

August 7, 2019

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Scranton School Board of Directors held a Special Meeting for General Purposes on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 7:00pm prevailing time in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 425 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA.

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

Roll Call: By the Secretary.

Present: Directors Borthwick, Duffy, Gilmartin, McAndrew, Norton, Popil, Schuster and President Dixon.

Absent: Director Lesh.

President Dixon now announced the purpose of the Special Meeting and opened up the floor for public comment.

Lee Morgan, Scranton resident, voiced his opinion on the recovery plan, he is opposed to the recovery plan and the most important thing the board can do is vote no and put the city's school district into receivership and make the state representative and senators responsible for their inaction and hold the Scranton City Council responsible for all the devious things they've done. Mr. Morgan also said he cannot see how closing elementary schools will lead to anything good because the children should not be forced out of their neighborhood schools.

Doug Miller, Scranton resident, expressed frustration that tonight's meeting is held in this small room and it should have been held at Scranton High School. Mr. Miller also agreed with Mr. Morgan's statements and he is also against the recovery plan, the children will suffer, the board should stand up for the taxpayers and the children. Mr. Miller suggested the nonprofits start paying their fair share; they have been getting a free ride for a very long time. Mr. Miller agrees with state receivership, the children and the people have suffered long enough and urged the board to vote against the recovery plan.

Joan Hodowanitz, Scranton resident and taxpayer, opposed to the recovery plan, agrees with receivership and spoke of the success of Nativity Miguel School.

Bob Bolus, Scranton resident and taxpayer, complained about the meeting being held in this small room and it should have been held at Scranton High School. Mr. Bolus also made note that the American Flag should be flown higher than other flags.

Mr. Bolus also agrees with state receivership, senior citizens and residents should not suffer any longer.

At this time, President Dixon reminded everyone that the meeting this evening is NOT to vote on the recovery plan, it is a special meeting for the proposed preliminary budget which we must do every year according to the Tax Payer Relief Act and the recovery plan vote is set to take place at the end of the month.

Marie Schumacher, resident and taxpayer, said they should have planned for a bigger venue and asked where our representatives from the state and congressional level are, why aren't they here, she would like to know what they are doing for us and why aren't they fighting for us to get our fair share.

Diana Harris, resident and taxpayer, spoke of a 6.7% tax increase, delinquent taxes, vacant and dilapidated homes throughout the city, people are leaving Scranton and she agrees with Mrs. Schumacher regarding our state representatives. Mrs. Schumacher thinks the board should put their foot down, someone from the governor's office should come and sit in one of these meetings and listen to what the people are saying. Ms. Harris also inquired whether the district has fraud insurance. No one had an answer.

Dan Simrell, lifelong resident, gave the board all the credit in the world for taking on all of this and he cannot imagine the difficulty in having to "right this ship". Mr. Simrell said he is here because he is frustrated and angry,

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adding he is pro-teacher and believes the problem is, if the recovery plan leads to a mass exodus of people leaving the city then it is NOT a recovery plan. Mr. Simrell said if the recovery plan does not include a plan to equalize funding for every student the board cannot vote for it because that structural deficit will haunt us forever and urged the board to please ask the state for the funding the school district deserves.

Bob Schumaker, resident and taxpayer, thanked the board for their service; it's a tough, thankless job and appreciates what the board does. Mr. Schumaker said he is not against the recovery plan but he is against going into it without fair funding included. Mr. Schumaker also spoke of the opportunity to change the mercantile/business privilege tax to payroll tax.

Thomas Coyne, Minooka section, said the budget is completely unbalanced, spoke of tax increases, garbage fees, people losing their homes, seniors living tooth and nail on a shoestring of a budget and suggested reducing the golden benefit packages in the district although it is unpopular it is necessary.

Noel Adcroft, Scranton resident and taxpayer, concerned of older neighbors because they are terrified of losing their homes, they're unable to pay their taxes, please fight for the people who elected you, Scranton is a black eye to many and she wants honesty, integrity and loyalty from the board and asking the board to save the citizens.

Holly Meade, spoke of a teacher Miss K, one of their best teachers who left the district to take a position at North Pocono and the district is losing their best, brightest and young teachers to other districts. Mrs. Meade said staff is struggling from maintenance to secretaries to teachers to administration to the board and the district needs a recovery plan that benefits the students and they need more details on how to make this plan work. Mrs. Meade asked what the board will do to better inform all of us, step by step of the district's future plans.

Rosemary Boland, SFT President, asked for a moment of silence for all the victims of recent shootings in Texas and Ohio.

At this time President Dixon asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda and asked if any board members wished to remove an item from Consent.

Director Schuster inquired about the two agreements with Lackawanna College that is included in the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gentilezza said the agreements have been in existence for the past 4-5 years and this is just a renewal of that, adding Lackawanna College wants to use our field for practices and games at certain day rates and night rates and a typical fee for use on Saturdays. Mr. Gentilezza also said that Lackawanna College asked us to be in a partnership for a three year pact, for the baseball and softball fields which are in rough shape and Lackawanna College agrees to completely revamp the fields and also realize they will still have to work around students' schedules and the kids will still have first priority. Mr. Gentilezza added that this will be in writing by resolution for the next board meeting. Mr. Gentilezza further added that the work Lackawanna College is going to do will far outweigh any fee the district would charge them.

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Director Popil, seconded by Director Duffy and the Consent Agenda passed unanimously on roll call.

The Consent Agenda included the following items: (B-1, B-2, E-1, E-2 and H-1)

B-1

Be it resolved that the Delinquent Tax Report for the month of June 2019 be accepted. A copy of the monthly detail is available for review in the Business Office.

Tax	\$578,790.27
Penalty	\$ 54,462.66
Interest	<u>\$ 60,136.53</u>

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TOTAL	\$693,389.46
Commission	<u>\$(34,669.99)</u>
NET TO DISTRICT	\$658,719.47

ALSO

B-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and 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:

Rosalind & Juan Rosario	624 Rear Elm St.	Map No. 16707 050 074	\$2,700.00
Rosalind & Juan Rosario	1711 Pittston Ave.	Map No. 16711 010 006	\$4,640.00
Rosalind & Juan Rosario	4 Plum Pl.	Map No. 14605 010 035	\$3,500.00
Rosalind & Juan Rosario	425 Rear Birch St.	Map No. 15615 030 04401	\$3,500.00
Rosalind & Juan Rosario	2149 N. Main Ave.	Map No. 13505 070 013	\$4,400.00

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.

ALSO

E-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Operations Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, an agreement between the Athletic Department of Lackawanna College and the Scranton School District. The terms and conditions of the agreement will be in effect for the 2019 fall season time period of Thursday, August 1, 2019 until Saturday, November 30, 2019, 2019 between Lackawanna College and the Scranton School District; and

WHEREAS, A reduced(practice) rental fee will be issued for the use of the PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM for the 2019 fall season for football practices and scheduled games from Thursday, August 1, 2019 until Saturday, November 30, 2019. The day(6 weekend practices-4 Saturdays/2 Sundays)per practice rental fee will be \$250 per practice and the night(Monday-Thursday) per practice rental fee of \$350. Six scheduled home games on:

- a. Saturday, September 21, 2019 vs. New Jersey;
- b. Saturday, September 28, 2019 vs. Erie College;

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- c. Saturday, October 19, 2019 vs. Hocking;
- d. Saturday, October 26, 2019 vs. Nassau
- e. Saturday, November 2, 2019 vs. Richmond
- f. Sunday, November 10, 2019 vs. Georgia Military

per game rental fee of \$2500. A detailed 2019 fall practice and game schedule must be provided to Scranton High School Administration; and

WHEREAS, In exchange for a reduced rental fee for the use of PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM during the 2019 fall season the Lackawanna College Athletic Department will allow the Scranton School District the use of their gymnasium for four basketball games for the West Scranton High School Boys Varsity Team. The opponents for these games are:

- a. Scranton HS
- b. Scranton Prep
- c. Abington Heights
- d. Valley View

WHEREAS, A Certificate of Insurance must be submitted to Central Administration (Mr. Joe Walsh-SSD Event Coordinator) prior to the start of the fall season, and

WHEREAS, Lackawanna College is required to supervise the safety and conduct of their players, and

WHEREAS, Adequate adult supervision must be provided by Lackawanna College, and

WHEREAS, Access to facilities shall be limited to the specified area of PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM, and

WHEREAS, Alteration to the PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM area are prohibited, and

WHEREAS, Scranton School District owned equipment shall not be removed from the facility or loaned to the Lackawanna College Athletic Department, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Lackawanna College is allowed to use PENFED FIELD at VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM for games and practices during the 2019 fall season.

ALSO

E-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Operations Committee that the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS, This is an agreed written contract between Lackawanna College and The Scranton School District. The terms and conditions of the contract will be in effect for the time period of August 1, 2019-July 31, 2022 (3 years) between Lackawanna College and The Scranton School District are listed, and

WHEREAS, Scranton High School Baseball & Softball Teams will get first priority for the baseball and softball field usage, and

WHEREAS, Lackawanna College is permitted to use Scranton High School's Baseball and Softball Fields for the time period of August 1, 2019-July 31, 2022 (3 years) at no charge, and

WHEREAS, In exchange for the no rental fee for the use of Scranton High School's Baseball and Softball Fields will be Lackawanna College's commitment for continued maintenance, upgrades and improvements to both fields (or

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any other district owned/leased fields if time permits) during the time period of August 1, 2019-July 31, 2022 (3 years), and

WHEREAS, Lackawanna College will be allowed to promote their school by displaying a few of their school signs and/or flags, and

WHEREAS, A Certificate of Insurance must be submitted to Central Administration (Mr. Joe Walsh-SSD Event Coordinator) prior to the start of the time period of August 1, 2019-July 31, 2022 (3 years), and

WHEREAS, Safety and conduct of Lackawanna College athletes and spectators is required, and

WHEREAS, Adequate adult supervision must be provided by Lackawanna College, and

WHEREAS, Access to facilities shall be limited to the specified area of Scranton High School's Baseball and Softball Fields and

WHEREAS, Scranton School District owned equipment shall not be removed from the facility, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Lackawanna College is allowed to use Scranton High School's Baseball and Softball Fields for games and practices during the time period of August 1, 2019-July 31, 2022 (3 years).

ALSO

H-1

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Special Education Committee presents the following 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 program has been challenged or suits have been filed in matters of

EH-ODR #22324-18-19 and EK-ODR #22378-18-19; 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 Director of Special Education are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to consummate the matters.

****END CONSENT AGENDA****

At this time the meeting proceeded with Non-Consent Agenda Items.

The following was submitted by Director Popil.

B-3

THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

WHEREAS, The Special Session Act 1 of 2006 established a timeline of events related to Calendar Year School District Budget Process; and

WHEREAS, the timeline established a deadline of August 7, 2019 to adopt the 2020 Preliminary Budget; and

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WHEREAS, the Board of Directors' obligation to vote is dependent upon the Boards intention to consider a tax increase above the Act 1 Index established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and includes the request of exceptions to Act 1 from the Department of Education; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the School District of the City of Scranton hereby approves the 2020 Preliminary Budget with a Real Estate Tax Rate of 142.07mils with all other taxes remaining at the current level. The Board authorizes District Administration to seek approval from the Department of Education for any exceptions to Act 1 that the District may be entitled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the Preliminary Budget, as adopted, be made available for public inspection through the Office of the Secretary of the School Board, the district website and the Albright Memorial Scranton Public Library. The Board of School Directors said officer shall advertise the action hereby taken in accordance with law, and be subjected to approval of all documentation by the District Solicitor.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Duffy commented that approving this preliminary budget does not mean we are raising taxes 6.7%.

Mr. Pat Laffey, Business Manager agreed.

Director McAndrew added that the public needs to be aware that this is something we have to do every year and taxes will not be levied until December and to please know that if anyone has questions, feel free to email any director and also Dr. Finan said she would be available to anyone who would like to have the plan explained to them. Mr. McAndrew also apologized for holding this meeting in the board room as it is typically not this well attended.

Dr. Finan added that she will be available on August 15th at Scranton High School from 10AM to 8PM to answer any questions the public might have.

Director Borthwick announced there is an organizational meeting scheduled for Monday, August 12th at 6:30pm at the Tripp Park Community Center to take the fight to Harrisburg for fair and equitable funding. Mr. Borthwick said the idea is to start organizing people to possibly get a train of buses straight to Harrisburg, take the message to the Capitol and urged people to please attend.

Director Duffy added that they have all been visiting schools and neighborhood associations arguing for fair funding, he has been working diligently and fighting every day and he does have faith in our legislators. Mr. Duffy said Scranton SD is the lowest funded school district that has over 7,000 students in the whole state of Pennsylvania, we have been forgotten about and our kids matter just as much as other kids in the state.

Dr. Finan said that as recently as yesterday the legislators have been working for more funding and the two analysts that she works with were in Harrisburg again fighting for additional funds so it is still in the process.

Director Popil urged everyone if they could bring someone else with them to the organizational meeting at Tripp Community Center on Monday night to help put on the pressure and agreed with Mr. Duffy that this is the reason we are in this situation. Mr. Popil said we have been underfunded by the state of PA and the only way it's going to stop is if everyone is angry and persistent and keep the pressure on the politicians.

Director Popil continued to say that our children are underfunded and there is nothing in this plan that is going to help unless we get the money we deserve, we can't pick up \$15 or \$20 million dollars a year, this is out of our reach and this is the obligation of the state and they need to step up and fund Scranton the way they fund their districts. Mr. Popil said the most funded district in the state is York and who lives in York but the Governor and the Auditor General; two of the highest elected state officials, they're getting over \$9,000 per student and Scranton is receiving

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around \$4,700 per student. Again, Mr. Popil urged citizens to attend the meeting Monday evening at Tripp Community Center.

Director Gilmartin commented that people are concerned that the recovery plan needs to include fair funding.

Dr. Finan said the recovery plan has to be doable and measurable and she cannot promise something in the recovery plan that she cannot deliver and she cannot deliver fair funding, that is the legislators and that is where the action has to take place and again she knows the legislators in this area are working very hard but there are 499 other districts in the state so it is a process.

Dr. Finan said the plan needs to be supported so they can move forward and hopefully if we can get the money that will help us get to solvency the plan can be amended.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Borthwick.

E-3

The Superintendent and the Operations Committee present the following resolution for your consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Operations Office has received a quote from Cosgrove's North End Plumbing to supply and install a water heater in the pool/gym area of Scranton High School at a cost of \$19,300.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Scranton School Board hereby approves Cosgrove's North End Plumbing to supply and install a water heater at Scranton High School for the above quoted price.

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

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Gilmartin raised concern that the information provided to her that there was a walkthrough on July 11th that both companies participated in the Spring of 2019, approximately March, and the proposal that the board received is dated February 13, 2019 and asked if anyone can explain why.

Dr. Kirijan said that July 11, 2019 is the date this document was prepared and that four companies walked through. Dr. Kirijan explained that one company gave a bid, the other company determined they were not able to get the appropriate equipment needed for the job, another said they could not provide the materials and the other said the job was too big for them so the date on the top of those notes is the date those notes were prepared.

Director Gilmartin understood that but her concern is that it says approximately March was when the walkthrough took place and the proposal is dated February 13, 2019, which also concerns her that this is brought to them very last minute.

Dr. Kirijan wants them to understand that we do not have an operations director so they have been trying to juggle all of the projects and building a timeline on when they need to be done is probably why the dates don't coincide. Dr. Kirijan added that when she receives information, she brings it to the board; the board asked for more information and she provided it.

Dr. Kirijan said a new water heater is needed at Scranton High School and time is ticking before the start of school.

Director Gilmartin knows this work needs to proceed but thinks Dr. Kirijan can understand her confusion.

Dr. Kirijan apologized that she really can't because she may not have what Ms. Gilmartin is referring to.

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At this time Ms. Gilmartin approached Dr. Kirijan to compare documents.

Dr. Kirijan said these notes were put together in the operations office which says approximately March.

Director Gilmartin asked if the walkthrough is on a schedule anywhere.

Director McAndrew said that someone had to sign in so that is one way to find out.

Dr. Kirijan said if they want to table it yet again, with Mr. McAndrew saying no, he didn't want to table it, the school needs the hot water but these are the things that get us into trouble.

Dr. Kirijan said, ok, you got me; apologized and asked Ms. Luann Henahan, the maintenance supervisor if it was February.

Ms. Henahan did not know the exact date.

Director Gilmartin said she is not accusing anyone of anything.

Ms. Henahan said this issue has been going on for more than a year; when she started at Scranton High in August it was going on months prior to that so there could be one from February, it could be one that they submitted but for over a year the kids have not been able to shower.

Dr. Kirijan said there is a slight discrepancy in when the notes were typed and when all of the information came in, she apologized but Scranton High needs a water heater and she's done the best she can to explain everything.

Director Gilmartin said she is not trying to hold up the project but these are the little discrepancies that can get us in trouble.

ALSO

The following was submitted by Director Borthwick.

F-1

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

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A. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS						
	NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REPLACE	NEW
1	Anna Koberlein	ELL	SSIS	8/26/2019	L. Strappe	
2	Kevin Kearney	Assistant Principal	NEIS	T.B.D.	J. Hanni	
3	McKenzie Gedman	Emotional Support	NEIS	8/26/2019	S. Burney	
4	Laurence Rengan	Grade 6 Teacher	WSIS	8/26/2019		X
5	Jeremy Honushelsky	Team Leader	Lincoln-Jackson Academy	8/26/2019	J. Rafferty	
B. PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS						
1	Nabila Garraoui	French Teacher	SHS/WSHS	T. B. D.		
2	Kara Kennedy Ware	Grade 5	Kennedy	8/1/2019		
4	Kendra Hooper	FURLOUGHED		7/29/2019		
5	Nathan Barrett	Elementary Principal	Kennedy	8/15/2019		
6	Catherine Morton	Lacka. Cty. Prison Teacher	Lackawanna County Prison	8/1/2019		
7	Joseph Rafferty	Team Leader	Lincoln-Jackson Academy	7/29/2019		
C. LEAVE OF ABSENCE-PROFESSIONAL						
1	Allison Carroll	ESL Program Specialist	South Intermediate	1st semester 2019/2020 school year	Prof. Dev.	
D. NON-PROFESSIONAL RESIGNATIONS						
1	Kathleen Mattern	Paraprofessional	Electric City Academy	8/1/2019		
E. NON-PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS						
1	Patricia Stanvitch	PCA	TBD	8/26/2019		X
2	Kristen VonAhnen	PCA	TBD	8/26/2019		X
3	Julie Pawluk	PCA	TBD	8/26/2019		X
4	Denise Mangun	PCA	TBD	8/26/2019		X
5	Amy Cholewick	PCA	TBD	8/26/2019		X
F. COACHING APPOINTMENTS						
1	Scott Gorton	Assistant Football Coach	Scranton High School	T.B.D.		
G. COACHING RESIGNATIONS						
1	Kristin Marmo	Girls Tennis Coach	West Scranton High School	7/8/2019		
2	Kerry Richards	7/8 & JV Girls Basketball	SSIS/SHS	7/15/2019		
H. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSIGNMENT						
1	Olivia Patane	Grade 1	McNichols Plaza	8/26/2019-11/4/2019	C. Evans	
2	Dominick Maza	ELL	SSIS	1st Semester 2019/2020 School Year	A. Carroll	
H. RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSIGNMENT						
1	Theresa Sweeney	Grade 5	Sumner Elementary	2019/2020 School Year	X-S. Spinelli	
I. LEAVE OF ABSENCE-NON-PROFESSIONAL						
1	Alysa Fox	LPN Clerk	Sumner/Armstrong	11/9/19-1/2/20	FMLA	

ON THE QUESTION:

Director Schuster made a motion to remove Section E, to separate from the vote and asked if the positions are new.

Dr. Kirijan said they are included in the twelve positions that the board approved.

Mr. John Castrovinci, Human Resources Officer said the July agenda had seven PCA positions; tonight's agenda is the remaining five positions.

Mr. Laffey said they are not new positions.

Mrs. Sharon Baddick explained that the positions were approved last December and if we don't have them we're exposed to litigation. Mrs. Baddick added that if there is substantiated need in IEPs we must have these positions and they are billable services to the state, must be assigned to specific students and are covered by ACCESS, further adding they are not taken out of the district budget, it is a direct service reimbursement.

Director Schuster rescinded his motion to separate.

The resolution was seconded by Director Schuster and passed with seven (7) affirmative and one (1) negative vote. Director Schuster voted in the negative.

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ALSO

At this time Dr. Kirijan communicated to the board that in full transparency to all of the board, all of the senior staff present and the citizens, she is available 24/7 and asked that in order to prevent embarrassing moments and catching people off guard she would appreciate if the board would read what is sent to them and forward any questions to her. Dr. Kirijan said she gets back to them immediately if not sooner and she would appreciate that courtesy from the board. Dr. Kirijan added that we have people here doing two and three jobs, the senior staff has dwindled, we're working on a skeleton staff, she has taken on much more than any superintendent she knows would agree to so she would appreciate the courtesy that if the board has questions to give her the time to get the answers and this evening she felt this was some kind of opportunity to embarrass her.

The following resolution was submitted by Director Borthwick.

F-2

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Personnel Committee that the following is approved:

WHEREAS, an agreement has been reached in the matter of the Scranton Federation of Teachers grievance #G1-19; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the grievance is hereby Granted on the terms and conditions of the attached.

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

At this time, Director Gilmartin said she has a question, and this is certainly not an effort to surprise anyone and inquired about the insurance regarding the Whittier project, an update on the issue at Armstrong, the sprinklers at Scranton High School and sidewalks at John Adams.

Mr. Laffey said he reached out to the insurance carrier, they needed a point of contact with one of our maintenance staff and the next step they would like to see is the original plans of the building to determine water drainage prevention and that is what they are in the process of doing with the architect and engineers.

Dr. Kirijan said to reiterate so everyone is in the loop, Mr. Paul Dougherty is the principal at West Scranton Intermediate School and she reached out and asked for a principal to assist her with the maintenance projects and Mr. Dougherty stepped forward, we are not paying him any additional money, he is helping to manage some of these larger projects and asked Mr. Dougherty to address.

Mr. Dougherty said it has been an honor to step up to help and reported on the HVAC systems at Armstrong, there has been high levels of humidity, up in the 90s; the air quality is not that bad but we have to get the humidity issue under control. Mr. Dougherty spoke about the antiquated equipment at Armstrong and multiple companies have been in looking at the A/C units and the scope of the work. Mr. Dougherty said there are a number of dehumidifiers running to keep the humidity down below 50 and may need to replace some water valves but we have to control the chilled water throughout the building.

Dr. Kirijan reminded the board that the solicitor has been contacted regarding Armstrong and he has been put on notice that we're not satisfied with some of the work and also informed our insurance carrier to let them know we're having issues.

Mr. Dougherty also said that carpeting is being totally removed and replaced with vinyl flooring in the classrooms.

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As for the sprinklers at Scranton High, Mr. Dougherty said the assessment is about 60% finished and found about a hundred issues in the sprinkler system so far and there is extensive corrosion at the joints of the system. Mr. Dougherty added they met with Palumbo who had an engineer with them, they found the corrosion is on the outside of the pipes and he thinks there may be environmental issues.

Mr. Dougherty reported that when they get the report it is recommended that they send a piece of this piping out to a corrosion engineer for a very specific reason why its breaking down and the board will receive a copy of the report.

Dr. Kirijan said they had a meeting with engineers who was Palumbo at the time and they are trying to get the drawings and specs so they may be able to determine if there was any fault with the pipes

Mr. Dougherty and Dr. Kirijan added that at the time the sprinklers were put in they were probably under the correct code and in compliance but today they may be out of code but they're trying to determine that and will discuss further with the board.

Director Gilmartin also had a question regarding Policy 610 regarding purchases subject to bidding and the conflict of interest of the collection of taxes.

Mr. Laffey responded that the contract for those services was predated by the qualifications we now request and with that being said, the contract with eCollect to terminate if their findings were in the appeals or dispute process, they had notified him that anyone on that list had not met their allotted time to appeal, though we asked them to update us as to what the next steps are but at this time we don't have that but will update the board when we do. Mr. Laffey added that the solicitor is aware of all of this.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Director McAndrew, seconded by Director Borthwick and the meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

By: _____
Secretary