

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – June 10, 2024

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

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

7 Members Present: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

President Caffrey – The chair wishes to announce the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of June 10, 2024. The subjects discussed in the Executive Session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Board meetings on May 6, 2024 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by **Mr. Atherton** seconded by **Ms. Harris** to approve the **Regular Meeting minutes of April 4, 2024.**

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello discussed the requirements for our graduates to earn National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society cords worn at graduation. He praised the students' accomplishments.

He also shared that Fair Funding House Bill 2370 passed with the help of bipartisan efforts of local Representatives Aaron Kaufer and Eddie Day Pashinski. House Bill 2370 is the result of our district and five others suing the state for fair funding. Our district was underfunded annually by \$91 million. **Dr. Costello** stated that there is no limit to our students' potential, and this bill will help them achieve their potential.

Attorney Wendolowski encouraged the community to reach out to State Senators and ask them to pass the bill in the Senate.

Dr. Costello added that this bill also offers tax relief.

DISTRICT ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Krzywicki presented the following report:

Admin Building:

Continued to address work requests

Dan Flood Elementary:

Continued to address work requests

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Completed repairs to fire alarm system
Commenced replacement of ceiling grid & tile

Dodson Elementary:

Commenced replacement of 3-bowl sink in kitchen

GAR Middle School:

Continued to address work requests
Continued replacement of ceiling grid & tile
Completed removal of existing boilers
Commenced installation of new ATC control wiring, electrical conduit, & equipment
housekeeping pads

Heights Murray Elementary:

Continued to address work requests
Continued to address plumbing repairs
Commenced replacement of ceiling grid & tile

Kistler Elementary:

Continued to address work requests
Continued to address plumbing repairs
Completed caulking @ leaking windows

Mackin Elementary:

Continued to address work requests
Continued to address plumbing repairs
Completed repairs to HVAC equipment

Solomon Complex:

Continued to address work requests
Continued to address plumbing repairs
Commenced replacement of ice machine in fieldhouse
Completed investigation of fire alarm communication issue
Continued prep for replacement of rooftop HVAC units
Delivered topsoil to football field

W-B High School:

Continued to address work requests
Continued filter change & coil cleaning of HVAC units
Continued site grading, underground electrical, & field lighting for tennis courts

General:

Continued annual testing & inspection of emergency lighting systems
Continued annual inspection & testing of fire alarm systems
During the last month, we have completed approximately 34 work requests. Our maintenance staff is currently addressing approximately 82 new work orders. The current number of unassigned work requests is 11. Those work requests are related to issues that require further

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investigation or cannot be addressed until summer break.

Ms. Thomas inquired about the status of the light on Maffet Street. Attorney Wendolowski explained that PennDOT determined that the district can own the light. All that needs to be done is striping the roadway, and the light should be activated soon. PennDOT is recommending that Plains Twp take ownership of the light, but he does not believe they will.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Caffrey shared that the 2024 graduating class was offered \$91 million in scholarships and accepted \$13 million. He touched on the awards ceremony he attended and the number of scholarships and awards awarded.

Dr. Costello shared a relatively new tradition of graduates visiting their elementary students in their caps and gowns. The younger students and graduates both look forward to the visit.

Mr. Faust shared that the CTC graduated on May 22nd. Many students will be entering trade apprenticeship programs, and he'd like to see that number grow even more.

Dr. Susek shared that he attended the Spring Concert on May 22nd. He was highly impressed with the talent showcased. He was especially impressed with the artwork and the enthusiasm of the jazz band.

Dr. Costello thanked the board for their support which allows these programs to thrive

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Sam Troy, a citizen, inquired about the details of the sale of Meyers High School, including sales tax and a credit paid to the buyer. **Attorney Wendolowski** explained that the credit was for damage and cleaning out the building. Taxes were paid on the original sales price. He also explained that the deed does not allow the building to be used as a charter school. There was a discussion about whether the buyer may flip the building.

Mr. Troy suggested a tax discount for senior citizens. **Attorney Wendolowski** explained that it was illegal.

Mr. Troy inquired about items on the agenda concerning Johnson Controls and fire alarm systems.

Ms. Michelle Roble, a parent, expressed her concern that her son, who is 8 years old, was retained in first grade the year prior. She is disappointed with the school's lack of communication. **Dr. Costello** will arrange for someone to contact her.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 19th.

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WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Faust shared that the CTC needs room for the expanding 9th-grade program. He requests that the district partner assist the CTC in finding a room. **Attorney Wendolowski** shared that **Dr. Costello** is working with the CTC to find a suitable space. Using the old Dodson Elementary School is an option. **Mr. Atherton** inquired about tabling the CTC budget. Attorney Wendolowski advised against tabling.

Mr. Faust motioned to amend the agenda to add the motion to allow the CTC if necessary to use Dodson Elementary School at no cost to the district, subject on the solicitor's review and approval of a lease agreement; seconded by **Mr. Evans**.

The vote was as follows:

5 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

2 Nays: Atherton, Thomas

That the CTC be permitted to use Dodson Elementary School at no cost to the district if necessary, subject to the solicitor's review and approval of a lease agreement.

Dr. Susek and Mr. Atherton questioned the approval of the CTC budget without knowing how this would affect attendance. **Attorney Wendolowski** explained that the CTC budget is projected, and we are only contributing based on actual numbers.

Dr. Costello explained that students begin scheduling in April and end in May. He also shared that he was notified that the CTC was unable to meet our request on Monday.

Motion by Mr. Faust; seconded by Mr. Evans.

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

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CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TO: The President and Members of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board

The Curriculum/Administration Committee respectfully submits the following report and recommendations:

1. That approval be given to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18, 368 Tioga Avenue, Kingston, PA to provide programs and services as listed. **“Exhibit A”**
2. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and United Therapy, 84 Yorktown Road, Mountain Top, PA for provision of Physical Therapy Services beginning July 2024 through August 2026 at a cost of \$90 per hour. **“EXHIBIT B”**
3. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and United Therapy, 84 Yorktown Road, Mountain Top, PA for provision of Occupational Therapy Services beginning July 2024 through August 2026 at a cost of \$80 per hour. **“EXHIBIT C”**
4. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and United Therapy, 84 Yorktown Road, Mountain Top, PA for provision of Speech and Language Services beginning July 2024 through August 2026 at a cost of \$90 per hour. **“EXHIBIT D”**
5. That approval be given to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Transportation Contract for transportation of a student to their Camp Hill location for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$8,500.00. **“Exhibit E”**
6. That approval be given to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Transportation Contract for transportation of a student to their Camp Hill location beginning on October 12, 2022 through June, 2023 at a cost of \$6,421.05. **“Exhibit F”**
7. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Peditria Healthcare, LLC d/b/a AVEANNA Healthcare, to provide healthcare services to students at hourly rates as listed on “Schedule A”. **“Exhibit G”**
8. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and FUNctional Connections, LLC to provide ABA based services to the students in the District beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The rates for services are outlined in the agreement. **“Exhibit H”**

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9. The Board of Education of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District approves the closure of the Wolfpack Early Learning Academy, located at 80 Jones St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This school currently serves a grant-funded pre-K population. The pre-K program will end on June 7, 2024 with no plans to continue into the 2024-2025 school year as funding is no longer available to sustain the program.
10. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and New Story, 1150 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA, beginning August 15, 2024, through August 14, 2025, a daily rate between \$296.00 and \$536.00, dependent upon the acuity level. **“Exhibit I”**
11. That approval be given to ratify the agreement between Phoenix Center for Rehabilitation and Pediatrics and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy/Dysphagia Services for the 2024-2025 school year. **“Exhibit J”**
12. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Specialized Education of Pennsylvania, Inc. (SESI) at the Graham Academy to provide educational services beginning August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025 at the following daily rates: \$289.00 (regular school year); \$187.00 (extended school year). Other services provided are OT, PT and Speech and Language Therapies at \$150.00 per one (1) hour session; 1:1 Aide \$204.00 per day. Additional services listed are provided at hourly rates are outlined in the agreement. **“Exhibit K”**
13. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley for the Therapeutic Educational Program at a cost of \$190.00 per student per day effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year and ending the last day of the 2024-2025 school year including Extended School Year (ESY) if eligible with appropriate ESY billing rate. **“Exhibit L”**
14. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley for the Partial Hospitalization Program at a cost of \$145.00 per student per day effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year and ending the last day of the 2024-2025 school year including Extended School Year (ESY) if eligible with appropriate ESY billing rate. **“Exhibit M”**
15. That approval be given Memorandum of Understanding between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Luzerne County Head Start Program, Inc. effective September 3, 2024 through June 6, 2025. **“Exhibit N”**

Motion by **Mr. Evans** seconded by **Dr. Susek**

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

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BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE

TO: The President and Members of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board

The Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Committee respectfully submits the following reports and recommendations:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer's Reports for April 2024. **“Exhibit O”**
2. Capital Projects – That approval be given to the payments listed below.

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A2.1	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	GAR Re-Roof	Capital Reserve	725-05-2024	\$ 4,689.90
A2.2	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Capital Reserve	APP 9A	\$ 310,675.00
A2.3	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Capital Reserve	APP 11A	\$ 144,818.00
A2.4	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Federal	APP 7B	\$ 27,577.00
A2.5	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Federal	APP 9B	\$ 729,558.00
A2.6	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Federal	APP 10B	\$ 685,501.00
A2.7	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Federal	APP 12B	\$ 616,148.00
A2.8	Kleinfelder	Athletic Fields	Capital Reserve	1442803	\$ 5,860.75
A2.9	McClure Company	Solomon Plains ESCO	Capital Reserve	APP 8	\$ 759,140.78

3. That approval be given to the following budget transfers:

Account	To	From
10 E 4600 700	\$11,271,800.00	
10 E 5100 900	\$783,908.00	
10 E 5200 900	\$735,000.00	

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10 E 2200 300		\$35,000.00
10 E 1100 400		\$748,908.00
10 E 1100 200		\$635,000.00,
10 E 1100 300		\$100,000.00
10 E 2600 700		\$11,271,800.00

4. That approval be given to pay Arly Flores-Cantoral a stipend of \$25,000.00 for her time as a school psychologist intern. This payment is funded by the PHEAA's PA Mental Health Education Learning Program in Schools (PA HELPS).

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B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #3281 to #3335; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202300458 to #202300472 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 6, 2024.

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C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #62858 to #62901 and General Fund Wire Transfers # 202300406, #202300407, #202312327 to #202312342 and Food Service Checks #3961 to #3969 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 6, 2024 be approved.

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D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #62902 to #63085 listed on the following pages, which have been inspected, be approved and that order be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

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E. CONTRACTED SERVICES

1. That approval be given to the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency Agreement to Participate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. **“Exhibit P”**
2. That authorization be given to the Business Administrator to enter into an agreement for natural gas service provider agreement beginning on July 1, 2025 based on the recommendation of Provident Energy.
3. That approval be given to approve the District’s Workers Compensation Insurance Policy for the 2024-2025 school year effective July 1, 2023 through MEMIC Casualty Company at a cost of \$437,810.00.
4. That approval be given to renew the District’s Commercial Package (Property and Liability, Commercial Automobile, the School Leader’s Liability, Data Security and Excess/Umbrella and Violent Event/Active Shooter coverage through Assured Partners and Utica National Insurance Group, for the 2024-2025 school year, and UCPM effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 at a combined rate of \$407,216.03.
5. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and SMG (Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza), 255 Highland Park Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA for the Wilkes-Barre Area High School graduation ceremony being held on June 4, 2025. **“Exhibit Q”**
6. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with Raymond P. Wendolowski, Esq. to provide legal services for a five year period commencing July 1, 2024. The monthly retainer will remain the same at \$18,548.41 for 2024-2025 school year and adjusted annually on July 1 of years two, three and four based upon the Consumer Price Index of the preceding year with a cap of 3%, 5th year no increase.
7. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with David Horan Services for services at the high school. **“Exhibit R”**

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9. That approval be given to renew the agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Skyward, Inc., July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The annual cost is \$59,783.00.

Student Management Annual License Fee	\$26,383.00
Educator Gradebook Annual License Fee	\$9,013.00
Food Service Annual License Fee	\$8,792.00
Health Records Annual License Fee	\$5,498.00
Graduation Requirements Annual License Fee	\$2,640.00
Family & Student Access Annual License Fee	\$2,198.00
LMS/One Roster API Annual License Fee	\$2,046.00
IEP Writer Annual License Fee	\$904.00
Maintenance Renewal – OpenEdge Transparent Data Encryption	\$2,309.00

10. That approval be given to renew the agreement with Raptor Technologies for the its visitor management system at an annual cost of \$7,260.00.
11. That approval be given to renew the Student Accident/Interscholastic Sports Insurance Policy for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years to Bollinger Specialty Group at an annual cost of \$24,095.00.
12. That approval be given to renew the planned service agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Johnson Controls Fire Protection LC to provide Fire Protection Services as listed in the agreement effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 at the following costs. **“Exhibit S”**

Administration Building	\$600.78
Dan Flood Elementary	\$8,135.52
Dr. Kistler Elementary	\$3,499.62
GAR Middle School	\$3,932.10
Dodson School (80 Jones St)	\$4,233.00

13. That approval be given to renew the planned service agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Johnson Controls Fire Protection LC to provide Fire Protection Services as listed in the agreement effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 at the following costs. **“Exhibit T”**

Dodson Elementary @ Mackin	\$7,599.00
Heights Murray Elementary	\$4,397.22
Wilkes-Barre Area High School	\$15,198.00
Solomon Plains Complex	\$14,841.00

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14. That approval be given to renew the agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and IntegraONE for Lightspeed Filter Software beginning July 23, 2024 through July 22, 2029 at an annual cost of \$ 44,064.00.

Lightspeed Content Filter	\$29,403.00
Lightspeed Classroom Management	\$14,661.00

15. That approval be given to the PSBA Insurance Better Unemployment Compensation System Comprehensive Program Standard Terms and Conditions of the Participation Agreement between the PSBA Insurance Trust and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District to manage unemployment compensation risks and claims and related services effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
“Exhibit U”

16. After review of bids, that Valley Pest Control Management Inc. be awarded the pest control contact at monthly service fee not to exceed \$1,080.00 for basic service. Additional services will be charged on an as needed basis effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029.

17. That approval be given to Change Order #CO2 for Keystone Sports Construction, Inc. in the amount of (\$43,500.00). The Change Order consists of the following:

Revised site plans	(\$43,500.00)
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18. That approval be given to the Superintendent and Business Manager to authorize additional work on the all ESCO construction projects as needed to prevent delays to the schedule on a case by case basis not to exceed 15% of project cost.

Motion by **Mr. Evans** seconded by **Ms. Harris**

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

No report

SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

No report

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE

TO: The President and Members of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board.

The Building Maintenance Committee respectfully makes the following report and recommendation:

1. That approval be given to accept the proposal from Johnson Controls to upgrade, program, and test the panel at the Solomon Plains Complex to 4100ES and install IP Gateway card at a cost of \$7,016.38.
2. That approval be given to enter into an upgrade order agreement with Schindler Elevator Corporation to furnish and install the following with respect to elevators 1 and 2 located at Solomon/Plains Complex at the cost of \$37,644.00.

Clean & paint all pit steel, including buffer stands and buffers
Clean and scrape rails and hydraulic piping
Replace pit channels
Re-install pit channels and align jack assembly
Test operation of all devices and return the elevator back into service
3. That approval be given to enter into an upgrade order agreement with Schindler Elevator Corporation to furnish and install an upgraded solid state start on elevators 1 and 2 located at Solomon/Plains Complex at the cost of \$12,756.00.
4. That approval be given to accept the proposal from Keystone Sports Construction to repair the Solomon Complex synthetic Track at a cost of \$5,998.00. Prices are based upon COSTARS contract (COSTARS -14-E23-312).
5. That approval be given to accept the proposal from United Heating and Air Conditioning Inc. to replace the compressor in a rooftop unit for room #9 at Dan Flood Elementary School at a cost of \$4,232.00.
6. That approval be given to accept the proposal from United Heating and Air Conditioning Inc. to replace replace the refrigerant solenoid vlv on the office air handler at Dan Flood Elementary School. The cost for this repair less the refrigerant will not exceed \$3,020.00. If additional R22 is needed it will be installed for \$82.16 per pound.

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7. That approval be given to accept the proposal from Green Valley Landscaping Inc. to install topsoil and till-damaged and depressed areas of the Solomon Complex football fields at the cost of \$7,400.00.

Green Valley seed mix (bag)	\$129.00/50 LB
10-20-20 starter fertilizer (bag)	\$29.00/50 LB
straw (bale)	\$10.00/EA

Motion by **Mr. Faust** seconded by **Ms. Harris**

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

FACILITIES TRANSITION

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

No report

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Amendment

Motion to amend the agenda by **Mr. Faust**, seconded by **Dr. Susek**.

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

TO: The President and Members of the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board

The Personnel Committee respectfully submits the following report and recommendations.

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

A. Agreement

1. That the contract between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Frank Castano, Human Resource Director, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029 be accepted.
2. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Misericordia University. **“EXHIBIT V”**
3. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and King’s College. **“EXHIBIT W”**

B. Act 93

1. That **Christopher Anthony** be appointed a High School Principal at Teacher Daily Rate (WBAEA Matrix Step 15 and current approved credits) *240 units effective July 1, 2024.
2. That **Jamee Hopkins** be appointed an Assistant Principal at Teacher Daily Rate (WBAEA Matrix Step 15 and current approved credits) *210 units effective July 1, 2024.
3. That **Jane Loftus** be appointed an Accountant at Teacher Daily Rate (WBAEA Matrix Step 14 and current approved credits) *184 units effective July 1, 2024.

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C. Professionals

1. That a maximum of 55 hours of psychologist testing during the summer be approved at a rate of \$35 per hour.
2. That **Arly Flores-Cantoran** be appointed a School Psychologist (Summer testing not to exceed 55 hours) (Pending Certification).
3. That the retirement of **Lauren Mascioli** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
4. That **David Lewis**' request for unpaid leave for the 2024-2025 school year be accepted.
5. That **Meghan Morris** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
6. That **Kendra Krolick** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
7. That **Kristen Reap** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
8. That **Jennifer Boone** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
9. That **Sarah Colonna** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
10. That **Gabrielle Drevitch** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
11. That **Jessica Miorelli** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a 4-8 Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
12. That **Dominick Bayo** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a 4-8 Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
13. That **Emma Freels** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a 4-8 Math Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
14. That **Rosalinda Sosa** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a 4-8 Math Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

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15. That **Ethan Rioux** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Math Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
16. That **Danielle Saccente** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a General Science Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
17. That **Leonardo Brennan** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Special Education Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
18. That **Andrea Pegarella** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Special Education Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
19. That **Chloe Weaver** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Special Education Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
20. That **Junell Guarneri** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an ESL Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
21. That _____ be appointed a temporary professional employee as an ESL Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year. **TABLED**
22. That **Dale Streletz** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Music Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
23. That **Hannah Gildea** be appointed a Long-Term Substitute Elementary Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.
24. That **Haralampos Varonides** be appointed a Long-Term Substitute Math Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.
25. That **Alison Sands** be appointed a Long-Term Substitute ESL Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.
26. That _____ be appointed a 4-8 Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Tabled
27. That **Caitlyn Thomas** be appointed a Long-Term Substitute Dental Hygienist for the 2024-2025 school year.
28. That the following professional employees be appointed to positions of Guidance Counselor - School Mental Health Program (Summer 2024) at a rate of \$35 per hour, not to exceed predetermined hours based on funding available.

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Ann Goffredo
Diane McFarlane

Jill Saporito
Bryan Smith

Jennifer Thomas
Mara Vitali

D. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the retirement of **Barbara Koulik** be accepted effective September 13, 2024.
2. That the resignation of **Sadie Livingston** be accepted effective May 7, 2024.
3. That the resignation of **Russell Haines** be accepted effective May 9, 2024.
4. That **Rachely Rosa's** request for unpaid leave from May 6, 2024 through May 15, 2024 be accepted.

E. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. That **Dave Oldziejewski's** request for unpaid leave for May 10, 2024 and May 24, 2024 be accepted.
2. That **James Apolinaro's** request for unpaid leave for April 29, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 14, 2024, May 17, 2024, May 24, 2024, May 28, 2024 and June 4, 2024 be accepted.
3. That **Brenda Kowalczyk's** request for unpaid leave for May 31, 2024 be accepted.
4. That **Paul Reese** be appointed a Grade I Custodian effective July 1, 2024.
5. That **Alecia Trout** be appointed a Part Time Custodian effective July 1, 2024.
6. That **Zachary Dixon** be appointed a Part Time Custodian effective July 1, 2024.

F. Extra-Curricular Salary Schedule-6

1. That **Mary Tranguch** be appointed a Head Teacher.

G. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Edward Rosengrant** as Girls Soccer Junior High Assistant Coach be accepted.

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2. That the resignation of **Destiny Cabreja** as Girls Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach be accepted.
3. The following appointments are made for the sports season and will be continued on a season to season basis unless the post is declared vacant by the Board of School Directors. All appointments are effective upon all PDE required clearances and documents being submitted.

Wolfpack Cheerleader Associate Advisor (Spirit/Traditional) **Tessa McDonald**

Girls Volleyball Varsity Assistant Coach
Wondoloski

Karissa

Girls Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach

Mahogany Hooker

The board agrees to vacate the Girls Junior High Soccer Head Coach position.

That the board agrees to reappoint all other current Fall Sports Coaches.

ADDENDUM

A. Professionals

1. That **Sydney Ralston** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a 4-8 Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.
2. That **Angeline Pistack** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a 4-8 Teacher effective the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion by **Dr. Susek** seconded by **Mr. Evans**

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas (abstain #27), Caffrey

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RESOLUTION #1

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, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$171,932,581.00.

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 2024-2025 and levies a tax of 18.4332 mills per dollar (\$18.43 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 (1½) mills; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 26, 1987 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of per capita tax of ten (10) dollars.

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RESOLUTION #2

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 HOMESTEAD and FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

BE IT 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, 2024, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusions 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, 2024:
 - a. **Gambling Tax Funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District the 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 \$4,356,771.95
 - 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 6926.325 (3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$12,792.60.
 - c. **Local Funds.** The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will provide local funds in the amount of \$433,480.00.
 - d. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$4,803,044.55.
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 10,836.

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- b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 1.
- c. **Homestead/Farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 10,837.
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 \$4,803,044.55 by the paragraph 2 (c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 10,837, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$443.21.
4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$443.21 by the School District real estate tax rate of 18.4332 mills (.0184332) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$24,044.00, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$24,044.00.
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, of (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$24,044.00. 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, of (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$24,044.00. 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 used 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

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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 of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of 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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RESOLUTION #2A

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 HOMESTEAD and FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

(Alternate Resolution based on State's allowance of additional Homestead funds)

BE IT 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, 2024, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusions Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

7. **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, 2024:
 - e. **Gambling Tax Funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District the 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 \$4,356,771.95
 - f. **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 6926.325 (3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$12,792.00.
 - g. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$4,369,564.55.
8. **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:
 - d. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 10,836.

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- e. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 1.
 - f. **Homestead/Farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 10,837.
9. **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 \$4,369,564.55 by the paragraph 2 (c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 10,837, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$403.21.
10. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$403.21 by the School District real estate tax rate of 18.4332 mills (.0184332) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$21,874.00, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$21,874.00.
11. **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, of (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$21,874.00. 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, of (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$21,874.00. 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 used 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.
12. **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

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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 of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of 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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RESOLUTION #3

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 2024 Tax Duplicate with date of issue August 1, 2024; 2% discount through September 30, 2024; face amount October 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024; and 10% penalty due after December 1, 2024. Further, that Tax Collectors be authorized to offer three installment payments of the face amount of school real estate taxes, provided taxpayers choose this option on or before September 1, 2024. (Installment due dates shall be: 1st – September 1, 2024; 2nd – October 15, 2024; 3rd – December 1, 2024). 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.

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RESOLUTION #4

Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre Township

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Elite Revenue Solutions, 100 Wilkes-Barre Boulevard, Suite 205, Wilkes-Barre, PA the collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre Township for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 at a commission of \$2.20 per taxable, \$0 per interim bills, 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.

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RESOLUTION #5

Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre City

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Elite Revenue Solutions, 100 Wilkes-Barre Boulevard, Suite 205, Wilkes-Barre, PA the collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre City for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 at a commission of \$2.20 per taxable, \$0 per interim bills, 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.

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RESOLUTION #6

Per Capita Tax Collector

BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkheimer Associates be appointed to serve as collector of the Per Capita tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 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 authorized to collect delinquent Per Capita Tax, receiving total remunerations from the costs assessed to the delinquent taxable (i.e. at no cost to the School District).

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RESOLUTION #7

Local Services Tax Collectors

BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkheimer Associates be appointed to serve as Tax Collector for the collection of Local Services Tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 at a commission not to exceed 2.05% of the gross amount of the tax collected and distributed to the school district.

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RESOLUTION #8

WHEREAS, the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center has submitted its 2024-2025 Operating & Budget to the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Board for 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, 2024 to June 30, 2025, in accordance with the Operating Budget (Budget) presents by the Center's Joint Operating Committee.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget anticipates total expenditures of \$11,634,869.00 of which the Wilkes-Barre Area School District's contribution is estimated at \$3,209,431.00 for operations, an increase of \$180,971.00 from the district's contributions for the year 2023-2024. The Wilkes-Barre Area District's contributions for the debt service budget is estimated at \$176,564.00 a decrease of \$50,888.00.

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RESOLUTION #9

WHEREAS, the Wilkes-Barre Area School District mourns the loss of Leo Elias Solomon, the former superintendent of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, who passed away peacefully on Monday, April 8, 2024, at the age of 93 and

WHEREAS, Leo Elias Solomon was born on March 7, 1931, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to the late Samuel and Najoum Namey Solomon, and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Elmer L. Meyers High School and furthered his education by earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Wilkes College, a Master of Science degree from the University of Scranton, and a superintendent's certificate from Lehigh University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon was married to the late Margaret Brenish Solomon, and together they were blessed with three children: Leo, George, and Jacqueline, and

WHEREAS, Leo Elias Solomon was a devoted member of St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church, serving as board president for several years, and was deeply involved in his community and

WHEREAS, Leo Elias Solomon began his distinguished career in education as a teacher and wrestling and football coach at Coughlin High School, later serving as Elementary School Principal at Dana and Dodson Elementary Schools and as assistant director of elementary curriculum and assistant to the superintendent; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Leo Elias Solomon assumed the esteemed position of superintendent of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, a role he passionately served until his retirement in 1993, making significant contributions to the educational landscape and earning the honor of having the Leo E. Solomon-Plains Elementary School named after him; and

WHEREAS, Leo Elias Solomon demonstrated exemplary dedication to community service, serving as president of the Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley and president of the City Demonstration Agency (Model Cities) for three years, managing the GAR shelter during the Hurricane Agnes flood in 1972, participating in a telethon hosted by Bob Hope, and contributing to many boards and committees including the Red Cross, Wilkes-Barre City Drug and Alcohol Committee, Luzerne County Committee on Violence, United Way of Wyoming Valley, and Luzerne County Human Services Board; and

WHEREAS, Leo Elias Solomon received multiple awards throughout his lifetime, including an Honorary Doctorate from Luzerne County Community College, the American Red Cross award for service during the 1972 flood, the John Heinz Allied Services award for helping develop a handicapped sports program, and the Wilkes University George Ralston Lifetime Career Achievement Award; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Board of Directors hereby honors and commemorates the life and legacy of Leo Elias Solomon for his outstanding contributions to education and community service, expressing profound gratitude for his dedication and lasting impact on our schools and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Leo Elias Solomon as a testament to the esteem in which the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the entire community held him.

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NEW BUSINESS

No new business

Communications from Solicitor

Attorney Wendolowski thanked the Board for renewing his contract.

Motion to adjourn Motion by **Dr. Susek** seconded by **Ms. Harris**

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

Meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Telesz
Board Secretary