

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 4, 2024

Board President Joseph Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

8 Members Present: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

President Caffrey – The chair wishes to announce the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of April 4, 2024. The subjects discussed in the Executive Session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Board meetings on March 11, 2024 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by Ms. Thomas seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 11, 2024.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Brian Costello announced that our Act 80 days were rescheduled for Monday, April 8th. Otherwise, students would be dismissing at the time of the eclipse.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Mike Krzywicki reviewed the recent water quality testing completed at our schools. Of 200-300 faucets tested only 2 did not pass. Both have been turned off until a permanent solution is determined.

He also shared a concern about people walking their dogs at Solomon and not cleaning up after them. It will be discussed at the next Building Maintenance Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Joe Caffrey shared that we are excited to host the LIU Field Day at our stadium on May 16, 2024. He also shared that tomorrow night, we are hosting the Dr. Moses Senior Allstar Game. Proceeds from the game go back to the community.

Rev. Shawn Walker that his company is mentoring a group of fantastic kids from our high school. "We are mentoring these kids, but sometimes I think they should be mentoring us." He also shared the one student, Mann Patel was awarded the Presidential Scholarship from King's College. The scholarship is a full ride.

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 4, 2024

Mr. Arthur Breese announced that GAR will be having their Multicultural Event on Saturday, April 6th from 12:00 to 2:00.

Dr. Costello shared that the art of our CAPAA students is on display at the Circle Center for the Arts in downtown Wilkes-Barre right now. There will be another opportunity to visit the display on Saturday.

Mr. Ned Evans shared with the group a piece of art that was given to him to display at the high school.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

No Citizens

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22 at 6:30. On March 26th, the CTC held its 2nd Annual Trade Fair. This year they added even more trades. Over 1,000 students attended.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Faust – April 15th is the next board meeting and graduation has been set for May 22nd.

CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

No report

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 4, 2024

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE

TO: The President and Members of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board

The Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Committee respectfully submits the following reports and recommendations:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer's Reports for February 2024. **"Exhibit A"**

B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #3211 to #3243; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202300432 to #202300444 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on March 11, 2024.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #62515 to #62553 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202300401 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202312290 and # 202312307 Food Service Checks #3937 to #3946 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on March 11, 2024 be approved.

D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #62554 to #62646 listed on the following pages, which have been inspected, be approved and that order be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

Motion by Rev Walker seconded by Ms. Thomas

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Mark Atherton shared that our boys' volleyball team recently beat Holy Redeemer in a very exciting meet.

SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans – The next meeting will be next Thursday.

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 4, 2024

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report

Building Maintenance

Mr. Faust – Our Committee met on March 25th at Dan Flood Elementary and reviewed HVAC, ceiling and lighting project.

Facilities Transition

Attorney Ray Wendolowski shared that by time we have our May meeting, we should be closed on the Meyers sale.

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Breese shared that suicide is the third leading cause of death of children, and children of color are twice as likely to die by suicide. He also shared that he met Jill Price from Wilkes University who will meet with the committee.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Attorney Wendolowski shared that we would like to add an addendum affecting volunteer coaches. No funds are involved.

Motion to amend the agenda to add the addendum by Mr. Faust seconded by Ms. Thomas
The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

TO: The President and Members of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board

The Personnel Committee respectfully submits the following report and recommendations.

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

A. Professionals

1. That the retirement of **Colleen Yanora** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 4, 2024

2. That **Lauren Letteer's** request for an unpaid leave from April 30, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year be accepted.

B. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the retirement of **Margaret Skrypski** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
2. That the resignation of **Courtney Wender** be accepted.
3. That the resignation of **Destiny Cabreja** be accepted effective March 11, 2024.
4. That **Phyllis Brown's** request for an unpaid leave from January 27, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year be accepted.
5. That **Maureen Metzger's** request for an unpaid leave from March 10, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year be accepted.
6. That **Mayra Martinez's** request for an unpaid leave from April 12, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year be accepted.
7. That **Patricia Kondracki's** request for an unpaid leave from April 30, 2024 through May 7, 2024 be accepted.
8. That **Rachely Rosa** be appointed an ESL Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week.
9. That **Nyasha Walters** be appointed Full-Time Long-Term Substitute ESL Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week for the remainder of the 2023-2024 School.

C. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. The Board agrees to waive **James Jones'** three month written notification as stated in the WBA Custodial/Maintenance Educational Support Personnel Association agreement. The Board further agrees to accept James' retirement effective April 1, 2024.
2. That **Vincent Breese** be appointed Head Custodian.
3. That **Richard Colorusso** be appointed Head Custodian.

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 4, 2024**

4. That **Dawn Raggi** be appointed Head Custodian.
5. That **Mary Ann Susek** be appointed Head Custodian.

D. Crossing Guard

1. That **Patricia Peter's** request for an unpaid leave from January 29, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year be accepted.
2. That **Shiara Cruz** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard effective March 11, 2024.

E. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Mandi Zawadzki** as Softball Junior High Assistant Coach be accepted effective March 8, 2024.
2. The following appointments are made for the sports 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.

Softball Junior High Assistant Coach

Breanna Kijak

Track & Field Junior High Assistant Coach

Anthony Dates

ADDENDUM

A. Professionals

3. That the resignation of **Nicole Berlew** be accepted effective April 5, 2024.

B. Athletics

1. The following appointments are made for the sports 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.

Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach

Kyle Evans

Track & Field Volunteer Assistant Coach

Ruben Bourdeau

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 4, 2024

Motion by Dr. Susek seconded by Ms. Thomas

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese (**abstain C2**), Evans, Faust, Susek (**abstain C5**), Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

NEW BUSINESS

No news business

Communications from Solicitor

No Report

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Susek seconded by Mr. Atherton

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Meeting adjourned 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Telesz
Board Secretary