

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
June 24, 2019**

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**Board President Joseph A. Caffrey** called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**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, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**President Caffrey stated:**

- The Chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of June 24, 2019.
- 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 Meetings of April 29, 2019 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

**Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Ms. Patla** to adopt the above-mentioned Minutes. The vote was as follows:

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Thomas F. Telesz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary**, presented the Treasurer's Report ending May 31, 2019

**WILKES-BARE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES  
MONTH ENDING MAY 30, 2019**

**GENERAL FUND**

	\$	
1 GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(1,695,381.75)	
2 GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB		23,235,357.45
3 FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB		780,781.09
4 FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB		782,618.35
5 FNB BANK		452,457.21
6 FNB BANK		75,394.77
7 JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT		1,734,558.41
8 PNC BANK		390,317.62
9 LPL FINANCIAL		831,572.97
1		
0 EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB		32,436.25
1		
1 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1		12,099.93
1		
2 REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB		-
1		
3 LANDMARK CD		472,030.69
1		
4 PLGIT EIT		848,700.11
1		
5 ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK		221,434.90
1		
6 PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB		1,750,450.61

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1  
7 PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB -

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND** \$ **29,924,828.61**

**CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS**

1  
8 2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB \$ 6,518,440.12

1  
9 PNC BANK INVESTMENT 2,579,726.91

2  
0 2019 BOND ISSUE 125,786,747.45

2  
1 PLGIT CASH RESERVE 1,776,699.18

**TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS** \$ **136,661,613.66**

**FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY**

**TRUST FUNDS:**

2  
2 WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK \$ 121,305.21

2  
3 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE 347,644.04

**AGENCY FUNDS:**

2  
4 ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK 146,311.47

2  
5 SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK 356,624.88

**TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS** \$ **971,885.60**

**PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE**

2  
5 FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank \$ 3,117,747.79

**TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE** \$ **3,117,747.79**

**DEBT SERVICE FUND**

2  
6 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE \$ 9,685.12

**TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND** \$ **9,685.12**

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**Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Rev. Walker** to adopt the Treasurer's Report ending on May 31, 2019. The vote was as follows:

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Costello presented Certificates of Recognition to the following students: **Athletics:** Jolene Ulichney, Ali Tedek, Nazir Dunell; **FBLA:** Patrick Frankiewicz and Tio Marelllo; **Speech and Debate:** Sam Conklin, Tio Marelllo, Michael Deutsch-Jones, Ames Rupnick and Kevin Welles.

Good Evening. We will be starting a new committee this year based on our current curriculum that is taking place. That committee will begin replacing textbooks within the District. A lot of our books are outdated and not meeting the needs of our students. We have already started that process as you will see in the Agenda.

Also, in speaking with our Cheerleading coach and assistant coach it was brought to my attention that the school district does not participate in purchasing uniforms for the Cheerleaders. It has been something our cheerleaders had to take on themselves with fundraising projects. Since we are moving into a new direction with consolidation, I would ask the Board to take into consideration some of the costs the girls will be dealing with and see if there is a way to offset their costs. At this time there isn't any Booster Club money that has come over from Coughlin, GAR or Meyers. Therefore, the girls are left with a zero balance and are continually fundraising.

Next year we will be completing our one to one initiative with Chromebooks. That means all student grades three through twelve will have access to a Chromebook.

At this time, I would like to make a brief Budget presentation. This is a snapshot of our District taken from data that has been submitted to the state. As you can see, the General Fund balance in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 our fund balance was in good standing and was above the state average. However between 2013 and 2015 that fund balance began paying for our expenditures and was depleted. In 2015-16, the Board came up with the difficult decision to develop a pathway and to approve a plan that would begin to restore stability to the District. As you can see from the trend, although we took this huge dive, we are starting to restore this fund balance.

Another important item to realize is the overall average for all PA public school districts populations are showing a decline in public schools as that line drops continuously through the 2015-2016 to 2017-2018 school years. However, the Wilkes-Barre Area School District has not declined in our ratio – we have gained. One of the things that has changed within our student count is the number of special education students we serve. The average is around 14% up to 22% of the population registering is special education/needs. These students not only require additional support but a lot of it is mandated.

As you can see in 2018, our debt service is extremely low and is absolutely below the state average. One of the things that will take place in 2021 when we have the new school, our debt service will increase. However, that new increase will be at 6.75%. Even in 2021, we will still be below the state average of debt service.

Unfortunately, the current fund balance is at 4.2% of the revenue. We need and we should have approximately an 8% fund balance. That is our goal. What the fund balance actually means is that for one month if something catastrophic happened to our district, for instance, the State did not pass a budget, or there was a situation where we needed to pay for expenses, that would allow us to get through one month. When we talk about 8% we aren't talking about a savings that will get us through a couple of months or years, it will be one month worth of bills that we would be able to pay. As you can see from other Districts, we are below where they have their fund balance.

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A cost mandated to us is about 7.8% of our budget goes to charter schools – both brick and mortar charter schools as well as cyber charter schools. This is well above the state average. We don't have the ability to control charter or cyber charter schools fees. However, we do have the ability to control salary and benefits.

In 2015 the District peaked in regards to salaries and benefits which were above the state average. Since 2015 -2016 when the District committed to Pathway to the Future we now have brought those back down. This year and moving forward we are below the average.

**Tom Telesz, Business Manager presented the Revenue.**

We receive a little over \$17,000 per student where all other district's are over \$18,000. We receive about \$1,500 less per student than other district's. Where does our revenue sources come from? There are three sources: local, state and federal. Our local revenue which consists of all our taxes that we issue which is about 53% of the budget, the state contributes about 43% and federal allocation is approximately 4%.

Where does the local revenue come from? About 85% comes from real estate taxes. Earned income tax is about 7% and everything else is around 1% or less.

**Brian Costello continued to explain the Revenue.** Our Real Estate taxes come through all municipalities. Wilkes-Barre is about 43% of all real estate taxes. Our other municipalities – WB Twp., Plains Twp., Laurel Run, Laffin Buck Twp., Bear Creek and Bear Creek Village they make up the remaining 57%. Our real estate taxes by revenue means that in our District we are currently generating about \$8,174 per student. One of our goals is to reduce the burden on our taxpayers. One of the things we are aware of is our tax rate is one of the higher in Luzerne County than most school districts. Yet we still fall below the state average of generating funds.

We receive about 53% of our state revenue through the Basic Education Funding formula. With that formula, as we are aware, we are 33 million dollars underfunded annually. There are other districts in the state of Pennsylvania that are fully funded but that is not us.

In our expenditures you can see salaries, supplies and benefits. These are some of the expenditures we can control. For instructional expenditures we are above state average as to what we bring in and spend on instructional purposes.

Support services we are well below on the state average. What is a support service? Our central administration offices, building principals, and the superintendent are considered administrative support services. As you can see, we are well below the state averages. Our Business Dept. and Purchasing as a whole are also below the state averages. Operations and maintenance, what it cost to maintain our buildings, we are slightly above the state average. One of the reasons for that is because of the number of buildings within our District that we need to operate and maintain. With consolidation we will be able to control that and bring that number back down. Transportation expenditures and other support services. We are well below the state average for transportation. When we do move to the new consolidated school and increase our bus service we will still be below the state average. Non-instructional expenditures would be sports and activities. We are pretty much in line with the state averages but next year will decrease and moving forward will be below the state average.

What has taken place is we have a budget that has received an increase of about 2.6 million dollars or a 2.1% increase. For our expenditures we have to find a way to generate revenue to pay for that 2.1% increase. What makes up that increase? There is an increase in salaries and benefits; professional services; and tuitions. All of that adds up to 3.1 million dollars. However, with our sports consolidation we were able to save approximately \$600,000. Which brings that net to a 2.5 million dollar increase. We needed to go to the local revenue to generate 1.2 million dollars and through our state revenue we have put in 100% of the Governor's budget of 1.3 million dollars and we are hoping that comes through. Obviously if the state, which we have no control over, does not move forward with their budget then we would be in a situation where we would have to find other ways to generate that revenue.

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One of the things that is important for us is to show we do not want to continue to raise taxes. I want to be one hundred percent clear on that. Our opportunity to raise taxes to our index is at 3.2%. In December we are allowed to ask to exceed our index and go above that baseline. We chose not to do that. We believe we were able to work within the 3.2 matrix. Within our pathway we were able to project the 2.1 million dollars that we would need to generate. With our sports consolidation and also control salaries and benefits not to exceed what we had set, we would not have to go to the 3.2% but bring that down a whole point to 2.2%. What that 2.2% increase means on an average property value is about a \$29.00 increase.

One of our goals as we move forward, I continually give this Board credit for doing what many school districts have not, tackle a situation and move us in a positive direction while controlling our costs. Moving forward the one thing we want to do is bring down the tax rate. I'm hopeful next year we can lower that with additional assistance from the state.

Thank you for your time.

**Apollo Report**

**Mike Krzywicki: District Maintenance Plan – GAR Cafeteria Floor** – the manufacturer has recommended application of an additional coat of Armorseal 8100 with anti-slip additive. **Meyers Monitoring Structure/Walkway/Tunnel** – I performed the monthly inspection of the areas where settlement has been observed. There has been no major movement since last inspection. **New High School Project** – Sitework Contractor has continued site grading, bringing the building pad to subgrade elevation, cut trees along Maffett Street and completed installation of temporary water service. Building Shell Contractor has continued installation of foundation system and commenced backfill where foundations have been installed. Topsoil and seeding has been completed on approximately 6.5 acres where stockpile soil was placed.

**Old Business - None**

**Communications from Citizens:**

**Sam Troy:**

Permission from the Board for an extra two minutes. **Board response:** You have five minutes. I am very perturbed and dismayed at the fact that there is going to be another property tax increase. I do appreciate the rejection of the preliminary budget by Ms. Patla and Dr. Susek. I assume you will be voting the same way on this budget. I have a few ...because it contains a property tax increase; because of the situation in the school district residents and taxpayers struggling to make ends meet. I feel it is an abomination...for as far as I can remember taxes have gone up. It's a fiasco – not because taxes are going up but because you people on the Board you have not given this budget due diligence or the attention it should get because of the affects on taxpayers. Some of you obviously lack that important quality called empathy. If you had empathy you would not be voting for this budget. I urge the Board, first of all the way this is listed here is ambiguous that this resolution is going to be voted on. It is a guessing game. It should be stated clearly that this budget is going to be voted on. If this budget is going to be voted on there should be a separate comment period for the budget. All other school districts do this. I would like to advocate for a few minutes. I know the school district collect a small percentage of the mercantile and business tax revenues. Can the school district increase mercantile tax revenues and Business Privilege tax revenues? **Response:** I don't believe we can. I'm trying to determine if this Board is sincere about not raising property taxes as Dr. Costello had stated. Rev. Walker since you are the chairperson of the finance committee, did you give this budget due diligence? Did you ever think for a minute of increasing the Mercantile or Business Privilege tax? Sixty-six percent of the people of Wilkes-Barre City are struggling to make ends meet – do you think by passing this budget you are going to make their lives easier? No. It doesn't affect every individual I agree. Not everyone is a homeowner. Many people are going to be affected regardless if there is a Homestead Act Exclusion or not. Did you look at this budget to see where percentages can be cut or find additional resources as I had mentioned or perhaps an amusement tax on concerts. Do you people care?

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**Rev. Walker response:** We did debate this at length as to whether we could and/or should reduce the tax percentage from 3.2% to 2.2%. What we concluded was that although it would negatively, long term, impact the District millions of dollars over a decades time frame. While only benefiting the taxpayer a few hundred dollars. We decided, because it was the right thing to do, to reduce it to 2.2%. So the District over a decade is losing multiple millions of dollars so that our taxpayers can save hundreds of dollars. So we certainly did debate that it was the right thing to do. Thank you for your concern.

**Jason Carr:**

I understand the fund balance is at four percent and you need eight percent. What is that difference in dollars? **Response:** \$5 million. We are looking at tax increases over the next 3 to 5 years to make up that difference? **Response:** Right now our strategy is we are looking at the expenditures that we can control that are not mandated, we are doing our best to begin cutting and that's where our decline is showing. Our goal would be to not increase taxes in the future. I read an article a few months ago where Shawn Walker said regardless of the new school being built or not, taxes are going to increase. How is he able to determine that? Was there collusion among

At what point during the consolidation of the school will a savings be realized for the taxpayer? And how many jobs do you believe will be lost on the school side – whether it be administration or teachers? Or will it be necessary to keep the entire staff that already exists? There was a piece done by United Way where 58% of the households struggle to meet their basic needs. One of the best decisions I ever made was to leave the City of Wilkes-Barre. How do you justify to continually raise taxes? As a landlord, when

you raise taxes by 2.2%, I am giving notice to all my tenants that have three or four kids that live under the poverty load, that there rent is going up because the taxes are going up. It will be in their notices that because the School Board raised my taxes that your rent is going up. I just want you to realize that.

With the average teacher salary in the school district being \$71,000 and the shortfall is \$1,800 per student, why not lower the entry level salary for teacher's. Instead of continuing to raise taxes on the homeowners. If you look at the last two years that you raised taxes almost six percent – the cost of living adjustments for people that live in the city is about two percent. So you are taking almost four percent out of the pockets of the taxpayers - of the senior citizens who are on fixed incomes. Do you understand those numbers? As well for all the cause and effect on the properties. For all the hot shots that live in Barney Farms. There is house that is for sale – about 3100 sq. ft. – beautiful house listed at \$275,000 and they can't sell it. They can't sell it because the taxes are \$9000. If that house were in my neighborhood, the taxes would be lower and sell for about \$600,000. You are destroying property values by continuing to raise taxes.

Why was there never a vote on a referendum whether to build the new school or not? **Response by Atty. Wendolowski:** The school code allows the School District to hold a referendum or to hold Act 34 hearings. The Board chose to hold an Act 34 hearing so we fully complied with the law. The referendum is not required.

**John Suchoski**

You were saying how much money the District is going to lose over the years. That's why oppose the tax raise – it has been every year. I understand you need them money – but every year it hurts. What he was saying about the property, that's expensive. Think the taxes will push people away from buying properties in the city of Wilkes-Barre. Even you have to raise taxes every year – just try to keep it lower. **Rev. Walker responded:** The District will lose \$500,000 in the first year over 10 years 5 million dollars. Over that same time span the taxpayers will save \$13 per year and over 10 years will be \$130. There is a huge loss for the district in order for a small gain for the taxpayer because we tried to mitigate as best we could and give something back. I understand what you are saying and appreciate your perspective and we are trying to do just that.

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I have several times if you could have someone here to talk about the chemicals in the ground at the new school site. I would like to hear it from an expert and have them answer questions.

**Rev. Walker responded:** I will try to make that happen. I believe we have answered those questions, however not in the format you asking.

**Harlan Tabron**

Good Evening. I am the father of three children – two of which are in school and one is not. I took my daughter to the GAR track the other day just to run around and have a fun time. I went back the other day and the gate was locked. Is it possible to allow the community to have access to that facility?

**Dr. Costello responded:** I do believe there is a time frame that allows the community to do so.

I agree with Mr. Suchoski that we should have a professional come in and talk about the ground at the site of the new high school. I do respect the work you are doing.

**Tom Dombrowski**

On the chart you had the one thing that has jumped out at me is the salaries – with common sense the biggest salaries would be teacher salaries. So the average teacher salary is \$68,156. Right now WBASD is 14 students to 1 teacher. If you lowered that to 16 students to 1 teacher, which is what Hazleton has. That would result in a layoff of 61 teachers time \$68,156 per year is \$4,157,516 per year. To take it one step further look at Dallas. They are 17 students to 1 teacher. That would be a layoff of 86 teachers times \$68,156 is \$5,861,416 per year. If you added pension and health care numbers to that, you would be about 1 million dollars higher in savings. Question I have – does anyone know how many tax parcel owners there are in WBASD? There is 24,933. When you increase taxes you affect 24,933 people. Most tax parcel owners are a family of 3 times 24,933. That's how many people you are affecting. If you lay off 61 teachers, you are only affecting 61 to 86 people and not the 24,933 times 3. Why don't you want to pursue that option? **Mr. Caffrey response:** I would not want to furlough any employees unless they would absolutely and positively needed to do that. **Mr. Walker response:** First of all, thank you for your insight. I do appreciate your math and it does make sense. One of the things, several years ago we did furlough. There were a total of 55 employees. As we move forward to consolidation there will be more opportunities to reduce operational expenses. You could either grow your revenue or reduce your operational expenses. That is what we are trying to do.

**Deb Formola**

I want to confirm what you said about a Geologist coming in to answer questions. What was your answer?

**Rev Walker response:** We have answered some of those questions but not in the format that he is requesting that we would do that.

We really need someone that would back up what you are saying. Recently this is what is posted on the Website. Borton Lawson said that they have 5 year water testing after ash placement and reported quarterly. That was discontinued in 2010. All that testing came from DEP. I called DEP and they said they did absolutely did not do testing there since 2010. Where was the last ash placement? It was brought in 2005. In 2007 it wasn't spread. **Atty. Wendolowski response:** What we are looking at is a letter from Frederick Spott Associates that was sent to DEP referencing something in regard to ash in 2007. I don't have the answer because this is the first time I am seeing this. If you go there now, there is no exposed ash on that site. **Deb Formola:** Right – I know that now but if you look at google earth from three years ago there were piles of ash on that site. I know you have gone in there and evened it all out. **Atty Wendolowski:** The ash is the material that was brought in and covered. The piles you saw that have been moved and spread were not ash. DF – so how much of that parcel was actually capped when you bought it? The question is on the existing site what is the percentage that has some very encapped coal ash? **Deb Formola:** Are we reclaiming that land with taxpayer's money? **Atty Wendolowski:** Clearly, we aren't doing anything other than what we need to do for our project. Let's assume when we approached Pagnotti about acquiring their land and/or taking it if we couldn't reach an agreement. That they had done all of their capping and the land was finished and ready for sale. What

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would exist would be natural topsoil, natural terrain or terrain after the placement of the ash... and some sort of seeding or vegetative material. If the District acquired the property and did our project, what would we do? We would do exactly what we are doing now. That is we would be cutting and filling and ripping up whatever they had placed there in order to do our project. Mike Krzywicki: There are two different caps on this project and you are confusing the two of them. One of them is an ash cap that was all done before the District did testing. There was four feet of fill on top of the ash. The only place we touched the ash or capped it was when we cut in the new driveway to Maffett Street it went down slope and we dug into that ash and we had to relocate it because we touched it we had to cap it. That is the only capping that was done since the District started the project. The capping TetraTech is reporting is for the soil due to the high metals content. That capping has not been done and it won't be done until 21 to 28 acres is cut to subgrade and then DEP will come in and test the sub-surface. If they don't like the levels they may require an additional cap. We don't have that answer yet. DF: What happens when you want to use the build the fields?

**Gordon Williams**

There has to be a better facility in the district to hold meetings. These tables are very uncomfortable and would prefer to have the meeting elsewhere. A few weeks ago there was chatter about a meeting between Wilkes-Barre Area School District School Board Members and Wilkes-Barre City Council Members. At a recent city council meeting, Cecilia Williams, my wife, asked the council who was at the meeting and what was the private meeting about? Her exchange with city council meeting is on you tube. The council persons at the meeting that exposed this subject were Beth Gilbert and Mike Belusko. They responded that meeting had taken place. This is troubling only because it's not an announced and it's a meeting between elected officials. The meeting between the WBASD Board Members and Council members was on June 7 at 5:30. People at that meeting were Mike Belusko, Tony Brooks, Beth Gilbert, Joe Caffrey, Denise Thomas, Brian Costello. JC response: You have bad information since I was in Cape May, New Jersey on that date. It's possible the meeting was about 4 years ago.

GW: I am upset with anyone that would have a meeting regardless of when it happened.

Have you notified the contractors that are working for WBASD on this parcel of the potential health hazards and what liability does the school district have if their employees become ill working in all that dust? AW response: The contractors have full access to the information that we have regarding the site and will not come into contact with the coal ash because it has already been capped. As far as the naturally occurring heavy metals that are in that soil that I guarantee are also in everyone's backyard. All we need to do is cap those before we use them for field purposes or for human contact purposes. They aren't harmful unless you ingest them. So unless these workers are eating the dirt they will not be harmed by the naturally occurring heavy metals.

**Cambria Balliet**

I am a student at GAR and participate in both Cheerleading and Volleyball. My biggest concern is transportation. I literally walk to Coughlin from the GAR area for Volleyball practice with Cheer being right after. I have to walk to these place and there are people that are very scary and I don't always feel safe. Last year I am aware of two separate incidents where students were being followed. It's sad because we are walking from school to school for practice. **B. Costello** – On August 1 all transportation routes will be posted on the website for sports practices which officially begin on August 12.

**Ruth Borland**

You are elected officials of our community. People out here are your constituents, they are the people elected you. I feel when people are speaking not to be looking at bored faces. I think it is important that we all learn to listen and respect each other. I don't think it is appropriate for public officials to make faces at their constituents – I think we need a little respect. With that being said, I said you people never listen. But you did listen to two things and I'm happy about that. We are buying textbooks. I have been saying for two years we need textbooks and you are finally buying textbooks. I hope you buy enough textbooks and the right textbooks and I hope they get to the kids on time for the beginning of the

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semester. The other thing that happened was the Spring Fling. It wasn't the Harvest Festival but it was a Spring Fling and Kim and I went to it and aside from the turkey the kids benefitted. I would rather have it in the fall because there was a good showing of agencies and I think the students and parents would benefit by that in the fall.

Now with my problem. I sat here, I think it was the last meeting, and saw a presentation by the Superintendent when he indicated that there was a good chance that we could get millions of dollars over an extended period of time to take care of our financial woes. We listened to him. We called all of our representatives. I called Rep. Pashinski, Rep. Yudichak and didn't get a call back. Joe called them also. I did call Lisa Baker and I did talk to her for about an hour on State education funding. She has a wealth of information and she basically told me that would be wonderful but it will never happen. The rest of my family has similar stories. I do not like the fact that the presentations were made that looked like we have an answer to decrease taxes and improve funding that is pie in the sky. I bought a lottery ticket yesterday, I didn't check it, but I don't go around and buy things based on the fact that I have a lottery ticket in my pocket. Please do not give the public stuff that is not backed up by truth. It is not fair and it's not professional.

With regards to our Debate team, the theme this year is "it's better to debate a matter without settling it Than to settle it without debating it". With all due respect, I didn't see a debate about a budget. I missed one meeting at 9:00 in the morning because I had to be somewhere else. Please, please take your responsibility seriously.

I heard an announcement this will be the final graduation at all schools. The kids are very upset. I spend a lot of time with teenage kids and everybody doesn't know what's going to happen. People are asking are they going to consolidate tomorrow? Nobody knows... you have everybody not knowing what is going on and that is wrong. You have young kids that are trying to figure out their lives.

All of you should know that there is an exodus to Mountaintop as some of you know because you live in Mountaintop. But we are losing our young families to Mountaintop. I can tell you there are significant numbers of people moving out of the area to the suburbs. Young people with children, young professionals because the people don't know what is going on. You are going to have a city with no tax base without funding. You have not shown us one situation where consolidation saves money. Please start being professional, start debating, start looking at things, start getting information that are not yourselves so that the Wilkes-Barre Area School District doesn't look back five years from now and have a very serious situation.

**Sarah Borland**

Good Evening. I unfortunately missed the meeting where the presentation was given about the possible state funding. But my family was there and the next day and said we were going to start calling our representatives because we were reprimanded by not doing enough for this school district. So we did. I called all of my representatives that represent me and I called a college classmate that represents another city similarly sized in Pennsylvania. I was lucky enough to have a meeting with her. What she told me is not only is there not seven million dollars in the education budget for us and if there was she would fight tooth and nail for her school district. She also told me that PlanCon isn't funded yet. So this is a Representative in Pennsylvania that's told me we don't know if they will have the money to get reimbursed let alone the seven million dollars that we supposedly were going to be able to ask for. I have a problem with that. I have a problem with the representation that was going to be something we would get. Beyond that I am going say it right now for the record, I am against consolidation.

If we are consolidating, I have some issues and questions. First, we should change some of our systems. If we are going to take this opportunity to have a fresh new beginning, then maybe we should look at how we do things. Starting with paying for the cheerleaders. Activities need to be funded as much as sports. Cheerleaders shouldn't even be considered any activity – they're a competition squad. They should get funded like the sports.

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Beyond that, we have talked a lot about the level of need and poverty in our community. The Spring Fling demonstrated how much services matter to our students. What I want you to think about when restructuring our school maybe getting dedicated social workers into our school buildings. Tonight you are voting on contracts to allow Juvenile Probation into our schools. We have three offices for police officers. What we don't have is social workers in our schools providing the connection to services that our students desperately need. So maybe we don't send them to an alternative school. Maybe we can catch them before many of their problems get too bad.

I want to talk about cost savings and how the consolidation will save costs. You said "rightly so I don't want to see anyone lose jobs." But you have been telling us for years that the way we are going to get savings out of this plan is cutting personnel costs. So people are going to lose jobs. If you are going to tell me, which I know you will, that it is attrition, I have an issue with that too. We are also supposed to be getting new and better programs for our kids. If we're just not hiring new teachers, we're not getting new ideas and new classes and new specialties into our school. We are just going to wind up with a stagnant teacher population and not bringing any new ideas to this new school. Schools are not just buildings, they're teachers, students, and communities. I think we have been concentrating too much on one side of that equation and not the rest of it.

Additionally, we talked about how the costs are going to go up. Costs are up because of cyber schools and charter schools. We pay a lot of money to both of those issues. Well, I don't know if you are on social media, actually I do know you are, so I can tell you this. There is a lot of chatter about the fact that children are going into cyber schools and the possibility of a charter. That means those costs are going to go up. We can't stand for that. I want to know do we have a plan to stop the migration into cyber schools? Frankly it bothers me that students are going to private schools in our area, that doesn't cost anything to the school district except for losing students. Cyber schools and charter schools cost us. So we are losing a tax base because of people moving to Mountaintop, we are going to be paying for students to not be in our schools and we are going to have debt service and possibly not the teachers our students deserve. So I really, really, want everyone to again consider this plan but also if we are going forward with the plan, how are we going to manage all of the benefits that are coming out of it. We need to have this as part of this as well.

**Kim Borland**

This is a good spot to be because it has been four years since June 10, 2015 when all of this started for me. I often think that I wouldn't still be coming to every single school board meeting if one simple thing had changed on June 10. That would have been the Board's acceptance of the internal and external task force reports. I don't know about buses and I don't have to get every outcome that I want. But I want process. From that day forward it was apparent to me that there was not a commitment to process. There was not a commitment to learning what's necessary to learn in order to provide the best possible education to students in this district. I can't even imagine any other governmental entity taking the time of those task forces and then saying we're not going to even receive these reports and chase the illusory PlanCon funding, which Sarah has told you she has very good information that just isn't going to happen. That was the reason you had to do it without getting any reports. So process is important to me. Mr. Tabron said he has confidence, for example, that you have done due diligence that you have done the right things with respect to the site in Plains for the new consolidated high school. Sadly, I don't share his confidence because my experience doesn't tell me that you have. Rev. Walker said we have the information but not in the format you might like it in or you requested it to be in. That format, all that anyone is asking for is an independent report of anyone of your choosing, not an employee or contractor with the District, to show us that information. That hasn't happened. That's not a format – that is what you do in terms of a process to investigate things.

Beyond that we've seen a decision two years ago not to do an outside evaluation of the future utility of Meyers. You have now said at the last meeting you intend to demolish Meyers. Which may or may not be a good idea. But there was no investigation of alternative uses for that could benefit the taxpayers of

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this district. For some that could be a potential issue. But that hasn't been done. You have already determined the fact without an investigation. What I found tremendously ironic was your expenditure of \$130,000 for a video on the construction site so you can do live feeds to see how things are going up on that building. I remember two years ago you said you couldn't afford \$80,000 to do an evaluation of Meyers. You say to us over and over again trust us – trust us we are trying to do the right thing. What trust us means to me is show me the experience. Ruth and Sarah have already talked about in May the Superintendent called me out and said I challenge you to call these legislators. I called them... I called Jerry Mullery, Karen Boback, Senator Yudichak, Rep. Pashinski the only person that called me back was Mike Carroll. He agreed with me and said I was talking to the wrong person I needed to talk to the Republicans. I called Karen Boback – it was not going to happen. And yet the week before the election your political action people put an ad in the paper saying we have a plan for a thirty-six percent tax reduction. Knowing that was impossible. I wasted hours of my time calling these people in good faith and getting those kinds of answers. The second thing about that frankly, in terms of the trust argument is an issue that is valid is when Cambria raised the issue about transportation from one point to another. I recall at the forum that was held at St. Stephen's, Mr. Atherton was asked that question. He said we are going to do what we do at Crestwood we are going to have student activity buses. I called Crestwood the next day and asked them what's the schedule for your student activities bus? The answer was we haven't had a student activities bus in ten years. Then I called the solicitor in Crestwood and asked him how they work the student activities bus. His answer was we haven't had a student activities bus in ten years. And yet, that is what he ran on. So when you tell me to trust you, I have grave concerns. Just like I have a grave concern about the Pagnotti request for the bond refund for three hundred thousand dollars for reclamation. Not a word has been said about that today. So I have all those issues and I'm not willing to take it on faith. I wish the process had been followed from day one maybe I would have a little more free time in my life. But I'm insistent as a citizen that we go ahead and do things with the proper process.

**Atty. Wendolowski response to the Pagnotti bond:** Pagnotti no longer owns that real estate, the school district does. I have had other mining permit issues in the past with contract owners and contract operators and the refund of the bond is a matter of course because they no longer own the property the school district does. The School District will develop that property and finish it to our specifications. So for Pagnotti to get a refund on a bond they had in place is an ordinary course of business.

**Kim Borland:** Which makes the purchase price even more ridiculous because they would have had to reclaim that property to get that bond back. Instead of doing that they put the burden on the taxpayers of this district to do that and get \$300,000 on property that had an \$800,000 appraised value.

**Mark Atherton response:** I mis-spoke at the forum and should have said "had" and not "has". I was trying to say we are going to try to do what Crestwood "had" done.

**Luzerne Intermediate Unit Report:** Ms. Thomas reported the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 5:30.

**Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center:** Mr. Quinn reported is tentatively set for August 5, 2019. There is a misunderstanding with the Nursing transcripts be sent out. There was a computer error and everything has been rectified.

**CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Mr. Evans submitted the following report and recommendation for the Board's approval.**

1. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement with the Luzerne County Department of Probation Services, Penn Place Bldg., Suite 329, 20 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA to support the School/Community Based Probation Project for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. "Exhibit A"

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2. To ratify an Agreement with New Story, 1150 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA to provide extended school year educational services to students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, commencing June 17, 2019 and ending July 26, 2019. "Exhibit B"
3. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement with The Meadows, 132 Meadows Drive, Centre Hall, PA 16828 for educational services for students that may receive educational services provided during hospitalization at a rate of \$67.00 per day for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year. "Exhibit C"
4. That approval be given to enter into the 2019-2020 IDEA Agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit No. 18 (LIU) whereby the furnishing of all certified personnel, facilities, materials and other services (in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education) needed to perform the services described, and compliance with the terms and conditions of PDE's most current IDEA Application Guidelines will be the sole obligation of the District and will no longer be the responsibility of the LIU. The District's estimated allocation for 2019-2020 is \$904,482.00. "Exhibit D"
5. That approval be given to purchase Go Math books from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt with the Ready to Learn Grant for the 2019-2020 school year at a cost of \$54,910.10.

**Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt this report.**

**On the question:** Ms. Thomas - The President of the NAACP asked permission to have one of their speakers visit the schools once a week during Black History month. Mr. Evans agreed to the request.

**The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey.

**BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES REPORT**

**Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendation for the Board's approval.**

**A. Administrative**

**1. Capital Projects**

That approval be given to pay the following invoices:

Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 26	\$60,290.89
Benell, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 1	\$161,172.00
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	Pagnotti Property, Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000013	\$716.81
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000019	\$8,401.42
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000020 REV1	\$12,336.42
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000021 REV 1	\$23,107.46
Densification, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 6	\$42,220.12
EarthCam.net	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # WS0614194288	\$13,590.89
Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$619,846.67

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Scranton Sheet Metal, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 1	\$82,845.00
Stell Enterprises, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 4	\$171,059.39
Stell Enterprises, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 5	\$67,783.15
TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #17	\$19,500.00
WKL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #20	\$12,000.00

2. That approval be given to the Superintendent and Business Manager to authorize additional work on the New High School construction project and automatically submit PlanCon Part I Interim Reporting (PDE Project # 3885), as needed, to prevent delays to the schedule on a case by case basis not to exceed \$70,000.00 (Approximately 1% of Contingency) per occurrence for the duration of the project.
3. That approval be given to contribute \$45,000.00 to the Osterhout Free Library for the 2018-2019 school year.
4. That approval be given to the Controller to post to the 2018-2019 fiscal year end accounting ledgers all budgetary transfers made necessary by closing and adjusting entries and year end auditor adjustments. These transfers will be required to be presented to the Board for review and final approval.
5. That approval be given to ratify Capital Projects check #20158 made payable to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in the amount of \$65,305.50 for the Builders Risk Insurance. This insurance was approved at the Board Meeting held on April 29, 2019.
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 Stell Enterprises, Inc. Change Order #001 and Green Valley Landscaping, Inc. Change Order #001.

**B. GENERAL FUND**

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund checks #52408 to #52521 were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 24, 2019 be approved.

**C. GENERAL FUND**

That the checks #52522 to #52659 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.

**D. Contracted Services**

1. That approval be given to enter into an agreement for Athletic Trainer services with Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Sports Medicine, Northeast Geisinger Musculoskeletal Institute, 1175 East Mountain Boulevard, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-3885 at an annual rate of \$90,808.00 and increase 3% at the commencement of each subsequent year during the term of this Agreement. This agreement shall be in effect for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school terms. "Exhibit E"
2. That approval be given to renew the District's Commercial Package (Property and Liability), Commercial Automobile, the School Leaders Liability, Data Security and Excess/Umbrella coverage through Liberty

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Mutual Insurance Co., for the 2019-2020 school year, effective July 1, 2019 at a combined rate of \$260,048.

3. ~~That approval be given to renew the District's Workers Compensation Insurance Policy for the 2019-2020 school year, effective July 1, 2019 through the Housing and Redevelopment Insurance Exchange (HARIE) at an estimated cost of \$358,717. **TABLED**~~
4. That approval be given to purchase a Violent Event/Active Shooter Coverage Policy for the 2019-2020 school year through ASPEN at a cost of \$13,540.
5. That approval be given to renew the lease with George Sincavage for the Warehouse located at 62 Maffett Street, Plains, PA beginning August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020 at a monthly rate of \$2,341.00.
6. To approve Change Order #001 for Stell Enterprises Inc., in the amount of \$223,777.89 for supplying and placing additional topsoil on 6.47 acres.
7. To approve Change Order #001 for Green Valley Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$33,818.69 for fine rake, seed and mulch on 6.47 acres.

**ADDENDUM:**

1. That approval be given to award the District's Workers Compensation Insurance Policy for the 2019-2020 school year, effective July 1, 2019 through MEMIC Casualty Company at an estimated cost of \$342,003.

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas**

**On the questions:** Rev. Walker clarified the reason for tabling D3 because we are adding the addendum because we were able to receive a lower bid. Is that correct? Tom Telesz confirmed that statement.

Ms. Thomas asked if we get discounts at Main Hardware, Walter's and Home Depot.

**The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla (B,C,E), Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Patla – A-1,2,5,6 and D 6,7

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Quinn presented the following report and recommendation for the Board's approval.**

1. That approval be given to renew the District's Student and Athletic Insurance for the 2019-2020 school year, with Bob McCloskey at a premium in the amount of \$26,769.00.

**Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas**

**The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Safety/Security Committee – No Report – Next meeting will be in August.**

**Transportation Committee –** Would like to investigate the possibility of an extension of services with LCTA. Possibly will prove to be more economical for the District.

**Building Maintenance Committee – No Report**

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

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**Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendation for the Board's approval.**

1. That the following policy be adopted:

- 221 Dress and Grooming

**June 2019 Updated Dress Code**

All Wilkes-Barre Area School District Registered Students (Who attend any District School or The W-B Area Career Technical Center (CTC) will be required to adhere to this board approved dress code. Additionally, Wilkes-Barre Area Students who attend the CTC are required to adhere to the district's dress code when being transported to and from the technical training facility. Upon arrival at the CTC, students will be allowed to change into their proper vocational technical training attire. It is also required that CTC students change back to the districts approved attire of dress before leaving for their home district schools.

**Guidelines:**

**Pants – Must be casual/dress/denim pants of a solid color: Khaki (Beige/Tan), blue, Black Brown, Gray, Olive or Dark Green. Corduroy fabric is allowed.**

1. Pants must be sized to fit the student (i.e. +/- 1 size to the student's measurement.) Thus the length of the pants allowed is any garment from keen to shoe. No layering of pants is permitted. (Example-Dress Code pants cannot be worn over jean)
2. Pants must be secured at the waist.
3. Pants are only permitted to have no more than two (2) pockets in the front and no more than two (2) pockets in the back. No cargo pockets are permitted.
4. Pants must cover all skin
5. The following types of pants are not permitted:
  - a. Cargo Pants-Large pockets on legs or back
  - b. Baggy/Skateboard pants
  - c. Extra wide/extra full pants
  - d. Military fatigues (no camouflage)
  - e. Sweat pants
  - f. Wind pants
  - g. Excessively tight pants
  - h. Exercise pants/Yoga Pants/Spandex Pants

**Skirts/Dresses - Must be of a solid color (Khaki (Beige/Tan), Blue, Black, Brown, Gray, or Olive or Dark Green.**

1. Skirts should be appropriate length. If length appears to be inappropriate, fingertip length will be used as a guide.
2. No cargo pockets will be allowed.
3. No spaghetti straps will be allowed.

**Shirts - Must be of a solid color or stripes.**

1. T-Shirts cannot contain graphics unless school spirit related.
2. All button down shirts must be buttoned just below the neck. Shirts may not be unbuttoned to show any shirt being worn underneath.
3. School district logos or a manufacturer's logo no larger than three (3) inches by three (3) inches will be permitted.
4. Shirt length may not extend beyond the middle of a student's front pants pocket, or else the shirt must be tucked in.

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5. Striped shirts are permitted with both vertical and horizontal stripes being allowed.
6. The following types of shirts are not permitted:
  - a. Henley shirts
  - b. Tank tops
  - c. Excessively tight shirts
  - d. Graphic T-Shirts (unless school spirit related)

**Sweatshirt/Sweater/Turtlenecks**

1. Crewneck, Cardigan, and Vest sweaters/sweatshirts of an approved solid color/stripes may be worn with an approved collared shirt underneath.
2. Sweatshirts may not be ripped or torn and must be sized to fit.
3. Must not extend past the middle of the pants pocket.
4. Hooded sweatshirts (Hoodies) are not permitted as in-school attire. (This is considered an outer garment and it must be removed and hung in a student's locker upon arrival in school.)
5. A solid turtleneck will be permitted in an approved color under an approved collared shirt. An approved sweater/sweatshirt maybe also be work on top.
6. Solid color V-neck sweaters are permitted as long as there is an approved collared shirt underneath.

**Shorts**

1. Shorts may only be work from April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> inclusively.
2. Students will be permitted to wear solid color (Khaki (Beige/Tan), Blue, Black, Brown, Gray, Olive or Dark Green) shorts that are sized to fit. No plain white shorts are permitted.
3. Shorts should be appropriate length. If length appears to be inappropriate, fingertip length will be used as a guide.
4. Pleated or plain shorts with no more than two (2) pockets in the front and no more than two (2) pockets in the back are permitted. No cargo pockets are permitted.
5. The following types of shorts are not permitted:
  - a. Cargo shorts
  - b. Baggy Basketball shorts
  - c. Silky shorts
  - d. Short shorts

**Belts**

1. Must be solid color – no color preference.
2. No emblem or logs will be permitted.
3. Belt buckles larger than 2"x2" are not permitted.
4. The following types of belts are not permitted:
  - a. Chain-link belts
  - b. Rope-like belts

**Shoes**

1. Some style of shoe/sneaker MUST be work at all times. All shoes MUST be fastened around the foot and secured.
2. The following types of shoes are not permitted:
  - a. Flip-flops
  - b. Any heel or wedge higher then (2-1/2") are prohibited.

**Piercings**

1. Only ear piercings will be permitted. Only two (2) piercings per ear will be permitted.
2. Hoop earrings may be no larger than 1" in diameter.
3. Drop earrings may be no longer than 1" in length.

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4. The following types of piercings are not permitted:
  - a. Plugs (Tunnel or solid gages)
  - b. Piercings of eyebrows, lips, noses, tongues, etc.

**Articles of Noncompliance**

1. Cargo Pants-Large pockets on legs or back
2. Baggy/Skateboard pants
3. Extra wide/extra full pants
4. Military fatigues (no camouflage)
5. Sweat pants
6. Wind pants
7. Excessively tight pants
8. Exercise pants/Yoga pants/Spandex Pants
9. Henley shirts
10. Tank tops and Graphic T-Shirts (These shirts may not be worn over any other type of shirt)
11. Excessively tight shirts
12. Cargo shorts.
13. Baggy Basketball shorts
14. Silky shorts
15. Short shorts
16. Coats and hooded sweatshirts are not permitted to be worn during the school day
17. Chain link belts
18. Rope-like belts
19. No Flip Flops (Open toe shoes must be fastened)
20. Gages (Tunnel or solid) or plug earrings
21. Illegal piercings
22. Hats, caps, headbands, (excluding acceptable female wear,) or bandanas.
23. Displaying of any undergarments
24. Chains, dog collars, or spiked bracelets/necklaces
25. Clothing or articles deemed offensive sexually suggestive, condoning violence, drug/alcohol/tobacco abuse, suicide or vulgar language
26. Unnatural hair coloring-(Ex-Red hair is natural, Christmas Red is not)
27. Hairstyles that disrupt the educational process or are considered a safety hazard
28. Torn/ripped clothing
29. Hoods are not permitted to be work on any garment during the school day
30. All Black outfits
31. Fishnet stockings

**Exemptions**

Parents/Guardians who object to the policy based on religious or medical grounds must complete and present to the building principal a copy of the Wilkes-Barre Area Dress Code Exemption Form signed by their religious leader or physician, detaining the reason(s) for the objection. The form must be filled within 14 days of registration. The parent/guardian and the building principal will meet to discuss the exception.

**Board Discretion**

The above dress code may be amended at any time at the discretion of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board.

**Discipline**

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The purpose of school is to promote and foster a solid learning environment. Students are expected to dress in a manner which encourages this purpose. Violation of this policy will result in parental notification and appropriate school action.

Noncompliance will be considered a violation of school policy. The consequences will be as follows:

**Elementary Level**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Disciplinary Action</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	At the discretion of the principal, depending upon the degree of cooperation from the student and parent/guardian, a request for change of clothing, a request to send the student home, or an out-of-school suspension shall take place as deemed appropriate by administration.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be excluded from class (i.e. out-of-school suspension) for one (1) day. A parental meeting must take place for the child to return to class. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> and Successive Offenses</b>	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be subject to a three (3) to possible ten (10) day out-of-school suspension and a ten (10) day curricular suspension. A parental meeting must take place for the student to return to school. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.

**Secondary Level**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Disciplinary Action</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be excluded from class (i.e., in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension) for one (1) day. Parents/Guardians will be notified of the class exclusion. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	At the discretion of the administration, the student will be excluded from class (i.e., in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension) for one (1) day. A parental meeting must take place for the child to return to class. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> and Successive Offenses</b>	At the discretion of the administration, the student will

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be subject to a three (3) to possible ten (10) day out-of-school suspension and a ten (10) day curricular suspension. A parental meeting must take place for the student to return to school. The student is expected to return in full compliance of the structured dress code.

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Patla**

**On the question:** Ms. Thomas feels this will increase the amount of discipline referrals teachers will need to make because students will push the limits of the policy. This will take more time from their teaching. Rev. Walker responded by stating that student had reached out to Dr. Costello regarding the policy and they started a dialogue with her and several other students. This revised dress code is a compromise on both sides of the issue.

Mr. Caffrey wanted to acknowledge the student, Kaitlyn Burns, a senior at Coughlin, that started the dialogue. She knew she wouldn't benefit from the changes, she believed in it and wanted future students to benefit.

**The vote was as follows:**

**8 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Thomas

**Pathway/Transition Committee** – Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Admin. Building.

**Student Wellness Committee** – Ms. Thomas congratulated Dr. Rochelle Koury, Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, School Nurses, Dr. Costello, the Food Service Dept. and the entire staff – the Spring Fling was phenomenal. There were over 900 people in attendance.

Mr. Caffrey also noted how successful this committee has been and is looking forward to the future when we will be able to provide even more services to our students and families.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Dr. Susek presented the following report and recommendation 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. Act 93**

1. That **Todd Harding** be appointed the Purchasing Agent at an annual salary of \$60,000 effective July 1, 2019.
2. That **Leah Zigmund** be appointed Coordinator of Federal Programs at Step 13 of the teachers' daily rate multiplied by 230 units effective July 1, 2019.

**B. Professionals**

1. That the resignation of **John Mooney** be accepted effective the last day of the 2018-19 school year.
2. That **Desiree Phillips** request for a first semester sabbatical leave be approved.
3. That **Jeff Ney** be granted a paid leave of absence from rendering services to the District under and pursuant to the provisions of the Public School Employees Retirement Code ("Code") for the purposes of serving full time as Treasurer of PSEA from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021.
4. That **Sarah Gorman** be appointed a Long Term Elementary Substitute Teacher effective January 14, 2019 through the end of the 2018/19 school year.
5. That the Settlement Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and **Employee #52304** be approved.

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6. That **John Mendola** be appointed 12-month Elementary Principal effective September 1, 2019 at a salary to be determined by the Act 93 Agreement.

**C. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates**

1. That the retirement of **Lois Roughsedge** be accepted effective September 3, 2019.
2. That **Linda Scarantino's** request for unpaid leave for the 2019/20 school year be approved.

**D. Custodians, Housekeepers & Food Service**

1. That **Shannon Olson's** request for unpaid leave beginning on June 14, 2019 through June 17, 2019 be approved.
2. That the resignation of **Joseph Sromovski** effective June 7, 2019 be accepted.
3. That **Leonard Witczak** be appointed at 25 hour per week Housekeeper.
4. That **Brenda Mauer** be appointed a Substitute Custodian.

**E. Security/Greeters**

1. That the resignation of **Bill Demas** be accepted effective June 14, 2019.

**F. 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 Basketball	Associate Head Coach	<b>Phil Schoener</b>
Girls Basketball	Assistant Coach	<b>Jared Carlo</b>
Field Hockey	<del>Junior High Assistant Coach</del>	<b>TABLED</b>
Swimming	Diving Assistant Coach	<b>Betsy Carey</b>
Cross Country/Track & Field	Junior High Head Coach	<b>Anthony Dates</b>
Cross Country/Track & Field	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Tony Khalife</b>
Football	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Tony Khalife</b>
Cheerleading	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Desiree Cooper</b>
Golf	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Brandon Mulaski</b>
Band	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Amanda Ficca</b>
Girls Volleyball	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Lesley Campos</b>
Boys Soccer	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Patrick Nolan</b>

2. That the resignation of **Hayden White** as Cross Country/Track & Field Assistant Coach be accepted effective June 21, 2019.

**Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas**

**The votes were as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Quinn – F-1 Girls Basketball Associate Head Coach

**Rev. Walker presented Resolution #1**

**RESOLUTION**

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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, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$126,068,000.

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 2019-2020 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 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 (1 ½ ) 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 Dr. Susek to adopt this Resolution. The vote was as follows:**

**8 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Patla

**Mr. Atherton presented Resolution #2**

**RESOLUTION**

**WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**2019 HOMESTEAD and FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of School Directors of Wilkes-Barre Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2019, under the provisions of the Homestead property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.**

The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2019:

a. **Gambling Tax Funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.505 )b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$ 2,877,408.39.

b. **Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds.** PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to ACT 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.324 (3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$8,071.01.

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c. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$2,885,479.40.

2. **Homestead / Farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. Section 8584 (i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341 (g) (3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 11,886.

b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 1.

c. **Homestead/Farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 11,887.

3. **Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The School Board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1 (c) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$2,885,479.40 by the paragraph 2 (c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 11,887, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$242.74.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$242.74 by the School District real estate tax rate of 18.4332 mills (.0184332) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$13,168.00, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$13,168.00.

5. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$13,168.00. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$13,168.00. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341 (g) (3), based on homestead /farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

6. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – interim real estate tax bills.**

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No homestead or farmstead exclusion will apply to any interim tax bill except an interim tax bill applicable to a property that includes an approved homestead or approved farmstead listed in the report received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, but not included in the tax assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill for the property. In most cases, the assessment of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads will be reflected in July 1 tax bills. However, in any case when there is an approved homestead or an approved farmstead that is not included in the assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill, and when an interim real estate tax notice is issued later based on an interim assessment including the approved homestead or approved farmstead, the interim tax notice shall reflect a homestead or farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction calculated under paragraph 5, except that the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro rated in the same manner as the real estate tax is pro rated. Assuming the interim tax notice reflects taxation as of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will apply. In the extraordinary case where the new interim tax assessment is effective after July 1, the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro rated in the same manner as the real estate tax reflected in the interim tax bill is pro rated.

**Mr. Atherton moved second by Dr. Susek to accept this Resolution. The vote was as follows:  
9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Mr. Evans presented Resolution #3**

**RESOLUTION**

**Authority to Prepare Real Estate Tax Statements**

BE IT RESOLVED that Diamond Marketing Solutions be authorized to prepare the school real estate tax statements for the 2019 Tax Duplicate at a rate of \$148.69 per 1000 bills including envelope and duplicates at a rate of \$90.02 per 1000 bills with date of issue July 15 2019; 2% discount through September 13, 2019; face amount September 14, 2019, through November 13, 2019; and 10% penalty due after November 14, 2019. Further, that Tax Collectors be authorized to offer three installment payments of the face amount of school real estate taxes, provided taxables choose this option on or before August 15, 2019. (Installment due dates shall be: 1st – August 16, 2019; 2nd – October 15, 2019; 3rd – December 16, 2019.) A 10% penalty will be added to each delinquent installment not paid on or before the due date of the installment. Delinquent installments must be paid prior to the Tax Collectors accepting payment of subsequent installments.

**Mr. Evans moved second by Ms. Thomas to accept this Resolution. The vote was as follows:  
9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Ms. Thomas presented Resolution #4**

**RESOLUTION**

**Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre Township**

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Northeast Revenue Service, LLC, 15 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA the collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre Township for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019 at a commission of \$2.20 per taxable, \$0 per interim bill, plus postage per their proposal dated June 27, 2017.

In addition, it shall be the responsibility of the Tax Collector to comply with the duties and responsibilities of the position as contained in the Local Tax Collection Law, Act of May 25, 1945, P.L. 1050, No. 394, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs' "Tax Collectors Manual." The Tax Collector must also comply

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with the procedures and requirements of the District for tax collectors established in its resolution of January 12, 2005.

The Tax Collector shall be required to furnish either a surety or collateral bond as required by the School Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Ms. Thomas moved second by Dr. Susek to accept this Resolution. The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Mr. Geiger presented Resolution #5**

**RESOLUTION  
Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre City**

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Northeast Revenue Services, 15 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA, collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre City for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019, at a commission of \$2.20 per taxable, \$0 per interim bill, plus postage per their proposal dated June 27, 2017.

In addition, it shall be the responsibility of the Tax Collector to comply with the duties and responsibilities of the position as contained in the Local Tax Collection Law, Act of May 25, 1945, P.L. 1050, No. 394, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs' "Tax Collectors Manual." The Tax Collector must also comply with the procedures and requirements of the District for tax collectors established in its resolution of January 12, 2005.

The Tax Collector shall be required to furnish either a surety or collateral bond as required by the School Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Mr. Geiger moved second by Ms. Thomas to accept this Resolution. The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Ms. Patla presented Resolution #6**

**RESOLUTION  
Per Capita Tax Collectors**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkheimer Associates be appointed to serve as collector of the Per Capita Tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 at a rate of .25 cents per taxable individual plus postage, which will be the total cost to the School District. The Tax Collector is also authorized to collect delinquent Per Capita Tax, receiving total remuneration from the costs assessed to the delinquent taxable (i.e. at no cost to the School District).

**Ms. Patla moved second by Ms. Thomas to accept this Resolution. The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Dr. Susek presented Resolution #7**

**RESOLUTION  
Local Services Tax Collectors**

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BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkheimer Associates be appointed to serve as tax collector for the collection of the Local Services tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 at a commission not to exceed 2.05 % of the gross amount of the tax collected and distributed to the school district.

**Dr. Susek moved second by Ms. Thomas to accept this Resolution. The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**New Business**

**Mr. Evans** – Is it possible to evaluate our current substitute teachers so we would that information when hiring full time teachers? **Dr. Costello response:** The substitutes are no longer our employees. We have a outsourced to an agency that handles our substitutes. We need to meet with the company and discuss the proposal and why we would like to be able to do evaluations.

**Mr. Atherton** – Regarding future graduations. **Dr. Costello** graduation will occur at Meyers, GAR and Coughlin as Meyers, GAR and Coughlin. With that being said, it is the colors that has created a lot of discussion. We have met with guidance counselors, activities directors, students, Sr. class officers and we have decided that we will let the Seniors decide on what colors they choose to wear. That decision will be made in February of 2020. If they want to wear black and blue or their current school colors they can. Or there might be a version where they were black and blue and have some sort of cord representing their school colors. Each school will have their own prom and class rings. There is a Homecoming game scheduled and each school will have their own homecoming King and Queen.

**Ms. Patla** asked about the mural that is to be done at Mayflower. **Dr. Costello** was contacted by Mrs. Gilbert – however the dug outs are not in the proper condition to be painted. There are nails sticking out as well as roofing issues. The concession is also not accessible for our students to paint. Sent an email to the city that when the issues are corrected our students will be available to paint. We have not received any information back from the city.

**Ms. Thomas** To enter into an agreement with Raymond P. Wendolowski, Esq. to provide legal services for a five year period commencing July 1, 2019. The monthly retainer will remain the same at \$16,250.00 for 2019-2020 school year and adjusted annually on July 1 of years two, three and four based upon the Consumer Price Index of the preceding year. Year five will be at no increase in the retainer. All other terms and conditions of the 2015 agreement shall remain in effect.

**Ms. Thomas moved second by Rev. Walker**

**On the question: Rev. Walker** – Can you elaborate on what the CPI is? **Tom Telesz** answered – The CPI roughly represents the inflation on the year. If it's a good economic year, you will have a higher CPI. If it isn't a good year, you will have a lower CPI. The trend is usually between 1 to 2.5 percent.

**Rev. Walker** – By having Atty. Wendolowski on retainer benefits the District. In relationship to our legal expenditures as it relates to other districts our size, where do you fall? Is this retainer worth it to us? **Tom Telesz** responded – we use the program that was used earlier in the presentations. We look at districts similar to ours by student account, economics and our legal service is pretty much in the middle as compared to other districts.

**Denise Thomas** – Will the appeals percentage remain the same? **Tom Telesz** response – Yes

**Joe Caffrey** – Will we continue to get a report of his billable hours? **Brian Costello** – Yes. I would also like to say that he does not receive any benefits from us. He is a contracted service and does not get retirement, health insurance or any benefit from us.

**Rev. Walker** – In year two if we take the higher end of the percent, that will be an approximate \$3,800 increase? So possibly over the life of the contract it could be around \$10,000 to \$12,000 increase? **Tom Telesz** – Yes.

**6 Ayes:** Evans, Geiger, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**3 Nays:** Atherton, Patla, Quinn

**Communication from Solicitor**

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**Approval of the Special Education settlement for the student DO**

**Motion by Rev. Walker, seconded by Ms. Patla. The vote was as follows:**

**9 Ayes:** Atherton, Evans, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with the District. I thoroughly enjoy what I do and I thank you.

**Motion to adjourn: Dr. Susek seconded by Rev. Walker**

**Meeting adjourned at: 9:16 p.m.**