

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting – General Purposes
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

President, Louis M. Elmy called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Superintendent Dr. Bernard S. Prevuznak led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Secretary Leonard B. Przywara called the roll.

9 MEMBERS PRESENT: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

President Elmy stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Special Board Meeting-General Purposes of May 27, 2014.

- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 12, 2014 and dispense with the reading of those minutes. The vote was as follows:

All In Favor: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

Unfinished Business

Miss Katsock addressed the board in regard to District owned scaffolding. Miss Katsock stated that she spoke with John Chiumento, Supervisor of Building and Grounds, and also looked at the District owned scaffolding. Miss Katsock noted that the District is missing a whole bunch of scaffolding that the District purchased in 2009. Miss Katsock stated that the District purchased roughly eighty-eight (88) frames in different sizes and there are roughly twenty-eight (28) sections currently stored at Wilkes-Barre Township. Miss Katsock noted that some beams are missing, there are no pins and there are no bottom plates which were also purchased. Miss Katsock indicated that she has in her possession the sales invoice of what the District purchased and many items are missing. Miss Katsock informed the Board that it was her understanding that once the scaffolding was disassembled at Meyers; Patent Construction Systems delivered whatever scaffolding the District trucks could not transport to the warehouse at Wilkes-Barre Township. Miss Katsock noted that sometime between then and now some things are missing.

Ms. Thomas asked if scaffolding would be considered scrap metal.

Miss Katsock said she was concerned because the District spent \$18,020.40 and half of the scaffolding that was purchased is missing.

Rev. Walker asked if there were cameras at Wilkes-Barre Township.

Mr. Galella responded that there are no cameras at the Wilkes-Barre Township warehouse.

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting – General Purposes
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Miss Katsock noted for the record that she is going to write a letter to the District Attorney's office and request an investigation, because obviously there was a theft, does not know where or when it happened, however she (Miss Katsock) is very concerned that the District spent \$18,020.40 on scaffolding that was still useable and is now missing.

Dr. Prevuznak asked if it is possible that the scaffolding is stored in another area or building.

Mr. Chiumento, Building and Grounds Supervisor replied "no" to Dr. Prevuznak's question.

Miss Katsock asked Mr. Chiumento, Building and Ground Supervisor, if he would have known if scaffolding was moved to another area or building.

Mr. Chiumento, Building and Ground Supervisor replied "absolutely" to Miss Katsock's question.

Reverend Walker asked if there was a signature of receipt on the delivery slip from Patent Construction Systems.

Miss Katsock said there is no delivery receipt.

At this time a discussion between Miss Katsock, Mr. Salikjo, Apollo Senior Estimator, Attorney Wendolowski and Dr. Prevuznak was held in regard to District owned scaffolding and as to whether or not a company who may be contracted to erect scaffolding at Coughlin High School, would be able to use the District scaffolding.

Ms. Thomas motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans, to authorize Apollo to prepare an appropriate contract for the low quote for the provision to protect Coughlin High School, subject to an appropriate contract review by the Solicitor. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

1 Nay: Katsock

Miss Katsock stated that she voted "no" not because the District didn't need the scaffolding, but because of the way it was being done.

There were no **Communications from the Superintendent**

Communications from Citizens

Sam Troy, 95 Joseph Lane, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Mr. Troy asked the Board for additional time to address the Board in addition to the seven (7) minutes Citizens are allotted. There was no motion to grant Mr. Troy additional time.

Mr. Troy addressed the Board in regard to the 2014-2015 Budget and requested that the Board put forth every effort to be considerate of the tax payers within the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and to make every effort not to raise taxes.

Mr. Galella expressed to Mr. Troy that since he (Mr. Galella) has been on the Board, I believe that you (Mr. Troy) would be hard pressed to find any Board throughout Luzerne County that has kept taxes as low as we have. Mr. Galella noted that this Board is constantly looking at ways to keep the tax rate down and stated that we probably have the lowest tax rate of all the other school Districts. Mr. Galella also stated that the Taxpayer is forever on this Board's mind.

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting – General Purposes
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Mr. Quinn presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, in accordance with law, prepared the following budget, of the amount of funds that will be required by the School District in its several departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$108,185,875.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District hereby presents the expenditures as hereinafter set forth during the fiscal year 2014-2015 and levies a tax of 15.9721 mills per dollar (\$15.97 per thousand dollars) of assessed valuation on real estate; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 29, 1971, providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the following taxes: (a) one (1) per centum on transfers of title of real estate; (b) a local services tax (formerly occupational privilege tax) of ten (10) dollars; (c) the earned income tax (wage tax) of one (1%) per cent; (d) the mercantile tax at the rate and under the terms and provisions set forth in the Resolution previously adopted; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 30, 1986 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the business privilege tax at a rate of one and one-half (1 ½) mills; re-enacts and /or continues in force the Resolution of June 26, 1987 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of a per capita tax of ten (10) dollars.

May 27, 2014

1

Mr. Przywara presented an extensive overview of the proposed 2014-2015 Budget.

The Board along with Dr. Prevuznak thanked Mr. Przywara for his hard work and a job well done on this proposed Preliminary Budget.

Mr. Przywara acknowledged that help that was provide to him by Tom Telesz, Controller.

Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Resolution. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

1 Nay: Katsock

Dr. Susek, Ms. Thomas and Mr. Elmy, noted that they voted "yes" reluctantly only because it is a preliminary budget and they have to see the tax increase worked out.

Board Secretary/Business Manager, Leonard Przywara stated that it is a preliminary Proposed Budget he (Mr. Przywara) guaranteed that the 2014-2015 Budget will change.

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting – General Purposes
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

New Business

Miss Katsock noted that it came to her attention over the weekend that the District has a dumpster at the Wilkes-Barre Township building that the neighbors are using and the District is paying to have it hauled away. Miss Katsock stated that she would like to find a solution to prevent that from happening.

Mr. Chiumento, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, informed Miss Katsock that the dumpster is going to be moved to another location at the Wilkes-Barre Township building in the hopes of eliminating unauthorized use of dumpster.

Miss Katsock noted that perhaps it would be feasible to have a camera installed at the Wilkes-Barre Township building location.

There were no **Communications from Solicitor**

Board Secretary Report

Leonard B. Przywara, Board Secretary/Business Manager announced the following Meeting schedule.

Committee Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2014 – 5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Dr. Susek moved to adjourn the Meeting.

President Elmy adjourned the Meeting at 7:00 PM.