

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

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

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 MEMBER ABSENT: Geiger

President Caffrey stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Committee Meeting of February 12, 2018 and prior to the Regular Board Meeting of February 12, 2018.
- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Ms. Patla, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2018 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

All In Favor: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Thomas F. Telesz, Business Manager/Board Secretary, presented the Treasurer's Reports of November and December, 2017.

**CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2017**

GENERAL FUND

1 GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	\$	(176,040.44)
2 GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB		35,139,964.70
3 FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB		183,748.35
4 FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB		174,074.04
5 FNB BANK		444,097.66
6 FNB BANK		74,001.79
7 JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT		1,692,634.30
8 PNC BANK		385,162.79
9 LPL FINANCIAL		828,901.62
10 EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB		66,822.29
11 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1		11,741.21
12 REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB		-
13 LANDMARK CD		466,012.83
14 PLGIT EIT		826,720.24
15 ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK		137,700.78
16 PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB		1,527,651.52
17 PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB		-
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$	41,783,193.68

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

18	2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$	15,714,155.50
19	PNC BANK INVESTMENT		4,280,141.99
	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	\$	19,994,297.49

FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY

TRUST FUNDS:

20	WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$	168,404.58
21	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE		337,337.33

AGENCY FUNDS:

22	ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		127,971.25
23	SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		319,757.17

	TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	\$	953,470.33
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PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE

24	FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$	1,658,425.64
	TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE	\$	1,658,425.64

DEBT SERVICE FUND

25	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE	\$	9,397.97
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$	9,397.97

**WILKES-BARE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017**

GENERAL FUND

1	GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	\$	(569,481.56)
2	GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB		35,530,582.30
3	FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB		281,760.45
4	FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB		700,035.84
5	FNB BANK		444,274.08
6	FNB BANK		74,031.19
7	JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT		1,692,750.37
8	PNC BANK		385,285.89
9	LPL FINANCIAL		828,936.79
10	EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB		371.81
11	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1		11,753.31
12	REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB		-
13	LANDMARK CD		466,212.00

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

14	PLGIT EIT		827,431.49
15	ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK		141,979.94
16	PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB		1,563,674.37
17	PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB		-
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$	42,379,598.27
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS			
18	2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$	15,720,828.63
19	PNC BANK INVESTMENT		4,280,141.99
	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	\$	20,000,970.62
FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY			
TRUST FUNDS:			
20	WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$	168,419.14
21	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE		337,685.00
AGENCY FUNDS:			
22	ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		132,572.18
23	SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		330,403.31
	TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	\$	969,079.63
PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE			
24	FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$	973,661.33
	TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE	\$	973,661.33
DEBT SERVICE FUND			
25	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE	\$	9,407.66
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$	9,407.66

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to adopt the Treasurer's Reports of November and December, 2017. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Mike Krzywicki, Apollo Project Manager, presented information in regard to the status of WBASD current projects.

At this time, Denise Thomas stated, Grant Street Property needs to be cleared of junk cars, appraised and sold.

President Caffrey noted there should be a motion made at the March Board Meeting to sell the Grant Street Property.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Costello indicated that he was turning over his time in regard to the Superintendent Report to a presentation and statement by Board Member, Rev. Shawn Walker.

At this time, Rev. Walker introduced George Brown, Chairman of the Veterans Wyoming Valley Parade Committee, who introduced the following Veterans of Wyoming Valley essay contest award recipients. Danielle Prudent – Coughlin High School, Ashli Ibarguen Gomez, Meyers High School, Emily Buraczewski, Solomon Plains Jr. High and Mya Corcoran, Mackin at Coughlin High School.

At this time, Rev. Walker presented the following statement:

After the WBASD board meeting on January 29th, 2018, I spent hours thinking about what was said. Certain questions were asked, issues raised and thoughts shared. Some of what was said disturbed me deeply. As the week progressed, it was made clear to me that I wasn't the only one bothered. People who don't usually talk politics with me, people I am only acquainted with at work and in church, teachers and administrators, spoke with me or reached out to me to express concern and disappointment in some of what was said.

I am the type of person who doesn't believe I am always right. I don't believe I know it all, or that my feelings are justified always. So I reached out to a few community leaders to share my thoughts and thought process so that it can be challenged. The goal of these conversations was to provide insight and gain some. I am grateful to those people who spent time talking with me and challenging me.

This evening, I will respond to statements made, provide insight and present a solution. Words are powerful, and because they are so powerful, we must be sure they are accurate. We owe that to the community of more than 60,000 people that make up the WBASD, our 7000 students, their parents and families, and the remaining taxpayers of our district.

This district is absolutely not segregating G.A.R. students. When I first heard that word, personally, I was offended. I was offended because I understand what segregation was. Jim Crow laws. Signs above water fountains saying "for coloreds only". I remember my father sitting me down to watch the documentary "Eyes on the Prize" and other footage of the 50s and 60s. I remember seeing the dogs, the water hoses and other images of a dismal, dark time in our nation's history. Today, our country is on edge. There are many who feel we are going backwards, once again to that dark place. Some feel that rights are being taken away, that lives are being lost unnecessarily, that rhetoric is becoming more divisive and instead of coming together, we are growing further apart. One community leader I spoke to said, "we are on high alert." That phrase provided a different perspective to me. It helped me understand a point of view that was slightly different than my own. I heard and understood their passion. I appreciate and respect the willingness to stand up, and speak up for what you believe in.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion. That is true. But this isn't a matter of opinion. It's a matter of definition. By definition, segregation is the enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community or establishment. Discrimination, by definition, is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex. We are doing neither.

Our district is ranked #1 of 12 most diverse districts in the county, #11 of 405 in the state. Moreover, WBASD is ranked #405 of 10,626 districts in the country. That means we are in the top 3% in diversity in the state and 4% in the country.

Coughlin is 35.65% non-white.

G.A.R. is 73.51% non-white.

Meyers is 64.62% non-white.

Overall, our district is 61.6% non-white.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

If we were discriminating or segregating by race, then why merge one of our most non-white schools with a predominantly white school? On the surface, it doesn't make sense. And that is because we are not segregating nor discriminating.

Now, you can argue that G.A.R. staying at their school on the hill is unfair. You can argue there will be inequity in educational opportunities. That debate can be had. But discrimination? Segregation?

If segregation was at the root of this merger, I would resign from the board immediately!

The root of this though, is a motion made and passed in June of 2015 to merge Coughlin and Meyers as a result of the district feasibility study. At the time, some members of the community and this board, including myself and Christine Katsock, were arguing for neighborhood schools. The board majority as I understand it, wanted to keep G.A.R. as a neighborhood school. The thought was G.A.R.'s students and parents, would want to remain in their community's neighborhood school.

As time moved on, community members attending school board meetings started using the word discrimination. The argument was made that G.A.R. students should be allowed to attend the new school and benefit from the educational opportunities it presents. I agree.

From the beginning of this process, I have said two things:

1. This is a decision between right and righter.
2. The Gold plan and Silver plan.

I believed the righter thing to do was to save the neighborhood schools, building a new Coughlin in Plains, renovating or rebuilding Meyers and G.A.R. over a 12-year timeframe. I called this the Gold Plan. If that plan could not be accomplished economically, then the right thing to do would be a full consolidation. This plan I called the Silver plan. The wrong thing to do would be nothing. And so, this district decided to do something.

So then, Coughlin and Meyers are merging.

What about G.A.R.? Over the past two years or so, up to and including last week, we have heard your concerns regarding their inclusion in the new building.

There are three options that address this concern, two current and one I will propose.

1. Due to the plancon reimbursement process, we cannot change the motion, allowing for a full consolidation without foregoing the 10M in plancon reimbursement. That said, making such a motion is an option.
2. G.A.R. students can enter into the new building the following year without losing plancon reimbursement dollars.
3. The third option, which I will propose and be asking for board support this evening, is that the superintendent create a school choice policy, with safeguards around transportation, etc., ensuring that any child and/or parent who wishes to attend or have their child attend the new school within our District will be able to do so the day it opens.

The third option will allow all 9th through 12th grade students the choice to choose which high school they will attend; from the one remaining high school located on Grant Street or the newly constructed high school located on the Pagnotti property.

Thanks you all very much for your time and attention this evening.

Communications from Citizens

1. Stanley Mirin
2. Miss pride
3. Robert Holden
4. Mark Schiowitz
5. Gabby Richards
6. Ruth Borland
7. Kim Borland
8. Joe Borland
9. John Suchoski

The above listed Citizens addressed the Board in regard to the following:

1. Board permission to hold an Elementary Track and Field Meet at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium.
2. Every student in WBASD is treated equally and has an opportunity to learn.
3. When the words segregation and discrimination are used it can imply hate.
4. Appreciation expressed in regard to the statement presented by Rev. Walker.
5. Life is a different journey for every person and people say things differently, words can hurt, however, words used were not meant as disrespect.
6. There are good teachers in the WBASD.
7. Grant Street property and Wilkes-Barre Township School should be addressed by the Board.
8. WBASD has buildings identified as Historic Buildings and should be restored as well as preserving Neighborhood Schools.
9. Why has the focus of discussion been on the word segregation?
10. Modern day segregation is real.
11. The Board thinks about themselves first instead of what matters most.
12. Life is different for those who are not white, black voices have not been heard.
13. This Board was trusted to make good plans and provide a good education.
14. It is irresponsible to leave G.A. R. High school out of your future plans.
15. Proud of statements made in regard to segregation and the Meyers Speech and Debate Team was affected by statements that were made.
16. People did not listen until statements about segregation were made.
17. WBASD has a racially diverse school population and an economically challenged population.
18. There needs to be a discussion in regard to race because there are racial issues.
19. The Board should provide ample notice of scheduled Board Meetings and make it possible for economically challenged and diverse families to attend Board Meetings.
20. The Board needs to listen to Community input, talk to parents and students and refrain from being defensive.
21. The Board should be working together to make the Community better.
22. Not optimistic that Rev. Walker's comments will lead to good things.
23. In June of 2015 the Board made a conscious decision to consolidate two schools and when the word segregation comes out everyone is attacked.
24. If the Board does not include three schools, that decision is unacceptable.
25. SOS had a meeting in the past. Some WBASD Board members attended. SOS presented ten questions to be answered and received no answers to any of the ten questions presented.
26. There are no plans for libraries or improvements at G.A.R., no plans for improvements/restoration at remaining schools within WBASD, "School Choice" is not as good as "Neighborhood Schools" and "School Choice" requires a good transition plan.
27. The 7th-8th grade Plancon Submission appears to be not truthful, either Community is not being told the truth or one Government Agency is lying to another Government Agency.
28. What is the plan for the 7th and 8th Grade Meyers students if the Kistler plan is dead and do you need City Council approval to move forward?
29. Where is the Master Plan?
30. How many Minority teachers are there working in WBASD?

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

31. Since the implementation of the Hiring Policy, how many family members of the Board of Directors of WBASD have been hired?
32. SOS has requested multiple times that the Board obtain a second opinion in regard to the evaluation of Meyers High School.
33. There should be more notice provided to the Public in regard to date, time, and location of Board Meetings and Board should consider having a meeting at Meyers.

Superintendent, Dr. Brian Costello, Board President Joseph Caffrey, Board Member, Rev. Walker, responded to questions/statements presented by the Citizens who addressed the Board.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Thomas requested that Mr. Evans, Chairperson of the Safety Security Committee, request that the School Resource Officers investigate the condition of the Grant Street Property and determine any vehicles that are on Grant Street Property that need to be removed.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Mr. Galella stated the next meeting of the LIU will be held on February 28, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Mr. Galella noted that there will be a reduction in contributions to the LIU.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Quinn informed the Board the next meeting for the Wilkes-Barre Career and Technical Center will be on Monday, February 19, 2018.

There was no **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

BUDGET FINANCE /MATERIAL SUPPLIES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the below listed payments:

Apollo Group, Inc.	GAR Exterior Facade	Capital Project	AGI-15052-WBASD – PR12	\$1,470.30
Apollo Group, Inc.	Kistler Pool Roof Replacement Proj.	Capital Projects	AGI-17057-WBASD – PR3	\$1,385.80
Borton Lawson	Kistler Pool Roof Replacement Proj.	Capital Projects	2017-3091-004-0000003	\$2,926.59
Apollo Group, Inc.	CHS Auditorium Shop Debris Removal	Capital Projects	AGI-17054-WBASD-PR #5	\$523.90
Multiscape, Inc.	CHS Auditorium Shop Debris Removal	Capital Projects	App. No. 1	\$105,134.40

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

Multiscape, Inc.	CHS Auditorium Shop Debris Removal	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$11,681.60
Borton Lawson	WBASD – Pagnotti Property – Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000004	\$1,531.77
Borton Lawson	WBASD – Pagnotti Property – Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000005	\$1,070.67
Borton Lawson	WBASD – Study of 3 Site	Capital Projects	BA16-2233-004-BLA0006	\$27.50
Apollo Group	New High School Plains Site	Capital Projects	AGI-16045-WBASD PR11	\$6,519.72
Borton Lawson	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000004	\$27,480.26
TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	Inv. #2	\$27,014.53
WKL Architecture	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	Inv. #3	\$84,070.00
The Citizens' Voice	Legal Ad Kistler Natorium	Capital Projects	Ref # 82152774 CLL	\$695.00
The Times Leader	Legal Ad Kistler Natorium	Capital Projects	Trans. # 300802017	\$737.12

2. The following checks be ratified

Commonwealth of PA Clean Water	New High School Plains Site	Capital Projects	\$7,500.00
Luzerne Conservation District	New High School Plains Site	Capital Projects	\$10,100.00
Luzerne County Clean Water Fund	New High School Plains Site	Capital Projects	\$500.00

3. That approval be given to make final 2016-2017 Budget Line Transfers in accordance with the following listing. The transfers are a result of the year end accounting and auditing adjustments which reconcile the accounts per books to the District's submission of its 2016-2017 Annual Financial Report (AFR)

TO				AMOUNT	FROM				AMOUNT
1200	500	Special Education	Prof. Svcs.	1,250,000	1100	100	Regular Programs	Salaries	1,250,000
1200	500	Special Education	Prof. Svcs.	1,250,000	1100	200	Regular Programs	Benefits	1,250,000
1200	500	Special Education	Prof. Svcs.	1,577,000	1100	500	Regular Programs	Prof. Svcs.	1,577,000
1300	100	Vocational Ed.	Salaries	280,000	1100	500	Regular Programs	Prof. Svcs.	280,000

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

1300	200	Vocational Ed.	Benefits	200,000	1100	600	Regular Programs	Supplies	200,000
2100	100	Pupil Personnel	Salaries	28,000	1100	500	Regular Programs	Prof. Svcs.	28,000
2200	100	Instructional Staff	Salaries	88,000	1100	500	Regular Programs	Prof. Svcs.	88,000
2700	500	Student Transportation Svcs.	Prof. Svcs.	75,000	1100	100	Regular Programs	Salaries	75,000
2700	600	Student Transportation Svcs.	Supplies	60,000	1100	100	Regular Programs	Salaries	60,000
2800	100	Central Support Svcs.	Salaries	2,000	1100	500	Regular Programs	Prof. Svcs.	2,000
2900	500	Other Support Svcs.	Prof. Svcs.	25,000	1100	100	Regular Programs	Salaries	25,000
3300	100	Community Svcs.	Salaries	30,000	1100	100	Regular Programs	Salaries	30,000
5100	800	Debt Service	Other	260,000	1100	200	Regular Programs	Benefits	260,000
1200	100	Special Education	Salaries	99,975	1100	100	Regular Programs	Salaries	99,975
2100	200	Pupil Personnel	Benefits	50,125	1100	200	Regular Programs	Benefits	50,125
2200	600	Instructional Staff	Supplies	48,995	1100	600	Regular Programs	Supplies	48,995
2700	200	Student Transportation Svcs.	Benefits	51,035	1100	200	Regular Programs	Benefits	51,035
2800	200	Central Support Svcs.	Benefits	49,885	1100	200	Regular Programs	Benefits	49,885
5100	800	Debt Service	Other	99,945	1100	600	Regular Programs	Supplies	99,945

4. That approval be given to allow the Business Administrator to sign and submit an Application for Federal Assistance to the USDA in regards to financing the new high school project.

B. FEDERAL

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1719-1723 and Federal Wire transfers #201700488 and Chapter I AP checks #1849-1861 and Chapter I Wire Transfers #201700489-201700497 were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on January 8, 2018 be approved.

- C. That payment be approved for the following General Fund Wire Transfers #201710751-#201710775 and General Fund checks, #47791-47983 and Food Service Checks #3068-3084 which were drawn for payment since the regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on January 8, 2018.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

- D.** That the checks listed on the following pages #47984 to #48171 which have been inspected be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

On the question:

Ms. Patla asked why the shop debris in CHS auditorium were not removed under the contract for asbestos removal.

Business Manager/Board Secretary, Thomas Telesz, stated they were not a part of the asbestos removal contract.

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Patla, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Nay: Patla – A – Administrative –

Multiscape, Inc.	CHS Auditorium Shop Debris Removal	Capital Projects	App. No. 1	\$105,134.40
Multiscape, Inc.	CHS Auditorium Shop Debris Removal	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$11,681.60
Borton Lawson	WBASD – Pagnotti Property – Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000004	\$1,531.77
Borton Lawson	WBASD – Pagnotti Property – Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000005	\$1,070.67
Borton Lawson	WBASD – Study of 3 Site	Capital Projects	BA16-2233-004- BLA0006	\$27.50
Apollo Group	New High School Plains Site	Capital Projects	AGI-16045-WBASD PR11	\$6,519.72
Borton Lawson	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000004	\$27,480.26
TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	Inv. #2	\$27,014.53
WKL Architecture	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	Inv. #3	\$84,070.00

There was no **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Evans noted the next Safety Security Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Patla presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

1. That approval be given to enter into a contract with Dunmore Roofing for the Kistler Elementary Natatorium Maintenance (Roof) Project at a cost of \$ 245,800.00, which represents the base bid of \$220,700.00 and Alternate # 1 of \$8,900.00 and Alternate # 4 of \$16,200.00.

If necessary, concealed roof drain piping and insulation will be replaced at an estimated cost of \$5,000.00 utilizing the following unit prices.

	<u>Per L.F.</u>
Unit Price 1	\$67.00

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

Unit Price 2	\$68.25
Unit Price 3	\$25.00
Unit Price 4	\$26.25

This award is based on the recommendation of the Apollo Group, Inc., the district's construction manager.

2. That ratification be given to the change order from Masonry Preservation Services, Inc. in respect to the GAR Pilot Phase Project in the amount of (360,616.00). This amount represents a reduction in the total contract award.
3. That approval be given to extend the district's service agreement with Ironton Global Company to provide phone services to the district at a cost of \$11,179.92 per month. The agreement will be for a three-year period commencing on July 1, 2018.

Ms. Patla moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

There was no **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Thomas noted that the last meeting of the Building and Grounds Committee was very productive and the next meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks.

There was no **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

PATHWAY/NEW CONSTRUCTION/TRANSITION REPORT

Ms. Thomas noted the next scheduled meeting for the Pathway to Construction/Transition is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

Personnel Committee Report

Dr. Susek presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

All appointments are made pending receipt of PDE required clearances, certifications, and any applicable pre-employment drug test.

A. Agreements

1. That approval be given to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Wilkes-Barre Area Secretaries & Associates Educational Support Personnel Association, effective July 1, 2016.

B. Professionals

1. The Board agrees to waive **Jessica Stork's** return to service requirement in Article XIX, Section 3 of the WBAEA Agreement for the yearlong sabbatical leave previously approved. The board further accepts Jessica's retirement with regret effective February 15, 2018.
2. That the resignation of **Mark Belles** be accepted with regret effective January 24, 2018.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

3. That the retirement of **Mary Louise Harris** be accepted with regret effective the last day of the 2017-18 school year.
4. That a one-time stipend of \$2,000, funded by a grant program, be paid to **Leah Zigmund** to develop administer and analyze a Professional Development Needs Assessment by May 30, 2018. Stipend to be paid upon completion.
5. That the following professional employees be appointed as After-School SIG (School Intervention Grant) Teachers at an hourly rate of \$25:

Wendy Anderson

Rita Gubbiotti

Tracy Stevenson

6. That the following professional employees be appointed as RAISE (Reinforcing Academic Instruction for Student Excellence) Program teachers at a rate of \$30 per hour. This Saturday tutoring program is fully funded by the Title IV Grant Program and will take place at Heights-Murray Elementary School. Salaries and benefits will not exceed the Title IV allocation.

Patricia Considine

Leah Zelinka

Rachel Mancuso

Mary Grace Walkowiak

Crystal Kane

Kevin Sickle

Joe Sebastian

Linda Scarantino

Georgette Ferkel

Kelly Jackson

Elizabeth Witczak

Kristen Pstrak

Tammy Levandowski

Jen Yuhas

Jamee Capristo

Lauren Stamm

Carolyn Kaminski

Mary Tranguch

Laura Zawatsky

Dominique Nardone

Samantha Kischbach

C. Custodians & Housekeepers

1. That **Mark Sims'** request for unpaid leave beginning December 22, 2017 until on or about March 22, 2018 be approved.
2. That **Mary Liberski's** request for unpaid leave beginning February 14th for a period of 2 weeks be approved.
3. That **Beth Christian** be appointed a 25 hour per week housekeeper.
4. That **Elizabeth Connell** be appointed a substitute custodian.

D. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That **Betsy Carey** be appointed as After-School SIG (School Intervention Grant) Teachers' Associates at her regularly hourly rate.
2. That the following employees be appointed as RAISE (Reinforcing Academic Instruction for Student Excellence) Program aides at their regular hourly rate. This Saturday tutoring program is fully funded by the Title IV Grant Program and will take place at Heights-Murray Elementary School. Salaries and benefits will not exceed the Title IV allocation:

Sherri Demas Marianne Egan Michele Pettit Teresa Torres

E. Security/Greeters

1. That the resignation of **John Molitoris** be accepted with regret effective January 31, 2018.

F. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Anthony Cibello** as Meyers Baseball Varsity Assistant Coach be accepted with regret.
2. That the resignation of **Ali Schappert** as Meyers Cross Country Varsity Head Coach be accepted with regret.
3. That the resignation of **Gary McGuinness** as Coughlin Boys Volleyball Varsity Assistant Coach be accepted with regret.
4. That the resignation of **Heather Lavelle** as GAR Softball Varsity Assistant Coach Be accepted with regret.
5. That **David Llewellyn's** status be changed from Coughlin Softball Varsity Assistant Coach to Coughlin Softball Junior High Head Coach.
6. That **Sarah Fugate's** status be changed from Coughlin Softball Junior High Head Coach to Coughlin Softball Varsity Assistant Coach
7. 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.

Meyers	Track & Field	Junior High Head Coach	Zahir Dunell
Meyers	Track & Field	Junior High Assistant Coach	TABLED
Meyers	Baseball	Varsity Assistant Coach	Corey Brenner
Coughlin	Boys Volleyball	Varsity Assistant Coach	TABLED
Coughlin	Softball	Junior High Assistant Coach	TABLED
GAR	Softball	Varsity Head Coach	Wally Peck

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Rev. Walker presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 proposed General Operating Budget of the **LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT** has been presented to the members of the Board of Education of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for review; and,

WHEREAS, said budget calls for the total contribution of \$352,031.00 by withholding from member districts (this represents A \$50,000.00 decrease from the 2017-2018 budget); and

WHEREAS, Wilkes-Barre Area School District's share of the total contribution, by withholding, would be \$54,253.00 (a \$7,782.00 decrease from 2017-2018); and,

WHEREAS, actual 2016-2017 Weighted Average Daily Memberships (WADM's) are not yet available, but when available a new contribution calculation will be made; and,

WHEREAS, any recalculation of the contribution schedule is not expected to substantially modify each individual school district's share,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District grant approval to the 2018-2019 annual budget of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit.

Wilkes-Barre, PA

February 12, 2018

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Resolution.

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Galella presented Resolution #2

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING ESA VOUCHER PROGRAMS (SB 2)
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania school districts provide countless academic and extracurricular opportunities for learning and growth of all students, preparing them for higher education and careers; and districts have continued to make steady gains in academic achievement, with Pennsylvania students consistently ranked in or near the top 10 nationally on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exams for reading and math; and Pennsylvania has been named a national leader in providing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania also maintains a greater high school graduation rate and a larger percentage of student moving on to higher education than the national average; and

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2018

WHEREAS, more than 80% of Pennsylvania students enrolled in career and technical centers or programs are achieving at the competent to advanced level on industry-based skills assessments, enabling them to earn credentials leading to meaningful employment or college credit equivalencies as cooperating institutions; and

WHEREAS, public schools ensure that each student with a disability receives a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in compliance with federal and state law and regulations, with students and their families having benefits of a system of procedural safeguards; and

WHEREAS, Education Savings Account (ESA) voucher programs such as those under Senate Bill 2 undermine Pennsylvania's responsibility to ensure every student in every community has equal access to public education; and schools targeted under Senate Bill 2 are already in under resourced districts; and state money for ESAs would be deducted, on a per-student basis, from a school district's basic education subsidy; and not only would school districts' state aid be sent to unaccountable private schools, but such money could also be diverted to higher education, tutoring services and other "qualified education expenses," not even ensuring students receive full-time educational instruction; and

WHEREAS, the voucher program in Senate Bill 2 benefits families regardless of income or need, including students already enrolled in private school or never having attended a targeted public school; and voucher systems in other states have been shown to be vulnerable to financial fraud and abuse; and

WHEREAS, unlike private schools, public school districts accept, educate and protect the rights of all children who come to their doors, as opposed to those institutions that can reject applicants based on any number of factors and are not required to uphold the rights of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, public schools are held to strict accountability standards that measure student achievement and academic progress, unlike private schools which are not required to use the same standard assessments and reporting requirements as public schools; and provisions under Senate Bill 2 would not require participating private schools to use the same standardized assessments, making comparison and evaluation of academic progress unachievable; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Wilkes-Barre Area School District opposes Senate Bill 2 and any other legislation or any effort by the General Assembly to implement tuition vouchers or any other program that would have an effect of a tuition voucher program, and conveys the importance of supporting and improving the quality of all public schools in the Commonwealth.

Approved by the Board of Directors on February 8, 2018.

ATTESTED BY:

For the School District: Wilkes-Barre Area

Joseph A. Caffrey

School Board President

Thomas F. Telesz

School Board Secretary

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Resolution. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

New Business

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Dr. Susek, that the superintendent create a school choice policy within our District, which allows all 9th through 12th grade students and their families the choice to choose which high school they will attend; from the one remaining high school located on Grant Street (GAR) or the newly constructed high school located on the Pagnotti property.

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Nay: Evans

Dr. Costello noted in regard to the above motion he will develop a "School Choice Policy" and submit to the Board for their review before the Board will vote on the "School Choice Policy".

Ms. Patla moved, seconded by Rev. Walker, to hold the March 5, 2018 Regular Board Meeting at Meyers High School. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

There was no **Solicitors Report**

President Caffrey adjourned the Meeting at 8:25 PM