

Summary of Minutes  
Regular Board Meeting  
September 12, 2016

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**President Joseph A. Caffrey** called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**Superintendent Brian J. Costello** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz** called the roll.

8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 MEMBER ABSENT: Quinn

President Caffrey stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Committee Meeting of September 12, 2016 and prior to the Regular Board Meeting of September 12, 2016.
- 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 August 9, 2016 and the Special Board Meeting-General Purposes of August 22, 2016 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

**All In Favor:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Thomas F. Telesz, Business Manager/Board Secretary, presented the Treasurers Report for the month ending May 31, 2016.

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES  
MONTH ENDING MAY 31, 2016

GENERAL FUNDS

GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(\$193,398.94)
GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB	\$7,362,220.68
FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB	\$945,233.51
FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB	\$1,686,594.59
FNB BANK	\$2,940,412.76
FNB BANK	\$2,072,693.89
JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT	\$710,639.68
PNC BANK	\$2,118,770.87
PNC BANK INVESTMENT	\$0.00
LPL LINSKO PRIVATE LEDGER	\$828,646.56
EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB	\$85,105.83
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1	\$11,610.67
REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB	\$0.00
LANDMARK CD	\$462,382.98
PLGIT EIT	\$820,446.58
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$19,851,359.66</b>

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SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	
2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$10,374.50
ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK	\$558,311.53
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b>\$568,686.03</b>

TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	
PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB	\$1,505,898.79
PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB	\$262.80
WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$200,128.87
ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	\$118,218.87
SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	\$278,291.11
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #5	\$333,587.27
<b>TOTAL TRUST AND AGENCY FUND</b>	<b>\$2,436,387.71</b>

FOOD SERVICE FUND	
CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$1,454,794.70
<b>TOTAL FOOD SERVICE FUND</b>	<b>\$1,454,794.70</b>

DEBT SERVICE FUND	
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #7	\$9,293.09
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND</b>	<b>\$9,293.09</b>

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas,** to adopt the Treasurers Report of May 31, 2016.

The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Report of the Superintendent**

Superintendent Costello welcomed everyone back for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Costello noted that over the past month the District has registered over six hundred new students. Mr. Costello thanked all the students, families and the Central Registration staff for all their cooperation and patience during this extremely busy time. Superintendent Costello stated that the preliminary data has been released to the District and indicates that the District is moving in a positive direction in regard to our assessments with our Keystone scores. Mr. Costello noted that all the District Secondary Schools, Coughlin, G.A.R. and Meyers have shown growth in all Keystone assessments for literature, biology and algebra. Mr. Costello thanked the teachers, administrators, supervisors, students and their families for their hard work and dedication put forth and noted that this is truly a move in the right direction. At this time Mr. Costello requested a round of applause for their efforts.

At this time Mr. Gary Salijko, Apollo Project Manager, presented information in regard to the status of WBASD current projects.

### Unfinished Business

**Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Evans,** to authorize the District roof consultants to prepare a design for the Apollo Group to prepare a bid package based on that design and for that bid package to be advertised as soon as possible. The vote was as follows:

**8 AYES:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Ms. Thomas informed the Board that she will present a report at the October Board Meeting in regard to the In-School Suspension Plan. The Committee will recommend and seek Board approval for the "In-School Suspension Plan" to be piloted at G.A.R. High School and Heights Murray Elementary. Ms. Thomas noted that if the "In-School Suspension Plan" is successful, it will be utilized District wide for the 2017-2018 school year.

### Communications from Citizens

1. Christine Mrozowski
2. Bob Holden
3. Kim Borland
4. Ruth Borland
5. Angel Mathis
6. Larry Singleton
7. Jack Nolan
8. Dave Wilson
9. Joe Borland
10. John Suchoski

The above listed Citizens addressed the Board in regard to the following:

- Early retirement incentive for teachers who retired due to furloughs.
- What is the cause of cracks at Meyers High School?
- Is water still getting into G.A.R. and is there mold present at G.A.R. High School?
- It is necessary to get an independent review if you want the trust of the community.
- Issues of trust in regard to the Design Team.
- Attending Board Meetings for the past 16 months has not been productive.
- There is no point in continuing to attend Board Meetings, there is no dialogue, interaction. transparency or openness.
- Three million dollars has been spent on experts and there are some concerns/question in regard to their expertise and motives.
- Time to get priorities straight, become practical and look at the schools you presently have.
- SOS is concerned about all the schools in the District in regard to the quality of Education and is also concerned that G.A.R. is being left out.
- The Board needs to show openness to the Community and earn the trust and respect of the Community.
- The Board has serious problems and the Board needs to consider second opinions.
- Students standing in front of Coughlin High School are disrespectful to people walking by.
- Lack of diversity in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District teaching population.
- Soccer issues in regard to lack of equipment, condition of fields and available fields for games.
- Realtors in the City of Wilkes Barre feel that Wilkes-Barre Area School District is responsible for the decrease in families wanting to live within the City of Wilkes-Barre.
- Is there an update on the preventative maintenance program?
- Questions in regard to the sub-surface at Kistler Elementary.
- Have there been any new submissions to PlanCon?
- Save the assets that you have to avoid new building costs.
- The Board knows they have problems but takes no action.

- Be open to debate issues to perhaps find a middle ground.
- Consider getting a second opinion.
- Present master plan to Community.
- Do any Board Members have training on recognizing drug use?

Superintendent Brian Costello, Board Members; Joseph Caffrey, Denise Thomas, Dino Galella, Rev. Shawn Walker, Solicitor, Ray Wendolowski, Gary Salijko, Apollo Project Manager, responded to the various questions/statements presented by Citizens who addressed the Board.

#### **LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Miss Katsock informed the Board that the next meeting of the LIU is scheduled for September 28, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

#### **WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER**

Dr. Susek informed the Board that there was no report in regard to the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center.

#### **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Mr. Galella presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:**

1. To ratify an agreement with New Story, 1150 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA to provide special education services to students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for the 2016-2017 school year. A complete copy of the agreement (Exhibit "A") is on file in the Office of the Board Secretary and incorporated into this resolution with full force and effect as if same had been pronounced in its entirety herein.
2. To ratify an agreement with The Graham Academy, 1 Institute Lane, Kingston, PA to provide special education services to students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for the 2016-2017 school year. A complete copy of the agreement (Exhibit "B") is on file in the Office of the Board Secretary and incorporated into this resolution with full force and effect as if same had been pronounced in its entirety herein.
3. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with Wilkes-Barre behavioral Hospital Company, LLC, Transition Partial Hospitalization Program to provide special education services to students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for the 2016-2017 school year. A complete copy of the agreement (Exhibit "C") is on file in the Office of the Board Secretary and incorporated into this resolution with full force and effect as if same had been pronounced in its entirety herein.

**Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Dr. Susek, to adopt the report.** The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Thomas - #1

**BUDGET FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Miss Katsock presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:**

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE**

1. That approval be given to the below listed payments:

Apollo Group, Inc.	G.A.R. Drainage & Retaining Wall	Capital Projects	App. No. 11	\$1,000.00
Dunmore Roofing & Supply Co., Inc.	GAR Emergency Roof Repair	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$2,020.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School	Capital Projects	App. No. 13	\$28,937.95
Borton-Lawson Architecture	New High School	Capital Projects	BA15-1729-003-BLA0014	\$15,662.69
WKL Architecture	New High School	Capital Projects	WKL-WBASD #1	\$82,700.00
TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School	Capital Projects	#14	\$16,500.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	Kistler Addition Renovations	Capital Projects	App. No. 10	\$24,756.06
Borton Lawson Architecture	Kistler Addition Renovations	Capital Projects	BA15-1729-002-BLA0013	\$25,751.86
TGL Engineering, Inc.	Kistler Addition Renovations	Capital Projects	#10	\$8,000.00
Geo-Science Engineering Co., Inc.	Kistler Elementary Geotechnical Investigation	Capital Projects	014556	\$42,080.00
Yannuzzi, Inc.	Mackin Renovations HVAC	Capital Projects	App. No. 10	\$7,140.10
Yannuzzi, Inc.	Mackin Renovations HVAC	Capital Projects	App. No. 11	\$70,772.08
TGL Engineering, Inc.	Coughlin Demolition	Capital Projects	#7	\$10,000.00
Abmech, Inc.	Coughlin High School Asbestos Abatement	Capital Projects	App. No. 5	\$473,559.12
Environmental Abatement Assoc., Inc.	Coughlin High School Asbestos Abatement	Capital Projects	16-020-6	\$7,020.00
Environmental Abatement Assoc., Inc.	Coughlin High School Asbestos Abatement	Capital Projects	16-020-7	\$7,380.00

2. That ratification be given to the Repository Tax Sales by Northeast Revenue Service, LLC, as agent for the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau as follows:

PROPERTY OWNER	PARCEL NO.	PROPOSED BID
Katarzyna M. Santiago 18 Center Street Plains Twp., PA	50-G10SE2-006-021-000	500.00

3. That approval be given to appoint Thomas F. Telesz, Business Administrator as Trustee, and Frank J. Castano, Human Resource Director as Alternate Trustee to the Northeast Pennsylvania School Districts Health Trust for the 2016-2017 school year.

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4. That approval be given to the Board of Education and the Solicitor to attend educational meetings, seminars and conferences during the 2016-2017 school year, and that such attendance be in accordance with the requirements of Section 516 of the Pennsylvania School Code, Act 155 and all other statutes that may be enacted, and in accordance with the policies adopted by the Board of Education. Included under conferences are the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Annual State Conference, the National School Board Association (NSBA) Annual Conference, and the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Annual Conference.
5. That approval be given to set the 2016-2017 cafeteria prices as listed below:

	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
BREAKFAST	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elementary Lunch	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Secondary Lunch	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reduced Lunch	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Milk	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Adult Breakfast	ala carte	ala carte	ala carte	ala carte	ala carte	ala carte
Adult Lunch	\$2.90	\$2.90	\$2.90	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Adult Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55

The Student Breakfast and Lunch prices for the 2016-17 school years are at \$0.00 due to the District's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision Program

6. That approval be given to contribute \$17,200.00 to Wilkes-Barre City for the 2016-2017 maintenance of the Municipal Athletic Fields. This is the same amount as was contributed for the 2015-2016 school year.
7. That approval be given to renew the District's Volunteer Accident Insurance Policy with the National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA for the 2016-2017 school year at a premium of \$588.00.
8. That approval be given to enter into a contract, by and between Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. (the Purchaser) and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District (the District) whereby the Purchaser agrees to purchase meals from the District during the 2016-2017 school year.

**B. FEDERAL**

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1538-1548 and Federal Wire transfer #201600120 and Chapter I AP checks #1582-1586 and Chapter I Wire Transfers #201600121-201600129 from August 1, 2016 through August 31, 2016 were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on August 9, 2016 be approved.

**C.** That payment be approved for the following General Fund Wire Transfers #201610416-201610428 from August 1, 2016 through August 31, 2016 and General Fund checks, #43160-43197 and Food Service Checks #2803-2810 which were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on August 9, 2016.

**D.** That the checks listed on the following pages #43011to 43159 which have been inspected be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

**Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to adopt the report.** The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**7 Nays:** Evans, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey - #6

**1 Nay:** Katsock: A #1

Item #6 does not pass

There was no **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. That the contract for the 2016-2017 Food Service purchase and delivery of dairy products be awarded to the following vendors:
  - a. Blue Ribbon Farm Dairy – Dodson, G.A.R., Meyers, Solomon/Plains
  - b. West Side Dairy – Coughlin, Flood, Heights/Murray, Kistler, CSC
2. That approval be given to enter into a contract with Conrad Siegel Actuaries, 501 Corporate Circle, P.O. Box 5900, Harrisburg, PA to ensure this District is in compliance with Sections 6055 and 6056, Employer Reporting Mandate under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for calendar year 2016, in accordance with the terms and conditions of their proposal, at a cost not to exceed \$8,600.00.
3. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with the Luzerne County Transportation Authority for the bulk sale of bus passes for use by students in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for the 2016-2017 school year.

**Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to adopt the report.** The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

There was no **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **LEGISLATIVE /FEDERAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **MATERIAL SUPPLIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Personnel Committee Report**

**Dr. Susek presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:**

The Personnel Committee respectfully makes the following report and recommendations:

All appointments are made pending receipt of PDE required clearances, certifications, and any applicable pre-employment drug test.

**A. Contracts**

1. That **Frank J. Castano**, having made claim for an incentive raise under his employment contract and having produced the required documents, be granted an incentive of **Masters +36** effective September 13, 2016.
2. That **Thomas Telesz** be appointed the Board Secretary at a salary of \$5,578 effective September 12, 2016 for a term of four years.

**B. Act 93**

1. That **Thomas Wall's** resignation be accepted with regret effective September 16, 2016.
2. That **Martin Flaherty** be appointed the Controller at a salary of \$79,000.
3. That **Keith Eberts** receive a grant funded salary of \$72,055 for his appointment of STEM Headmaster.

**C. Professionals**

1. The following members of the professional staff, having made claim for an incentive raise under the WBAEA Agreement and having produced official transcripts listing the graduate credits earned, be granted the following effective August 24, 2016:

**Bachelors' + 15**  
Jared Carlo  
Samantha Page  
Kristen Pstrak  
Heather Lavelle

**Bachelors' +30**  
Maria Deno  
Tara Staniorski  
Rachel Mancuso

**Bachelors' +39**  
Mary Mushock



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**Masters' Equivalency**

Michelle Gorey

**Masters' + 9**

William Ostroski  
Andita Parker-Lloyd  
Brittany Scarnulis  
Mary Ann Rizzo

**Masters' +18**

Sarah Edwards  
Jennifer Jones  
Kimberly Davis  
Mary Gallis  
Kelly Jackson

**Masters' +27**

Sara Kwarcinski  
Lauren Gavlick  
Lauren Stamm  
Wendy Anderson

**Masters +36**

Lauren McCabe  
Maria Sullivan  
Brenda Banaszek  
Judy Hislop  
Brittany Kalinay  
Brandon McCabe

**Masters' +45**

William Monaghan  
Sarah Broody  
Tamara Rogowski  
Heather Grebeck  
Leah Zelinka  
Melissa Chase  
James Costello  
Mary Olszewski  
Holly Shubilla  
Christopher Sedon  
Melissa Sindaco

**Masters' 54**

Jennifer Thomas  
Aubrey Hallinan  
Dino Galella  
Todd Jones  
Maureen McLaughlin  
Melissa Chase

2. That the following temporary professional employees, having received their final satisfactory evaluation, be classified as a permanent professional employees:

Wendy Lubey  
Michelle Gorey  
Brian Leighton  
Brittany Scarnulis  
Keryn Evanko  
Sara Edwards  
Kelly Campas

Erin Moran  
Kristen Pstrak  
Rachael Mancuso  
Dominique Nardone  
Vito Pasone  
Jessica DeAngelo  
Tara Staniorski

3. That **Ronald Swingle's** request for sabbatical be rescinded.
4. That the retirement of **Scott M. Parkison** be accepted with regret effective June 10, 2016.
5. That **Ryan Popovitch** be appointed a professional employee as a Social Studies teacher effective August 24, 2016.
6. That **Sandra Atherton** be appointed a Title I Department Chair Person at a salary consistent with a Department/Building Chair in the WBAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**D. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates**

1. That the retirement of **Margaret Mihal** be accepted with regret effective December 24, 2016.

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2. As a result of the alteration/curtailment of educational programs that was approved through resolution on May 23, 2016, the following employees were furloughed:

Samantha Ann Marie Yanora	Barbara A Watlock
Allison Fasulka	Shantel Grohowski
Mary Colleen Flecknoe	Valerie Ann Rostkowski
Richard Ryan Rostkowski	Jocelyn Ann Chocallo
Mary Elizabeth Pape	Joni Marie Hooker
Melissa Schneikart	Paula M Bianchino
Faith Karen Morningstar	Tara Konycki
Nancy J Fedor	Trisha A Kennedy
Jamie L Pesotski	Gloria Jean Watson
Beth Ann Christian	Donna D Majikes
Catherine Richards	Patricia A Shinko
Sonya Brzozowski	Christine M Zak

3. That the status of **Vern Hess** be changed to 12.5 hour kindergarten aide.
4. That the status of **Pat Wasilius** be changed to 25 hour ESL aide.
5. That the status of **Dorine Kopinski** be changed to a 20 hour kindergarten aide.
6. That the status of **Helen Hughes** be changed to a 20 hour locker room aide.
7. That the status of **Pat Kelly** be changed to a 20 hour ESL aide.
8. That the status of **Laura Dale** be changed to a 27.5 hour office aide.
9. That the status of **Debra Ferrence** be changed to a 20 hour kindergarten aide.
10. That the status of **Jackie Demko** be changed to a 20 hour paraprofessional.
11. That the status of **Pat Kondracki** be changed to a 30 hour locker room aide.
12. That the status of **Marie Dankovitch** be changed to a 20 hour paraprofessional.
13. That the status of **Diane Witczak** be changed to a 15 hour cafeteria aide.
14. That the status of **Janet Jones** be changed to a 20 hour paraprofessional.
15. That the status of **Danielle Sawicki** be changed to a 15 hour cafeteria aide.
16. That **Patricia A. Shinko** be appointed a 20 hour paraprofessional.
17. That **Donna Majikes** be appointed a 20 hour paraprofessional.
18. That **Gloria Jean Watson** be appointed a 21 locker room aide.
19. That **Tara Konycki** be appointed a 20 hour paraprofessional.

20. That **Paula M. Bianchino** be appointed be appointed a paraprofessional.
21. That **Joni Marie Hooker** be 15 hour cafeteria aide.
22. That **Jocelyn Ann Chocallo** be appointed a 15 hour cafeteria aide.
23. That **Valerie Ann Rostkowski** be appointed a 20 hour paraprofessional.
24. That **Shantel Grohowski** be appointed a 15 hour cafeteria aide.
25. That **Barbara Watlock** be appointed a 20 hour kindergarten aide.
26. That **Catherine Richards** be appointed a 27.5 hour locker room aide.
27. That **Beth Ann Christian** be appointed a 20 hour bus aide.

#### E. Crossing Guards

1. That **Joseph Leo** be appointed a permanent crossing guard effective August 29, 2016.
2. That **Lefagous White** be appointed a substitute crossing guard.

#### F. Custodians

1. That the retirement of **David Uhle** be accepted with regret effective September 8, 2016.
2. That the retirement of **Elaine Perta** be accepted with regret effective September 1, 2016.

#### G. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Wendy Lubey** as Coughlin girls' basketball junior high assistant coach be accepted with regret.
2. That the resignation of **Joseph Sebastian** as Coughlin girls' basketball junior high head coach be accepted with regret.
3. That the resignation of **Nicholas Bilski** as Meyers football varsity 1<sup>st</sup> assistant coach (1/2 pay) be accepted with regret.
4. The following appointments are made for the sport season and will be continued on a season to season basis unless, the post is declared vacant by the Board of School Directors. All appointments are effective upon all PDE required clearances and documents being submitted.

Meyers	Football	Varsity 1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Coach (1/2 pay)	Galen Shell
G.A.R.	Football	Varsity 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Coach	<b>Stephen Butler</b>
G.A.R.	Football	Junior High Head Coach	<b>Corey Moore</b>
G.A.R.	Field Hockey	Junior High Assistant Coach	<b>TABLED</b>

**Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger,** to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:  
**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Geiger presented Resolution #1

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the recent death of **JOHN J. GARDZALLA** has brought sorrow to his family, friends, and all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, he is the father in-law of Gene Manning, Technology Administrator for Wilkes-Barre Area School District; and

WHEREAS, his passing on August 19, 2016 will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that his death be recorded in the minutes of the Board of School Directors and that the Secretary be instructed to express the sympathy of the members of the Board his daughters, Colleen, and Paula; sons, Jay, Carl and Rick; son in-law, Gene; and to his entire family.

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Mr. Geiger moved to accept the Resolution by ACCLAMATION.

**New Business**

Mr. Geiger inquired as to the possibility of having GED Classes offered in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Mr. Costello informed Mr. Geiger that Wilkes-Barre Area School District refers adults interested in obtaining their GED to Career Link and LCCC. Mr. Costello noted that those classes are held in one of the District's High School buildings.

Rev. Walker inquired as to the policy of student backpacks not being permitted.

Mr. Galella informed Rev. Walker that a few years ago there was an incident of a weapon being carried inside a backpack. The Board then decided that only clear/ see through backpacks would be acceptable. Mr. Gallella noted that it was difficult for students to purchase clear backpacks, so the Board made a decision to ban the use of all backpacks.

Board President, Joseph Caffrey and Board Vice President, Denise Thomas, who both serve on the Safety/Security Committee stated that the use of backpacks is a huge safety concern, due to the fact it is easy to conceal a weapon and it would require a huge amount of time and staff to search every backpack.

Rev. Walker noted that he will do some research to determine how other School Districts address the issue of students utilizing backpacks.

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Miss Katsock, Chairperson of the Budget Finance Committee, requested that when there is a meeting with the City of Wilkes-Barre in regard to the maintenance fee the District pays for the use of City fields, part of that discussion includes the City's use of the Kistler pool.

**Solicitors Report**

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motions:

**Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Rev. Walker**, to immediately terminate the employment of Brian Hampel. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas**, to appoint Thomas F. Telesz as the Interim Right To Know Officer. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Board Secretary Report**

Thomas F. Telesz, requested the following motion:

**Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Evans**, to appoint Ms. Thomas, Board Vice President, to represent the Wilkes-Barre Area School District as a voting Delegate to the PSBA 2016 Delegate Assembly to be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 through Saturday, October 15, 2016.

The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Thomas F. Telesz, Board Secretary/Business Manager announced the following Meeting schedule.

**OCTOBER**

**Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 – 5:30 PM

**Regular Board Meeting**

Tuesday, October 11, 2016– 7:00 PM

Meetings location to be determined.

**President Caffrey** adjourned the Meeting at 8:54 PM