

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2022**

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Caffrey introduced District Magistrate Joseph Spagnuolo to administer the Oath of Office to Arthur W. Breese as he fulfills the term of the late Therese Schiowitz.

Board Secretary, Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

9 Members Present: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

President Caffrey:

- Introduced Mike Namey, Athletic Director who presented the WVC District Girls Basketball Champions. Coach Mushock-Namey and several team members presented the trophy to Dr. Costello.
- The Chair announced the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of April 11, 2022. The subjects discussed in these Executive Sessions 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 held on March 14, 2022 dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by Ms. Thomas seconded by Ms. Harris

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello – Good Evening everyone. I am very excited to present the following announcement. In our ongoing effort to provide additional opportunities to help our students succeed, the Wilkes-Barre Area School District is excited to announce the expansion of early learning services for children 4 years old. A free program will be available for WBASD families beginning in September 2022.

Our goal is to increase academic readiness for our future kindergarten students by hosting the new Wolfpack Early Learning Academy through the expansion of our relationship with Building Blocks Learning Center. The need for this program was identified by stakeholders as a priority in planning the appropriate use of the ARP ESSER funds.

The Wolfpack Early Learning Academy will be located at the former Dodson Elementary School on 80 Jones Street, Wilkes-Barre. Parents and community members can learn more at an upcoming informational session.

Pre-registration sessions for Wolfpack Learning Academy will be on Wednesday, April 20th at the following times: 8am - 10am; 1pm - 2pm; 5pm – 7pm at the Dodson building located at 80 Jones

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Street, Wilkes-Barre. Anyone interested in learning more about the Wolfpack Early Learning Academy is invited to attend one of these sessions. All information will be posted on our website.

Graduation has been set for Friday, June 10 at 12:00 pm and will be held at the High School.

As we are moving forward with the Budget, I would like to commend the Board and Tom Telesz for continuing to put us in a situation where in the last three or four years we have had financial stability. Because of this, we can really focus on academics and improving our facilities. It has now allowed us to take the next step to build a stronger foundation with the Early Learning Academy and continuing to provide additional resources for all of our students.

APOLLO REPORT/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mike Krzywicki - Meyers High School - The air conditioning units have been removed from the windows and all the windows have been closed.

Flood Elementary – Requested quotes for pre-cast concrete steps for the main entrance and Guthrie Field has been prepped for the season.

Heights-Murray Elementary – The Switchgear replacement has been scheduled for the summer of 2022.

Solomon/Plains Complex – Projectors and projector screens are being installed on the elementary side. Cold patch was placed in various potholes around the parking lot. They will need to be permanently repaired over the summer. Roof replacement on the Field House began on April 4. Repairs to the sidewalks on the Abbott Street side has begun. Backstop padding, a new bench and a second base was installed on the softball field and both fields were dragged.

Dodson Building – A section of steam piping was replaced. We commenced the cleaning and painting of the lobby, offices, restrooms, classroom and cafeteria.

GAR Middle School – We are continuing to replace ceiling tiles. We requested a quote for architectural services for a partial roof replacement, HVAC upgrades and interior finishes.

WBA High School – PADOT improvements at Abbott Street have been completed with the exception of the turning lanes. We are waiting for the results of the updated traffic study.

Sitework contractor has begun to complete their punch list items.

Building Shell Contractors has continued to complete the remaining work and address their punch list items.

The HVAC Contractor has continued to address their punch list items.

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The Landscaping Contractors will complete their punch list items during the spring planting season.

Weather Bug has installed a weather station and camera on the high school roof.

Stadium Project – The Sitework Contractor has continued site grading, installation of underground utilities, and commenced installation of bleacher foundations on the Visitor and Home side.

Phase 2 design has commenced including the fieldhouse and ticket booths.

Ms. Harris – Do we anticipate any delays in the stadium project due to the shortage of supplies?

Mike Krzywicki – We do not anticipate a shortage for the field supplies. However, we do not know about the Field House/Ticket Booths because it has not gone out for bid.

Ms. Thomas – Is there a way to speed up the GAR roof repair process?

Dr. Costello – We hope by the next meeting to have an architect proposal for HVAC, roofing, drain pipe, windows and flooring. We have just received approval for the ESSER funding so we will be able to move forward with these projects.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Thomas – the free insulin program is on the move. A representative from Florida was here last week and was very impressed with the school. There will be a fund raiser on June 4 at the SWB Railriders game to assist in funding this program.

COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre

Apologized to Mr. Quinn for the comment made to him as he was leaving the meeting in March.

Asked how the District is saving money with the construction of the new high school. Has the District seen new academic success within the new high school?

Questioned the contract for additional nursing services for students.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Quinn – The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022.

Atty. Wendolowski requested to adjourn the meeting for a brief Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. The meeting re-convened at 7:40 p.m.

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Atty. Wendolowski stated that he had received additional information regarding an Agenda item that needed to be shared with the Board prior to their vote on that item.

Mr. Evans presented the following Curriculum/Administration Committee report and recommendations for the Board’s approval.

1. That approval be to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and AVEANNA Health Care, to provide home health aide services through June 30, 2022 at the rates listed below. **“EXHIBIT A”**

Home Health Aide	\$30,00 per hour
1:1 Nursing RN	\$60.00 per hour
1:1 Nursing LPN	\$60.00 per hour

2. That approval be given to enter into a Placement Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Wyoming Valley West School District, 450 North Maple Avenue, Kingston, Pennsylvania to provide educational services for student, AE. **“EXHIBIT B”**
3. That the 2022-2023 school calendar be adopted.

**WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

September 1, 2022.....	Act 80/Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 6, 2022.....	Act 80/Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 7, 2022.....	Student First Day – School Opens
October 10, 2022.....	Columbus Day
November 11, 2022.....	Veteran’s Day
November 14-18, 2022.....	American Education Week
November 24-28, 2022.....	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 5-16, 2022.....	Keystone State Exams Wave 1
December 26-January 2, 2023.....	Christmas Vacation
January 3, 2023.....	School Re-Opens
January 16, 2023.....	Martin Luther King Day
January 31, 2023.....	Second Semester Begins
February 13, 2023.....	Act 80/Professional Development
February 20, 2023.....	President’s Day
March 3, 2023.....	Act 80/Professional Development
April 6-10, 2023.....	Easter Vacation
April 24 – May 12, 2023.....	PSSA Testing
May 15-26, 2023.....	Keystone Exams
May 29, 2023.....	Memorial Day
June 9, 2023.....	Last Student Day
June 9, 2023.....	Graduation Day
June 12, 2023.....	Clerical, Evaluation, Planning Day

*All dates listed that school is not in session are potential make-up days

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4. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Rhithm, Inc., PO Box 77256, Fort Worth, TX beginning May 29, 2022 through June 31, 2027 at a one-time fee of \$101,250.00 for a social, emotional survey tool for all students. **“EXHIBIT C”**

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

The vote was as follows:

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

1 Abstain: Breese

Rev. Walker presented the following Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Committee report and recommendations for the Board’s approval.

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer’s Report for February 2022. **“EXHIBIT D”**
2. Capital Projects – That approval be given to the below listed payments.

A2.1	Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 52	\$1,072.94
A2.2	Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 36	\$8,032.74
A2.3	Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 33	\$16,876.64
A2.4	Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 34	\$688,715.00
A2.5	Stell Enterprises, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 25	\$29,268.60
A2.6	Amazon Business	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #1PMF-HWVF-1J6F	\$1,349.00
A2.7	Stone Office, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #61749	\$15,115.69
A2.8	Apollo Group, Inc.	Stadium Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 6	\$16,637.22
A2.9	ARM Group, LLC	Stadium Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #0003750	\$1,170.00
A2.10	Geo-Science Engineering & Testing	Stadium Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 0003902	\$4,659.50
A2.11	Otis Elevator	Heights-Murray Elevator Repair	Capital Projects	App. No.1	\$20,499.00

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3. That approval be given to reimburse the following Parent/Guardians for transporting their child to and from school at the current IRS mileage rate:

Kathleen Thomas 452 E. Saylor Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

4. That approval be given to ratify the following Capital Projects check:

VENDOR	CHECK #	AMOUNT
Bonner Chevrolet Co., Inc.	607	\$47,457.90

B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #2473 to #2505; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202100652 to #202100666 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on March 14, 2022.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #58124 to #58167 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202111867 to #202111887 and Food Service Checks #3713 to #3728 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on March 14, 2022 be approved.

D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #58168 to #58289 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.

E. CONTRACTED SERVICES

1. That approval be given to Change Order #27 for Quandel Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$3,790.16. The Change Order consists of the following:

Provide thumb latches on restroom doors	\$3,790.16
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2. That approval be given to Change Order #009 for Scranton Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of \$37,305.78. The Change Order consists of the following:

Fire smoke damper and smoke detector wiring	\$39,600.47
Replace shieves & belts on (12) fume hoods	\$6,371.34
Credit for auditorium balancing performed on T&M	(\$8,666.03)

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3. That approval be given to Change Order #022 for Stell Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$12,288.75 The Change Order consists of the following:

Snow Plowing – February 2022	\$12,288.75
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4. That approval be given to Change Order #06 for Keystone Sports Construction in the amount of \$254,413.60 The Change Order consists of the following:

Electrical Building as per Panzitta Quote for \$229,800.00	\$257,376.00
VE Option 1-8" Split Face in lieu of 8: CMU back-up & FW15 Utility Brick	(\$16,800.00)
VE Option 2 – Remove interior paint from SOW	(\$806.40)
Install (2) 1.5" PVC spare conduits to ticket Booth A, (2) 1.5" PVC spare conduits to Ticket Booth B and (8) 2.5" Spare conduits from fieldhouse to (2) 13" x 24" x 18" handholes	\$14,644.00

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt the Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Committee Report.

On the question:

Ms. Thomas – Can we buy our own equipment to plow the snow at the High School? Please explain figures listed in E4.

Dr. Costello – We did purchase a truck to provide this service and will begin doing our own snow removal next year. Mr. Telesz noted we did order the truck, but it is on back order. Regarding E4 - this is for the room to house the electrical system for the stadium. There are two phases to the stadium project. One is the field/track and bleachers – the other is the field house/ticket booths/electrical room. We are merging the two together so we have the housing for the electricity and use of the field prior to the field house/ticket booths being completed.

Ms. Harris – Is it possible to remove the name and/or address for the Parent Transportation approvals?

Atty. Wendolowski – We can use the parent's initials.

The vote was as follows:

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

1 Abstain: Breese

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – Next year we will begin a female wrestling program.

SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE – We purchased a car and a 4x4 to allow the Resource Officers the ability to drive around the perimeter of the High School. The number of incident reports in the high school are lower compared to the incidents when there were three high schools.

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

FACILITIES/TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Ms. Thomas requested a motion to TABLE Item #1 on the Facilities/Transition Committee Report.

1. ~~That approval be given to the Purchase and Sales Agreement of the property located at 341 Carey Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA with the terms and conditions as listed in the Agreement at a purchase price of \$2,100,000. “EXHIBIT E” TABLED~~

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Rev. Walker to TABLE the Facilities Transition Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

**7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Susek, Walker, Caffrey
1 Nay: Thomas
1 Abstain: Breese**

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Ms. Thomas - the next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13 at 1:30 pm. I would like to welcome Mr. Breese to the committee.

POLICY COMMITTEE

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

1. That the following policy be revised:
 - 2021-2022 Wilkes-Barre Area School District Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy. **“EXHIBIT F”**

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Policy Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

**7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey
1 Abstain: Breese**

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Susek presented the following Personnel Committee 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. Agreement

1. That the "Summer Program 21-22" agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Wilkes-Barre Area Education Association be approved. **"EXHIBIT G"**

B. Professionals

1. That the retirement of **Christopher Gray** be accepted effective February 1, 2022.
2. That the retirement of **Michelle Rogan** be accepted effective the last day of the 2021-2022 school year.
3. That the retirement of **Catherine Richards** be accepted effective the last day of the 2021-2022 school year.
4. That the retirement of **Darlene Payne** be accepted effective the last day of the 2021-2022 school year.
5. That the retirement of **Donna Christian** be accepted effective the 30th school day of the 2022-2023 school year.
6. That **Jessica DeAngelo's** request for a sabbatical for the 2022-2023 school year be approved.
7. That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions effective March 18, 2022 at a rate of \$35.00 per hour. RAISE and A-TSI assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE and A-TSI tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

RAISE After School Program

Melanie Costantino
Laura Zawatsky
Annette Delasandro

A-TSI After School Program

Jacquelyn Miles
Amy Wargo-Secor

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8. That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions at a rate of \$35.00 per hour.

P2G Implementation Team-GAR MS- Mentor

John Allen
Sarah Edwards
Kelly Keating-Ball
Tammy Levandowski
Tanya Martin-Kirkutis
Elizabeth Witczak

C. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the resignation of **Migdalia Roldan** be accepted effective March 18, 2022.
2. That **Judy Rosengrant's** request for unpaid leave from April 25, 2022 through April 29, 2022 be accepted.
3. That **Derrick West** be appointed Full Time ESL Teacher's Aide (Paraprofessional/PCA) effective April 1, 2022.
4. That **Darrian Tyson** be appointed Full Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA).
5. That **Louis Lyons** be appointed Full Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA).
6. That **Catherine Appel Semanek** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
7. That **Geizamar Santana** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
8. That _____ be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. **TABLED**
9. That _____ be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. **TABLED**

D. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. That the retirement of **Rhonda Hagenbaugh** be accepted effective March 25, 2022.
2. That **Anne Leo's** request for unpaid leave from March 22, 2022 through March 30, 2022 be accepted.
3. That **Savitrie Kumar** be appointed ESSER Custodian- with a position termination date of August 31, 2024.

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E. Crossing Guards

1. That the resignation of **Jesse Carter** be accepted effective March 28, 2022.
2. That **John Diaco** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard.
3. That **Monica Moses** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard.
4. That _____ be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard. **TABLED**

F. Security Greeters

1. That **Len Witzak's** request for unpaid leave from April 6, 2022 through April 13, 2022 be accepted.
2. That **Paul Deziniski** be appointed a Security Greeter.

G. Athletics

1. That the retirement of **Pat Toole** as Varsity Basketball Head Coach be accepted effective March 26, 2022.
2. That the resignation of **Anthony Mercadante** as Wrestling Varsity Associate Head Coach be accepted effective March 25, 2022 and would like to remain a volunteer assistant coach.
3. That the resignation of **Jill Pesotski-Timek** as Varsity Field Hockey Assistant Coach be accepted effective March 22, 2022.
4. That the resignation of **Anthony Dates** as Cross Country/Track & Field Junior High Head Coach be accepted at the completion of the 2022 Spring Sports Season.
5. That the resignation of **Hannah Cook** as Girls Basketball Junior High Assistant Coach be accepted on March 31, 2022.
6. 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.

Boys Basketball Varsity Head Coach

~~Football Varsity 2nd Assistant Coach~~

Football Junior High Head Coach

Baseball Junior High Assistant Coach

Cross Country/Track & Field Junior High Assistant Coach

Cross Country/Track & Field Volunteer Assistant Coach

Cross Country/Track & Field Volunteer Assistant Coach

James Lavan

TABLED

Christopher Cinti

Ronald Peguero

Ruben Bourdeau

Paul Michael Horvath

Janssen Wilborn

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Personnel Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Abstain: Breese

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Mr. Atherton presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION NO. 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INITIATION OF EMINENT DOMAIN
PROCEEDINGS TO ACQUIRE TITLE TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE
TOWNSHIP OF PLAINS, COUNTY OF LUZERNE AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE PUBLIC
PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The Board of Directors of and for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, meeting in regular session, makes the following findings of fact:

WHEREAS, the Administration Building of the District located at 730 South Main St. Wilkes Barre Pennsylvania is in a deteriorated state that is functionally obsolete and does not serve the needs of the stakeholders of the District. The building requires millions of dollars in renovations and, even with those renovations, lacks the parking necessary to serve the needs of the District's stakeholders;

WHEREAS, the District has conducted a thorough and diligent search for possible sites within the District to house the District Administration;

WHEREAS, the real property located on Maffett Street in Plains Township, directly across from the entrance to the newly constructed Wilkes Barre Area High School, is the ideal location for housing the District Administration. The property is centrally located in the District and has space for sufficient parking to serve the District's stakeholders. The property is owned by Russin Properties, LLC, a Pennsylvania Limited Liability Company, the premises being conveyed by Deed of Basil Lynch, Executor of the Estate of Keith S. Russin, dated December 30, 2019 and recorded in Luzerne County Record Book 3020, at page 1377, and is currently believed to be vacant; and

WHEREAS, the use of eminent domain by the Board of Directors of Wilkes-Barre Area School District, is necessary to obtain title to this property to relocate the District Administration and that this is a proper public purpose under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of Wilkes-Barre Area School District, as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Directors of Wilkes-Barre Area School District recognizes that the use of eminent domain to acquire the real property on Maffett Street, will provide a public benefit to the students, parents, employees, visitors and all other stakeholders of the District.

Section 2. The Superintendent, Secretary and the Solicitor are authorized and directed to take all actions they determine to be appropriate to exercise the rights of the Board of Directors of Wilkes-Barre Area School District in eminent domain pursuant to the laws of the

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as to that real property identified on Exhibit "A", which is attached hereto and incorporated here by this reference, to obtain fee simple absolute title to the subject real property.

DULY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District this 11th day of April, 2022.

Mr. Atherton moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt Resolution #1.

The vote was as follows:

**7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey
1 Abstain: Breese**

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Thomas – The ribbon cutting ceremony at the Pack Shack was wonderful. This is a great opportunity for our students to purchase affordable merchandise. Very proud of our Business Academy for taking on a great project. I was also honored to be invited to take part of a Podcast.

Ms. Harris – We have partnered with the Educational Opportunity Center. This is senior focused program and they work with students two days a week to assist with college applications, financial aid and scholarships. They also run FAFSA events three times a year. There are classroom presentations on Careers/Post-Secondary. Fifty-seven of our students participated in the Clifton Strengths Programs which is a 3-part series to help students identify their individual strengths and then access and use them to be successful students and in the world. They have a Medical Mentorship Program that is held once a month. There is an Engineering Expectations Programs held once a month led by King's College engineering students and students also participated in Engineering Day at Wilkes University. They also have programs for careers in Business and the Arts; a wellness program and a tutoring program to help students prepare for the SAT and CLEP exams. These are wonderful opportunities being made available for our students

**Motion to adjourn by Dr. Susek, seconded by Ms. Thomas.
The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.**