

**President, Louis M. Elmy** called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

**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 on June 5, 2014 following an Informational Meeting, and prior to the Special Board Meeting – General Purposes of June 30, 2014.
- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Ms. Thomas motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans**, to modify the RFP for the Feasibility Study to allow for a joint proposal by the three (3) design professionals. The vote was as follows:

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

**1 Nay:** Katsock

**Mr. Evans motioned, seconded by Ms. Thomas**, to extend the deadline for the Feasibility Study by the three (3) design professionals to July 11, 2014. The vote was as follows:

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

**1 Nay:** Katsock

**Mr. Evans motioned, seconded by Ms. Thomas**, to extend the scope of sites for the Feasibility Study to include the Murray Complex. The vote was as follows:

**6 Ayes:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

**3 Nays:** Katsock, Quinn, Susek

**Miss Katsock motioned, seconded by Ms. Thomas**, to instruct the design professionals to breakdown the price proposal per property of the properties that are being reviewed for potential construction sites.

The vote was as follows:

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

**Dr. Susek motioned, seconded by Ms. Thomas**, to remove the Valley Crest site from the Feasibility Study. The vote was as follows:

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

**1 Nay:** Katsock

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Prior to the vote on the above motion, Miss Katsock stated that it is probably too late for the District to get the Valley Crest property, due to the fact that the County has put it on the sale block. Miss Katsock noted that she is confident in saying that she is probably the only Board Member who has looked at Valley Crest and we are missing a tremendous opportunity. Miss Katsock further noted that she understands the concerns in regard to bussing, but, having to build from the ground up, she does not know if any money will be saved when you compare the price of bussing to the price of building. Miss Katsock stated that she would like to go on the record to say that "the District is missing an opportunity at Valley Crest".

**Mr. Quinn motioned, seconded by Dr. Susek,** to remove the Rt. 115 property, owned by Popple Construction, Inc. from the Feasibility Study. The vote was as follows:

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

**1 Nay:** Katsock

Miss Katsock asked about the status of the investigation in regard to the missing scaffolding.

Dr. Prevuznak, Superintendent, told Miss Katsock that Mr. Chiumento, Supervisor of Building and Grounds, indicated that some additional scaffolding was located, approximately seventy-five percent (75 %) of scaffolding that was not properly housed. Dr. Prevuznak will request an update from Mr. Chiumento and if necessary will turn the investigation over to local authorities.

### **Communications from Citizens**

1. Mr. Frank Sorick, 125 Waller Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA.  
Mr. Sorick addressed the Board in regard to the 2014-2015 Budget. Mr. Sorick asked the Board not to vote in favor of a tax increase and expressed to the Board that it was his opinion that it appears that the Board is well on their way to breaking the tax payers with the cost of a new school. Mr. Sorick also noted that in his opinion, the Board is going to reward the owner of the Murray Complex, an owner who has neglected the property, by adding the Murray Complex to the list of sites to be considered for the possible construction of a new school. Mr. Sorick thanked Miss Katsock for voting no on that issue and stated that at least there is one honest person here. Mr. Sorick also expressed to the Board that he would hope that the person responsible for not storing seventy-five percent of the scaffolding properly would be at the very least reprimanded. Mr. Sorick also asked if the Meyers facelift that was paid for by the tax payers was falling off again.

Dr. Prevuznak, Superintendent, informed Mr. Sorick that the facelift that was done at Meyers is not what is crumbling at Meyers High School. Dr. Prevuznak noted that the problem at Meyers is the facid, a problem that was not addressed in 2007 and has aged and gotten worse since then.

2. Lillian Hart, 299 New Hancock Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Ms. Hart informed the Board she agrees with Mr. Sorick one hundred percent and asked the Board not to raise taxes.
3. Robert Hart, 299 New Hancock Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Mr. Hart asked the Board to consider cuts that can be made to the 2014-2015 Budget to avoid raising taxes. Mr. Hart expressed to the Board that tax payers are being burdened not only with taxes but also the cost of living.

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4. Sam Troy, 95 Joseph Lane, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Mr. Troy requested extra time in addition to the seven minutes allotted to Citizens to address the Board. There was no motion made to allot Mr. Troy additional time. Mr. Troy informed the Board that he was at the Board meeting to speak against the pending 2014-2015 Budget. Mr. Troy noted that he would hope that there is some sense of ethics and conscience. Mr. Troy further noted that there was no tax increase last year, he was not satisfied with that and he does not see any sense of commitment from the Board. Mr. Troy asked Mr. Przywara, Business Manager/Board Secretary if he and Dr. Prevuznak were the only people who determined the budget.

Mr. Przywara informed Mr. Troy that there is a Budget Finance Committee who makes recommendations in regard to the Budget.

Mr. Troy informed the Board that he was at a Budget Finance Committee Meeting last week and it was his opinion that the meeting was a farce. Mr. Troy noted that the Budget Finance Committee asked for Public recommendations, he gave a couple and Mr. Caffrey seemed receptive to requesting contributions from the local colleges. Mr. Troy stated that he thinks this Board does not have a conscience regarding the tax payers.

Attorney Wendolowski informed Mr. Troy that Wilkes and Kings Universities have been asked to contribute money in lieu of taxes that they do not pay and both Universities have refused to do so.

Mr. Troy urged the Board to vote against the 2014-2014 Budget. Mr. Troy also suggested that the Board postpone passage of the Budget, take a few days and find cuts in reckless spending, in regard to Union Contracts, Act 93 Agreements, Healthcare and Athletic costs.

Mr. Evans noted that he finds Mr. Sorick's remarks offensive in regard to this Board's honesty. Mr. Evans also noted to Mr. Troy, that he has not heard one word about the students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Mr. Evans stated that his job and responsibility as a School Director is to provide the best education possible to the students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

President Elmy stated that he is appalled that Mr. Sorick insinuated that this Board is not honest. Mr. Elmy stated that this Board does the best job possible in the interest of the students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

### **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

1. That approval be given to enter into an Agreement with New Story, 1150 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA to provide extended school year educational services to students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, commencing June 30, 2014 and ending August 8, 2014. A complete copy of the agreement (Exhibit "A") is on file in the Office of the Board Secretary, and incorporated into this resolution with full force and effect as if same had been pronounced in its entirety herein.
2. That ratification be given to the Agreement with Wyoming Area School District to provide Reading Instructional Services, in accordance with the Title I program to resident students attending Wyoming Area Catholic School during the 2013-2014 school year.

**Mr. Galella motioned, seconded by Miss Katsock, to accept the report. The vote was as follows:**

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

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Both Mr. Galella and Mr. Quinn noted that the KTO Program has been very successful and kindergarten scores have improved significantly and first grade is making progress. Mr. Galella noted that he is looking forward to continued growth in the future.

**BUDGET FINACE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE**

1. 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
Bonnie Westanski 8 McCullough Street Plains Township, PA	50-G10NE1-012-002-000	\$500.00
Stella & Solvey Tamarac Road Plains Township, PA	50-G11S1-002-01C-001	\$500.00

**B. FEDERAL**

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1320-1322 and Federal Wire transfer 201301127, Chapter I wire transfers 201301118-201301126 from June 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014 and Chapter AP checks #1303-1309 were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on June 9, 2014 be approved.

- C. That payment be approved for the following General Fund checks, for June, 2014 # 35839-35854 and Food Service checks # 2429-2442 which were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on June 9, 2014.
- D. That the checks listed on the following pages # 35855-35969 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 Ms. Thomas, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

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

1 Nay: Katsock, – Items: C & D

There was no **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

**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 District's Workers Compensation Insurance Policy for the 2014-2015 school year, effective July 1, 2014 through Companion Commercial Insurance Co., with the Pennsylvania Consortium of Schools (PICS) at an estimated cost of \$291,464.00.
2. 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 Old Republic Insurance Co. for the 2014-2015 school year, effective July 1, 2014 at a combined premium of \$235,788.00.
3. 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. Upon the recommendation of Leonard Engineering, Inc., that approval be given for the acquisition and installation of structural protective netting above the auditorium entrance at E.L. Meyers High School at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00.
2. Upon the recommendation of Leonard Engineering, Inc., that approval be given for the acquisition, and installation of structural protective netting near the top of the first story windows of the E.L. Meyers High School boiler house at an estimated cost of \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Such action will allow pedestrian and vehicular traffic to pass next to the north wall.
3. That approval be given to authorize the Apollo Group, Inc. to solicit quotes for the necessary repairs to the north wall of Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium, as proposed by Leonard Engineering, Inc.
4. That approval be given to authorize Leonard Engineering, Inc. to prepare the design for temporary repairs to the interior courtyard wall at the James Coughlin High School library at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00. At completion of the design work, that Apollo Group, Inc. be authorized to solicit proposals from contractors to perform the required repairs.

**Dr. Susek 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 – Addendum - #3

**BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

1. **Requests for USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES:**

**G.A.R. HIGH SCHOOL**

The G.A. R. Football Booster Club requests permission to use the cafeteria at G.A.R. High School for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner for players, coaches and staff, on Thursday, August 28, 2014 from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

**MEYERS HIGH SCHOOL**

- a. Corey Hanson, Head Football Coach of Meyers Football, requests permission to use the cafeteria at Meyers High School for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner for football players, coaches and staff on Friday, August 15, 2014 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and on Friday, August 29, 2014 for a team breakfast from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
- b. The E.L. Meyers Speech and Debate team requests permission to use a classroom, the auditorium and library on June 1, 2015 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM for their 'Annual Friends and Family Event'.

**MEYERS HIGH SCHOOL**

**KISTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The E.L. Meyers Speech and Debate Team requests permission to use the facilities at Meyers High School and Kistler Elementary School on January 17, 2015 from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM for the "Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Speech and Debate Tournament". In the event of inclement weather the facilities are requested to be used on Sunday, January 18, 2015 from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Meyers High School is additionally requested to be used on Friday, January 16, 2014 beginning at 5:00 PM to prepare for the Speech and Debate Tournament.

2. **Requests for USE OF GYMS, STADIUMS & FIELDS:**

**SOLOMON/PLAINS COMPLEX**

- a. ~~Tom Belles, Head Wrestling Coach of Coughlin High School, requests permission to hold the following wrestling clinics:~~

~~July 27 and 28, 2014 and August 8 & 9, 2014 — 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
Ryan Kemmerrer — presenting clinic~~

~~July 16, 2014 — 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
Corey Luce — presenting clinic~~

~~There will be no fee charged for the wrestlers who participate and all coaches and staff have provided proof of the required clearances. **TABLED**~~

- b. Patrolman, Tim Minnick of the Plains Township Police Department, requests permission to hold the "Annual National Night Out" on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM on the grounds of the Solomon/Plains Complex. Proof of insurance has been provided to the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

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**OTHER**

Meyers High School requests permission to hold the "Annual Bonfire" at Miner Park on Thursday, October 2, 2014 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

**Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Miss Katsock**, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:  
**ALL IN FAVOR:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

**LEGISLATIVE /FEDERAL REPORT**

**Miss Katsock 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 2014-2015 to include the following programs.

PROGRAM	PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION
Title I, Improving Basic Programs	\$3,402,321.00
Title II, Improving Teacher Quality	\$396,244.00
Title III, Improving Language Instruction	\$139,993.00

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

**MATERIAL SUPPLIES REPORT**

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

1. That having inspected bids opened on June 25, 2014 that the award is made to the following bidders for:

Annual Boiler Maintenance

United Heating & AC (Bid results below)

**ANNUAL BOILER SERVICING (3yr Contract)**

	2014	2015	2016
United Heating & AC	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
Mechanical Service Co.	\$13,755.00	\$14,125.00	\$14,550.00
3B Services, Inc.	\$19,815.00	\$20,249.00	\$20,360.00
Aircon Service	\$21,060.00	\$22,620.00	\$23,830.00
Sterner Service, Inc.	\$47,465.00	\$52,211.50	\$57,432.70

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1. That approval be given for the purchase of a used vehicle to be used by School District police. The cost of said vehicle, \$9,000.00 will be paid through a grant of \$5000.00 available from the Resource Officer Grant with an additional \$4000.00 contributed by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

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

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:48 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:12 PM and President Elmy stated the following:

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, the Chair wishes to announce that the Board went into Executive Session at 6:48 PM. The subjects discussed in Executive Session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and /or threatened or actual litigation.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

#### **A. Professional**

1. That **Stephanie Brewster** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary teacher, effective August 21, 2014.
2. That **Leah Lavelle** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary teacher, effective August 21, 2014.
3. That **Heather Lavelle** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary teacher, effective August 21, 2014.
4. That **Jason Lukachinsky** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Secondary Social Studies teacher, effective August 21, 2014.
5. That **Ashley Filipek** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Secondary English teacher, effective August 21, 2014.
6. That **Rachael Selepak** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Secondary English teacher, effective August 21, 2014.
7. That **Joseph D. Liscosky** be granted a medical sabbatical for the first semester of the 2014-15 school year, pending a physician's certification.
8. That **Michael Jarus** be appointed as a summer school teacher, effective July 7, 2014 through August 14, 2014, Mondays through Thursdays.

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**B. Custodial**

1. That the retirement of **Jim Serafini** be accepted with regret, effective September 30, 2014.
2. That the retirement of **Joseph D. Spagnuolo Sr.** be accepted with regret, effective April 25, 2014.

**C. Secretaries and Teachers' Associates**

1. That **Cassandra I. DeCusatis** be granted an unpaid leave, beginning on or about September 29, 2014 through the end of the 2014-15 school year.

**D. Crossing Guards**

1. That **Alan Savage** be appointed as a permanent crossing guard, effective August 25, 2014.
2. That **Gene Lazarus** be appointed as a substitute crossing guard, effective August 25, 2014.

**E. Athletics**

1. 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.

GAR	Soccer	Jr High Assistant Coach	<b>Tracy Lynn Oram</b>
GAR	Girls' Soccer	Varsity Assistant Coach	<b>Glenn Zimmerman</b>
Meyers	Football	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Christopher DeMarco</b>

ADDENDUM

1. That **Denise Kroll** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary teacher, effective August 21, 2014.
2. That **Kelli Shanahan** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary teacher, effective August 21, 2014.

Attorney Wendolowski noted that the Safety Committee has authorized the Superintendent to post for the hiring of two (2) security officers and one (1) substitute security officer to man the walk through metal detectors for a five (5) day work week at a proposed salary of \$10.00 per hour per employee.

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

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

**1 Nay:** Katsock – A - Professional - #6

Mr. Quinn presented Resolution No. 1

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, in accordance with law, prepared the following budget, of the amount of funds that will be required by the School District in its several departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$111,101,875.00.

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 2014-2015 and levies a tax of 15.871 mills per dollar (\$15.87 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 (\$10.00) 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 (\$10.00) dollars.

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**Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Mr. Evans,** to adopt Resolution # 1. The vote was as follows:

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

**2 Nays:** Katsock , Elmy

Mr. Caffrey presented Resolution #2

**WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**2014 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, 2014, 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, 2014:

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 \$ 2,877,677.83.

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 \$4,914.16.

c. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$2,882,591.99.

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 13,384.

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 13,384.

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 \$2,882,591.99 by the paragraph 2 (c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 13,384, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$215.37.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$215.37 by the School District real estate tax rate of 15.871 mills (.015871) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$13,570.00, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$13,570.00.

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5. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$13,570.00. 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 \$13,570.00. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341 (g) (3), based on homestead /farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

6. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – interim real estate tax bills.** No homestead or farmstead exclusion will apply to any interim tax bill except an interim tax bill applicable to a property that includes an approved homestead or approved farmstead listed in the report received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, but not included in the tax assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill for the property. In most cases, the assessment of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads will be reflected in July 1 tax bills. However, in any case when there is an approved homestead or an approved farmstead that is not included in the assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill, and when an interim real estate tax notice is issued later based on an interim assessment including the approved homestead or approved farmstead, the interim tax notice shall reflect a homestead or farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction calculated under paragraph 5, except that the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro rated in the same manner as the real estate tax is pro rated. Assuming the interim tax notice reflects taxation as of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will apply. In the extraordinary case where the new interim tax assessment is effective after July 1, the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro rated in the same manner as the real estate tax reflected in the interim tax bill is pro rated.

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**Mr. Caffrey motioned, seconded by Dr. Susek,** to adopt Resolution #2. The vote was as follows:

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

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 2014 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, 2014; 2% discount through September 15, 2014; face amount after September 15, 2014, through November 14, 2014; and 10% penalty due after November 14, 2014. 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

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before August 15, 2014. (Installment due dates shall be: 1st – August 15, 2014; 2nd – October 14, 2014; 3rd – December 15, 2014.) 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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**Mr. Evans motioned, seconded by Miss Katsock,** to adopt Resolution #3. 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, 2014 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.

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**Mr. Galella motioned, seconded by Miss Katsock,** to adopt Resolution #4. 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 Services, 15 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA, collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre City for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2014, 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  
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**Miss Katsock motioned, seconded by Ms. Thomas**, to adopt Resolution #5. 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, 2014 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 30, 2014

**Ms. Thomas motioned, seconded by Mr. Galella**, to adopt Resolution #6. The vote was as follows:  
**6 Ayes:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Walker,  
**3 Nays:** Katsock, Thomas, Elmy

Rev. Walker 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, 2014, at a commission not to exceed 2.75% of the gross amount of the tax collected and distributed to the school district.

Wilkes-Barre, PA  
June 30, 2014

**Rev. Walker motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans**, to adopt Resolution #7. The vote was as follows:

**6 Ayes:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Walker,

**3 Nays:** Katsock, Thomas, Elmy

### Communications from Superintendent

Dr. Prevuznak stated the following:

Good Evening,

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 as well keeping close to their hearts the needs, not the wants of our children. Yes indeed it has not been an easy task for the people in this room. But as a new fiscal year begins, as both a fellow taxpayer and Superintendent, I feel the need to reflect on where we have been as a district the last few months, the accomplishments that have been achieved, and what's our collective vision for the future of this school district. Ladies and gentlemen many great strides have been taken over the last few months in addressing issues from curriculum needs concerning student achievement, safety measures that were implemented throughout all our schools, the re-establishing of partnerships with community members and institutions of higher learning, as well providing day to day service in order to assist all the stakeholders of the Wilkes-Barre Area.

But let me elaborate on this for just a second, on these achievements this district piloted and purchased a new Reading series for elementary students in order to address student achievement and scores in standardized testing. This new program will be fully implemented for the upcoming school year. Additionally this district received KTO Grant money and designated a portion of it for contracting with the "Step by Step" Educational Group in order to address issues of Literacy in Pre K and Kindergarten classrooms. I am pleased to announce that in one year's time record growth levels have been achieved in all our elementary schools at these grade levels. In our secondary schools we will implementing a STEM (concentration in Science, Technology, English, Math) program for junior high student and it will housed at Meyers High School but we'll open to Solomon and GAR students as well. Additionally this district will be implementing a secondary flex schedule that will allow students to take more and more electives and provide challenging new classes for their academic preparation. Along the line of academic progress this district has established a productive cyber school that services some 70 district students to date that are part of our system's tuition tax base and thus not being filtered elsewhere. Our special education department has also contributed to this cause by returning to our district at a cost savings various educational student placements that were housed in other districts.

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Safety and school security is and always will be at the forefront of our attention. Our School Police Department along with our partnership with city police is respected throughout the county and has grown in size with the hiring of additional resource officers to address the needs of all of our buildings. Now along with qualified security greeters who are equipped with computers to scan visitors id's in order to identify individuals who are possible school threats, our building access card system that only allows employees access to our buildings and our soon to be implemented security camera's in all our elementary schools, have made our schools even more secure than ever. Perhaps one of greatest accomplishments over the last few months has been the drive to address a long time issue concerning diversity training and minority hiring's. We established a district diversity committee and our "Faces" program has been at the center of this activity. It promotes the ideal that we are all God's children and should embrace each other's differences. We have partnered with the NAACP and have great plans for the upcoming fall. This district has become a member of "Minorities and Success" an organization that helps actively pursue minority candidates for employment within school district. Great strides continue to be made in this area. Finally this district has recognized the day to day struggles that parents and guardians go through in trying to provide a life of quality for their children. This district now provides a central registration area that is housed in the basement of this building. It was established to make the process easier for the stakeholders of this district and to provide a clean database of student information for future use. Also this district unlike many has established an efficient and consumer friendly human resource department that address the needs of our citizens as well our employees. In attempting to help this mission in addressing parental need outside of the school day, we also be pilot before and after school care for the parents at Kistler Elementary School and the Solomon Plains complex.

Finally progress has been made in a short period of time and yet much will be in place for students and parents during the course of the up-coming school year. But what of the future? We have made great strides but need to continue our quest as a progressive school district. Plans are being made to address the crisis that we have been under regarding our aging schools. Understand all of the advancements I have addressed this evening took courage, fortitude, and most of all funding. The future is now; our vision is clear and the next several months maybe the most significant in the history of this school district.

There was no new **New Business**

**Communications from Solicitor**

**Dr. Susek motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans,** to engage the services of Keystone Realty Advisors to assist in the District's efforts to identify properties that are not paying their fair share of real estate taxes. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy  
**1 Nay:** Katsock

**Dr. Susek motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans,** to allow the Solicitor in conjunction with the Superintendent to ratify filed tax appeals at the August, 2014 Board Meeting. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy  
**1 Nay:** Katsock

**Mr. Evans motioned, seconded by Rev. Walker,** to approve the Settlement Agreement between the District and the parents of the student identified as DC. The vote was as follows:

**7 Ayes:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Walker, Elmy  
**2 Nays:** Katsock, Thomas

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**Miss Katsock motioned, seconded by Mr. Caffrey,** to reverse the sale of Bus #9 to Wilkes-Barre Twp.  
The vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Quinn noted that Bus #9 could be donated to the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center for the students to work on in their shop.

Mr. Galella noted that he would first like to see if anyone was interested in purchasing Bus #9 before it was donated.

**Mr. Quinn motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans,** to donate Bus #9 to the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center. The vote was as follows:

**5 Ayes:** Caffrey, Evans, Quinn, Susek, Elmy

**2 Nays:** Katsock, Walker

**2 Abstain:** Galella, Thomas

### **Board Secretary Report**

#### **July– 2014**

Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 29, 2014 – 5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 29, 2014 – 7:00 PM

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

**President Elmy** adjourned the Meeting at 7:50 PM.