

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**May 24, 2021**

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**Board President Joseph A. Caffrey** called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

**6 Members Present:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**3 Members Absent:** Evans, Harris, Schiowitz

**President Caffrey** began the meeting:

- An Executive Session was held prior to the Regular Board Meeting of May 24, 2021. The subjects discussed in Executive Session 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 May 10, 2021 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

**Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Rev. Walker** to adopt these minutes.

**The vote was as follows:**

**6 Ayes:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Costello differed his time to Mr. Telesz for the 2021-2022 Budget presentation. Mr. Telesz discussed the impact the pandemic had on the 2020-2021 budget. There was an increase in the Charter School expenses but a decrease in transportation, substitutes and salaries with the ARI/Layoff.

The Budget for 2021-2022 does not include an increase in taxes and the millage rate will remain the same for the second consecutive year. State revenue from the BEF and Special Education remain the same. However, Social Security reimbursement and transportation line items are reduced. The District will receive a one-time only funding of back revenues from a Plan Con Reimbursement. There will be an increase in federal funds that will be used for Elementary Class Size reduction; textbooks and resources; HVAC/Building improvements; as well as offsetting other general fund expenditures.

The Budget for 2021-2022 is \$146,210,400. There is a reduction in salaries and benefits due to the consolidation. There are increases in other areas for example, Charter Schools, chromebooks and PC's leases, transportation, debt service, federal expenditures and employee contract obligations.

This proposed balanced budget relies on one time funding from state and federal sources. A better budgeting practice is to generate reoccurring revenue (taxes/BEF) to match expenditures. A budget deficit may be created when the one time funding is no longer available and expenditures continue to increase.

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**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**

**Richard Holodick, Wilkes-Barre, PA**

Discussed the Hearings that were held on May 4, 2021.

**Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA**

Voiced his concerns regarding the Budget Resolution that was on the Agenda, and the meeting protocols regarding public comment.

**Charles Krommes, Plains, PA**

Expressed his objections to a traffic light being installed at the intersection of Abbott and Main Streets in Plains.

**John Corcoran, Plains, PA**

He also expressed concerns and objections to the traffic light that is to be added to the Abbott and Main Street intersection and the adverse effect it will have on his business. He also complimented the Board on moving forward with the construction of the New High School.

**Steve Macarsky, Citizens Voice**

Asked questions regarding the Budget process

**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, May 26 at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Mr. Quinn** – The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m.

**CURRICULUM ADMINISTRATION**

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

1. That approval be given to enter in an agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Specialized Education of Pennsylvania, Inc. (formerly The Graham Academy) to provide educational services for the 2021-2022 school year at a per student rate of \$222.00 per day. Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy will be provided at the per student rate of \$119.00 per hour. The Extended School Year rate per student will be \$115.00 per day. Additional services as needed per IEP will be provided at the rates listed in the agreement. **(Exhibit A)**

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2. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and FUNctional Connections, LLC to provide ABA based services to the students in the District beginning June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The rates for services are outlined in the agreement. **(Exhibit B)**
3. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley for the Therapeutic Education Program at a cost of \$167.00 per student per day effective the first day of the 2021-2022 school year and ending the last day of the 2021-2022 school year including Extended School Year (ESY) if eligible with appropriate ESY billing rate. **(Exhibit C)**
4. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley for the Partial Hospitalization Program at a cost of \$126.50 per student per day effective the first day of the 2021-2022 school year and ending the last day of the 2021-2022 school year including Extended School Year (ESY) if eligible with appropriate ESY billing rate. **(Exhibit D)**
5. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement with John McElwee, MS, BCBA, BSL, 112 Haverford Drive, Laflin, PA to provide services as an Internal Coach for the District's Autism Support Classes participating in the Pennsylvania Autism Initiative ABA Support program beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$125.00 not to exceed \$12,500 for the year. **(Exhibit E)**
6. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Maxim Healthcare Staffing, 2211 Quarry Drive, Suite E-60, Reading, PA 19609 to provide health care services for students as per IEP at rates listed on Attachment A for the 2021-2022 school year. **(Exhibit F)**
7. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and New Story to provide an ESY program for 8 students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District beginning July 1, 2021 through July 30, 2021 at daily rates of \$255, \$350 and \$500 depending upon the specific needs of the student. **(Exhibit G)**

**Mr. Atherton moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Curriculum Administration Report.**

**The vote was as follows:**

**6 Ayes:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

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**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	Apollo Group, Inc.	New Stadium Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 3	\$13,354.56
A1.2	Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 25	\$1,028,435.37
A1.3	D'Huy Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. 52828	\$3,490.30
A1.4	Detwiler Roofing, LLC	Kistler Roof Replacement	Capital Projects	App. No. 002	\$220,050.00
A1.5	Citizens Voice	Heights-Murray Switchgear	Capital Projects	Legal Ad 82528771CCL	\$650.00
A1.6	The Times Leader	Heights-Murray Switchgear	Capital Projects	Legal Ad 301018386	1067.00

2. That approval be given to ratify the following Capital Project checks:

Russin Properties, LLC	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #458	\$7,750.00
Pennsylvania American Water Co.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #459	\$1,120.64
PPL Electric Utilities Corp.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #460	\$2,838.69

3. That approval be given to accept the "Single Audit Report" for the year ended June 30, 2020, as prepared by Rainey & Rainey, Certified Public Accountants.

**B. FEDERAL**

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #2185 to #2191 and April Federal Wire Transfers #202000654 to #202000666 which were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 10, 2021 be approved.

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**C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE**

That payment be approved for the General Fund checks #56384 to #56393 and Food Service checks #3574 to #3589 which were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 10, 2021 be approved.

**D. GENERAL FUND**

That the checks #56394 to #56485 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 amend the contract with Schaedler Yesco Distribution for the GAR Lighting project at a total cost of \$461,469.88.
2. That approval be given to advertise for bids for the Stadium Project and Solomon/Plains Complex Roof Project pending the receipt of drawings.

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Report.**

**The vote was as follows:**

**6 Ayes:** Atherton, Patla (B-C-D-E1), Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Patla (A1-2-3 – E2)

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT** – No Report

**SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT** – No Report

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT** – No Report

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**FACILITIES TRANSITION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**STUDENT WELLNESS**

**POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT** – No Report

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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. Professionals**

1. That the following professional employees be appointed to positions on Curriculum Development/Revision Committees at a rate of \$35 per hour, not to exceed predetermined hours based on funding available.

**3-5 Reading**

Amy Sod	Lisa Giovannini	Kristen Pstrak
Susan Domiano		

**Federal Programs Document Revision**

Lorrie Gardner	Michael Caprari	Keli Shanahan
Mary Jo Petlock	Brenda Labatch-Cavalari	Kristin Laiuvara
Sandy Atherton	Maureen McLaughlin	

**K-5 Math Teachers**

Amy Sullivan	Janelle Kuhl	Cynthia Thomas
Megan Peters	Michelle Krzywicki	Kristen Pstrak
Jennifer Yuhas		

**K-5 Science Teachers**

Ashley Altavilla	Cynthia Craig	Kevin Sickle
Carissa Wargo	Melissa Matello	Yvonne Corcoran

**Primary ELA**

Keli Shanahan	Lorraine Farrell	Sandy Atherton
Michael Caprari		

**Secondary English**

Andita Parker Lloyd	Maureen Sovan	Karen Gayton
John Gosciewski	Heather Johnson	

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**Secondary Math**

MaryAnn Rizzo  
Michael Ostrum  
Matthew Mill

Marianne Kapuschinsky  
Jamee Hopkins  
Christina Nordmark

Katherine Genovese  
Colleen Franchi

**Secondary Reading**

Mandy Costello  
Susan Schwab  
Jill Casarella

Maureen McLaughlin  
Megan Sweeney  
Sarah Edwards

Leah Zelinka  
Kimberly Pasonick

**Secondary Science**

Meredith Falchek  
Jared Meehan

Amy Peters  
Brenda Banaszek

Sherri Yelen  
Colleen Franchi

**Secondary STEM**

Michael Day  
Mitchell Marcks

Michael Shimko

Keith Eberts

**Secondary Social Studies**

Glenn Zimmerman  
Mary Tranguch  
Georgette Ferkel  
Jennifer Yuhas  
David Hagenbaugh

Melissa Matello  
Sean McLaughlin  
Desiree Phillips  
Amanda Mendoza

Rick Collins  
Mark Cardone  
Michael Ward  
Erik ODay

**ESL**

David Lewis  
Erika Hanson

Kelly Jackson  
Amy Wargo-Secor

Keryn Bevan

2. That the Split Coverage Addendum Memorandum of Understanding between the Wilkes-Barre Area Board of School Directors and Wilkes-Barre Area Education Association be approved. **“Exhibit H”**.

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**B. Food Service**

That the following food service employees be appointed for the SSO program at their current hourly rate. The SSO Program will begin after the current contracted school year through July 9, 2021.

Judy Blaine	Linda Koch	Stacey Rogers
Karen Charnichko	Cheryl Montigney	Mary Ann Susek
Barbara Givens		

**C. Extra-Curricular Salary Schedule-6**

1. The following appointments are made for the year and will be continued on a year to year 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.

Activities Director	WBASD High School	<b>James Blaum</b>
Activities Director	Solomon/Plains Middle School	<b>Melinda Hefron &amp; Denise DeMillier (Split Pay)</b>
Activities Director	GAR Middle School	<b>Betsy Witczak</b>
Senior Class Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Mary Ann Aboutanos</b>
Senior Class Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Marianne Kapuschinsky</b>
Junior Class Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Katherine Genovese</b>
Junior Class Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Christina Nordmark</b>
Student Council Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Joshua Wasielewski</b>
Student Council Advisor	Solomon/Plains Middle School	<b>Jamee Hopkins</b>
<del>Student Council Advisor</del>	<del>GAR Middle School</del>	<del><b>TABLED</b></del>
FBLA Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Michael Day</b>
FBLA Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Amanda Mendoza</b>
Key Club Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Heather Johnson</b>
Newspaper Club Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Raphael Cooper</b>
Yearbook Club Advisor	WBASD High School	<b>Julia Hoskins</b>



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Yearbook Club Advisor	Solomon/Plains Middle School	<b>Meredith Falchek</b>
<del>Yearbook Club Advisor</del>	<del>GAR Middle School</del>	<del><b>TABLED</b></del>
Stage Manager	WBASD High School	<b>Alice Lyons</b>
Stage Manager	Solomon/Plains Middle School	<b>Scott Walter</b>
<del>Stage Manager</del>	<del>GAR Middle School</del>	<del><b>TABLED</b></del>
Debate & Speech	WBASD High School	<b>Sarah Borland and Joseph Borland (Split Pay)</b>

**ADDENDUM**

**A. Professionals**

1. That **Karen Kwak** be appointed Temporary Head Nurse effective January 11, 2021 until further notice.

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Personnel Report and Addendum to the Personnel Report.**

**The vote was as follows:**

**6 Ayes:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Rev. Walker presented Resolution #1**

**RESOLUTION #1**

**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, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$146,210,400.

**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 2021-2022 and levies a tax of 18.4332 mills per dollar (\$18.43 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

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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 (1½ ) 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.

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Patla to adopt Resolution #1**

**The vote was as follows:**

**6 Ayes:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Mr. Quinn presented Resolution #2**

**RESOLUTION #2**

**WHEREAS**, the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center has submitted its 2021-2022 Operating & Budget to the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Board of Directors for review and approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center shall operate for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, in accordance with the Operating Budget (Budget) presented by the Center's Joint Operating Committee.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said Budget anticipates total expenditures of \$10,538,251, of which the Wilkes-Barre Area School District's contribution is estimated at \$2,903,444 for operations, an increase of \$3,170 from the districts adjusted contributions for the year 2020-2021. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District's contribution for the debt service budget is estimated at \$266,406, a decrease of \$12,582.00.

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**Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Ms. Patla to adopt Resolution #2**

**The vote was as follows:**

**6 Ayes:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Mr. Atherton presented Resolution #3**

**RESOLUTION #3**

BE IT RESOLVED, that **Tom Telesz** be appointed Secretary of the Board of Education to serve a 4 year term beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30 2025, under the provisions of Section 434 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be bonded, and premium for such bond to be paid by the School District.

budget is estimated at \$266,406, a decrease of \$12,582.00.

**Mr. Atherton moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt Resolution #3**

**The vote was as follows:**

**6 Ayes:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**New Business**

**Motion to adjourn by Ms. Thomas seconded by Mr. Atherton.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.**