

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2020**

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll

8 Members Present: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Member Absent: Patla

President Caffrey began the meeting:

- An Executive Session was held prior to the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2020. The subjects discussed in these meetings related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 31, 2020 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Atherton to adopt these minutes.

The vote was as follows:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Thomas F. Telesz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, presented the Treasurer's Report ending August 31, 2020.

**WILKES-BARE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2020**

GENERAL FUND

	\$	
1 GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(389,102.77)	
2 GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB	32,542,592.68	
3 FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB	2,287,768.65	
4 FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB		5,868.74
5 FNB BANK	460,848.57	
6 FNB BANK		76,812.57
7 JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT	1,754,043.41	
8 PNC BANK	393,343.41	
9 LPL FINANCIAL	833,093.15	
10 EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB		37,864.54
11 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1		12,330.77
12 REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB		-

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13	LANDMARK CD	481,497.81	
14	PLGIT EIT	862,304.51	
15	ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK	249,817.30	
16	PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB	1,748,896.77	
17	PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB		-
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 41,357,980.11	

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

18	2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$ (19,780.04)	
19	PNC BANK INVESTMENT	2,098,727.44	
20	2019 BOND ISSUE	89,348,774.53	
21	PLGIT CASH RESERVE	1,805,173.60	
22	FNCB 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS	(765.41)	
	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	\$ 93,232,130.12	

FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY

TRUST FUNDS:

23	WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$ 55,415.60	
24	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE	354,276.21	
25	FNB BANK WHOLE LIFE		50,194.29

AGENCY FUNDS:

26	ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	159,533.41	
27	SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	288,608.22	
	TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	\$ 908,027.73	

PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE

28	FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$ 3,934,576.52	
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TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE	\$	3,934,576.52
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DEBT SERVICE FUND

29 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE	\$	9,869.88
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$	9,869.88

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Treasurer’s Report ending August 31, 2020.

The vote was as follows:

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

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello: Good Evening - We have been approved for Flexible Instruction Days. In the event of inclement weather, this allows our District to use up to five FID’s in the 2020-21 school year; five days in the 2021-2022 school year and five days in the 2022-2023 school year. What this means is, when we use a FID it allows us to continue education for our students and count the day as long as we follow the guidelines that we submitted for days we would normally miss due to a snow day. I don’t expect to use one this year due to the fact that we are currently in Option 1, 2 or 3.

A tentative agreement has been made between Dr. Almeky and the Ultra Car Urgent and Family Care facility to perform COVID-19 testing and, if needed, examinations for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The District can send any student, faculty or staff member to be tested. Arrangements will be made for testing with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District community either at the school or at the facility. We understand, for us to continue to move forward and strive to get back to in person instruction and some form of normalcy, the importance of testing. I want to thank Dr. Almeky, the Board of Education for continuing to find ways to make COVID testing available to our students.

I thank everyone for their patience, flexibility and understanding during these unprecedented times. We realize the circumstances of this pandemic have been difficult and challenging. I want to specifically thank our students and staff for always wearing masks, social distancing and following our District guidelines. This has allowed us and will continue to allow us to resume in-person instruction when we go back to the Moderate transmission category. I have to personally thank Delphine Torbik, Nicole Amos, the Wilkes-Barre Department of Health and Dave Bohono from the State Department of Health. Their dedication and service to the community and District has been remarkable. When we receive a positive case or I am in need of updated information, this team is always available to support our District. There has not been a weekend or a day that I have not been in communication with one of them. Over the past several days, the state and specifically in Luzerne County, has been showing an increase in positive cases. We are continuing to use the information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Department of Health to identify thresholds representing low, moderate and substantial community transmissions of COVID-19. These thresholds are what help

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determine the instruction model recommended by the Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The Department of Education and the Department of Health have put out a level of community transmission table. When we started school in September, we were “moderate”. What that means is there is an incident rate of 100,000 residents somewhere between 10 and 100 and a percent positivity rate between 5% and 10%. When we began in person instruction we were between 20 and 50 with some fluctuation with the incident rate. The PCR rate was in the low 2’s. That allowed us to do a blended learning model or go full remote. The blended learning model is what our district is doing. Which means not all of our students are back in person because they have chosen to go live and stream into the classroom while other students are in the classroom five days a week. If we were to go above the 100 threshold or be greater than 10% the blended learning model is removed from the recommendation and the only option available is the full remote learning model.

When we were operating in the moderate, there is guidance from the Department of Health and Department of Education that tells us how to handle a positive case of COVID. We have had multiple school buildings with two to four cases who are not household contacts. That has caused us to close school for fourteen days, clean the entire school, public health officials directs close contacts to quarantine.

As of last Saturday, that is where we were. We had some staff members that were positive and then we also had other cases with community members in other buildings. Out of an abundance of caution, that caused us to close our buildings for fourteen days. The length of closure will be determined by the level of community transmission.

We work with our team, the Department of Health, the PDE, bring out the facts we go through the guidance we have and try to make the best decision. Since the beginning of school on September 11 we have followed the recommendations. I would hope we will continue to do so over the next several months.

We get our information from the COVID Early Warning Monitoring System. This dashboard is usually updated around noon every Friday. The numbers indicated in Luzerne County designates the category we are in - low, moderate or substantial categories. Over the last seven days we have had quite an increase. That increase has provided us with an incident rate of 118.4 in Luzerne County. Once we exceeded the 100 threshold that caused us to look at a different model of education. For us to continue to operate in a blended instructional model, which is what we were currently doing, that incident rate has to be below 100 for every 100,000 residents. Unfortunately, as of October 23, our incident rate has exceeded the threshold of 100 for every 100,000 residents and has now moved into a level of community transmission into the substantial category.

Today there was a meeting with the Superintendents from Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties with the Department of Education and representatives from the Department of Health. During this meeting it was established that if the incident rate drops below the substantial threshold of 100 this upcoming Friday, October 30. We will be able to resume in-person classes on

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Wednesday, November 4. However, if the threshold is again above 100 on Friday, October 30 then the recommendation of the PDE and the Department of Health is to temporarily stop all extra-curricular activities and continue in the full remote learning model until we are back in the moderate level. Meaning our incident rate drops below 100 for approximately fourteen days.

I apologize, I know how important it is to get our students back into our buildings. That is the best instruction. Right now we are dealing with this pandemic we need to be aware of the transmission rate in Luzerne County. I will again provide more information through Skylert, our messaging system and our web page that will go out to every member of our community on Friday.

Looking ahead to the 2021-2022 school year I have received several questions regarding the purpose of the Mackin school once we transition into the new high school. We are reviewing several options. For your consideration I would like to focus on one possible option. Beginning in the 2021-2022 the District would return the Edward Mackin School currently hosting the Coughlin 9th and 10th graders back to its original form as an elementary school. This school would then serve Dodson Elementary students and possibly a small portion of students around Mackin. Both schools are almost identical in size. Mackin is approximately 52,000 square feet and Dodson is approximately 53,000 square feet. Mackin Elementary would serve the K-5 Dodson population next year. In addition to that, the Dodson building would not close. I would like to do a study to change the purpose of the building and allow it to serve our most at risk special education students by creating a center based educational facility specifically for our special education students. I know that additional modifications and considerations and a more in-depth study is needed to move in this direction.

I am asking the Board that the Superintendent and Administration be authorized to do a full detailed review of the district's current utilization of Mackin and Dodson and formulate a recommendation to the Facilities Transition Committee regarding the future utilization of both buildings within the District.

I am also asking the Board for their consideration to authorize the Superintendent and the Administration team to develop plans for the opening of a District Special Education Center for the benefit of the District's most at-risk students. Which would be a center based facility. I believe that would be beneficial to our students, especially the most at-risk students with IEP's. I have looked at and I know we have strong members on our Board who are engulfed in this type of planning and believe they will be an asset. I know what we are competing against with other agencies that are currently out there. I believe we can absolutely do it better.

Mackin is a ten million dollar investment the Board made several years ago and I believe this would be a good use of it. Before we can make that strong recommendation to move forward I think it is very important that we fully study that transition, that we reach out to community members and have meetings with Boards and committees prior to moving forward. I am asking for your consideration during the Facilities Transition Committee report.

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APOLLO REPORT

Mr. Mike Krzywicki – District Maintenance Plan: The main breaker and PPL service cable at Heights Murray Elementary need to be replaced. PPL has tentatively scheduled a separate shutdown on November 11 for replacement of the service cable. Apollo is investigating the option to replace the switchgear in lieu of main breaker. The elevator repairs at Heights cannot be performed until the electrical work is completed. Apollo has advertised for bids and issued bid documents for roof replacement at Kistler Elementary. Bids are due on November 5, 2020.

E.L. Meyers Monitoring Structure/Walkway/Tunnel: Apollo performed a monthly inspection on September 3. No additional movement was detected. Apollo will conduct the next monthly inspection with TGL Engineering within the next two weeks. **New High School:** Sitework Contractor has continued placement of geogrid, subbase, curbs, sidewalks, bituminous pavement, placement of topsoil, construction of S. Main street entrance, road improvements at intersection of River Street & Courtright Street, and road widening at Cross Valley on- ramp.

The Building Shell Contractor has continued installation of floor slabs, CMU walls, air/vapor barrier, masonry veneer, steel beams and lintels, bar joists and metal roof deck, metal pan stairs, ladders, wood blocking, roof insulation, EPDM roofing, EIFS, spray foam insulation, door frames, painting and rough-in for stage lighting.

The Drywall Contractor has continued installation of metal stud framing, gypsum wallboard, taping and spackling, and ceiling grid.

The Food Service Contractor has continued coordination of electrical and plumbing rough ins for future installation of their equipment.

The Plumbing Contractor has continued installation of wall sleeves, water piping, pipe hangers, pipe insulation, fire sealant, sanitary and vent piping, roof drains, storm water piping, gas piping and testing.

The Fire Protection Contractor has continued installation of sprinkler system piping and heads.

The HVAC Contractor has continued installation of roof curbs, rooftop units, duct hangers, and ductwork, and fabrication of ductwork.

The Electrical Contractor has continued installation of conduit in masonry walls, MC cable, fire alarm cable, data cable, control wiring, electrical rough-in at metal stud walls, emergency generator, lighting fixtures and temporary lighting.

The Aluminum & Glass Contractor has continued installation of aluminum windows and glass, skylights and caulking.

The Landscaping Contractor has commenced seeding of lawn areas and slopes.

The Sewer Contractor has completed installation of sanitary and storm sewers at Ann Street and commenced pavement restoration.

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All work is being performed under site-specific COVID-19 prevention guidelines and COVID-19 exposure control plan with daily health screenings of all persons working on site.

We are currently 64.3% complete. The next six weeks are critical with the onset of winter coming. Our contingency use we committed \$2,609,867. I am projecting another \$750,000 which represents seven months at \$100,000 and one month at \$50,000 for a projected contingency use of \$3,359,867 which represents 52.35% of the contingency.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Thomas announced 570 on The Go will have another feeding program on Saturday for the five elementary school from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Caffrey thanked Ms. Thomas and Shakir Soto and 570 on the Go for their commitment to the community by hosting these food pick-ups on a regular basis.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Atty. Wendolowski as was advertised in our notice for today's meeting, the Agenda was published on the School District website and members of the community were given the opportunity to submit questions and comments to the District by 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. We received comments from several citizens. Those comments were distributed to the Board and Administration.

Audrey McGrady

I'm enraged by the fact that these kids don't have physical education or recess. There is absolutely no reason as to why these kids cannot get physical activity while at school. Their mental health is just as important as their physical health. This needs to be re-evaluated. Other schools have recess. Our kids should too.

This is absolutely ridiculous that in person instruction will not resume until November 4. There are reasons why parents chose in person for their children in the first place. I have an in person kindergartener, a 3 year old, and a 1 year old! Why am I expected to be a teacher as well!? If I wanted to be a teacher, I would have went to school to be one. This is detrimental to the children's education and well-being. This is no way to learn.

Dr. Costello: I understand the frustration. We understand the importance of physical and mental health and we will do everything we can when students are back in school to get them outside when possible. Physical education is taking place just in a different form.

Marisal Gedon

I think the school system should update the school calendar of the event called "Columbus Day" to " Indigenous Peoples' Day" because 1992 it was announced that Columbus Day was changed to Indigenous Day because Columbus day was a cover up or sanitation of Christopher columbus actions such as enslaving Native Americans. So I believe the holiday of Columbus Day should be changed to Native Indigenous Americans or Indigenous Day.

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I do not mean to cause any conflicts from this, it's just an 8th grader learning more and more about U.S. history from his day-to-day teachers to his day-to-day educational life.

Dr. Costello: I will be meeting with that class and discuss their ideas.

Tracey Gruden, Plains, PA

I hope the board and administrators are coming up with a better plan for when someone tests positive.

This is a virus and regardless your personal feelings, the CDC has shown it is now less deadly per case than the flu. Cases are rising but deaths and hospitalizations have not since the spring peak.

Did no one think anyone would test positive? Our option 1 students are already getting a sub par experience with essentially being forced to be virtual learners in the classroom so the poor teachers can try to navigate teaching both groups simultaneously (that's a topic for another time), but now we can cancel school at 9:20 PM the night before? Because someone not in contact with students tested positive? Now with zero warning parents are expected to have multiple children home the rest of the week?

I have attached the letter Redeemer sends out when they have a case. The person and anyone closely exposed has to quarantine and life goes on. This is the same thing our daycares (overrun with virtual students currently) and other schools and colleges have been doing.

Our children are being failed in epic proportions here. I opted to have my kids in person so they would receive the traditional instruction they deserve and they aren't even receiving that while in class. When did education stop being essential?

Meanwhile other districts are saying they are hoping to get back to fully in person because the virtual learning is failing everyone.

We need to do better.

Dr. Costello: We understand the frustration this is causing for all parents. When we closed at 9:00 p.m. it was because that is when the Department of Health contacted us. Unfortunately we were not able to do the necessary contact tracing that would enable us to open school safely. Anyone that has direct contact will receive a letter from the school principal.

Richard A. Holodick, Wilkes Barre

It is well documented that the district is underfunded \$33 million a year, and the district residents are at the poverty level.

There are a growing number of foreclosures in the district contributing to neighborhood blight, lowering property values. Wilkes-Barre City the county seat, hit hardest with blight and

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foreclosures, moving the high schools will contribute to the blight problem. We now add the Covid-19 that has put economic stress to many in our district including job loss.

- How can a quarter of a billion dollars for a third of the students be justified in a poverty ridden underfunded school district?
- How can consolidating all sports for a consolidated high school that does not exist be a priority?
- How can the contracting with three architect firms and one engineering firm in a poverty level, underfunded district be justified?
- How can millions be spent in a poverty ridden, underfunded district for a swimming pool, football stadium, practice fields, when the district has a swimming pool, a football stadium and practice fields?
- How was it possible, in a poverty ridden, underfunded district to vote to increase the size of the new school by 800 more students without knowing the total cost of the change orders and potential cost of enlarging the building?
- How in a poverty ridden, underfunded district was a \$55,000 an acre paid when the assessments were in the low range of \$10,000 an acre, in opposition to the board action requiring that the site cost be at the assessed value? Does the district have in hand certified appraisals at \$55,000 an acre?

Our great country has been brought to its knees by the toxic Covid-19 viruses. We must wear face coverings and be safe by staying away from toxic environments. But we build a school on top of a toxic environment. Our schools are functioning under very restricted conditions. What does our 2021-22 school year afford our high school children? Many will spend two hours a day on a school bus, considered a toxic enclosure, to attend a new school built on a site where toxic materials can cause cancer and other health related conditions. Hopefully Covid-19 will be solved; and hopefully the site will be 100% capped and stay capped. Five other states won't gamble the safety of their children, and twenty-nine other states have very strict safety requirements in concern for the safety of their children. We are depending on the PA Department of Environmental Protection for the monitoring of the site, the agency under Grand Jury investigation for not monitoring the fracking industry. The Attorney General says that their oversight is dependent on the size of a wallet or connections.

Sam Troy

I am perturbed by the fact that our solicitor and board majority refused to admit members of the public to the committee meetings that are held in the administration building. I understand that this may not technically be a violation of the sunshine law, however it is only fair and equitable that the public be allowed to see what is going on in these meetings. I am not reassured by Mr. Wendolowski's comments that no decisions are being made there. That these meetings are held under the radar with no minutes taken and no legal notices is disturbing. I don't really care what business is being conducted. The public should be invited. There may be no decisions made there but consideration of contracts and business decisions are occurring. Also, I think there is some abuse on the part of certain administration officials during the shut down of the schools. I can't believe that they have their hands so full while the schools are shut. I would like to propose that all administration officials including Mr. Costello and our

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solicitor take at least a 30% pay cut while the schools are shut. I know there is at least one administrator working from home or supposedly working. This to me is an abuse of taxpayer dollars.

I respectfully request that the board initiate a referendum on whether or not GAR high school should be included in the consolidation plan. Such a referendum would only be fair in light of the fact that this proposal was brought up a couple of years ago under dubious circumstances. It never appeared on the actual agenda and thus it was in clear violation of the district's rules of procedure. There was no separate public comment on it.

If this school we're taken out of the equation, there would be less culture shock for the students who would be compelled to attend the new high school, it would also in the long run save the district money and give the students more of a chance to improve their academic standards. I would hope that one board member would have the courage to make a motion to at least permit this referendum to occur. The taxpayers of this district have endured the reckless and irrational policies of this board majority and administration for too long.

Mr. Caffrey: It seems like Mr. Troy does not want the GAR students to attend the new high school. I'm not sure what he means by "culture shock". The school will be for all district students grades nine through 12.

Ms. Harris: In regard to the comment about the Committee meetings and lack of transparency. I have had discussions with everyone on the Board regarding these meetings. Everyone has agreed and have been dutifully keeping summaries of these meetings to accommodate me because of my schedule. We are in on-going discussions regarding transparency of this meetings.

Atty. Wendolowski: I have had several discussions with Mr. Troy regarding these minutes and they are not in violation of the Sunshine Act.

Brian W. Kelly

Good evening. Dr. Holodick and I would like to thank this and former boards for providing enough material to write my 254th and 255th non-fiction books. He and I are collaborating on this more important concern, book one corruption, Kelly, followed by public school governance Holodick both books as it applies in Luzerne County, statewide if not nationally. There is a problem and not just in our district or county with policy, procedures, qualifications to be on the board, hidden agendas, nepotism, cronyism and yes fraud, all leading to debilitate education, excessive property taxes. Thank you members of the board and school officials and newspapers. Without your publicized board meetings, minutes, newspaper articles, meeting with state and other officials, zoning hearing it would have been impossible to collect as much evidence as we must prove that the stake holders of public school have not been served well by boards of education under the present system. I must give special thanks to the passionate e-mail writers, and forever Facebook trash submitters for their written contributions. There are still a few weeks for those who would like to be heard. The first part of this book will be available for publication in just a few weeks. Any citizen, board member or administrator wishing to submit additional items relating to property taxes, corruption, or governance feel free to contact

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Dr. Holodick and we will try to add your material to the evidence that there may be a need to change how public-school districts are governed.

I do admit that I find it quite interesting that Dr. Holodick, following a national search by a former US Assistant Secretary of Education was employed as an assistant superintendent in a 42,000, 5,000 employee metro school district. Following a national search, City Colleges of Chicago, seven community colleges, 77,000 students a year, one of the largest community college systems in the nation, hired him as the Director of Planning for a \$60 million dollar high technology center. Add, 20 years consulting for an international planning firm. He applied for a seat on the WBA Board but in a closed session was beat out by a basketball coach, who to my knowledge never attended a Wilkes-Barre Board meeting and his belief in public education is in question as his children are in private school. No cronyism there. I believe the board has four basketball coaches, explaining the obvious sports priority over academics in this district. It was Dr. Holodick's keen mind and his 50 years' experience and incredible knowledge that I choose him to collaborate in this publishing effort. I have never done this before. Watch for it! It will be out soon.

Mr. Atherton: Some of the statements made are incorrect. I did attend meetings prior to being appointed to the Board. I also take offense to being called "another coach". I am a little bit more than a coach. With all my years in education and community service shows I am more than a coach.

There were no further comments from the public or the Board Members.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Quinn – The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2020.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to enter into the 2020-2021 IDEA Agreement with Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 (LIU) whereby the furnishing of all certified personnel, facilities, materials and other services (in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education) needed to perform the services described, and compliance with the terms and conditions of PDE's most current IDEA Application Guidelines will be the sole obligation of the District and will no longer be the responsibility of the LIU. The District's estimated allocation for 2020-2021 is \$913,902. **"Exhibit A"**
2. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Seneca Valley School District for an on-line instructional program administered by certified instructional personnel to provide credit recovery and

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alternative educational opportunities to students beginning 2020-2021 through 2024-2025 school years. **“Exhibit B”**

3. That approval be given to enter into a Transportation Agreement between Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and Wilkes-Barre Area School District to transport students from Camp Hill, PA to WPSD for the 2020-2021 school year. The cost for each child is \$701.75 per month or \$6315.79 for 9 months. **“Exhibit C”**
4. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for interpreting services for the 2020-2021 school year. The monthly rate is \$1864.20 for a total of \$16777.78 for ten months. Rates will be pro-rated from the enrollment date of a student. **“Exhibit D”**

Ms. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Curriculum Committee report. On the question: Mr. Caffrey – Is there a savings involved with the Seneca Valley Agreement?

Dr. Costello – We normally pay approximately \$275,000 for tuition to Seneca Valley. We were able to reduce this amount this year by using our own teachers, which is saving us approximately \$200,000.

Ms. Harris – Please clarify the IDEA agreement?

Mr. Telesz – This is the IDEA money coming to the district that is held through the IU. It is something we apply for every year.

The vote was as follows:

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

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendations for the Board’s approval:

- A. Administrative**
 - 1. Capital Projects**

That approval be given to the below listed payments:

A1.1	Geo-Science Engineering & Testing	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. 19567	\$20,159.00
A1.2	Benell, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 16	\$218,015.42
A1.3	Benell, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 17	\$169,846.10
A1.4	Duggan & Marcon, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 8	\$239,182.74
A1.5	Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 16	\$546,098.86

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A1.6	Green Valley Landscaping, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$34,994.01
A1.7	Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 17	\$2,168,018.05
A1.8	Scranton Sheet Metal, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 16	\$123,300.00
A1.9	Stell Enterprises, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 12	\$484,827.84
A1.10	Sterling Glass, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 4	\$356,400.00
A1.11	Triangle Fire Protection, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 9	\$21,600.00
A1.12	Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000033	\$2,884.96
A1.13	WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #34	\$7,800.00
A1.14	WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. AS#3.6	\$2,826.00
A1.15	PA American Water	New High School Project	Capital Projects	180 S. Main St Sept 4 to Oct 5	\$926.61
A1.16	PA American Water	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Maffett St. Sept 3 to Oct 4	\$1,701.80
A1.17	Linde Corporation	Ann Street Sewer Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$98,079.54
A1.18	UGI Utilities, Inc.	Ann Street Sewer Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 1800000007202 1	\$24,000.00

2. Capital Reserve

A2.1	Mark J. Sobeck Roofing Consulting Inc	Kistler Roof Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #6946	\$8,369.00
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3. That approval be given to ratify the following Capital Project checks:

PPL Electric Utilities Corp	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #331	\$1,028.26
Pennsylvania American Water Co.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #332	\$3,323.55
PPL Electric Utilities Corp	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #333	\$1,235.13
Pennsylvania American Water Co.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #334	\$4,920.00

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Wilmington Trust	New High School Project	Capital Projects	WT#202050002	\$2,622,075.01
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4. That approval be given to ratify the agreement 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 2020-2021 school year. **“Exhibit E”**
5. That approval be given to ratify the payments of the Mine Subsidence Insurance in the amount of \$257.50 for the Solomon/Plains Educational Complex.
6. The District is in receipt of the approval, by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management of PlanCon Part I: Interim Reporting Project No. 3885 – Change Order Nos: (2.01.004/Bulletin 18) (2.09.004) (2.01.009, Site, 2.02/04.011, General, 2.10.003, Landscaping) (2.01.010 Site). **“Exhibit F”**

B. FEDERAL

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #2039 to #2078 and August Federal Wire Transfers #202000120 to #202000129 and September Federal Wire Transfers #202000179 to 202000189 which were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on August 31, 2020 be approved.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That payment be approved for the September General Fund Wire Transfers #202011490 to #202011507; and General Fund checks #55045 to #55183 and Food Service checks #3455 to #3503 which were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education on August 31, 2020.

D. GENERAL FUND

That the checks #55184 to #55375 listed on the following pages, which have been inspected, be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

E. CONTRACTED SERVICES

1. That approval be given to engage the services of Berkheimer One Source to manage the processing, printing and mailing of the “Homestead/Farmstead Act-1 Application” as required by the taxpayer Relief Act 1 of Special Section 1 of 2006. The cost of these services is .3485 per application, plus postage.

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2. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Geo-Science Engineering & Testing, LLC to provide geotechnical service during the construction of the New High School Playing Field at the following rates: **“Exhibit G”**

Estimated Project Subcontract Services	\$11,873.00
Estimated Project Professional Fee	\$ 6,500.00
Estimated Laboratory Fee	\$ 1,000.00
Estimated Reimbursable Fee	<u>\$ 270.00</u>
Estimated Total Project Costs	\$19,643.00

3. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and PLACE Structural Design, LLC for structural engineering consultation at an hourly rate of \$135.00. **“Exhibit H”**

4. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Atlantic Testing Laboratories, Limited for ground penetrating radar investigation services at an estimated cost of \$15,250.00. **“Exhibit I”**

5. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and D’HUY Engineering, Inc. for masonry construction monitoring at a rate of \$3,840 per week plus \$2,800 for reimbursable expenses. **“Exhibit J”**

6. To approve Change Order #009 for Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$34,947.38. The Change Order consists of the following:

RFI No. 456 – AIC Ratings (change main breaker from magnetic trip to electronic trip)	\$1,707.10
RFI No. 165 – Provide floor boxes for Microphone/Data jacks in gym	\$5,195.05
RFI No. 438 – Provide power to smoke dampers	\$23,803.78
RFI No. 494 – Provide power to (20) RIB Modules that control exhaust fans	\$3,294.13
RFI No. 479 – Ad lighting fixture at Gang Bathrooms 220-1/220C-4	\$646.91
RFI No. 500 – Credit for door position switch	(\$825.42)
RFI No. 458 – Provide power to Display Cases in Heritage Room	\$1,125.83

7. To approve Change Order #012 for Quandel Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$48,009.23. The Change Order consists of the following:

Add (1) 25 slot mailbox	\$443.81
Bulletin No. 26.2 – Provide EPDM membrane on exposed CMU	\$12,828.12
Bulletin No. 44 – Signage revisions	\$3,427.79
RFI No. 360 – Remove 2 courses of CMU from constructed wall	\$5,823.46
Provide 2 C- Channels for support of rooftop condenser	\$1,888.89
RFI No. 495 – Provide additional steel lintel	\$680.02

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Provide alternate floor finish in lieu of ceramic tile at pool locker rooms	\$17,317.81
RFI No. 531 – Provide additional steel lintel	\$641.24
RFI No. 497 – Saw cut and chip concrete walls @ auditorium ramps to reduce width	\$4,958.09

8. To approve Change Order #013 for Quandel Construction Group, Inc., in the amount of \$138,722.32. The Change Order consists of the following:

Provide epoxy terrazzo flooring in lieu of cementitious terrazzo	\$138,722.32
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9. To approve Change Order #003 for Scranton Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of \$33,438.17. The Change Order consists of the following:

Change ductwork in Natatorium equipment room from galvanized to aluminum	\$33,438.17
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10. To approve Change Order #011 for Stell Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$36,804.00. The Change Order consists of the following:

Bulletin No. 47 – Provide pipe & manhole to eliminate open swale along Maffett St.	\$36,804.00
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11. To approve Change Order #004 for Sterling Glass, Inc. in the amount of \$1,347.32. The Change Order consists of the following:

Bulletin No. 46 – Modify aluminum framing in timing room	\$1,347.32
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12. To approve the submission of PlanCon Part I, Interim Reporting, documents and related materials to the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding PDE Project #3885 (New High School Project) concerning Change Order #013 for Quandel Construction Group, Inc., as listed above.

ADDENDUM

1. To authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Ultra Care Urgent and Family Care to perform COVID-19 testing at a cost not to exceed \$7,500.

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Budget Finance/Materials Supplies/Contracted Services Report.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Schiowitz – A 4-5-6; B, C, D Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Nays: Schiowitz A 1-2-3; E 1-12

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ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Quinn – I can't thank Mr. Caffrey, Mr. Atherton and our AD's enough for what they have done during these trying times. The athletes and coaches are making us proud for overcoming all the hurdles they go through at attend practices and games. It is heartbreaking to watch all their hard work when they aren't guaranteed a season or a game.

Mr. Namey – We are currently following all protocols and guidelines regarding our county. We are preparing our winter athletes for their season. We want to express our gratitude for all the support we have received from the Board, and Administration.

Dr. Costello – I believe we need to be prepare our athletes for being able to continue sports even if that may be at a later date.

SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Evans: Our next meeting will be Friday, November 20. At our last meeting we welcomed Chief Binker from the Plains Twp. Police Department.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT – No Report

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Atherton: We held meetings on September 4 and October 23. We visited several buildings, spoke with administrators, teachers and discussed some concerns. I would like to commend Kistler Elementary on the significant improvement in their building.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – No Report

FACILITIES TRANSITION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Thomas presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

1. That approval be given to authorize the District's Real Estate Broker to re-list the Empire Street Property for sale.
2. That approval be given to authorize the District's Real Estate Broker to list the Meyers High School property located at 341 Carey Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA for sale.

ADDENDUM

3. That the Superintendent and Administration be authorized to do a review of the District's current utilization of Mackin and Dodson and formulate a recommendation to the Committee regarding the future utilization of both buildings by the District.
4. That the Superintendent and Administration be authorized to develop plans for the opening of a District Special Education Center for the benefit of the District's most at risk students.

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Facilities Transition Committee Report.

On the question:

Mrs. Schiowitz: Does the listing of the Meyers property sale include the stadium?

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
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Atty. Wendolowski: As the motion reads, it is all of the Meyers property. As the process moves forward, the District would have some options, assuming we would get sub-division approval from the city, if there is any interest in purchasing the building without the stadium. This is just an effort to list the property and see if there is any interest in the facility.

Mr. Quinn: I would like to recommend a modified STEM program beginning in the elementary schools.

Mrs. Schiowitz: In a Life Skills setting in the high schools, are the students taught finance regarding balancing a check, the stock market, etc.?

Dr. Costello: That is built into student IEP's. There is an elective course for Juniors and Seniors regarding balancing check books, mortgages, loans, etc. We are discussing having a "business school" within the high school. This would be similar to STEM and CAPP. We have a large population of students going to college for a Business degree and this would greatly enhance their education.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris 1-3-4, Quinn, Schiowitz 1-3-4, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

2 Nays: Harris #2; Schiowitz #2

STUDENT WELLNESS

Ms. Thomas - Two Wellness Committee meetings were held on September 30, 2020 and October 14, 2020 at 2 pm. "Team A", which consists of administrators, psychologists, guidance counselors, LIU 18 and board members.

September 30, 2020:

At the first reorganization meeting Team A was charged with returning in two weeks with a list of what they believed our students, employees and families will need regarding all aspects of assistance to help in the future whether or not "in school" sessions were offered.

October 14, 2020:

Team A returned with a litany of ideas for everything from in school, virtual and cyber learning in which everyone from students, employees and families will have unlimited access for mental, educational and nutritional information and counseling.

An awesome new site is in the process of being created for the benefit of our communities. It will feed information for the above mentioned on our district page.

May I add, that the teamwork, professionalism and loyalty Team A has shown on this committee and district is absolutely phenomenal.

We now move ahead to schedule a "Team B" which consists of outside agencies (Suicide Prevention, NAMI, CSC, WVAD) and others.

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

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

A. Agreements

1. That the employment contract by and between the Board of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Dr. Brian J. Costello, Superintendent for a period of five years effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2026.
2. That the employment contract by and between the Board of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Thomas F. Telesz, Business Manager for a period of five years effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

B. Act 93

1. That the payment of \$1,007.46 to **Jamie Moska** for worked performed over the summer be approved.
2. That the payment of \$866.54 to **Tashara Sheperis** for worked performed over the summer be approved.
3. That the payment of \$770.00 to **Michael Corcoran** for work performed related to PA Smart Training over the summer be approved.

C. Professionals

1. That the resignation of **Alicia Erwine** be accepted effective October 23, 2020.
2. That **Kathleen Maffei's** request for a sabbatical beginning October 27, 2020 through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year be approved.
3. That **Brittany Hess** be appointed a Secondary Math Long Term Substitute Teacher for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.
4. That **Wayne Waslasky** be approved to check temperatures at the construction site at the extracurricular rate until December 31, 2020.

D. That the following payments be approved for worked preformed over the summer:

Technology Assistance

Todd Jones \$140.00

Comprehensive Plan/Schoolwide Plan

Kristin Laiuvara \$350.00

PA Smart Training

Kim Klinges \$752.50

Cynthia Thomas \$770.00

Yvonne Corcoran \$770.00

Kevin Sickle \$752.50

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Matthew McHenry \$770.00
Heather Crawford \$770.00

Todd Jones \$770.00

Virtual Training

Sandy Atherton \$665.00
Michael Caprari \$420.00
Mary Jo Petlock \$350.00

Kristin Laiuvara \$420.00
Keli Shanahan \$420.00
Lorrie Gardner \$350.00

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

Michael Mitchell
Jack Rothenbecker III
Jenny Wilczak

Veronica Tobin
Tammy Latinski

- F. 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 September 8, 2020:

Bachelors' +15

Emily Banta
Tracey Glynn-Roulinavage
Anthony Dominick
Yazan Mahmoud

Bachelors' +30

Dominique Nardone
Kyle Paul
Sara Woznock
Ashleigh Soboleski

Bachelors' +39

Keryn E. Bevan
Masters' Equivalency
Leah Considine
Beth Gagliardi

Masters' + 9

Jennifer Wadas
Rachel Hedgcock
Jenny Wilczak

Masters' +18

Candace Day
Andita Nikole Parker-Lloyd

Masters' +27

Megan Petrylak
Pamela Dixon
Christina M. Kluger
Erin Moran
Kristen Pstrak
John Woloski III
Christina Grendzinski
Mollie Evans

Masters' +36

Jason Lukachinsky
Jessica Speicher
Glenn Zimmerman
Corey Brenner
Lauren Yanniello
Stephanie Martinson

Masters' +45

Sharida Walker

Sherralee Barnak

Jennifer Roman

Larissa Goldstein

Jennifer Kayla Jones

Kelly Keating-Ball

Wendy Girmen

Megan Sweeney

Masters' +54

Cherine Bankus

Erika Hanson

Lauren Gavlick

Joshua Wasielewski

Joseph Rodzinak

Colleen Wood

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G. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the resignation of **Marie Mushinsky** be accepted effective September 18, 2020.
2. That the retirement of **Jacqueline Hope Solomon** be accepted effective August 30, 2020.
3. That the resignation of **Debra Pickett** be accepted effective September 10, 2020.
4. That the retirement of **Margaret Bailoni** be accepted effective December 22, 2020.
5. That **Linda Kulikowich** be appointed a Grade III 12 Month Secretary effective September 1, 2020.
6. That **Geralyn Muth** be appointed a Grade III 12 Month Secretary effective September 1, 2020.
7. That **Sandra Elmy** be appointed a Grade II 12 Month Secretary effective October 27, 2020.
8. That **Jessica Miorelli's** request for unpaid leave through November 20, 2020 be approved.
9. That **Kim Holley's** request for unpaid leave for the first semester of the 2020/21 school year be approved.
10. That **Christine Zak's** request for unpaid leave from November 13, 2020 through the end of the 2020/21 school year be approved.
11. That the 12 Month Human Resources Secretary Memorandum of Understanding between the Wilkes-Barre Area Board of Directors and the Wilkes-Barre Secretaries and Associates Educational Support Personnel Association be approved. **"Exhibit K"**
12. That the Level III Secretary Memorandum of Understanding between the Wilkes-Barre Area Board of Directors and the Wilkes-Barre Secretaries and Associates Educational Support Personnel Association be approved. **"Exhibit L"**

H. Custodians, Maintenance, Housekeepers & Food Service

1. That the retirement of **Edward Gill** be accepted effective December 31, 2020.
2. That the resignation of **Elizabeth L. Connell** be accepted effective September 9, 2020.
3. That the retirement of **Michael Bohonko** be accepted effective March 26, 2020.
4. That the retirement of **Joseph O'Day** be accepted effective October 5, 2020.
5. That **Vincent Breese** be appointed a Grade I Custodian effective September 30, 2020.
6. That **Amy Petrosky** be appointed a Long Term Substitute Grade I Custodian effective September 30, 2020.
7. That **Anne Kroll** be appointed a Long Term Substitute Grade I Custodian effective September 30, 2020.
8. That **Darrian Tyson** be appointed a 25 hour per week Housekeeper effective September 24, 2020.
9. That **John Spurga** be appointed a 25 hour per week Housekeeper effective October 27, 2020.

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I. Crossing Guards

1. That **Pam Denoy** be appointed a Permanent Crossing Guard.
2. That the resignation of **Kelly Warren** be accepted effective October 15, 2020.

J. Security Greeter

1. That the resignation of **Sandra Jarnot** be accepted effective September 18, 2020.
2. That **Louis Lyons** be appointed as a Substitute Security Greeter.
3. That **Charlene Pappas** be appointed as a Substitute Security Greeter.

K. Agreement

1. That the Wilkes University Field Placement Agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Wilkes University be approved. **“Exhibit M”**

Rev. Walker moved second by Ms. Thomas to approve the Personnel Report.

On the question:

Ms. Schiowitz: Please explain the agreement between the District and Wilkes University.

Dr. Costello: It is to allow Wilkes University students to complete their early field experience requirements with members of our faculty being assigned as their mentors.

The vote was as follows:

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

2 Abstain: Atherton – D; Walker - F

New Business

Ms. Thomas apologized to our families regarding the hiccup with the food service. Please read the Skylerts for future information.

Communications from Solicitor

Request a motion for the Special Education settlement for student Ca.S

Motion by Ms. Thomas second by Mr. Harris

The vote was as follows:

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

Request a motion for the Special Education settlement for student Ch.S

Motion by Ms. Evans second by Mr. Atherton

The vote was as follows:

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

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Thomas second by Mr. Atherton

The meeting adjourned at 8:01