

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
June 27, 2017

President Denise T. Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

1 MEMBER ABSENT: Quinn

President Thomas stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Committee Meeting of June 27, 2017 and prior to the Regular Board Meeting of June 27, 2017.
- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 18, 2017 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

All In Favor: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Thomas F. Telesz, Business Manager/Board Secretary, presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 31, 2016.

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016

GENERAL	
FUNDS	
GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(\$934,846.79)
GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB	\$33,868,626.80
FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB	\$122,744.96
FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB	\$280,152.61
FNB BANK	\$442,290.04
FNB BANK	\$73,700.58
JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT	\$1,691,689.93
PNC BANK	\$383,978.53
PNC BANK INVESTMENT	\$5,378,692.22
LPL LINSKO PRIVATE LEDGER	\$828,710.60
EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB	\$1,018.83
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1	\$11,639.39
REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB	\$0.00
LANDMARK CD	\$463,794.53
PLGIT EIT	\$821,895.23
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$43,434,087.46

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SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	
2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$18,314,586.99
ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK	\$90,504.05
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$18,405,091.04
TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	
PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB	\$1,973,239.97
PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB	\$262.87
WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$184,241.22
ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	\$135,688.46
SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	\$303,400.04
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #5	\$334,412.15
TOTAL TRUST AND AGENCY FUND	\$2,931,244.71
FOOD SERVICE FUND	
CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$1,567,086.38
TOTAL FOOD SERVICE FUND	\$1,567,086.38
DEBT SERVICE FUND	
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #7	\$9,311.82
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$9,311.82

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adopt the Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2016.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Costello informed the Board and those Citizens present that 78% of the senior classes of Wilkes-Barre Area School District were attending colleges or universities post-graduation and they received 9.7 million dollars in scholarships.

At this time, Dr. Koury, Director of Administrative and Student Services, informed the Board that Wilkes-Barre Area School District will pilot a Pre K Program in partnership with Building Blocks at Kistler and Solomon Elementary Schools. Dr. Koury noted that this was a program that was three years in the making and thanked Dr. Costello, Superintendent, and Board President, Denise Thomas for their hard work and dedication to ensure the implementation of the Pre-K Pilot Program. Dr. Koury stated that hundreds of studies determined that children who attend Pre-K programs are more prepared for Kindergarten in Pre Reading and Pre Math in addition to other skills. Dr. Koury noted that information will be distributed and advertised along with scheduled events for parents/guardians in order to create awareness of the Pre-K Pilot Program.

Superintendent Costello and Board President, Denise Thomas acknowledged and thanked Dr. Koury for all of the effort she has put forth to establish the Pre-K Pilot Program for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

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

There was no **Unfinished Business**

Communications from Citizens

1. Barbara Wilson
2. Ruth Borland
3. Sam Troy
4. Kim Borland
5. Dave Wilson
6. Lois Grimm
7. Melissa Patla
8. Richard Holidick
9. John Suchoski
10. George Brown
11. Darlene Rielly

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

1. Is the Pre-K program mandatory?
2. How will at risk students be reached?
3. Will there be ESL certified teachers involved and teaching in the Pre-K Program?
4. Will children attend the Pre-K Program all day?
5. How will children get to and from the Pre-K Program?
6. The Wilkes-Barre Area School Districts ranking listed in the recent Citizens Voice article was appalling.
7. The District cannot blame low scores on ESL students and truancy. The District need to find a solution.
8. How many teachers in the District are ESL certified?
9. The District should establish a pay raise for teachers who become additionally certified in ESL.
10. Is the District reaching all students?

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11. Board does not talk about what needs to be done to improve student scores.
12. Board continues to talk about facilities and spend millions of dollars on architects.
13. Board does not talk about the Education process.
14. The Board needs to bring in an expert to evaluate Education scores and take Education seriously.
15. District needs to provide text books, resources for teachers and functioning libraries.
16. All schools need to be treated equally and overcrowding needs to be eliminated.
17. In September make sure bathrooms are clean and lights are working and refrain from making excuses.
18. The Board needs to support teachers and emphasize education.
19. Board is recklessly building a new school.
20. The 2017-2018 Budget is a moral abomination.
21. This Board has voted every year for a tax increase.
22. The Public should be allowed to participate in Committee Meetings.
23. The Board has made no effort to cut expenditures.
24. The 2017-2018 Budget is a travesty.
25. If the District stays focused on facilities and ignores neighborhood schools, the District will get worse.
26. Will parents have an opportunity to meet with Pre-K staff in order to become familiar with the Pre-K Pilot Program?
27. There appears to be a disconnect between District, City and Community.
28. District needs to provide information to the media in regard to positive aspects of the WBASD.
29. The Board and Administration should reach out to Districts in similar situation to see what they are doing to address similar issues.
30. Encourage parent involvement, create a parent advisory committee.
31. Provide seminars from community members to teachers and students.
32. Committee Meetings should be open for the public to attend.
33. The STEM Summer Camp being held at Meyers is awesome.
34. The cleanliness of Meyers High School has improved.
35. How do you plan on getting 60 % of children involved in the Pre-K Pilot Program?
36. Plans should be made to improve Curriculum.
37. What will be the situation of the school libraries for the 2017-2018 school year?
38. District should consider creating a student study center.
39. E.L. Meyers graduation ceremony was outstanding.
40. Demographics has nothing to do with success of students.
41. District should investigate the positive effects of Project Based Learning, do research, consider alternate programs.
42. SOS strongly believes consolidation is not in the best interest of the District.
43. Do a confidential survey of teachers to determine their thoughts and needs in regard to providing the best education to their students.
44. What is House Bill #76 and how will it benefit taxpayers?
45. When will the Community members be able to tour schools?
46. What are your plans for Meyers High School when consolidation takes place?
47. Consider having Community meetings to inform residents of South Wilkes-Barre the future plans for Meyers High School.
48. District should provide information to students on the dangers involved with the use of Social Media.
49. Students in the District face many personal family tragedies in their lives and the District needs to have grief counseling in place and available to students.
50. PSSA scores do not paint a true and accurate portrait of our students who achieve great things both in school and following graduation.

Superintendent Brian Costello, Board Members Joseph Caffrey, Ned Evans, Dino Galella, Rev. Walker, Dr. Rochelle Koury, Director of Administrative and Student Services, Project Manager, Gary Salijko and Solicitor Ray Wendolowski, responded to the various questions/statements presented by the Citizens who addressed the Board.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Miss Katsock informed the Board that there is no meeting in July that the next meeting of the LIU is scheduled for August 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Dr. Susek informed the Board that the last meeting scheduled for June 19, 2017 was not held due to a quorum not being present.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to enter into a contract with Northeastern Intermediate Unit, 1200 Line Street, Archibald, PA for special education services for the 2017-2018 school year.
2. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with John McElwee, MS, BCBA, BSL, 112 Haverford Drive, Laffin, PA to provide services as an Internal Coach for the District's Autism Support Classes participating in the Pennsylvania Autism Initiative ABA Support program.
3. That approval be given to the "Memorandum of Understanding", by and between the District and the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Bureau for the Aging. This Memorandum, which will cover the three (3) year period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020, will place 25-30 Foster Grandparents to serve 200 children with special or exceptional needs.
4. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement with Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc., 437 N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA to provide Prevention/Education Services to students of this District for the 2017-2018 school year.
5. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement with the Meadows/UCBH, 132 The Meadows Drive, Centre Hall, PA, a licensed private tutorial school to provide a diagnostic/prescriptive approach to District students' academic needs during hospitalization.
6. 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018.
7. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement with Bancroft, 1255 Caldwell Road, Cherry Hill, N.J. to provide special education services to students of this District for the 2017-2018 school year.

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

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

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BUDGET FINANCE / MATERIAL SUPPLIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Miss Katsock 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 Chiller Tower	Capital Projects	AGI-16039-WBASD #6	\$236.60
Apollo Group, Inc.	GAR Exterior Façade	Capital Projects	AGI-15052-WBASD #6	\$980.20
Masonry Preservation Services, Inc.	GAR Pilot Phase Repairs	Capital Projects	App. No. 1	\$57,996.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	GAR Re-Roofing Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 6	\$5,070.00
Dunmore Roofing & Supply Co., Inc.	GAR Re-Roofing Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 4	\$52,618.50
Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc.	GAR Re-Roofing Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #5542	\$1,868.00
Callahan Construction	GAR Stage Steel	Capital Projects	App. No. 1	\$14,900.00
TGL Engineering, Inc.	GAR Stage Steel	Capital Projects	Inv. #1	\$660.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	Meyers Walkway/Tunnel	Capital Projects	AGI-16031-WBASD #6	\$169.00
Callahan Construction	Meyers Walkway/Tunnel	Capital Projects	App. No. 1	\$17,475.00
TGL Engineering, Inc.	Meyers Walkway/Tunnel	Capital Projects	Inv. #1	\$2,120.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	District Maintenance Plan	Capital Projects	AGI-15019-WBASD #11	\$905.32
Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School (Plains Site)	Capital Projects	AGI-16045-WBASD #5	\$1,882.37
Borton Lawson Architecture	New High School (Study of 3 Sites)	Capital Projects	BA16-2233-004-BLA0004	\$3,437.50

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2. That ratification be given to the Repository Tax Sale by Northeast Revenue Service, LLC, as agent for the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau as follows:

PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL NO.	PROPOSED BID
71 Putnam Lane Wilkes-Barre, PA	73-I10NW1-002-043-000	\$500.00
1027 Rear Spruce Street Wilkes-Barre Twp., PA	69-I10NW3-006-03A-000	\$500.00
427 South River Street Wilkes-Barre, PA	73-H9SE4-023-019-000	\$500.00
72 South Grant Street Wilkes-Barre, PA	73-H10SW4-011-000	\$500.00

3. That approval be given to contribute \$17,200.00 to Wilkes-Barre City for the use/maintenance of the Municipal Athletic Fields for the 2016-2017 school year. This is the same amount as was contributed for the 2015-2016 school year.

4. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement for Participation in the Child Nutrition Program for the 2017-2018 school year with the following organizations.

- a. Alternative Learning Center/Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18
- b. The Milford E. Barnes Junior School

5. That approval be given to renew membership, and continue the Board Policy Maintenance Program with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, 400 Bent Creek Blvd., Mechanicsburg, PA for the 2017-2018 school year at a cost of \$14,195.00.

6. That approval be given to the Controller to post to the 2016-2017 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.

7. That after having reviewed a proposal on May 24, 2017 that approval is made to the following vendor for:

REPLACEMENT COMBI-OVENS FOR HEIGHTS KITCHEN

Rice's Food Equipment and Consulting, Inc. \$31,773.10

8. That after having reviewed proposals submitted on June 7, 2017 that approval is made to the following vendor for:

Rice's Food Equipment and Consulting, Inc.

REPLACEMENT OF GAR STEAMER WITH COMBI-OVEN \$15,625.10

UPGRADING OF GAR CAFETERIA SERVING LINE \$24,706.00

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B. FEDERAL

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1622-1627 and Federal Wire transfer #201600753 and Chapter I AP checks #1717-1725 and Chapter I Wire Transfers #201600754-201600762 were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 18, 2017 be approved.

C. That payment be approved for the following General Fund Wire Transfers #201610564 - #201610592 and General Fund checks, #45809 - #45936 and Food Service Checks 2938-2955 which were drawn for payment since the regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 18, 2017.

D. That the checks listed on the following pages #45937 to #46136 which have been inspected be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

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

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

There was no **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Evans informed the Board that there will be metal detectors present at all football home games.

CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to renew the District's Commercial Package (Property and Liability) and Commercial Automobile coverage through Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., and Excess Liability coverage through the PSBA Program for the 2017-2018 school year, effective July 1, 2017 at a combined rate of \$192,392.00.
2. That approval be given to renew the District's Workers Compensation Insurance Policy for the 2017-2018 school year, effective July 1, 2017 through the Housing and Redevelopment Insurance Exchange (HARIE) at an estimated cost of \$402,316.00.
4. That approval be given to the agreement with Northeast Revenue Services, LLC for the collection of Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre City and Wilkes-Barre Township. The agreement will be for three years beginning July 1, 2017. The fee will remain at \$2.20 per real estate tax bill mailed along with a \$2.00 fee for preparing and mailing delinquent courtesy letters.
4. That approval be given to renew the Mine Subsidence Insurance coverage on District buildings with the Department of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 8462, Harrisburg, PA 17105. The insurance coverage on each building shall remain at \$500,000.00, the maximum amount allowed at an annual premium of \$257.50 per building.

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

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

There was no **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

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

A. Policies

1. That the Wilkes-Barre Area School District's Wellness Policy be adopted.

Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Miss Katsock, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

There was no **PATHWAY/NEW CONSTRUCTION/TRANSITION REPORT**

Personnel Committee Report

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

A. Professionals

1. That **Anthony George's** request for unpaid leave for the 2017-18 school year be approved.
2. 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 June 28, 2017:

Bachelor's +30

James Butterwick

Bachelor's +39

Lori Miller

Susan Shaw

Master's +9

Pamela Dixon

Master's +18

Michelle Gorey

Jennifer Wilson

Brandilynn Schmoll

Megan Sweeney

Kaitlyn Carr

John Gosciewski

Master's +27

Maria Unice

Mary Beth Sharkey

Jennifer Perks

Corry Hanson

Joanne Kelly

Georgette Ferkel

Elaine Dunn

Master's +36

Sara Edwards

Kelley Campas

Larissa Goldstein

Danielle Castanaro

Master's +45

Erika Hanson

Lauren Gavlick

Marsha Hanson

Master's +54

Maria Sullivan

Molly Nealon

Theresa Slusser

Christopher Sedon

Eileen Spellman

Leah Zelinka

Melissa Sindaco

Jamee Capristo

Lauren Stamm

Kaycee Hughes

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3. That **Angelo Marino** be appointed head nurse effective September 5, 2017.
4. That the following professional employees be hired as a Secondary Summer School Teacher, July 10, 2017 through August 8, 2017, Monday through Thursday, 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM at rate of \$1,000 per course:

Mathematics

Mike Zapotoski
David Oram

Brian Gerrity

B. Contracts

1. That **Frank J. Castano**, having made claim for an incentive raise under his employment contract and having produced the required documents, be granted an incentive of **Masters +45** effective June 28, 2017.

C. School Resource Officers

1. That **Thomas Kupetz** be appointed a School Resources Officer effective September 5, 2017.

D. Secretaries and Teachers' Associates

1. That the retirement of **Rosalie A Splendido** be accepted with regret effective June 8, 2017.
2. That _____ be appointed a Grade I, Twelve Month Guidance Secretary.

TABLED

E. Custodians

- a. That the retirement of **Robert Archavage** be accepted with regret effective September 8, 2017.

F. Crossing Guards

1. That the resignation of **Frank Isaacs** be accepted with regret effective May 28, 2017.
2. That **Donald Williams** be appointed as a permanent crossing guard effective May 23, 2017.
3. That **Miles Anthony** be appointed as a substitute crossing guard effective September 7, 2017

G. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Christina Nordmark** as Coughlin Girls' Soccer Varsity Assistant coach be accepted with regret.
2. That the resignation of **Erin Moran** as Coughlin Girls' Lacrosse Varsity Assistant Coach be accepted with regret.
3. 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	Golf	Varsity Head Coach	Hayden White
Meyers	Football	Varsity 1 st Assistant Coach (1/2 pay)	Kevin Warren
Meyers	Football	Junior High Assistant Coach	Galen Shell
Meyers	Football	Volunteer Assistant Coach	David Hagenbaugh
GAR	Field Hockey	Junior High Assistant Coach	TABLED

ADDENDUMS

A. Professionals

1. As a result of the alteration/curtailment of educational programs that was approved through resolution on May 23, 2016, the following professional employees were furloughed:

James Butterwick Deborah Pride Courtney Griffiths Rachel Sapak

2. That **Wayne Waslasky** be approved to check existing and new affidavits to verify residence beginning at a rate not to exceed \$1800.00.
3. That **Courtney Griffiths** be appointed an Elementary Title I Math Teacher effective June 27, 2017.
4. That **Rachel Sapak** be appointed a Secondary English Teacher effective June 27, 2017.

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

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Miss Katsock presented Resolution No. 1

RESOLUTION

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, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018 in the amount of \$121,231,491.

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 2017-2018 and levies a tax of 17.4434 mills per dollar (\$17.44 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.

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Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger, to adopt Resolution No. 1. The vote was as follows:
8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Mr. Caffrey presented Resolution No. 2

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2017 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, 2017, 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, 2017:

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 \$ 2,877,490.12.

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 \$8.767.56.

c. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$2,886,257.68.

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 12,363.

b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 0.

c. **Homestead/Farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 12,363.

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 \$2,886,257.68 by the paragraph 2 (c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 12,363, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$233.46.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$233.46 by the School District real estate tax rate of 17.4434 mills (.0174434) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$13,383.00, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$13,383.00.

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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 \$13,383.00. 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 \$13,383.00. 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.** 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.

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Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Miss Katsock, to adopt Resolution No. 2. The vote was as follows:
8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Mr. Evans presented Resolution No. 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 2017 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 17, 2017; 2% discount through September 15, 2017; face amount after September 16, 2017, through November 16, 2017; and 10% penalty due after November 16, 2017. 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 16, 2016. (Installment due dates shall be: 1st – August 17, 2017; 2nd – October 18, 2017; 3rd – December 18, 2017.) 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.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
June 27, 2017
3

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Dr. Susek, to adopt Resolution No. 3. The vote was as follows:
8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Mr. Galella presented Resolution No. 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, 2017 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.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
June 27, 2017
4

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to adopt Resolution No. 4. The vote was as follows:
8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

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Regular Board Meeting
June 27, 2017

Mr. Geiger presented Resolution No. 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, 2017, 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.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
June 27, 2017
5

Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Rev. Walker, to adopt Resolution No. 5. The vote was as follows:
7 Ayes: Caffrey, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas
Mr. Evans was not present for the vote.

Dr. Susek presented Resolution No. 6

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center has submitted its 2017-2018 Operating Budget to the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Board of Directors for review and approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center shall operate for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in accordance with the Operating Budget (Budget) presented by the Center's Joint Operating Committee;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget anticipates total expenditures of \$10,409,662, of which the Wilkes-Barre Area School District's net contribution is estimated at \$3,085,123 for operations, a decrease of \$19,874 from the District's adjusted contributions for year 2016-2017.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
June 27, 2017
6

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to adopt Resolution No. 6 The vote was as follows:
5 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Walker,
3 Nays: Katsock, Susek, Thomas

Rev. Walker presented Resolution No. 7

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, 2017 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).

Wilkes-Barre, PA
June 27, 2017
7

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to adopt Resolution No. 7 The vote was as follows:
6 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Susek, Walker,
2 Nays: Katsock, Thomas

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Dr. Susek presented Resolution No. 8

RESOLUTION

Local Services Tax Collectors

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, 2017 at a commission not to exceed 2.05 % of the gross amount of the tax collected and distributed to the school district.

Wilkes-Barre, PA

June 27, 2017

8

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adopt Resolution No. 8 The vote was as follows:

6 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Susek, Walker,

2 Nays: Katsock, Thomas

New Business

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to notify the Health Consortium by June 30, 2017 of the Wilkes Barre Area School Districts intention to leave the Health Trust Consortium.

The vote was as follows:

8Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motions:

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to approve the Special Education settlement agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and student ST and parent KW.

The vote was as follows:

8Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Evans, to approve the settlement complaint/ Special Ed. Trust between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and student TL. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

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Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to authorize the final payment of \$104,254.19 in regard to the contract between Ambech and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and to additionally authorize Attorney Wendolowski, District Solicitor in conjunction with Dr. Brian Costello, Superintendent and Gary Salijko, Construction Manager, to finalize agreement with Ambech which would change the previous termination for convenience of their contract to a suspension with both parties having the option of resurrecting the contract if and when asbestos abatement would take place at the Coughlin High School Annex. The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Susek, Walker, Thomas

1 Nay: Katsock

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to approve the proposal submitted by Hospitality Real-estate Council of Greenwich Village, Colorado, to provide appraisal services in regard to the Mohegan Sun tax assessment appeal pursuant to their proposal that the Board has reviewed. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to authorize Dr. Costello, Superintendent, to negotiate with the owners of two warehouse spaces the terms of a contract with the following conditions:

Cost: \$3.00 per square foot

Space: Not to exceed 10,000 square feet

Lease term: Not to exceed 1 (one) year.

Dr. Costello is then authorized to secure the warehouse space that meets all of the required conditions.

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Caffrey, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

1 Nay: Evans

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Dr. Susek, to authorize the Solicitor, Attorney Wendolowski to send a letter to the Legislature urging them to continue to legislate to preserve the School Districts right to tax appeals. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Susek, Walker, Thomas

There was no report from the Board Secretary Report

President Thomas adjourned the Meeting at 9:15 PM