive has expired in 2017 and if we were in a different financial situation and not in recovery she would say yes but she doesn't feel we are in a financial situation to honor our retirees in that way; we're broke and she doesn't see how we can spend this money right now.

President Gilmartin added that it is important to note as Mr. McAndrew mentioned that savings were presented to us and she thinks in light of the current financial situation and the goals that are outlined in the MOU, she feels the pros outweigh the cons in this situation although she certainly understands the concerns that her fellow directors have raised but this is a recommendation that has come forward to us, savings have been presented and she thinks what they need to do is make sure that those savings are honored as we move forward and try to take advantage of them now.

Director Yanni said just to follow up on that and to be transparent, if any of these staff members choose to retire and the incentive isn't on the table, we're going to have even \$70,000 more in savings; that's the way she is looking at it and it's nothing against anybody who is retiring, she wishes that we had the money and we were in a different financial situation.

Director McAndrew said the problem he has with this is that we can't guarantee that these savings are going to be throughout five years; there's a lot that can happen in five years. Mr. McAndrew added there have been issues in previous incentives with the IRS and the Auditor General and doesn't think it is the appropriate time for this.

June 29, 2020

President Gilmartin said it is important to note that the MOU does address the Auditor General's concerns.

Motion passed with five (5) affirmative and two (2) negative. Directors McAndrew and Yanni voted in the negative.

ALSO

Director Cruz made a motion to approve F-1; Personnel Report.

BOARD AGENDA FOR JUNE 29, 2020						
	NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REPLACED	NEW
A. PROFESSIONAL RETIREMENT						
1	Paul Stefani	Principal	Isaac Tripp Elementary	6/30/2020		
B. ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER						
1	Mario Emiliani	Principal	Isaac Tripp Elementary	7/1/2020		
2	Megan Duffy	Principal	Sumner/Adams	7/1/2020		
C. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL & ESY						
1	Teresa Roche	English	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
2	Ted Anderson	Math	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
3	Michael Slovenkai	Science	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
4	James McCormick	Biology	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
5	Richard Bresser	History	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
6	Kerri Hardy	Health/Phys Ed	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
7	Kenneth Murphy	ELL	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
8	Jennifer Herman	Special Education	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
9	Nancy Rosario	Language Guide	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
10	Cheryl McDonald	Tech Coordinator	Scranton High School	6/29/2020 to 8/6/2020		
11	Ellen Rasimovich	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
12	Tracy Baumgardner	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
13	Kim Ulsh	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
14	Elise Collins	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
15	Andrew Martin	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
16	Amanda McKenna	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
17	Christina Horne	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
18	Helen Morohovech	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
19	Kelly Davitt	Extended School Yr. Program	Virtual Learning Platform	7/13/2020 to 7/23/2020		
D. NON-PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATION						
1	Lynn Lesh	Paraprofessional	McNichols Plaza	last day of 2019/2020 School Year		
2	Courtney Zukoski	Paraprofessional	Northeast Intermediate	6/29/2020		
E. NON-PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT						
1	Gail Rozelle	Summer School Clerk	Scranton High School	6/29/2020		
2	JoAnn Alu	Fall Registration Clerk	Administration Building	8/24/2020		
3	Mary Alice Kearns	Fall Registration Clerk	Administration Building	8/24/2020		
F. ELIMINATION OF POSITIONS						
1	6 Intervention Specialist Positions		Monticello	7/1/2020		
G. CONTRACTED SERVICE						
1	Michel Hughes	Special Ed Supervisor	District-Wide	6/15/2020 to 7/30/2020		
H. COACHING RESIGNATION						
1	Kevin Roginski	Ass't Coach Freshman F'Ball	West Scranton High School	6/24/2020		
2	Robert Eisenhart	JH Ass't Football Coach	West Scranton High School	6/18/2020		
I. COACHING APPOINTMENT						
1	Tom Smith	Athletic Director	WSHS	6/30/2020	X.R. Bresser	\$5,707.00
2	Jim Griffiths	Ass't Track /Field Coach	Scranton High School	2020 Fall Season	X. K. Archer	\$2,853.00

June 29, 2020

Director McAndrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Cruz congratulated Mr. Paul Stefani for his 33 years in education and also wished best of luck to Mr. Mario Emiliani who is moving to Tripp Elementary and to Ms. Meg Duffy who will be taking on duties in addition to her duties at Sumner.

Director McAndrew wished Mr. Stefani the best of luck and happy retirement and echoed Director Cruz's well wishes to Ms. Duffy and Mr. Emiliani.

ALSO

Director Hume made a motion to approve E-7; approve the Remediation of the access road at Tripp Elementary School; a contract to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 following the opening of bids on July 9, 2020.

Director McAndrew seconded and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

President Gilmartin asked for explanation.

Mr. Dougherty explained that the access road has been an ongoing discussion at board meetings for many years; it is a 600 foot road that is behind Isaac Tripp that our buses go up and down every single day and is in need of paving as it is just rocks and we have had some minor student injuries on buses adding the board previously authorized GPI to look at it and they will be overseeing the construction process and supervising and they anticipate that the paving of the access road will be in the neighborhood of approximately \$80,000. Mr. Dougherty added that thousands of dollars has already been spent putting down modified stone each year and it will be nice to get this project behind us.

President Gilmartin asked to confirm with Dr. Finan that it is important to note that these are capital funds projects that we are embarking on and although we have to spend every dollar wisely those dollars are earmarked for this kind of work.

Dr. Finan confirmed that is correct and we do have approximately \$5,000,000 in that account and those dollars have to be used for capital projects and we do have to spend it wisely but we do need to fix the projects that have been problematic and the access road needs to be fixed.

ALSO

Director Dempsey made a motion to approve G-1; PSBA Representative. Approve Director Michelle Dempsey as the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) representative for the Scranton School Board, replacing Director Ro Hume for the term ending December 31, 2020.

Director Yanni seconded. The motion duly passed 7-0.

June 29, 2020

ALSO

Director Dempsey made a motion to approve G-2; First Read Policies 146.1, 253 and 304. Approve first read Policies 146.1 – Trauma-Informed Approach, 253-Gender Identity and Expression and 304-Employment of District Staff.

Director Yanni seconded. Motion duly passed 7-0.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Dempsey said we wanted to for policy 253 to add the reference regarding the student handbooks so that we make sure they're in sync and that the policy would supersede what is in the student handbooks.

President Gilmartin believes at our next Policy Committee meeting we need to decide whether that is because these are first reads so we can still make revisions.

ALSO

Director Malloy made a motion to approve H-1; Proposal for the Development of a Student Services Team at Monticello

The establishment of a Student Services Team at Monticello will provide students in grades K-12 and beyond with the supports necessary to develop social and emotional competence, as prescribed in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and mandated under ESSA and IDEA. The provision of supports extended through the Student Services Team will systematically eliminate barriers to learning and consequentially, foster enhanced academic performances and school success.

Financial Impact: \$223,717.

Grand total savings of \$126,483 as outlined in the attached.

Director Hume seconded.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Hume congratulated Dr. Baddick on all of the effort and the work in the plan and she thinks from this is going to make life and education of the students of Monticello more effective and it is a great addition to the work of the Scranton School District and a great step forward.

Dr. Baddick thanked the board for their support and wanted to point out a few benefits for those persons listening outside of this group. The benefits would include improved programming with very complex social and emotional deficits, a reduction in liability which means a reduced risk of injury to staff and students, a decreased vulnerability to litigation, increased compliance with state and federal mandates and results in a cost savings to the district.

The motion passed unanimously on roll call.

June 29, 2020

ALSO

Director McAndrew made a motion to approve I-1; Award Electrostatic Spray Bid.

Award the bid for Electrostatic Sprayers to American Janitor.

40 units at \$1,900 per unit = \$79,600

Funded with ESSER/CARES Funding

Public bid was conducted for Electrostatic Sprayers in order to prepare/clean schools due to COVID-19. Items will be purchased with ESSER/CARES Funding.

Director Dempsey seconded and the motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Yanni thinks this is very intriguing and asked if someone would speak to this and how these work.

Mr. Dougherty explained they are backpack sprayers using sanitizer and will not have to wipe the surfaces after spraying so basically one of our maintenance staff can go around the building, it has a two and a half hour continual run time and rechargeable batteries. This is something we're going to need to get back into our buildings and will help dramatically with sanitizing our high touch areas.

President Gilmartin asked if we have some flexibility with the brand of disinfectants.

Mr. Dougherty said we can put any cleaner in there that we want; they're not tied to one specific disinfectant.

Mr. Carl Pugliese confirmed and reiterated Mr. Dougherty's comments adding there are two hospital grade cleaners that we could run through the machines and we're not exclusively tied to one brand of cleaner.

ALSO

Director McAndrew made a motion to approve I-2; Award Medical Supplies Bid.

Award the Medical Bid for Medical Supplies and Equipment to Daily Resources.

Financial Impact: \$37,856.27

Public Bid was conducted for Medical Supplies and Equipment. These items are utilized by our School Nurses for use in our buildings. Items will be purchased with ESSER/CARES Funding if allowable.

Director Dempsey seconded and passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Dempsey asked if this includes masks for teachers and principals or is it specific to other items.

June 29, 2020

Mr. Laffey said there is a hybrid of things, it's an annual bid, this is not anything new that we're doing because of COVID although we have added or increased quantities of items to return to school and in looking at some items they're anticipating approaching \$21,000 of that to be allowable for the purchase of Lysol spray, masks, gloves etc., to be allowable for the CARES Funding.

Mr. Dougherty added that he was able to get a limited supply of cloth masks and disposable masks back in May and knows our staff will need the proper equipment when we return to school.

ALSO

Director McAndrew made a motion to approve I-3; Denaples Renegotiation.

Approve the renegotiated rate of 72.74% for the remaining school days from closure due to COVID 19 for the 2019-2020 School Year.

Financial Impact: Reduction in cost of approx. \$277,163.39.

Attached summary of the daily rate reduction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 SY following the closure of school due to COVID 19. The District will pay Denaples

Transportation at the negotiated rate of 72.74% as allowed by Act 13 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 SY.

Denaples Transportation Rate Reduction Summary

Fixed Cost Summary – 56 days from 3/16 to 6/9

<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Costs w/o COVID 19	\$1,016,613.92	Costs for 68 vehicles at standard rates for 56 days
Reduction Proposed By Contractor – 10%	\$101,661.39	10% as proposed by Contractor
Payroll Protection Credit	\$162,200	PPP Credit as provided by Contractor
Insurance Rebates	\$13,302	Rebates of \$6,630 and \$6,672 As provided by Contractor
Total Reductions	\$277,163.39	Costs Reduction Covid 19
% of Reductions	27.26%	
District Share	\$739,450.53	

June 29, 2020

*District requires per Act 13 a notarized or attested to confirmation that the vehicle fleet and staff have been maintained at full capacity.

Director Dempsey seconded and motion passed unanimously on roll call.

ON THE QUESTION:

Director McAndrew asked Mr. Laffey or Mr. Audi to explain to the public why we're doing this and the need for it.

Mr. Audi explained that Act 13 actually provided that protected bus companies and told us to pay as if there had been no COVID virus because they needed to be able to guarantee that bus companies would be available for us in the next year and that employees would not leave so what we did was took the amount that we would pay them, subtracted a 10% off the top just because it was a number we could agree to, we then subtracted any PPP credit that the company received, then subtracted any rebates that the company might have received from their insurance company which then saved us \$277,000 and then also on top of that we agreed that there would be no compensation for what we would consider extra runs which amounted to probably another \$10,000 at least if you looked at what they did last year so the figure is closer to \$300,000. Mr. Audi added they left no stone unturned during negotiations and negotiated every last cent that we could possibly have done and ended up paying \$277,000 less than we would have paid had the buses run. Mr. Audi said they have also asked them for a commitment that they're up and running and that their bus drivers are available for continued service in the next year.

Director McAndrew thanked Mr. Audi and Mr. Laffey for working really hard and getting great results.

Director Yanni, just to reiterate, they didn't have to give us any reduction so they had to work very hard in these negotiations to get the savings they were able to obtain.

Mr. Audi said that many of the neighboring districts that use Denaples agreed to not have any reductions and paid them 100% because they just thought it was easier but we did not want to let that happen here.

Dr. Finan added that Mr. Audi and Mr. Laffey have worked tirelessly since the closing in March negotiating both transportation contracts with Act 13 and she knows in this district there has been a lot of conversation about negotiations and what is anyone doing and it was almost a weekly, in some cases daily discussions that went on and they did work very hard and together it's in excess of \$300,000 which is significant for the district. Dr. Finan congratulated and thanked Mr. Audi and Mr. Laffey on their hard work because it took weeks and weeks of work.

Director McAndrew asked what the savings is for both contractors.

Mr. Laffey responded that the Red Top Contract was a 13% reduction for a total of \$44, 953 and Denaples at 27.26% for a total of \$277,163 which brings the total to \$322,116 and that does not include the approximate \$10,000 for the student activity runs.

June 29, 2020

At this time, President Gilmartin announced there will be a Personnel and Policy Committee meeting probably the third or fourth week of July and will include a policy on racial equity adding that Scranton School District teacher Mr. McLeod addressed the board regarding the diversity in our teaching staff and we would like to have a more full conversation with everybody at a Personnel and Policy committee meeting that will address the proposed PSBA Policy 832.

Ms. Gilmartin also spoke of a letter she asked Mr. Audi to draft a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of the board opposing the Keystone Sanitary Landfill expansion adding she believes that Dunmore and Scranton City Council have also written letters.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Malloy and the meeting adjourned at 10:25PM.

By: _____
Secretary