

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting
General Purposes
June 29, 2015

President, Louis M. Elmy called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

Superintendent Dr. Bernard S. Prevuznak led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Secretary Leonard B. Przywara called the roll.

9 MEMBERS PRESENT: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

President Elmy stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Special Board Meeting-General Purposes of June 29, 2015.
- 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 Ms. Thomas, to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting-General Purposes of May 28, 2015 and the Regular Board Meeting of June 8, 2015 and dispense with the reading of those minutes. The vote was as follows:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Leonard B. Przywara, Board Secretary/Business Manager, presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2015.

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2015

GENERAL FUNDS

GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(\$220,718.51)
GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB	\$4,429,456.11
FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB	\$1,285,596.14
FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB	\$421,434.57
OMEGA BANK	\$2,930,935.35
OMEGA BANK	\$2,066,013.28
JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT	\$1,688,866.80
PNC BANK	\$1,000.00
PNC BANK INVESTMENT	\$8,730,736.83
LPL LINSKO PRIVATE LEDGER	\$828,554.53
EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB	\$60,141.35
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1	\$11,595.46
REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB	\$0.00
LANDMARK CD	\$459,782.28
PLGIT EIT	\$819,367.75

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TOTAL GENERAL FUND		\$23,512,761.94
	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	
2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB		\$10,368.86
ATHLETIC FUND-OMEGA BANK		\$496,193.47
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND		\$506,562.33
	TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	
PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB		\$2,514,505.27
PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB		\$262.67
WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK		\$238,066.44
ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-OMEGA BANK		\$117,352.46
SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-OMEGA BANK		\$281,359.97
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #5		\$333,150.28
TOTAL TRUST AND AGENCY FUND		\$3,484,697.09
	FOOD SERVICE FUND	
CHECKING ACCOUNT-OMEGA BANK		\$1,572,246.11
TOTAL FOOD SERVICE FUND		\$1,572,246.11
	DEBT SERVICE FUND	
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #7		\$9,280.91
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND		\$9,280.91

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to accept the Treasurer's report ending April 30, 2015.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

There was no **Unfinished Business**

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Communications from Citizens

The below listed Citizens addressed the Board in regard to School Consolidation and Nepotism.

The Citizens who spoke to the Board expressed their desire for the Board to reevaluate their decision to close Meyers High School and expressed to the Board their strong opinion as to why Meyers High School and Coughlin High school should not be consolidated. The issue of a Referendum being placed on the ballot in the next election was suggested. In regard to the issue of Nepotism it was suggested to the Board that the Board may wish to consider hiring an outside firm/agency to handle all aspects of the hiring process, with the exception of the final decision as to who would be hired, noting that decision would be made by the Board of Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

1. Councilman George Brown
2. Elizabeth Heck
3. Sandy Richards
4. Lisa Barth
5. John Suchoski
6. Michelle Chavez
7. Samantha Crich

Attorney Wendolowski stated that he has researched the issue of placing a referendum on the ballot in the next election and Attorney Wendolowski informed the Board and those present that a referendum is not allowed by Pennsylvania Law.

Dino Galella informed those present that Rev. Walker, Chair of the Hiring Policy Committee along with the Hiring Policy Committee, have spent countless hours developing and implementing a Hiring Policy within Wilkes-Barre Area School District that addresses the issue of Nepotism.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to enter into the 2015-2016 IDEA Agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit No. 18 (LIU) whereby the LIU shall provide services described in Rider A and comply with the terms and conditions of Rider B and the Department of Education's most recent IDEA Application Guidelines. The District's estimated allocation for 2015-2016 is \$864,330.00. A Complete copy of the agreement is on file in the Office of the Board Secretary.
2. That ratification be given the Inter-District Agreements with Wyoming Valley West School District and Wyoming Area School District, whereby each district will provide Reading Instructional Services, in accordance with the Title I program to resident students during the 2014-2015 school year.

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

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Katsock, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

BUDGET FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

B. FEDERAL

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1413-1416 and Federal Wire transfer 201400865 and Chapter I AP checks #1409-1414 and Chapter I Wire Transfers 201400866-201400874 were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on June 8, 2015 be approved.

C. That payment be approved for the following General Fund checks, #39436-39468 and Food Service checks # 2616-2630 which were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on June 8, 2105.

D. That the General Fund checks #39469 to 39570 listed on the following pages which have been inspected be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

1 Nay: Katsock – C & D

There was no **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

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CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. 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.

ADDENDUM

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 2015-2016 school year, effective July 1, 2015 at a combined rate of \$180,622.00.
2. That approval be given to renew the District's Workers Compensation Insurance Policy for the 2015-2016 school year, effective July 1, 2015 through the Housing and Redevelopment Insurance Exchange (HARIE) at an estimated cost of \$313, 409.00.

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following verbal Addendum:
That A.J. Lupas Insurance Agency be appointed as the Broker of Record.

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Miss Katsock, to adopt the report, Addendum and Verbal Addendum.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

LEGISLATIVE /FEDERAL REPORT

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

1. That Dr. Bernard S. Prevuznak, Superintendent be authorized to submit a Consolidated Federal Programs Application, for year 2015-2016 to include the following programs.

PROGRAM	PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION
Title I, Improving Basic Programs	\$3,417,941.00
Title II, Improving Teacher Quality	\$395,455.00
Title III, Improving Language Instruction	\$129,738.00

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

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

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MATERIAL SUPPLIES REPORT

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

1. That having inspected bids opened on June 17, 2015 that the award is made to the following bidders for:

GENERAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Standard Stationary -	\$8267.40
Kurtz Brothers -	\$18,672.60
School Specialty -	\$3,009.53
W.B. Mason -	\$4,242.45
Total -	\$34,191.98

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Rev. Walker, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:
9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

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Mr. Quinn presented Resolution #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, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$114,816,366.00.

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 2015-2016 and levies a tax of 16.2995 mills per dollar (\$16.30 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.

Wilkes-Barre, PA

June 29, 2015

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Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Mr. Caffrey to adopt the Resolution. The vote was as follows:

5 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Thomas,

4 Nays: Katsock, Susek, Walker, Elmy

Rev. Walker presented Resolution #2

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2015 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, 2015, 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, 2015:

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 \$ 2,877,465.08.

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 \$5.497.11.

c. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$2,882,962.19.

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 13,153.

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 13,153.

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 \$2,882,962.19 by the paragraph 2 (c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 13,153, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$219.18.

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4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$219.18 by the School District real estate tax rate of 16.2995 mills (.016299) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$13,447.00, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$13,447.00.

5. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$13,447.00. 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 \$13,447.00. 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.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
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Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Miss Katsock to adopt the Resolution. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

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Mr. Evans presented Resolution # 3

RESOLUTION

Authority to Prepare Real Estate Tax Statements

BE IT RESOLVED that Diamond Marketing Solutions be authorized to prepare the school real estate tax statements for the 2015 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 16, 2015; 2% discount through September 14, 2015; face amount after September 14, 2015, through November 13, 2015; and 10% penalty due after November 13, 2015. 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 17, 2015. (Installment due dates shall be: 1st – August 17, 2015; 2nd – October 16, 2015; 3rd – December 15, 2015.) 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

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3

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

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

Mr. Galella presented Resolution # 4

RESOLUTION

Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre Township

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Northeast Revenue Service, LLC, 15 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA the collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre Township for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 at a commission in accordance with their proposal of May 21, 2013. Real estate tax statements will be prepared by the Diamond Marketing Solutions.

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.

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 29, 2015

4

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

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

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Miss Katsock presented Resolution # 5

RESOLUTION
Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre City

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Northeast Revenue Service, LLC 15 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA, collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre City for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, at a commission of \$2.20 per taxable, \$0 per interim bill, plus postage.

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 at the School District's expense.

Wilkes-Barre, PA

June 29, 2015

5

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

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

Ms. Thomas presented Resolution # 6

RESOLUTION

Per Capita Tax Collectors

BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkheimer Associates be appointed to serve as collector of the Per Capita Tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 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 29, 2015

6

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

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

1 Nay: Katsock

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Mr. Caffrey presented Resolution # 7

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, 2015, 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 29, 2015
7

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

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

1 Nay: Katsock

Communications from the Superintendent

Dr. Prevuznak presented the following.

During the course of this evening a new budget was passed by the majority of the Board. It has come with much work and dedication from people in this very room. It was for many, an agonizing process and a difficult juggling act, trying to balance the concerns of our district's taxpayers along with the needs of our children. But as a new fiscal year begins, this district enters a transitional era. An era of great potential with great possibilities for a bright future, but also an era of great sacrifice and difficult decisions.

As stated many months ago in giving my testimony to a committee of state representative I mentioned "We cannot as a district continue as we have in the past" The financial crisis that we are currently engaged in didn't happen overnight, nor will the solutions be as easy. Our district is an urban school district, with a transient population and a struggling tax base that includes a student population where 70% of our children are economically disadvantaged. Economically disadvantaged students, as we all know, require more resources and programs both academically and socially. Despite our attempt to maintain the integrity of our educational programs for all our students, and address the needs of our functionally obsolete facilities, our general fund has been drastically depleted in order to stay afloat, while hopefully awaiting assistance in the form of state appropriations. From 2011 until present, our fund balance has decreased from \$16.5 million to \$ 7 million.

But this Board of Education, and this District has taken action in order to move forward. To begin every employment opportunity and the need for such hiring's will be scrutinized and considered for possible consolidation. A hiring freeze for only essential personnel has been reinstated and the elimination of positions through retirements and attrition will be the norm. This progression starts in the central office and continues on down to all who get an hourly wage. All purchases will be examined and examined again for possible cost savings. All contracts and services will be reviewed and reconsidered. In assessing our current high schools during the last year it became increasing evident that the operating costs of these schools did not project well into the future and would lead into an insurmountable deficit that could total millions of dollars. But despite these measures and throughout this entire course of action, the foremost and utmost responsibility that is entrusted to us is the safe, quality education that each child of this district is entitled, and of this we will not wavier.

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Despite the environment of financial concern, many great strides have been taken and will continue. From the standpoint of curriculum our new Reading program was a success and will continue to show growth in our elementary schools by engaging our students through our "Step By Step Literacy Initiatives. Our STEM program continues to grow with our students from all of our high schools coming together in one building in order to receive a practical educational concentration of Science, Math, English, and Technology. The "Flex schedule that was so successful in our secondary schools will now be piloted at Kistler elementary and elementary students will now be introduced to basic computer classes earlier in their academic lives.

Safety and school security, is, and always will be, at the center of our attention and the permanent placement of metal detectors in all schools was just another security measure for this department. We continue our initiative to address the need and moral obligation regarding minority hiring's in this district. We continue to partner with the NAACP and I have had meetings with the new President Larry Singleton regarding our future joint initiatives. Our after school programs at both Solomon and Kistler continues to grow and will now expand into Pre-K situations if state grant money becomes available.

Finally, in reflection and despite the recent controversies and difficult decisions that had to be made, progress in many areas for this district continues to occur. More difficult decisions await. They will not be popular, but both time and thoughtful analysis have gone into these decisions. I credit the members of this Board for the action they have taken so far, and their desire to move this district forward. Understand little choice or few alternatives were left to them. The difficult decisions that have to be made over the next several months will be the most significant in the history of this school district. We cannot continue on the financial path of which we are currently engaged. Thank you Mr. President and members of this Board.

New Business

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to extend the Hiring Freeze in regard to non-essential personnel effective, June 29, 2015 to June, 2016. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Evans, to have all District owned properties, including Wilkes-Barre Twp. and Empire Street appraised for potential sale by the District. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to accept the updated version of the Feasibility Study as prepared by the District Design Team. The vote was as follows:

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

1 Nay: Katsock,

Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve for submission to the Department of Education, the Plan Con documentation for the new 9th thru 12th grade high school project at the North Washington Street site and the 7th and 8th grade addition and alterations to the Kistler Elementary School, both as prepared by the District Design Team. The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Elmy

2 Nays: Katsock, Walker

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Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to accept the Design Proposal from the A&E Group, Borton Lawson, Leonard Engineering and Williams, Kinsman and Lewis, for the new 9th thru 12th grade high school at the North Washington Street site and additional renovations of Kistler Elementary School and to authorize the District Superintendent and the Solicitor to finalize a written agreement with the Design Team for these projects within ninety (90) days of today's date. The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Elmy

2 Nays: Katsock, Walker

At this time Mr. Galella indicated that the field at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium can only be accessed through River Street and the tunnel will be used only by emergency vehicles. Mr. Galella noted that the AD's and teams should be notified.

Communications from Solicitor

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motion.

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve Reverse Tax Assessment Appeals in regard to the Wyoming Valley Mall and Home Depot. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

Board Secretary Report

Leonard B. Przywara, Board Secretary/Business Manager announced the following Meeting schedules.

July – 2015

Committee Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2015 – 5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2015– 7:00 PM

Dr. Susek moved to adjourn the Meeting.

President Elmy adjourned the Meeting at 7:20 PM.