

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting – February 6, 2023

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary, Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

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

President Caffrey - The chair wishes to announce the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of February 6, 2023. The subjects discussed in the Executive Session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Board meetings on November 7, 2022 and January 9, 2023 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by Ms. Harris seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of November 7, 2022 and January 9, 2023.

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

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello – Due to the severe teacher shortage that the nation is experiencing. We as the Wilkes Barre Area School District understand that we play a role in changing this dynamic by increasing the amount of graduating high school students to pursue a career in education. We believe this can be accomplished by providing authentic learning opportunities where high school students shadow our current teachers. They will not only shadow our staff but be actively engaged in the learning process.

We currently have students participating in this program who have been placed in four various settings - Elementary, ELL, Special Education and Secondary Education.

We also want them to get an understanding of what can be expected in college if they elect to pursue a career in education. We currently have agreements with Wilkes, Misericordia, and Kings to allow students to spend some time on campus, have advisors available to them to answer various questions and to take college educational classes free of charge during their senior year. We started with 11 students the first semester and we now have 40 more students looking to take part in the teacher experience.

We believe by exposing our current students to this rewarding field they will consider a career in education. Next month we will have representatives from this program and another major announcement of this program.

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APOLLO REPORT/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Krzywicki - Meyers High School – we continue to perform building security checks and secure the building envelope. Flood Elementary – continue to address work requests; completed an evaluation of the existing clock system and determined this needs to be replaced. Heights-Murray Elementary – continue to address work requests along with plumbing repairs. Solomon Complex – we are addressing work requests; completed replacement of the kitchen exhaust fan. Dodson – addressing the work requests. GAR Middle School – continue to address the work requests, plumbing repairs and issued a contract for the partial roof replacement. Mackin – addressing work requests; completed additional repair on fire protection system. Kistler – addressing work requests, plumbing and HVAC repairs and completed an evaluation of the existing clock system and determined this needs to be replaced. WBAHS – continue to address work requests and the contractors and working on the remaining punch list items. Stadium Project – All contractors are completing the remaining work of their contracts. We expect to achieve substantial completion within the next 1-2 weeks. General Information – over the last month we have been able to reduce the number of unassigned work requests from 30 down to 14. The majority of those are related to issues that need to be further investigated. Our maintenance staff is currently addressing approximately 150 new work orders. The District has requested proposals for four ESCO companies to replace HVAC equipment, lighting fixtures & ceilings at GAR, Solomon Complex, Flood, Heights-Murray and Kistler. Proposals are due on February 16, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS – None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Ms. Harris – No Report

CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – No Report

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer’s Reports for November 2022. **“Exhibit A”**
2. Capital Projects – That approval be given to the below listed payments.

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| A2.1 | Apollo Group, Inc. | New High School Project | Capital Projects | App. No. 59 | \$261.29 |
|------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------|

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|-------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| A2.2 | Stell Enterprises, Inc. | New High School Project | Capital Projects | App. No. 26 | \$140,639.59 |
| A2.3 | Stell Enterprises, Inc. | New High School Project | Capital Projects | App. No. 27 | \$356,406.86 |
| A2.4 | Apollo Group, Inc. | New Stadium Project | Capital Projects | App. No. 13 | \$39,526.70 |
| A2.5 | Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects | Fieldhouse/ Ticket Booths | Capital Projects | Inv. # 716-01-2023 | \$6,964.40 |
| A2.6 | Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc. | Fieldhouse/ Ticket Booths | Capital Projects | App. No. 000-8 | \$92,347.65 |
| A2.7 | Myco Mechanical, Inc. | Fieldhouse/ Ticket Booths | Capital Projects | HVAC App. No. 9 | \$87,607.10 |
| A2.8 | Myco Mechanical, Inc. | Fieldhouse/ Ticket Booths | Capital Projects | Plumbing App. No. 9 | \$51,492.98 |
| A2.9 | Panzitta Enterprises, Inc. | Fieldhouse/ Ticket Booths | Capital Projects | App. No. 7 | \$595,586.06 |
| A2.10 | Panzitta Enterprises, Inc. | Fieldhouse/ Ticket Booths | Capital Projects | App. No. 8 | \$184,993.41 |
| A2.11 | Keystone Sports Construction | Additional Athletic Fields | Capital Projects | Inv. #2153 | \$857,872.97 |
| A2.12 | Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc. | Solomon/Plains Roof Project | Capital Projects | Inv. #8004 | \$6,501.00 |
| A2.13 | Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc. | Solomon/Plains Roof Project | Capital Projects | Inv. #8005 | \$1,440.75 |

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

| | |
|------|---|
| R.C. | 29 East Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705 |
|------|---|

B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #2792 to #2813; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202200490 to #202200502 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on January 9, 2023.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #59826 to #59884 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202212047 to #202212062 and Food Service Checks #3799 to #3808 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on January 9, 2023 be approved.

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D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #59885 to #60046 listed on the following pages, which have been inspected, be approved and that order be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

E. CONTRACTED SERVICES

1. That authorization be given to the Business Administrator to enter into an agreement for an electricity service provider agreement based on the recommendation of Provident Energy.
2. That approval be given to purchase Choral Risers from Wenger Corporation, 555 Park Drive, Owatonna, MN 55060-4940 at a total cost of \$24,280.75. **“Exhibit B”**
3. That authorization be given to terminate the Agreement with BCM Security Services, Inc. effective March 1, 2023
4. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Standing Stone Consulting, Inc. for security services at an hourly rate of \$25.75. **“Exhibit C”**
5. Contingent upon approval from the Plains Twp. Planning Commission, that approval be given to Change Order #01 for Keystone Sports Construction in the amount of \$893,817.96. The Change Order consists of the following:

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| 1 | Installation of 66' long by 20' high black vinyl coated backstop | \$49,583.52 |
| | Delete 157' of 4' high and 35' and 15' high fence from Phase 3 Contract | |
| | Install 343' of 8' high black chain link fence – 2-4' opening gates | |
| 2 | Install (6) pole Musco Lighting System, Wire Scoreboards and add GFI's in dugouts | \$237,904.80 |
| 3 | Musco Lighting System (Material only) Non-Taxable fixtures | \$430,095.68 |
| | Musco Lighting System (Material only) Taxable – Poles | |
| 4 | Site work associated with the softball field option | \$121,466.24 |
| 5 | Additional Engineering (ELA) | \$5,376.00 |
| 6 | Bases, mounds, and home plates (Sportfield Equipment) | \$1,723.40 |
| 7 | Synthetic Turf softball lines, and batting tunnel synthetic turf | \$10,542.20 |

6. That approval be given to Change Order #05 for Panzitta Enterprises in the amount of \$1,843.00. The Change Order consists of the following:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Backdraft damper for the Electrical Room | \$1,843.00 |
|--|------------|

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

The vote was as follows:

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

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ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – No Report

SAFETY SECURITY – No Report

TRANSPORTATION – No Report

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval.

1. That approval be given to ratify the agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and United Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., 180 Import Road, Pittston, PA to replace and install the Kitchen Exhaust Fan at Solomon/Plains at a cost of \$8,726.00. **“Exhibit D”**
2. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Tristate HVAC Equipment, LLC, 1 Resource Drive, West Conshocken, PA to repair a bad compressor (m1C) and associated (a3p board) in heating unit #2 at the Mackin Building at a cost of \$13,189.50. **“Exhibit E”**
3. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Schindler Elevator Corporation, 6330 Hedgewood Drive, Suite 210, Allentown, PA to furnish and install a Solid State Stater in Elevator #1 at Kistler Elementary School at a cost of \$6,633.00 plus applicable taxes. **“Exhibit F”**
4. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Schindler Elevator Corporation, 6330 Hedgewood Drive, Suite 210, Allentown, PA to furnish and install Emergency Lighting Using Separate Fixtures in two (2) elevators at Kistler Elementary School at a cost of \$8,349.00 plus applicable taxes. **“Exhibit G”**

Mr. Faust moved, seconded by Rev. Walker to adopt the Building Maintenance Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas (#1-3-4), Walker, Caffrey
1 Nay: Thomas (#2)

FACILITIES TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval.

1. That approval be given to acquire the property located at 134-136 Maffett Street, Plains, PA at the appraised value of \$511,000.00 and that the Solicitor, Superintendent and Business Administrator be authorized to execute any and all documents related to this acquisition.

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Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Rev. Walker to adopt the Facilities Transition Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

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

STUDENT WELLNESS – No Report

POLICY

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

1. That the following policy be adopted:
 - Summary Offense Alternative Discipline Policy

Wilkes Barre Area School District Summary Offense Alternative Discipline Policy

Purpose:

Whereas the Wilkes Barre Area School District is offering an alternative to traditional prosecutorial disposition for students committing non-violent minor Summary Offenses occurring within the school district's jurisdiction and locations and modes of transportation under its control. The intent of such program is to be supportive of the Restorative Justice philosophy regarding Juvenile Justice in an effort to prevent a "School to Prison Pipeline".

Details:

Student(s) who have allegedly committed acts where there is probable cause for issuing citations for minor Summary Offenses that are non-violent in nature and involve no physical injury to another may be offered a disciplinary action- to include after school detention- in lieu of receiving a citation. During this 2-hour-period the student would be required to perform minor services; such as the cleaning of common areas, floors and trash disposal.

Who may Qualify:

- Wilkes Barre Area School District Students.
- Minimum age of 10 years old.
- Incidents which are summary offenses, non-violent in nature and involve no physical injury to another. Examples include: vaping, smoking, fighting-mutual combatant who are non-resistant to responding school officials, use of vulgar or obscene language, etc. To qualify the alleged act committed must include the necessary elements to charge for such offense.

Conditions:

- School Administrator may offer the offending student and his or her parent or guardian the option of electing to choose the alternative after school detention. Participation is strictly elective and must be completed within 30 days of the alleged offense.
- The offending student and parent or guardian must agree to participate and sign waiver form.
- Offending students who fail to attend or complete their after school detention as scheduled may receive a citation for the original offense - at the discretion of the school police officer.

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Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Policy Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

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

A. Agreements

1. That approval be given to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and The Wilkes-Barre Area Educational Association effective September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2028.
2. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Gannon University. **"EXHIBIT H"**
3. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Marywood University. **"EXHIBIT I"**

B. Act 93

1. That _____ be appointed Supervisor of Special Education. **-TABLED**
2. That the appointment of **Kaitlyn Camillocci** be amended to a PCCD Funded Year to Year Resource Officer at Group E minimum salary.
3. That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions at a rate of \$40.00 per hour. ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

ARP ESSER After School Program Session 3 SRO (May Rotate)

James Sheridan
Edward Mishanski
Jeffrey Lutz

C. Professionals

1. That **David Lapinski's** request for a sabbatical for the 2nd Semester of the 2022-2023 school year be approved.

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2. That **Karen Blaum's** request for a sabbatical for the 2023-2024 school year be approved.
3. That **Mikayla Hoskins** be appointed an Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher effective January 31, 2023.
4. That **Daniel Perez** be appointed an Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher effective February 3, 2023.
5. The following members of the professional staff, having made claim for an incentive raise under the WBAEA Agreement and having produced official transcripts listing the graduate credits earned, be granted the following effective the first day of the second semester:

Bachelors' +39

Susan Ferretti

Masters' + 9

Colleen Beavers

Jamie Kramer

Dominique Nardone

Masters' +18

Stephanie Bradley

Brenda Cavalari

Kristen Hudack

Masters' +27

Jared Meehan

Michael Mitchell

Lynn Sebia

Masters' +36

Emily Bell

Leah Considine

Jasmine Davis

Ashleigh Soboleski

Michele Southern

Masters' +45

Brian Leighton

Maura Mattick

Jenny Wilczak

Masters' +54

Keryn Bevan

Pamela Dixon

Heather Grebeck

Maria Hayward

Jason Lukachinsky

Debra McNichol

Amanda Poplawski

6. That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions at a rate of \$35.00 per hour. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

RAISE After School Program Session 3

Kristen Barber

Donna Brenner

Kelley Campas

Rick Collins

Mary Claire

Corcoran

Cynthia Craig

Susan Domiano

Deborah Egidio

Susan Ferretti

Lisa Giovannini

Anne Goffredo

Rita Gubbiotti

Aubrey Hallinan

Jessica Hendler

Dana Hine

Jennifer Hunter

Erika Jacobs

Carolyn Kaminski

Molly McAndrew

Erin McGavin

Kathie Miles

Mary Jo Petlock

Lisa Prevuznak

Kelly Pryor

Amanda Scott

Kevin Sickle

Ruth Sorber

Amy Sullivan

Veronica Tobin

Mary Tranguch

Melissa Watkins

Keryn Bevan

Michael Day

Joelle DeLuca

Heather Johnson

Marianne

Kapuschinsky

Diane McFarlane

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Erin Moran
Christina Nordmark
MaryAnn Rizzo

Brittany Scarnulis
Paul Shymanski
Megan Toney

Glenn Zimmerman

A-TSI After School Program Session 3

Joanne Kelly
Courtney O'Meara
Ruth Sorber
Amy Wargo-Secor

Heather Engle
Lauren Latteer
Amy Pascale
Ed Rosengrant

Susan Schwab
Maureen Sovan
Leah Zelinka

ARP ESSER After School Program Session 3

Mary Gallis
Nichole Gordon
Heather Green

Brenda Labatch-
Cavalari
Tanya Martin-Kirkutis

Kristen Pstrak
Joyce Strubeck
Jennifer Thomas

D. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the resignation of **Darrian Tyson** be accepted effective February 6, 2023.
2. That **Jean White's** request for an unpaid leave from January 27, 2023 through March 24, 2023 be approved.
3. That **Naomi Arzola-Morales's** request for an unpaid leave from January 19, 2023 through February 20, 2023 be approved.
4. That **Geizamar Santana's** request for an unpaid leave from January 17, 2023 through January 20, 2023 be approved.
5. That **Dalips Velez** be appointed Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week.
6. That **Angelina Ferdinand-Joseph** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
7. That **Mary Gregor** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
8. That **Darrian Tyson** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
9. That **Katherine Villar** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
10. That _____ be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. **TABLED**
11. That _____ be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. **TABLED**

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12. That the following employees be appointed to the following positions at their current hourly rate. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

RAISE After School Program Session 3 AIDE

Betsy Carey
Michelle Cook
Yolanda Harris
Blake Meredick
Kimberly Munoz-
Jimenez
Marie Pistack
Judy Rosengrant
Karen Taylor

**ARP ESSER After
School Program
Session 3 AIDE**

Cassandra Camp
Michelle Conahan
Shantel Grohowski

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ARP ESSER After School Program Session 3 AIDE

Cassandra Camp
Michelle Conahan
Shantel Grohowski

E. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. That the retirement of **James Decker** be accepted effective March 3, 2023.
2. That the resignation of **Savitrie Kumar** be accepted effective January 10, 2023.
3. That **Saul Wilkins** be appointed an ESSER Funded Custodian with a position termination date of August 31, 2024.
4. That **Joseph Morales** be appointed a Sub Custodian.

F. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Kayla Orehek** be accepted.
2. That the resignation of **Michael Day** be accepted.
3. That the resignation of **Jeff Labatch** be accepted.
4. That the resignation of **William Amesbury** be accepted and would like to remain a volunteer assistant coach.
5. That the resignation of **Simon Peter Jr.** be accepted.
6. The following appointments are made for the sports season and will be continued on a season to season basis unless the post is declared vacant by the Board of School Directors. All appointments are effective upon all PDE required clearances and documents being submitted.

Wolfpack Cheerleader Advisor (Spirit/Traditional)
Boys Volleyball Varsity Head Coach
Boys Volleyball Varsity Assistant Coach
Volunteer Softball Assistant Coach
Volunteer Football Assistant Coach

Jillian Smith
Huy Nguyen
Sierra Hildebrand
David Deluca
Kyle Evans

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by **Mr. Breese** to adopt the **Personnel Committee Report**.

The vote was as follows:

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

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Mr. Caffrey presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 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 \$539,887.00 by withholding from member districts (this represents a \$50,000.00 decrease from the 2022-2023 budget); and

WHEREAS, Wilkes-Barre Area School District's share of the total contribution, by withholding, would be \$82,984.00 (a \$8,177.04 decrease from 2022-2023); and,

WHEREAS, actual 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 2023-2024 annual budget of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
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Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Rev. Walker to adopt Resolution #1.

The vote was as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS – No Report

SOLICITOR REPORT – No Report

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Susek and seconded by Rev. Walker. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 13, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at: 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Telesz
Board Secretary