

Summary of Minutes  
Special Meeting- General Purposes  
May 3, 2017

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

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

**Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz** called the roll.

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

President Thomas stated:

The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive following the Special Meeting -General Purposes on April 27, 2017 and prior to the Special Meeting – General Purposes of May 3, 2017.

THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

At this time President Thomas stated:

Based on the information presented during last week's meeting, Vice president Miss Katsock announced that tonight's special meeting/general purpose will be a voting meeting to continue the further exploration of a site. I am asking my fellow board members to focus in on a site and to approve the additional analysis to fulfill the necessary requirements of Act 17 and/or Environmental studies.

**Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Mr. Evans,** to approve additional analysis of a designated site and fulfill the necessary requirements of Act 17 and /or Environmental studies. The vote was as follows:

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

**Communications from Citizens**

1. John Suchoski
2. Kim Borland
3. Lois Grimm
4. Len Cornish
5. Sam Troy
6. Mark Schiowitz
7. Joe Borland
8. Ruth Borland
9. Nina Cinti
10. Sarah Borland
11. Ron Woznock
12. Dave Wilson
13. Richard Holodick
14. Bob Holden
15. Melissa Patla
16. Tracy Hughes
17. Robert Brannon

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

1. Delay vote on site for new High School.
2. Provide full explanation of site under consideration.
3. Opposition to any form of consolidation.
4. Facilities Plan presented from Save our Schools.
5. Begin to save the District money.
6. Consolidation does not save money.
7. Why has there been no discussion of the future of G.A.R. students?
8. Consolidation has a negative effect on extracurricular activities, not everyone can provide their own transportation.
9. Closing Meyers has a negative effect on neighborhoods, property taxes, the quality of life of students and families.
10. Do not continue to ignore students, teachers and families.
11. Have any Board Members visited building sites that are under consideration?
12. Have members of the Design Team visited any building sites under consideration?
13. Budget Committee needs to do something to prevent tax increase.
14. What is the amount of money in the rainy day fund?
15. Taxes are driving home owners out of the City of Wilkes-Barre.
16. Post pone vote on building site and put on Referendum.
17. Excessive monies have been spent on site analysis.
18. Be accountable to students.
19. SOS is in favor of restoration and neighborhood schools.
20. Studies show that smaller schools are better.
21. There has not been a study in regard to consolidation for 30 years.
22. Does current plan deal with overcrowding?
23. Do state funds apply to construction and restoration?
24. What is the projected longevity of a new school?
25. The longevity of Coughlin and Meyers High Schools is indefinite.
26. It unbelievable that 5 Board Members will vote on a site that they have not seen.
27. Table vote until all Board members have visited all sites being considered.
28. Board needs to consider alternative plans.
29. What is the status of the Coughlin High School Annex?
30. Consider consolidating G.A.R., it is the most economically disadvantaged school.
31. Board refuses to discuss in public projects and future decisions.
32. Truancy will grow do to bussing with a consolidated school.
33. Siblings will not be able to take care of each other due to consolidation.
34. People are buying homes outside the City of Wilkes-Barre.
35. Move forward, do not live in the past and consider the future of students.
36. Why did the current Board Members want to be elected to the Board?
37. Do you want the consolidation that everyone is against to be your legacy?
38. Bussing leads to tardiness and absenteeism.
39. How can this Board vote on a site without any preparation?
40. Board refuses to try something else when something does not work.
41. Board refuses to try to figure out solutions and need sto take responsibility mistakes.
42. Board needs to listen and move forward.
43. Board Members had no questions in regard to SOS Facility Plan.
44. Stop listening exclusively to Design Team and bring in another opinion.
45. There have been no projections in regard to three high schools or for the new consolidated high school, operation costs and maintenance costs.
46. If you consolidate, include all three high schools.

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47. It is unlikely that you will receive money from PlanCon.
48. Communicate with SOS in regard to neighborhood schools.
49. SOS plan saves over one hundred million dollars.
50. Pathway To The Future Plan will be a disaster.
51. What happens if your plan for consolidation turns out to be wrong?
52. Will G.A.R. High School be left behind?
53. Does G.A.R. have less AP classes than the other two high schools?
54. Offer Coughlin High School students school choice.
55. G.A.R. needs a library.
56. Board needs to fight harder for G.A.R.
57. Four seated Board members are former administrators/teachers and collecting pensions.
58. This Board does not know today's students and is going to destroy the District.
59. By leaving G.A.R. out you are segregating.
60. Consider the importance of students and postpone vote.

Dr. Costello, Superintendent, Business Manager, Thomas Telesz, Board Members Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Walker, Thomas, Gary Salijko, Appolo Senior Estimator, Members of the Design Team, Jude Cooney and Patrick Endler and Attorney Raymond Wendolowski responded to the various questions/statements presented by Citizens.

### **Unfinished Business**

Rev. Walker noted that he had some questions and also encouraged the Citizens present to express their questions/concerns in order to create a dialogue between Citizens and the Board.

Discussion followed and at the end of questions/discussion and Board/Citizen dialogue, Board Member, Ned Evans presented the following motion.

### **MOTION**

I move to authorize the District Design Team to move forward with a more detailed analysis of the Pagnotti site as follows:

- (1) Initially to proceed with the necessary Act 17 evaluation of the site pursuant to the proposal submitted by Geo-Science Engineering Co., Inc., dated April 26, 2017 at a preliminary estimated cost of \$53,988.00.
- (2) If the site receives approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, as required by Act 17, then to proceed forward with a Phase 2 Environmental Study and a Risk Assessment Analysis of the site with a cost estimate of \$66,250.00 for the Phase 2 study and a cost estimate of \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00 for the Risk Assessment Analysis.

**Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Dr. Susek, to approve the above listed motion.**

Miss Katsock presented several question in regard to the above motion. Questions were addressed by Gary Salijko, Apollo Senior Estimator, Design Team members, Jude Cooney and Patrick Endler and Solicitor, Raymond Wendolowski.

Following discussion, the vote was as follows:

**7 AYES:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Quinn, Susek, Thomas

**2 NAYS:** Katsock, Walker

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**New Business**

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motions:

**Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Rev. Walker**, to authorize the retention of Al Rosen to prepare an appraisal of Holiday Inn Express, located at 1063, Highway 315, Plains Township, PA at a total fee not to exceed \$5000.00 pursuant to Mr. Rosen's proposal of May 2, 2017. The vote was as follows:

**9 AYES:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Walker, Thomas

**Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Evans**, to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an appropriate license agreement for the use of 25 parking spaces at the Wilkes-Barre Township facility by Vector Security at a price of \$2000.00 for a 12-month period. The vote was as follows:

**9 AYES:** Caffrey, Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Walker, Thomas

**Vice President Katsock** moved to adjourn the meeting.

**President Thomas** adjourned the Meeting at 9:10 PM.