

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at

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

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll

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

President Caffrey began the meeting:

- An Executive Session was held prior to the Regular Meeting of August 31, 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 June 29, 2020 and August 10, 2020 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Ms. Patla to adopt these minutes.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Treasurer's Report:

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

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

GENERAL FUND

	\$	
1	(363,536.64)	
2		18,804,992.20
3		2,963,797.39
4		5,868.74
5		460,613.85
6		76,773.45
7		1,754,028.51
8		393,329.76
9		833,086.09
10		91,679.30
11		12,327.88
12		-
13		481,375.16
14		862,287.97
15		249,763.96
16		1,747,829.30

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

17 PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB -

TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$ **28,374,216.92**

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 97,729,260.15

21 PLGIT CASH RESERVE 1,805,138.97

22 FNCB 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS 6,004.97

TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS \$ **101,619,351.49**

FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY

TRUST FUNDS:

23 WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK \$ 55,413.13

24 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE 354,193.18

25 FNB BANK WHOLE LIFE 50,168.72

AGENCY FUNDS:

26 ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK 162,478.89

27 SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK 286,454.70

TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS \$ **908,708.62**

PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE

28 FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank \$ 4,092,943.14

TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE \$ **4,092,943.14**

DEBT SERVICE FUND

29 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE \$ 9,867.57

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND \$ **9,867.57**

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

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

As we continue to monitor the Pennsylvania COVID-19 dashboard, we are currently following the guidance that is allowing us to move forward with our three options. Parents/guardians should have received a letter this past weekend indicating which option they selected. This letter also indicated what virtual meeting you may wish to attend this upcoming Wednesday or Thursday. The meeting is optional and the building principals will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Our first day of school is scheduled for Friday, September 11. There has been a change to the start time. We will begin on a one-hour delay of the normal time. This one-hour delay will allow us to organize the staff to help control the flow of students coming into the buildings. We will be dismissing at the normal time.

Bus schedules should be posted on the District website by the end of the week. If you have any questions, please contact your building principal.

Last night we received information from the State that the PA Department of Education is partnering with the PA Department of Health and the PA Emergency Management Agency as well as with the PAIU, which means all the local IU's. With this partnership, we will have dedicated access to public health experts who can quickly assist us with COVID-19 related issues that will impact our community throughout the year. The newly created agency known as the **Rapid Response Assistance** will now be available 24-7 to all districts to answer questions and provide individualized assistance within our school community.

I look forward to starting our school year on September 11. We will continue to monitor where we are on the dashboard regarding COVID.

APOLLO REPORT

Mr. Mike Krzywicki – District Maintenance Plan: The main breaker & PPL service cable at Heights Murray Elementary need to be replaced. We are working with PPL and switchgear manufacturer to coordinate and schedule the work. The lead-time on the breaker is 12-16 weeks after approval of price quote. Apollo is investigating other options. The Elevator repairs at Heights-Murray may not be performed until the electrical work is completed. **E.L. Meyers Monitoring Structure/Walkway/Tunnel:** Apollo's next inspection is scheduled for the week of August 31, 2020. **New High School:** The Building Shell Contractor has continued installation of floor slabs, CMU walls, air/vapor barrier, masonry veneer, steel beams & lintels, bar joists and metal roof deck, metal pan stairs, wood blocking, roof insulations, EPDM membrane, metal roofing, spray foam insulation, doorframes & construction of pool walls. The Drywall Contractor has continued installation of metal stud framing, gypsum wallboard, exterior metal framing, exterior sheathing, taping and spackling. The Aluminum & Glass Contractors has continued installation of aluminum windows and glass. The Food Service Contractor has continued coordination of electrical and plumbing rough-ins for future installation of their equipment. The Sitework Contractor has continued placement of geogrid, subbase, curbs, sidewalks, bituminous pavement, placement of topsoil and construction of S. Main Street entrance. The Plumbing Contractor has continued installation of underground sanitary piping,

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

floor drains, storm water piping and acid waste piping, above ground sanitary piping, roof drain piping, domestic water piping, pipe hangers, and pipe insulation & testing. The electrical Contractor has continued installation of conduit in masonry walls and under floor slabs, MC cable, fire alarm cable, audio cable, electrical rough in at metal stud walls and temporary lighting. The HVAC Contractor has continued installation of roof curbs, duct hangers and ductwork, fabrication of ductwork and completed 3D coordination drawings for clash detection with other trades. The Fire Protection Contractor has continued installation of sprinkler system piping and heads. The Sewer Contractor has continued installation of sanitary sewer at Ann Street.

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.

Ms. Thomas: How far along into the project are we?

Mike Krzywicki: I have it calculated two ways. One is 52.7% the other is 54.7% the average is 53.68% complete.

Ms. Schiowitz: Was there any damage to the New High School project or any of the other schools from the storm we had last Monday?

Mike Krzywicki: We did not have any damage at the New High School and I am not aware of damage to any other district facilities.

Atty. Wendolowski: Please explain to the Board the recommendations by Mark Sobeck Roofing regarding the Kistler Roof Project.

Mike Krzywicki: Approximately a year and half ago we updated the District-wide roofing study. Kistler's roof has several areas in need of repair. It is my understanding that maintenance has continued to be plagued by leaks there. I was asked to get a price and we hired the roofing consultant to prepare a bid package, forward it to Apollo to advertise and do the traditional bidding process and make a recommendation. If the Board wanted to go forward, award the contract and Mark Sobeck Roofing Consultants would do the inspections.

OLD BUSINESS - None

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.

Michelle Zionce, Wilkes-Barre

When will laptops be given to children going into the second grade? How will we know the login and passwords for google classroom and what teacher they will be assigned to? Will this be made available to us before the first day of school?

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

Lisa Miller, Plains Township

Regarding the dress code, is it safe to say *all* casual pants and shorts will be allowed? Additional examples not specifically listed in the modification notice include cargo shorts, basketball shorts, mesh track pants. Also, are hooded sweatshirts allowed? Thanks!

Teresa Burkoski

My children are doing virtual schooling. I was wondering how to get them a chrome book through the school. Can you please let me know.

Edward, Wilkes-Barre, PA

When will we get our Chromebook and when will school start?

Tracey Lynn

1. Are basketball shorts allowed since September is still going to be warm?
2. If we choose option 3, how do we get the information?
3. When will schools be dispersing chrome books and textbooks?

Dr. Costello Response: We are starting school on September 11. This week the building principals will be contacting all of you regarding the time to pick up your Chromebooks. The times will be staggered. As far as the dress code, all will be accepted except for hooded sweatshirts. Hooded sweatshirts are not allowed. It is definitely a modified dress code for this school year. Class schedules will be given out a few days prior to the start of school. You will then be given instructions on how to log-in to Google Classroom.

v p <valp@live.com

I had a question for the school board meeting.

In school, if a child is found to have a high fever or coughs and is suspected to have covid, will the parents be called to take the child to get tested and will the parents decide where to take the child for treatment or does the school make that decision for you?

What are the policies and procedures for this?

Dr. Costello Response: Our policies and procedures are on our website. All members of the community, staff and students upon entering a building will have their temperature checked. If a student has a high temperature, they will be moved to a room where parents/guardians will be contacted. At the point it will be recommended that the parent/guardian take them to their family physician to receive the proper guidance on diagnosis and treatment.

Abby W

I was wondering if we are having fall sports. I know the PIAA approved but districts can cancel them. I was wondering if there are any updates. I'm just scared to go back to soccer because of covid and with everyone at parties.

Dr. Costello Response: We do have protocol in place for sports. It is a parental choice on whether or not to allow your child to participate in sports. Regarding spectators attending games, PIAA states 250 people are allowed in a stadium. This includes the players, coaches,

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

cheerleaders, band, referees, emergency personnel, media. At this time spectators will not be allowed in the stadium.

Yolanda Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA

I have 3 school age children returning to school I would like to know about transportation for the 3 of them and how do I register them for pickup and drop off? Also what day actually will be the first day of school? I would like to have transportation set up and in place for them.

Dr. Costello Response: The transportation department will reach out to you and make sure your children are registered. Transportation will be scheduled.

Jessica Griffith, Wilkes-Barre, PA

I was wondering if there is a way to have something outside for class picture day for the virtual students?

Dr. Costello Response: At this time we don't have an answer as to how picture day will be handled. When that time comes, we will be sure all students whether they are in Option 1, 2, or 3 will be included.

Tracey Stevenson

Is the district planning on releasing a statement on the webpage about proper mask wear in the classroom?

I think parents should be directed prior to sending their students to school of the expectations of them wearing the mask properly in the classroom all day. This way we can share it on social media or our own district Facebook pages. I think this is something that they need to discuss with her children prior to the first day of school and the teacher discussing it with them.

I know they were masks ordered for teachers and faculty. Did we purchase any plastic desk shields for the teacher to use. When trying to teach reading to new students as their learning you need to be able to hear them and be close and a plastic shield would be perfect for this in the younger grades. (A sneeze guard)

Dr. Costello Response: We have addressed the issue regarding the wearing of masks. The information is on the website. There will be opportunities for the teacher to give the children a break from wearing their mask.

We did not purchase sneeze guards, but we did purchase face shields. Teachers and students will be given masks and a face shield.

Ms. Schiowitz: Who will be in charge of cleaning the face shields?

Dr. Costello Response: They will go home with the student for parents to sanitize.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA

I hereby request to be invited formally to all committee meetings, which are now as I understand it held virtually behind closed doors. This to me seems like a blatant disregard for the sunshine law. I would especially be interested in attending the curriculum committee meeting.

What steps, if any, are being taken to rectify the pitiful scores, test scores that were reported this past semester? I want to know what the curriculum director and superintendent are doing to enhance academic standards in the district.

Atty. Wendolowski Response: The committee meetings are less than the majority of the entire Board are not covered by the Sunshine Act.

Dr. Costello Response: We have already made a presentation regarding the district academics and have shown growth over the past five years.

Jody Busch, Laurel Run, PA

Good evening, I share a concern that I have been discussing with Ray Wendolowski through the right to know process, purchasing and awarding purchase orders to selected vendors. Each board agenda has a large volume of costly purchases, change orders, but not much justification or explanation for the board members or the public. Concern number two relates to the actual cost related to non-construction and purchasing cost of the Pagnotti site. It would seem reasonable for the board members and the taxpayers to know the total cost of land prep and reclamation, the expansion of the Cross-Valley ramps, purchase of property related to the expansion, sidewalks, traffic lights etc. The bottom line is there is the \$4.2 million un-assessed value purchase price, and the total cost related to the previous listed land prep and Penn Dot requirements. My concern is that the purchase price and all related cost should have been known prior to a vote to purchase the Pagnotti site. At this point, it appears that \$55,000 an acre is the purchase amount approved by the board majority; it is possible the site prep and other costs can shoot the actual cost per acre through the roof negating a reasonable reason for purchasing a toxic dump. As such, the business manager in fact all the board members who voted to purchase the site should be able to tell the taxpayers that tonight. Thank you.

Atty. Wendolowski Response: On a monthly basis, Mike Krzywicki gives updates on the construction progress along with an explanation of the Change Orders presented for approval. Our contingency is in line with a project of this size. With regard to the Pagnotti site, clearly the Board was aware of the on-site improvements and those documents are available on the website for the public to review.

Richard Holodick, Wilkes-Barre, PA

I respectfully request reading a social media post by Dr. Mark Schiowitz, a Coughlin grad, a surgeon, a ten-year Meyers sports volunteer, former board member. He cites research disproving any benefits to consolidation but neglected to mention that both the half million-dollar district study, and the highly respected state sponsored PFM study cite closing neighborhood schools and instituting middle schools as a disadvantage. Most of this board if not all favor neighborhood schools, but they need to save the taxpayers' money. That ship has sailed. The fact is Rev. Walker developed a plan that saves neighborhood schools, and a ton

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

of taxpayers money, he labels it the Gold Plan, but he went along agreeing with what he calls the silver plan, to build on top of a toxic dump; no Reverend it is the Coal Plan. I conclude that \$300 million for 2400 students, leaving 4600 wanting is not saving but costing the taxpayer's money big time! Taking Dr. Mark's listed health issues, academic short falls and costs, there is a probability of educational and financial bankruptcy in this school district.

Point of interest, Cummings Piatt, 1956 grad, former football standout, Meyers football coach, and assistant secretary of education for the New Jersey state department of education introduced legislation giving the state education department the right to declare a district educationally and or financially bankrupt.

The Mark Schiowitz's post:

The entire consolidation concept is flawed to begin with if you consult the research: Academic demise, higher operational costs, more security issues, more dropouts, less participation, and large school psychological issues are predictable.

When you add a middle school concept, not previously required, as they have, an additional transition year is added which predicts a multi-year academic drop off.

Except in WBA, of course, renovation is cheaper than new construction and gives you indefinite school life. New construction? (with maintenance) ...40 years.

And safety? please. The process and the site violate all recommendations by EPA and school siting literature. In 5 states this site is illegal; in 27 others, discouraged, just on the basis of coal ash (It's an unlined coal ash landfill) Coal ash is carcinogenic and associated with respiratory illness and developmental abnormalities. Add contaminated soil, documented subsidence, the likelihood of radioactive nanoparticles, contaminated groundwater being capped, the risk of that capping to the Susquehanna and you can see some flaws. Of course EPA never weighed in on a cap for coal ash or potential water issues, because a mining permit which remained in place well after construction began, kept the site under the Office of Surface Mining which has no coal ash rule or responsibility for the river issues. There are potential air and noise pollution issues due to proximity to the Cross Valley. Let's hope they are not significant.

All in all, the worst school site this side of Chernobyl. When the issue was presented to EPA at a coal ash hearing, in DC, there was a collected audience gasp when they saw the single slide of the site. Research, Planning, safety, cost, public and expert opinion all taking a back seat to the whims of a school board majority and administration who had to "do something" and pined for a big box school and state-competitive sports teams.

The land costs, sale prior to reclamation, the reclamation which should have been Pagnotti's job, deed irregularities, money for Penn Dot, a mining permit on adjacent land are only a few of the other oddities associated with this caper. Stay tuned.

Gary Zafia, Plains, PA

Will there be any kind of extension for us to pay our school taxes later then 9/11/2020 in order to get the 2% discount? Thank you

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

I think the school district should require all parents or guardians of our students who play sports to sign a waiver saying that if the student gets the covid-19 or is infected by it will NOT sue the school district. We need to protect us homeowners from the school district having to pay out lawsuits or otherwise can you imagine what will happen to our school property taxes? Several school districts are already doing this and W-B Area should also.

Tom Telesz Response: The 2% discount was not extended but in June the Board voted to no include a penalty this year anything paid after 9-11-2020 will be paid at face value.

Atty. Wendolowski Response: For the Board's consideration tonight is a disclosure/waiver form for extracurricular activities.

Brian Kelley, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Before I leave my comment for the Board's response, I would like to present the following informal positive acknowledgement of The Big Toxic School book by a Meyers High School graduate from the class of 1965. She was one of the brightest in our class. The WBASB's actions puzzle her along with many of us in the WBA. Here is the comment she recently wrote to me:

Brian,

"I just completed reading your book, The Big Toxic School for the second time. It is beyond me how this school board could endorse this new school."

My comment for the board starts below and it ends with a simple question which is also very short.

You may know that Albert Einstein believed that those that keep doing what they always did will always get what they always got. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District infamous for problematic decisions relating to hiring, contracting professional services, and accountability, has always done what they always did. It is always based on unsupported data and/or listening to some with hidden agendas. Considering that there is a superintendent, solicitor, construction management firm, at a taxpayer cost which I believe exceeds \$50,000 a month, I am puzzled on how the following naughty nine items "slipped through the cracks."

All will be spelled out in a second book, a Brian W. Kelly, Dr. Richard Holodick collaboration. "The Governance of Public Schools."

Please note the following:

The Board was advised:

1. There was no need to include the school students with the most minorities in the new school.
2. That placing a very big school on a postage sized lot zoned commercial could not fail zoning.
3. That spending \$9 million to renovate and not expand a 500-student school and attempt to squeeze in 800 students was a viable option for pre-maturely closing Coughlin High School prior to having a solid plan.
4. That spending nearly \$3 million on architecturally significant, historic Coughlin High School and advertising it for sale at \$1.5 million is fiscally responsible.
5. That demolishing architecturally significant, historic Meyers High School, costing \$15 million to be left with an empty lot worth a half million is fiscally responsible.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

6. That the selection of deep mined, strip mined, unlined coal ash dump, former industrial water dump, containing cancer causing materials, and prone to subsidence was the very best site out of 117 square miles.
7. That "it was acceptable for taxpayers to pay for reclaiming the land when the state law requires that the seller assume the burden.
8. That spending a million plus on land now owned by the taxpayers is acceptable.
9. That ignoring a board action requiring the purchase price be supported by land assessments, and paying \$50,000 an acre for land assessed at \$10,000 an acre was saving the taxpayer's money.

There is more, but point made. Paraphrasing Einstein's belief, if you always listen to those you always listened to, you always get what you always got. Are there any plans to hold people accountable?

Atty. Wendolowski Response: We have heard many of these comments in the past. I personally believe this Board and prior Boards are clearly accountable and voted their consciences. I think the Auditor General's report which reviewed in detail all of the actions that Mr. Kelly is complaining about, they not only didn't criticize the Board but they applauded their actions.

Mr. Caffrey Response: I agree with you about the Auditor General's report. Many of the complaints that we hear at each meeting was addressed in that report. It described very accurately about the accountability of the Board.

David Wilson, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Good evening, I have 2 questions:

1. At last month's board meeting, Attorney Wendolowski stated the reason the mineral rights on the Pagnotti site were not assessed was that the Pagnotti property was not for sale hence the board would be criticized for spending money to access the mineral rights. If I'm not mistaken the "property" was assessed which was valued at \$200 to \$800 thousand. Please explain why, if the property was not for sale, did the district spend money to have the "property" assessed? If the assessed "property" value is somewhere between \$200 and \$800 thousand and the purchase price was actually \$4.25 million why does the Board seem to defend the purchase price of the property by comparing it to other parcels sold nearby. Shouldn't professional assessors whose job it is to establish property values based partially on surrounding properties have done that? I along with a number of others are trying to understand why the District would pay more than 5 times the assessed value for a site where every room and pillar mine below the level of the Susquehanna River has been flooded and that has served as a community dump, a deep mine, a strip mine, an unlined repository for beneficial coal ash, and Lord knows what else. Please explain the enormous disparity between the appraised value and actual purchase price, roughly \$3.4 million. The Board authorized the purchase of the property at the appraised value, does this mean the professionally appraised value or the Board's explanation / appraisal?
2. Would you kindly provide a proposed total project cost, to include construction costs, land acquisition costs, surface improvements, professional fees, PennDOT and community cost, insurance etc. A schedule of values breaking down costs by trade or

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

specification section would be of great interest to taxpayers as well. Apollo should have the schedule of values readily available.

In lieu of a one on one meeting with board representatives or whomever, please post the answers to these questions on your website.

To recap: 1) Why is there such a disparity between the appraised value and actual purchase price of the Pagnotti site and 2) please provide a proposed total project cost to include a schedule of values for the new high school.

Thank you for your consideration.

Atty. Wendolowski Response: Clearly the Pagnotti Property was not advertised for sale. Pagnotti was not trying to market that site to purchasers. The District identified the site as the best one for its intended purposes including putting up a new high school. In order to acquire the property, we had two choices. We could take it by eminent domain or negotiate a price with the seller, in this case Pagnotti. We had a series of meetings with Pagnotti representatives at which time we were presented with an original asking price of 8 million dollars. We ended up buying it for 4.25 million dollars. We did have a few appraisals of that property performed. Those appraisals came in at the prices which are listed and they are on the district website. The district could have rolled the dice and taken the property and went to court to determine the value. In which case, Pagnotti would have presented evidence that the property and the mineral rights below it were worth an excess of 12 million dollars. We could have paid the 12 million or negotiated a price that everyone could live with. We chose to negotiate the price. That price was based upon what we had seen as far as comparable assessments of R3 zoned property in Plains Twp and Wilkes-Barre City proper as well as the sale price of a fairly identical R3 property in Wilkes-Barre Twp. that was sold to the Highland Senior Living Center next to the Arena. That sold in excess of eight thousand an acre for former mining land. We believed it was a fair price, made the recommendation to the Board, the Board accepted that price and closed on the acquisition. The Auditor General reviewed the entire process and determined the Board acted prudently considering the risk of going to court to acquire the property by eminent domain.

Tom Telesz Response: The budget for the entire project is \$121,500,000. That includes all the costs for land acquisition, construction, improvements, professional fees, PennDot, insurance, etc. That budget encompasses the entire project. The debt service when we incur the full payment will be approximately 7% of the budget. When our debt service is compared to other districts across the state, our percentage of our budget is still lower than the average district.

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

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be on held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Quinn – The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 21, 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 an Agreement with New Story, 1150 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA to provide Enhanced Remote Learning Services to students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District in the event remote learning becomes necessary due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Rates per student for remote learning will be \$255.00 per day. **“EXHIBIT A”**

Ms. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Curriculum Committee report. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES and 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	Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	Pagnotti Property Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000022	\$143.64
A1.2	Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 37	\$58,698.65
A1.3	Geo-Science Engineering & Testing	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. 019483	\$17,076.60
A1.4	Benell, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 15	\$204,026.70
A1.5	Duggan & Marcon, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 7	\$174,885.66
A1.6	Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 15	\$442,195.20
A1.7	Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 16	\$2,687,266.85
A1.8	Scranton Sheet Metal, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 15	\$1,839,433.28
A1.9	Stell Enterprises, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 11	\$337,687.18

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

A1.10	Triangle Fire Protection, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 8	\$141,300.00
A1.11	Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000030	\$5,101.23
A1.12	Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000032	\$3,574.10
A1.13	TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #28	\$3,145.00
A1.14	TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #30	\$16,030.00
A1.15	WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #31	\$7,000.00
A1.16	WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #33	\$6,500.00
A1.17	WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. AS#3.4	\$652.50
A1.18	WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. AS#3.6	\$1,557.75
A1.19	Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 6869	\$2,950.50

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

Pennsylvania American Water Co.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check # 316	\$2,656.83
---------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------	-------------	------------

3. That approval be given to appoint Martin Flaherty, Controller, as Trustee and Frank Castano, Director of Human Resources, as Alternate Trustee to the Northeast Pennsylvania School Districts Health Trust for the 2020-2021 school year.

B. GENERAL FUND

That payment be approved for the August General Fund Wire Transfer #202011475 to #202011489; and General Fund checks #54960 to #54980 which were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education on August 10, 2020.

C. GENERAL FUND

That the checks #54981 to #55044 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.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

D. Contracted Services

1. To approve Change Order #008 for Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$6,301.64. The Change Order consists of the following:

RFI No. 468 – Provide fixture OE and emergency relay	\$2,135.97
RFI No. 471 – Door Security Room 201	\$420.35
RFI No. 469 – Provide drywall trim kit for lighting	\$876.81
RFI No. 452 – Trash Compactor power	\$2,868.51

2. To approve Change Order #003 for Green Valley in the amount of \$25,654.36. The Change Order consists of the following:

Bulletin No. 42.2 – Move Practice Field	\$9,921.49
Bulletin No. 42.2 – Enlarge basin for future development	\$8,415.07
Additional seeding per unit price No. 1	\$7,317.80

3. To approve Change Order #011 for Quandel Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$29,889.20. The Change Order consists of the following:

RFI No. 450 – CMU wall at Learning Studio	\$9,807.00
Bulletin No. 43 – Clad 3 sides of second skylight curb with metal wall panels	\$6,174.00
Bulletin No. 38 – Metal cladding on skylight above Lobby	0.00
RFI No. 464 – Main Street roof revisions	0.00
Bulletin No. 40 – Infill CMU/Cut angles @ Learning Commons & Fitness Center	\$10,930.14
RFI – No. 426 – Brick support angle	\$2,978.06

4. To approve Change Order #009 for Stell Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of (\$83,998.00). The Change Order consists of the following:

Bulletin No. 42.2 – Move Practice Field	(\$83,998.00)
---	---------------

5. To approve Change Order #010 for Stell Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$522,456.60. The Change Order consists of the following:

Bulletin No. 42.2 – Enlarge basin for future development	\$159,542.00
Additional topsoil per unit price No. 1	\$362,914.60

6. 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 #010 for Stell Enterprises, Inc., as listed above.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Patla to adopt the Budget Finance/Material Supplies/Contracted Services committee report.

On the question:

Ms. Schiowitz – The agency that was hired to train our custodians to do the deep cleaning, will they also be in charge of monitoring the HVAC filtration and making sure filters are changed on a regular basis?

Dr. Costello Response: Our personnel will be responsible for monitoring and changing the filters.

Ms. Harris – Will the movement of the practice field incur additional expense (D4)

Atty. Wendolowski Response: Where the practice field was going to be placed is where the stadium will be built. It made sense to move the practice field which will be behind the school.

Mr. Caffrey – Please give us an update on the contingency.

Mike Krzywicki Response: Including Change Orders on today's agenda, we would have committed \$2,361,398. I'm projecting for future use nine months at \$100,000 per month or \$900,000 which projects to \$3,261,400 or 50.81% of the allocated budget with a savings of \$3,157,127.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla – B & C, Quinn, Schiowitz – B & C, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

2 Nays: Patla A 1-2; D 1-6; Schiowitz A 1-2-3; D 1-6

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Mike Namey – As we proceed with the athletic season – out of 13 schools in the WVC and 3000 athletes participating there has been only two reports of COVID-19.

Today was the first day of practice for our Junior High athletes.

Mrs. Schiowitz – Has anything been addressed regarding testing our coaches and student athletes for COVID-19? I saw the WWV is looking at pre-testing all of their athletes along with possibly Lake Lehman.

What are the protocols that student athletes go through when attending practice?

Mike Namey Response: We have looked into rapid testing with the guidance from the District 2 Chairman. We are looking for something that is successful in terms of results and the speed in which results are received along with the costs that would be involved. There are issues where families will have to sign off and families that won't sign but still want access to athletics. At this point there hasn't been an agency to notify PIAA that they will step in and manage such testing. Our goal is to continue with our current protocols.

Since July 6 our athletes have been guided to have their parents complete the health and safety questionnaire. That needs to be completed in its entirety prior to the athlete boarding the bus. We will have a pre-screen when the athletes get off the bus. Parents will be notified that if any of those questions come back with a relative yes, the athlete will be required to stay home and

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

may need to see a Dr. for further testing. On-site our coaches have hand sanitizers and thermometers. Our athletic trainers are involved in the screening process.

SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Evans: The Plains Twp. police captain is now part of the committee.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT – No Report

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Atherton: The committee will be touring the buildings next week before the students arrive. I have received a few complaints from teachers not having their classrooms cleaned. That is not acceptable. Everybody has to step up their game especially during these unprecedented times.

Mrs. Schiowitz – Over the past two months that, in addition to what we are doing, it has been noted that ventilation is very important in trying to keep the spread of COVID-19 down. Do we have schools that have ventilation issues where they cannot open windows and cannot have room air be moved around? There are portable HEPA filter units that can be purchased. Some teachers have requested purchasing them.

Dr. Costello Response: Kistler and Heights cannot open the windows. However they have an HVAC system with filters. The schools that are difficult to deal with ventilation is Coughlin Annex, Meyers High School and Dodson. To accommodate that we have purchased some industrial fans, air conditioning units, etc. We will look into the purchase of the portable HEPA units.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That the following policies be revised:
 - 204 Attendance
 - 221 Dress and Grooming
2. That the following policies be adopted:
 - 318 Attendance and Tardiness

Rev. Walker moved second by Ms. Thomas to approve the Policy Committee report.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Thomas – A meeting will be scheduled in September.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

FACILITIES TRANSITION

Ms. Thomas – There is a very fair offer for the South Grant Street property. There is also some interest in the Coughlin site and there was a tour of the Meyers property.

Mrs. Schiowitz – I received a call regarding the condition of the Empire Street property. Is there a plan to clean it up?

Atty. Wendolowski Response: We will have someone look into that. It is subject to an agreement of sale to the Mt. Zion Baptist church. However, there is a zoning issue with Wilkes-Barre Township.

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 **Wayne Waslasky** be approved to check temperatures at the construction site at the extracurricular rate until September 8, 2020.
2. That **Jennifer Ricci's** request for a sabbatical for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year be approved.
3. That **Veronica Tobin** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Special Education Teacher effective September 8, 2020 contingent upon the requirements of the Act 97 Waiver being met.
4. That **Joyce Strubeck** be appointed an Elementary Long Term Substitute Teacher for the 2020-21 school year.

B. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the retirement of **Barbara Zelnick** be accepted effective September 1, 2020.
2. That **Geralyn Muth** be appointed a temporary Grade III 12 Month Secretary effective September 1, 2020.
3. That **Sandra Elmy** be appointed a temporary Grade II 12 Month Secretary effective September 1, 2020.

C. Crossing Guards

1. That the resignation of **Maureen Conway** be accepted.

D. Security/Greeter

1. That **John Conway** be appointed a Substitute Security Greeter.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

E. Athletics

1. 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.

Girls' Volleyball Varsity Assistant Coach **Daniel Sales**

ADDENDUMS

Professionals

1. That **Stephanie Bradley's** request for a sabbatical for the 2020-21 school year be approved.

Secretaries and Teacher's Associates

1. That the retirement of **Patricia Wasilius** be accepted effective August 26, 2020.
2. That **Heather Marcellini** be appointed a Long Term Substitute 10 Month, Level II Secretary effective September 1, 2020.

Crossing Guard

1. That **Karen Taylor** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard.

Athletics

1. 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.

Soccer Junior High Volunteer Assistant Coach
Soccer Junior High Volunteer Assistant Coach

Charles Witczak
Leonard Witczak

Act 93

1. That **Kimberly Litchkofski** be appointed the Coordinator of Production, Print and Postal Services at an annual salary of \$28,888 effective August 31, 2020.

Rev. Walker moved second by Mr. Evans to approve the Personnel Report

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

Ms. Harris presented Resolution #1

Wilkes-Barre Area School District
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center (the "CTC") was organized under the Act of March 10, 1949, P.L. 30, Art. XVIII, 24 P. S. § 18-1801, et seq. (the "Vocational Education Act"), pursuant to Articles of Agreement dated as of May 15, 1968, as amended and supplemented (the "Joint Agreement"), by certain participating school districts and is validly existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Joint Agreement and the Vocational Education Act the Joint Operating Committee (the "Joint Committee") of the CTC has been delegated to be responsible for the operation, administration and management of the CTC; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee, after careful and thorough consideration, has determined that to more efficiently and expeditiously operate, administer and manage the CTC, a refunding project is necessary; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (the "School District"), a member of the consortium of school districts forming the CTC, to undertake and support a refunding project of the CTC consisting of the refunding of the State Public School Building Authority's outstanding Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center Lease Revenue Bonds, Series of 2013 issued for the benefit of the CTC; and

WHEREAS, the CTC plans to finance the project through the issuance of lease revenue bonds by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Hospital and Education Authority (the "Authority") as more fully described below; and

WHEREAS, the project scope and approximate cost has been formulated and disclosed to the School District after a detailed feasibility study; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined to authorize and issue for the benefit of the CTC and the Participating School Districts (as hereinafter defined) not to exceed \$8,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center Lease Revenue Bonds (the "Bonds"), under and secured by a Trust Indenture (the "Indenture"), between the Authority and a trustee to be named therein; and

WHEREAS, the CTC, as lessor, and the Authority, as lessee, will enter into a Lease Agreement (the "Lease"), under which the CTC will lease to the Authority certain land and facilities of the CTC described in the Lease (the "Leased Premises") for a rental payment consisting of the net proceeds of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Authority, as sublessor, and the CTC and Crestwood School District, Hanover Area School District, Greater Nanticoke Area School District, Pittston Area School District, and the School District (collectively, the "Participating School Districts"), as sublessees, will enter into a

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

Sublease Agreement (the "Sublease"), under which the Authority will, among other things, sublease the Leased Premises to the School and the Participating Districts; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Sublease, the School and the Participating Districts shall make rental payments to the Authority or its assigns in amounts sufficient to pay when due, among other things, the principal or redemption price of and interest on the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Bonds of the Authority shall be supported by the School District as provided by the Joint Agreement and the Sublease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of School Directors (the "Board") of the School District in lawful session duly assembled, as follows:

Section 1. The School District supports the completion of this project for the benefit of the CTC and authorizes the Joint Committee of the CTC to take all necessary steps to complete this refunding project.

Section 2. The President or Vice President of the Board and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the School District, and, if applicable, their duly qualified respective successors, are hereby severally authorized and directed on behalf of the School District to execute any and all papers and documents, including but not limited to, the Sublease, and to do or cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or appropriate to enable the CTC and the Authority to carry out the transactions contemplated by the Lease, the Sublease, and the Indenture, and to effectuate the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds, the investment of the proceeds of the Bonds and of moneys in the funds established under the Indenture and the timely payment in full of the Bonds.

Section 3. The School Board approves, ratifies, and confirms all action heretofore taken by officers and other persons on behalf of the School District in connection with the undertakings herein contemplated.

Section 4. All resolutions of the School District or parts of resolutions of the School District to the extent inconsistent herewith shall be and the same hereby are rescinded, canceled and annulled.

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

President

Secretary

(SEAL)

Date

Ms. Harris moved second by Ms. Patla to approve Resolution #1

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020**

Mr. Quinn presented Resolution #2

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS, the recent death of **Cliff Jones** has brought sorrow to his family, friends, and all who knew him, and;

WHEREAS, he was a 1976 graduate of James M. Coughlin High School, and continued his education at Wilkes University graduating in 1980. He taught Social Studies in Wilkes-Barre Area School District for 35 years and most recently was an Athletic Director. During his career, he also coached football, baseball, basketball and track and field. He was the current President of the Wyoming Valley Conference Athletic Executive Council and had been the secretary/treasurer for the Wyoming Valley Swim Conference, a member of the Wyoming Valley Conference Football Scheduling Steering Committee, the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association and the Wyoming Valley Conference/PIAA Power Rating Steering Committee.

WHEREAS, Cliff was, above all, a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Janice, for 39 years.

WHEREAS, his passing on August 16, 2020 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 to his wife, Janice; and his daughters, Jennifer and Jaclyn and to his entire family.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
August 31, 2020
2

Mr. Caffrey presented Resolution #3

RESOLUTION #3

WHEREAS, the recent death of **Samantha Thomas** has brought sorrow to her family, friends, and all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, she graduated with honors and distinction in 2005 from G.A.R. High School. Samantha was the Salutarian, a cheerleader, an athlete and active in her community. She went on to study Pre-Law at East Stroudsburg University and in 2012 graduated from The Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California where she practiced law and worked part time in the food and beverage industry; and

WHEREAS, she was the daughter of Jeffrey Thomas, Sr., maintenance employee of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, and Christine Roccograndi-Thomas; niece of Denise Thomas, member of the Wilkes-Barre Area Board of Education; granddaughter of the late Anthony and Terry Gonda-Thomas, Sr., Virginia Roccograndi, the late Carlo Roccograndi, and

WHEREAS, her passing on June 16, 2020 will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved her.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that her 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 to her father, Jeffrey; brothers, Carlo Anthony and Jeffrey, Jr.; niece, Arden Jade Thomas; nephew, Cole Michael Thomas; uncle, Tony Thomas; and aunts, Lisa and Denise and to her entire family.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
August 31, 2020
3

New Business

Ms. Thomas made a motion for the School Board Secretary to place a vote for the following PSBA officers: President – David Hein; Vice President – Sabrina Backer; Treasurer – Michael Gossert; PSBA Insurance Trustees – Marianne Neel and Michael Faccinetto; Forum Steering Committee – Stephen Skrocki and Tracy Long.

All in favor: 9 Ayes

Dr. Costello I am asking the Board to consider to make a motion approving a plan to be submitted to the Department of Education regarding Flexible Instruction Days. These days can be used up to five (5) times and would be used during inclement weather so that instruction be taught virtually and we wouldn't miss a day of education.

Motion by Rev. Walker second by Ms. Thomas.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Atty. Wendolowski Requesting a motion to approve the **Athletic Waiver/Liability Form** to be completed by the parents of all athletic participants.

Motion by Ms. Patla second by Rev. Walker

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Communications from Solicitor

Requests approval for the retention of Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consultant, Inc. for the inspection of the re-roof project at Kistler Elementary School at a cost of \$11,956 plus authorization for up to fifteen (15) inspections at \$300 per visit for a total of \$4,500.

Motion by Ms. Harris second by Mr. Atherton

The vote was as follows:

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

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
August 31, 2020

Requests a motion to authorize the Solicitor to move forward with the process regarding the sale of the Grant Street property at an offer price of \$23,000, which is the highest offer received on that parcel to date.

Motion by Rev. Walker second by Ms. Patla

On the question: Mr. Atherton - What does the buyer plan to do with the property?

Atty. Wendolowski: He is planning to construct multi-family housing on the R3 zoned property.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.