

**Special Board Meeting
January 9, 2020**

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

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

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll

7 Members Present: Atherton, Evans, Patla, Quinn, Shiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Member Absent: Harris

President Caffrey: The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session following the Reorganization Meeting on December 4, 2019. The subjects discussed related solely to threatened or actual litigation. The Board also held an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. The subjects discussed related solely to updates on the construction of the New High School.

Communications from Citizens:

Sam Troy

Was the Board Informational Meeting on January 8, 2020 a violation the sunshine law?

What was the rationale regarding the return of Wilkes-Barre Twp. Jr. High School back to Wilkes-Barre Twp. for \$1.00.

Asked for an explanation of the \$180,000 tax rebate to Boscov's.

Atty. Wendolowski explained the litigation process.

Mr. Caffrey thanked Mr. Troy for the recent \$1,500 scholarship money given to two students at GAR High School. We appreciate the generosity shown to our students.

Mr. Caffrey presented the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District has determined that there will be no increase in the rate of any tax for the support of its public school for the 2020-2021 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education (Department) for the District;

WHEREAS, the Index for the District is 3.7%;

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District does hereby certify that the District will comply with the procedures as set forth in Section 687 of the Public School Code as it relates to the annual budget for the adoption of its proposed and final budget;

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the established index will be sufficient to balance its final budget;

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors certify that the District will submit information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the public schools to the Department on a uniform form prepared by the Department no later than five (5) days after the adoption of this resolution.

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WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors certify that a copy of this resolution adopted pursuant to Section 311 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of Special Session No. 1 of 2006 will be sent to the Department no later than five (5) days after the adoption of this resolution;

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors recognize that the District shall not be eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333 (f) of the Taxpayer Relief Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors recognize that the Department shall compare the proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index; within ten (10) days of the receipt of the information as required, the Department shall inform the District whether the proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District as follows:

The Board of School Directors adopts this RESOLUTION on the 9th day of January 2020 indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2020-2021 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the District of 3.7%.

DULY ADOPTED, by the Board of School Directors of this School District this 9th day of January 2020.

Wilkes-Barre Area School District
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Wilkes-Barre, PA
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Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt this Resolution. The vote was as follows:

On the question: Mr. Telesz explained that Act 1 requires all school districts to pass a resolution stating you will not raise taxes by more than the index or a resolution stating you will need to balance your budget by raising taxes greater than the index. This resolution states we will balance our budget with a tax increase of zero percent to 3.7 percent. If you want it to go above the index, we would need to do another resolution that we need to go above the index.

Mrs. Schiowitz asked how the index is developed. Mr. Telesz responded the states creates an index based on wages throughout the state this determines the base index. Based on the aid ratio of the District it is adjusted upward.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

New Business: None

Motion to Adjourn by Ms. Thomas seconded by Ms. Patla. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Thomas Telesz, Board Secretary