

Summary of Minutes  
Regular Board Meeting  
January 11, 2016

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**President Joseph A. Caffrey** called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

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

**Board Secretary Leonard B. Przywara** called the roll.

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

1 MEMBER ABSENT: Evans

President Caffrey stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2016.
- 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 Regular Board Meeting of December 14, 2016, and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

The vote was as follows:

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

### **Unfinished Business**

Ms. Thomas requested an update on the status of the District properties that were being appraised.

Attorney Wendolowski informed Ms. Thomas that one set of appraisals was received and the other set should be received within the next few days.

### **Communications from the Superintendent**

Dr. Prevuznak informed the Board that Senator Yudichick would be at the Heights Murray Elementary School on January 12, 2016 to present a \$10,000 contribution from Verizon to the Shine Program.

Dr. Prevuznak also informed the Board that he would like to commend Frank Castano and Megan Labatch from the Human Resource Department, for the great effort they put forth in making sure all employees had all the required clearances.

Dr. Prevuznak further noted that Mackin was opened on January 4, 2016 and everything was organized to ensure an easy transition for the incoming students, thanks to the dedication and hard work of Brian Costello, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education, Dr. Patrick Patte, Principal of Coughlin/Mackin High Schools, James Geiger, Assistant Principal, Coughlin/Mackin High School and all the teachers and staff who are assigned to Mackin.

Dr. Prevuznak informed the Board that he anticipated hearing from PDE in the near future in regard to the possibility of allowing a split schedule at Mackin.

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**Communications from Citizens**

1. Bob Holden
2. Reilly Holden
3. Angel Mathis
4. David Kerr
5. Brian Barinski
6. Heather Barinski
7. Ruth Borland
8. Kimberly Borland
9. Joseph Borland
10. Larry Simpson
11. Dave Wilson
12. John Suckoski
13. Bill Bradenburg
13. Sharon Bradenburg
14. James Shubzda
15. Len Cornish
16. Tracey Hughes
17. Joanne Tennerinello
18. Joseph Frankiewicz

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

1. Social Economic Status
2. Future of G.A.R. Field Hockey
3. Nursing staff of WBASD, continuing Education courses/ADA Compliance
4. Building Plan
5. Consideration to Public input
6. What is the 1-5 year plan in regard to schools in WBASD?
7. How would a split schedule affect sports/sport practice times?
8. Invitation to the Martin Luther King Speech and Debate Tournament
9. Cleanliness of Bathroom facilities at Meyers High School
10. Broken windows at Meyers High School
11. Inaccurate report in regard to structural damage at Meyers High School
12. Task Force was only given an option to investigate a two school possibility
13. How will maintenance issues be addressed in regard to maintain WBASD buildings?
14. Any response from PDE in regard to a split schedule?
15. Has a report been received in regard to the state of District Finances?
16. Has there been any movement on submitting Plan Con C
17. Does WBASD take into consideration modeling the District after other Districts
18. What do constituents think of consolidation?
19. What were the issues at Mackin in regard to bussing on the 1<sup>st</sup> day?
20. Will there be a reduction in classes if a split schedule occurs?
21. Have vacant Catholic school buildings been considered for use by WBASD?
22. Is the new school site set in stone?
23. What is the Districts description of an Urban School District?
24. District has made no significant strides in hiring/recruiting minority teacher in 30 years
25. What is the plan for Meyers High School once the consolidation occurs?
26. What is the status of Meyers High School Auditorium?
27. How many students will the new site accommodate?
28. Why are you spending money at Meyers when you are closing it?
29. Put the decision of consolidation on a Referendum

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All questions and concerns were addressed by Dr. Bernard Prevuznak, Superintendent, Attorney Wendolowski, District Solicitor, Board Members, Joseph Caffrey, Denise Thomas, Dino Galella, Christine Katsock, John Quinn, Dr. James Susek, Rev. Shawn Walker, Brian Costello, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education and Kyle Kinsman, District retained Architect.

**LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Miss Katsock informed the Board that the next meeting of the LIU is scheduled for January 27, 2016.

**WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER**

Mr. Quinn informed the Board that the next meeting of the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center is scheduled for January 25, 2016.

There was no **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

**BUDGET FINANCE 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:

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Cert/Appli. Invoice #</b>	<b>Payment Due</b>
Apollo Group, Inc.	Mackin Renovation	Capital Projects	16	\$4,721.25
G.R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc.	Mackin Renovation	Capital Projects	09	\$1,636.09
Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School	Capital Projects	06	\$812.24
Borton Lawson Architecture	New High School	Capital Projects	07	\$9,520.40
Leonard Engineering, Inc.	New High School	Capital Projects	07	\$17,650.00
WKL Architecture	New High School	Capital Projects	07	\$66,015.47
Borton Lawson Architecture	Kistler Addition Renovations	Capital Projects	07	\$1,257.50
WKL Architecture	Kistler Addition Renovations	Capital Projects	07	\$4,275.00
Leonard Engineering, Inc.	Coughlin High School Demolition	Capital Projects	02	\$14,750.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	G.A.R. Drainage & Retaining Wall	Capital Projects	09	\$500.00
Borton Lawson Architecture	G.A.R. Drainage & Retaining Wall	Capital Projects	04	\$1,282.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	Daniel J. Flood Roof Replacement	Capital Projects	10	\$900.45
Olivetti Roofing Systems Corp.	Daniel J. Flood Roof Replacement	Capital Projects	10	\$31,323.50

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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 OWNER	PARCEL NO.	PROPOSED BID
Service Legend, LLC 209-217 E. Northampton Street Wilkes-Barre, PA	73-H9SE3-025-020-000	\$888.00
Mark J. & Daniel J. Kaczmarek 401 West Avenue Bear Creek Township, PA	04-114S1-004-002-000	\$792.00

3. That approval be given to exonerate the following listed property owner from the payment of school property taxes. The Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission for Real Estate Tax Exemption has verified with the Department of Veterans Affairs that the property owner is totally and permanently disabled as a result of service connected causes incurred during a period of war or armed conflict.

PROPERTY OWNER	ADDRESS	EFFECTIVE DATE
Robert Thomas Smith	77 Calvin Street Wilkes-Barre, PA	August 24, 2015

4. That approval be given to authorize the Business Administrator to submit Plan Con, Part G, Project Accounting Based on Bids to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of School Facilities in respect to renovations to the Edward Mackin School, Project No. 3805.

**B. FEDERAL**

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1470-1476 and Federal Wire transfer 201500391 from November 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015 and Chapter I AP checks #1484-1488 and Chapter I Wire Transfers 201500392-201500402 were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on December 14, 2015 be approved.

- C. That payment be approved for the following General Fund Wire Transfers #201510277-201510295 and General Fund checks, #41082-41173 and Food Service Checks 2689-2709 which were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on December 14, 2015.

- D. That the checks listed on the following pages #41174 to 41297 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 Ms. Thomas, to adopt the report.** The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Katsock: A - #1 & C & D

**1 Nay:** Thomas: A1- Olivetti Roofing

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

1. That having received proposals in December 2015 that the award is made to the following vendor for:

NEW POLE VAULT PIT FOR W-B MEMORIAL STADIUM  
Aluminum Athletic Equipment Co.                      \$14,120.00  
1000 Enterprise Drive  
Royersford, PA

**ADDENDUM**

1. That approval be given to the establishment of a Lacrosse athletic program for boys, at Coughlin High School, at no cost to the School District.

**Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to adopt the report with the inclusion of the Addendum.**  
The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Thomas informed the Board that the Safety/Security Committee was meeting tomorrow, January 12, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

**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 Flood Insurance coverage on District properties with Selective Insurance, effective February 13, 2016 at a cost of \$8,699.00 per location. Three (3) District properties are included in this coverage.
2. That ratification be given to the change order requests of Panzitta Enterprises, Inc., 72 George Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA in respect to the Mackin School Renovation Project as follows:
  - a. Change wording on four interior signs                      \$325.56
  - b. Replace broken window, screen and interior hand rails                      \$5,907.20
  - c. Furnish & install (1) deadlock keyed cylinder                      \$408.54
  - d. Furnish & install (1) interior classroom sign                      \$148.41
3. That ratification be given to the change order requests of G.R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc., 2 Skyline Drive, P.O. Box 27, Clarks Summit, PA in respect to the Mackin School Renovation Project as follows:
  - a. Furnish & install wire guards on gymnasium exit lights                      \$341.00
  - b. Furnish & install elevator disconnect switch                      \$966.00
  - c. Furnish & install electrical work for TV outlets                      \$1,112.00

**Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Rev. Walker, to adopt the report.** The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Katsock: # 2 & 3

**TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

**Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Mr. Galella**, to place a Crossing Guard at the corner of Butler Street and Wilkes-Barre Blvd. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Rev. Walker informed the Board that the first Meeting of the Building Maintenance Committee is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2016 at 12 Noon.

There was no **LEGISLATIVE /FEDERAL REPORT**

**MATERIAL SUPPLIES REPORT**

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

1. That having received proposals in December 2015 that the award is made to the following vendor for:

**RELOCATING EXISTING COUGHLIN CAMERA SYSTEM TO MACKIN**

Torbik Safe and Lock                      \$7,600.00  
575 South Main St.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA

2. That having inspecting bids due on December 7, 2015 that the award is made to the following bidders for:

SPRING ATHLETIC AND SPORTS SUPPLIES  
AS LISTED ON FOLLOWING PAGES

**ADDENDUM**

1. That the Superintendent and Business Manager be authorized to enter into an agreement to extend the electrical energy contract beyond the 2016-17 school year, as recommended by Provident Energy Consulting, LLC, based upon their solicitation of pricing for same. Such approval would follow a review of said agreement by the District Solicitor.

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<b>SPRING SPORTS BID AWARD SUMMARY 2016</b>								
	<u>BATTAGLIA'S</u>	<u>BSN</u>	<u>PYRAMID</u>	<u>MF ATHLETIC</u>	<u>AAE</u>	<u>RIDDELL</u>	TOTAL	SPORT
<b>COUGHLIN BASEBALL</b>	\$665.00	\$924.04	\$147.92		\$22.00	\$74.91	\$1,833.87	
	\$93.12	\$599.40					\$692.52	<b>\$2,526.39</b>
<b>COUGHLIN JH BASEBALL</b>	\$7.48	\$325.85				\$149.82	\$483.15	
	\$404.40	\$599.40					\$1,003.80	<b>\$1,486.95</b>
<b>COUGHLIN SOFTBALL</b>	\$156.00	\$142.08	\$51.60				\$349.68	
							\$0.00	<b>\$349.68</b>
<b>COUGHLIN JH SOFTBALL</b>	\$75.00	\$333.92	\$68.80				\$477.72	
								<b>\$477.72</b>
<b>COUGHLIN TRACK</b>		\$24.76		\$950.95	\$730.00		\$1,705.71	
		\$486.00					\$486.00	<b>\$2,191.71</b>
<b>COUGHLIN JH TRACK</b>								
<b>COUGHLIN BOYS TENNIS</b>			\$176.40				\$176.40	
								<b>\$176.40</b>
<b>COUGHLIN LACROSS</b>	\$72.00	\$39.54	\$6.76				\$118.30	
	\$345.00						\$345.00	<b>\$463.30</b>
<b>COUGHLIN BOYS VOLLEY</b>	\$21.00	\$281.76					\$302.76	
								<b>\$302.76</b>
							<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,974.91</b>
<b>GAR BASEBALL</b>	\$448.50	\$974.39	\$205.09			\$22.97	\$1,650.95	
	\$545.16	\$428.04					\$973.20	
		\$2,928.00					\$2,928.00	<b>\$5,552.15</b>
<b>GAR SOFTBALL</b>	\$550.50	\$200.51				\$9.00	\$760.01	
		\$391.92					\$391.92	<b>\$1,151.93</b>
<b>GAR JH SOFTBALL</b>	\$162.00	\$305.95					\$467.95	
		\$152.40					\$152.40	<b>\$620.35</b>
<b>GAR TRACK</b>		\$296.64		\$850.00			\$1,146.64	
								<b>\$1,146.64</b>
							<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,471.07</b>
<b>MEYERS BASEBALL</b>	\$674.50	\$1,134.16				\$168.56	\$1,977.22	
	\$378.00	\$311.04					\$689.04	<b>\$2,666.26</b>
<b>MEYERS JH BASEBALL</b>	\$13.98	\$362.04					\$376.02	
	\$33.84	\$190.62					\$224.46	<b>\$600.48</b>
<b>MEYERS SOFTBALL</b>	\$54.00	\$331.74	\$214.00				\$599.74	
		\$922.08					\$922.08	<b>\$1,521.82</b>

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PRIOR TO CUTS	\$30,387.43			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$25,191.50</u></b>
<b>CUTS %</b>	<b>20.63%</b>				

**Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Miss Katsock,** to adopt the report with the inclusion of the Addendum.

The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Personnel Committee Report**

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

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

**A. Professional**

1. That **Janice Horn's** sabbatical request for the second semester of the 2015-16 school year be approved.
2. That the retirement of **Kathleen Bross** be accepted with regret effective February 12, 2016.
3. That **Heather Engle** be appointed an elementary long term substitute for the second semester of the 2015-16 school year.

**B. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates**

1. That **Linda Scarantino's** request to take an unpaid leave beginning December 22, 2015 through the end of school year be approved.
2. That **Rosmery Jimenez** be appointed a substitute teachers' associate.

**C. Security/Greeters**

1. That **Robert Romiski** be appointed a substitute security greeter/traveling security greeter.

**D. Custodian**

1. That **Philip Walsh** be appointed a substitute custodian.
2. That **Jerome Kutz** be appointed a substitute custodian.
3. That **Amy Dixon** be appointed a substitute custodian.

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**E. Athletics**

1. That the resignation of **Shayne McGrady** as Coughlin's varsity head volleyball coach be accepted with regret
2. That the resignation of **Paul Brown** as G.A.R.'s varsity head boys' basketball 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	Track and Field	Varsity Head Coach	<b>Hayden White</b>
Meyers	Wrestling	Jr. High Asst. Coach (1/2 Pay)	<b>Michael Hillman</b>
Meyers	Wrestling	Jr. High Asst. Coach (1/2 Pay)	<b>Kyle Paul</b>
G.A.R.	Boys' Basketball	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>John Quinn III</b>
G.A.R.	Boys' Basketball	Interim Varsity Head Coach	<b>Gerald Altavilla</b>
G.A.R.	Boys' Basketball	Interim Varsity Asst. Coach	<b>Anthony Chiarucci</b>
G.A.R.	Boys' Basketball	Interim Jr. High Head Coach	<b>Mykel Dempsey</b>

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

**8 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Abstain:** Quinn: G.A.R. Boys Basketball Volunteer Coach – John Quinn III

Miss Katsock presented Resolution No. 1

**RESOLUTION**

*WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District has determined that there will be no increase in the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2016-2017 fiscal year by more than the Index established by the Department of Education (Department) for the District;*

*WHEREAS, the Index for the District is 3.4%;*

*WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District does hereby certify that the District will comply with the procedures as set forth in Section 687 of the Public School Code as it relates to the annual budget for the adoption of its proposed and final budget;*

*WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the established index will be sufficient to balance its final budget;*

*WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors certify that the District will submit information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the public schools to the Department on a uniform form prepared by the Department no later than five (5) days after the adoption of this resolution;*

*WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors certify that a copy of this resolution adopted pursuant to Section 311 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of Special Session No. 1 of 2006 will be sent to the Department no later than five (5) days after the adoption of this resolution;*

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*WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors recognize that the District shall not be eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333 (f) of the Taxpayer Relief Act; and*

*WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors recognize that the Department shall compare the proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index; within ten (10) days of the receipt of the information as required, the Department shall inform the District whether the proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District as follows:*

*The Board of School Directors adopts this RESOLUTION on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016 indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2016-2017 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education for the District of 3.4%.*

*DULY ADOPTED, by the Board of School Directors of this School District, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.*

*Wilkes-Barre Area School District  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania*

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Joseph A. Caffrey, President

Wilkes-Barre, Pa  
January 11, 2016

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger to accept Resolution No. 1. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

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Mr. Galella presented Resolution No. 2

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the recent death of **JOHN BRISLIN** has brought sorrow to his family, friends, and all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, he is the husband of Margaret Brislin, retired nurse for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, father of Kelly Henry and father in-law of Bradley Boich, elementary teachers for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; and

WHEREAS, he began his career as a teacher at Bear Creek Elementary School in 1970 and retired as Principal of Dodson Elementary in 2006 after thirty-five years of service to the Wilkes-Barre Area School District ; and

WHEREAS, his passing on December 31, 2015 will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that his death be recorded in the minutes of the Board of School Directors and that the Secretary be instructed to express the sympathy of the members of the Board to his wife Margaret; his daughters, Kelly and her husband Terrance, Maureen and her husband Bradley and Mollie and her husband Brad; and to his entire family.

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**Mr. Galella moved**, to accept Resolution No. 2 by Acclamation.

**New Business**

Representatives from Panzitta Enterprises presented information to the Board in regard to the possibilities of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District leasing the Times Leader Building.

President Caffrey noted that the Board would review the information presented to the Board along with the Business Manager and Controller in regard to the Times Leader Building. Mr. Caffrey noted that an Informational Meeting would be scheduled in the near future to discuss the proposal presented by Panzitta Enterprises in regard to the Times Leader Building.

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**Communications from Solicitor**

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motion:

**Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas,** to approve a contract with Borton Lawson, in an amount not to exceed \$13,000 to prepare a design on the detention basin at Solomon/Plains Complex.

The vote was as follows:

**7 Ayes:** Galella, Geiger, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Nay:** Katsock

**Board Secretary Report**

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

**February, 2016**

**Committee Meeting**

Monday, February 8, 2016 – 5:30 PM

**Regular Board Meeting**

Monday, February 8, 2016– 7:00 PM

Both Committee and Regular Board Meeting will be held at Mackin.

**Dr. Susek moved** to adjourn the Meeting.

**President Caffrey** adjourned the Meeting at 9:53 PM