

**MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING - DECEMBER 4, 2023**

The Board of Education of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District held a Reorganization Meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023. President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and announced that the Board is meeting this day for the purpose of reorganization under appropriate sections of Article IV of the School Laws of Pennsylvania, as amended.

Superintendent **Brian Costello** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary **Tom Telesz** called the roll:

9 members present: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

President Caffrey opened nominations for a Temporary President.

Mr. Mark Atherton moved to nominate **Denise Thomas as Temporary President** for the purpose of reorganization. There were no further nominations.

Dr. James Susek moved to close the nominations **seconded by Mr. Arthur Breese.**

All in favor to close nominations for Temporary President – **9 Ayes**

Temporary President **Denise Thomas** opened nominations for President for the ensuing year.

The Viva-Voce vote for Temporary President for the purpose of Reorganization was as follows:

Atherton:	Denise Thomas	Susek:	Denise Thomas
Breese:	Denise Thomas	Thomas:	Denise Thomas
Evans:	Denise Thomas	Walker:	Denise Thomas
Faust:	Denise Thomas	Caffrey:	Denise Thomas
Harris:	Denise Thomas		

At this time, the Oath of office is administered to the following newly elected Board Members.

Mark Atherton	Judge Amesbury
Arthur Breese	Magistrate Spagnuolo
Beth Anne Harris	Judge Amesbury
Rev. Shawn Walker	Judge Amesbury

Temporary President Denise Thomas opened nominations for President for the ensuing year.

Dr. James Susek moved to nominate **Joseph Caffrey** for President. There were no further nominations.

Ms. Beth Anne Harris motioned, seconded by Dr. Susek to close the nominations for President.

All in favor to close nominations for President – **9 Ayes**

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The Viva-Voce vote for President for the ensuing year was as follows:

Atherton:	Joseph Caffrey	Susek:	Joseph Caffrey
Breese:	Joseph Caffrey	Thomas:	Joseph Caffrey
Evans:	Joseph Caffrey	Walker:	Joseph Caffrey
Faust:	Joseph Caffrey	Caffrey:	Joseph Caffrey
Harris:	Joseph Caffrey		

Joseph Caffrey was elected Board President for the 2024 school year.

President Caffrey thanked the Board for the vote of confidence and stated he is humbled and honored to serve as the Board President for the ensuing year.

President Caffrey opened nominations for Vice President for the ensuing year.

Dr. Susek moved to nominate **Mark Atherton** for Vice President. There were no further nominations.

Ms. Denise Thomas moved, seconded by **Ms. Harris** to close the nominations for Vice President.

All in favor of closing nominations for Vice President – **9 Ayes**

The Viva-Voce vote for Vice President was as follows:

Atherton:	Mark Atherton	Susek:	Mark Atherton
Breese:	Mark Atherton	Thomas:	Mark Atherton
Evans:	Mark Atherton	Walker:	Mark Atherton
Faust:	Mark Atherton	Caffrey:	Mark Atherton
Harris:	Mark Atherton		

Mark Atherton was elected Vice President for the ensuing year.

Mr. Ned Evans moved, seconded by **Ms. Harris** that all meetings be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in the Reorganization Meeting of December 2, 1981, as amended December 2, 1999 and March 10, 2010 including Order of Business.

The vote was as follows:

All in favor – 9 Ayes

Ms. Harris moved, seconded by **Rev. Shawn Walker** to appoint **Denise Thomas** as the PSBA Legislative Chairperson who will serve as the District's contact for PSBA's governmental relations efforts as well as to participate in county-level Legislative Action meetings with members of the General Assembly and to be the Section 4 Local Board Liaison.

The vote was as follows:

All in favor – 9 Ayes

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Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas that the Board Meetings be held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The vote was as follows:
All in favor – 9 Ayes

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Atherton that the officers of the Board be authorized to draw orders for payrolls and for payment of bonds, interest, utilities and other pertinent bills as they come due.

The vote was as follows:
9 Ayes – Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Faust presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, **Warren F. Faust** has served the Wilkes-Barre Area School District as a member of the Joint Operating Committee of the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center; and

WHEREAS, his term of office expires in December 2023; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilkes-Barre Area Board of School Directors appoint **Warren F. Faust** to represent the Wilkes-Barre Area School District on the Joint Operating Committee of the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center which term is to expire in December 2026.

Ms. Harris moved to adopt this Resolution.
All in favor - 9 Ayes

Rev. Walker presented Resolution #2

RESOLUTION #2

BE IT RESOLVED, that **Megan Labatch** be appointed Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education to serve until the Reorganization Meeting of December 2024, under the provisions of Section 434 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.

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

Rev. Walker moved to adopt this Resolution.
All in favor – 9 Ayes

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Mr. Warren Faust presented Resolution #3

RESOLUTION #3

BE IT RESOLVED, that **Martin Flaherty** be appointed Treasurer to serve until the June 30, 2025 under the provisions of Section 436 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.

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

Mr. Faust moved to adopt this Resolution.

The vote was as follows:

All in favor – 9 Ayes

Dr. Susek made a motion to adjourn seconded by Rev. Walker

All in favor – 9 Ayes

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Telesz
Board Secretary

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WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

RULES OF ORDER FOR ALL MEETINGS

1. A quorum being present, precisely at the hour to which the Board stands adjourned, the President shall take the chair, call the members to order and proceed to business.
2. Should a quorum be assembled at the hour appointed, and the President be absent, the Vice-President or President pro temp, shall serve during that meeting, or until the President shall appear.
3. Should a quorum not assemble at the hour appointed, the director or directors present shall be competent to adjourn from time to time, that an opportunity may be given for a quorum to assemble, without which no business can be legally transacted.
4. In the transaction of business, the following order shall be observed:
 1. Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Roll Call
 3. Reading and approval of Minutes
 4. Communications from Superintendent
 5. Unfinished Business
 6. Communications from Citizens
 7. Report of Standing Committees:
 - Curriculum/Administration
 - Budget Finance/Materials Supplies/Contracted Services
 - Athletic
 - Safety/Security
 - Transportation
 - Building Maintenance
 - Policy
 - Student Wellness
 - Facilities Transition
 - Personnel
 8. Resolutions
 9. New Business
 10. Communications from Solicitor
 11. Report of Secretary
 12. Adjournment
5. It shall be the duty of the President at all times, to preserve order, and to endeavor to conduct all business before the Board with propriety and dispatch.

6. The President has no casting vote, cannot offer or second a motion, but has the right to vote on every question by virtue of membership on the Board.
7. The President may speak to points of order in preference to other members, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Board by any two members.

RULES OF ORDER FOR ALL MEETINGS (continued)

8. A motion made, must be seconded, and then repeated distinctly by the President or read aloud before it is debated, and every motion shall be reduced to writing if the President or any members require it.
9. Any member who shall have made a motion shall have liberty to withdraw it, with the consent of his second, before any debate has taken place thereon, but not after debate is had without leave being granted by the Board.
10. The consideration of any question may be postponed to a time fixed or the question may be suppressed altogether by an indefinite postponement.
11. A motion once voted down cannot be renewed at the same meeting of the Board without the consent of a majority of the members of the Board.
12. An amendment may be moved on any motion, and shall be decided before the original motion; but not more than one amendment to an amendment may be entertained.
13. If a motion under debate is composed of two or more parts, which are so far independent of each other as to be susceptible of division into several questions, any two members may have it divided and a vote taken on each part.
14. When any business is brought regularly before the Board, the consideration of the same cannot be interrupted except by a motion—for adjournment; to lie on the table; for the previous questions; for postponement; for commitment; or for amendment.
15. A motion for adjournment shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate, except that it cannot be entertained when the Board is voting on another question or while a member is addressing the Board.