

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – March 11, 2024

Board President Joseph Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

8 Members Present: Atherton, Breese, 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 March 11, 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 February 5, 2024 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by Ms. Harris seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 5, 2024.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello shared that our Long Term and Underlying S&P Global Credit ratings were raised from a BBB+ to an A-. S&P commended the district for its financial turnaround despite challenges.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Admin Building:

Continued to address work requests Trimmed trees along adjacent properties

Dan Flood Elementary:

Continued to address work requests Continued to address plumbing repairs

Dodson Elementary:

Completed repairs to boilers Continued to address plumbing repairs

E.L. Meyers Building:

Continued to perform building security checks while building is unoccupied

GAR Middle School:

Continued replacement of ceiling grid & tile on 3rd Floor Continued to address work requests
Continued to address plumbing repairs

Heights Murray Elementary:

Commenced replacement of broken toilet partition doors Continued to address work requests

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Continued to address plumbing repairs

Kistler Elementary:

Commenced repairs to electric unit heaters Continued to address work requests Continued to address plumbing repairs

Mackin Elementary:

Continued to address work requests Continued to address plumbing repairs

Solomon Complex:

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

W-B High School:

Completed installation of water bottle filler in Fitness Center Completed replacement of broken toilet accessories Completed repairs to scoreboard

Continued to address work requests

Continued to address remaining punch list/warranty items

General:

Completed review of pricing for ESCO scope of work at Dan Flood & Heights Elementary

Continued annual testing & inspection of fire alarm systems

Completed water quality testing at all school buildings Commenced field preparation for spring sports season.

During the last month, we have completed approximately 78 work requests. Our maintenance staff is currently addressing approximately 79 new work orders. The current number of unassigned work requests is 13. Those work requests are related to issues that require further investigation or cannot be addressed until spring.

Ms. Harris inquired how many water bottle fillers will be in the high school. **Mr. Krzywicki** explained one is installed in the fitness area, and another is coming to the C wing. There is also one in the cafeteria area in Kistler. More will be requested for the high school and Solomon.

Mr. Krzywicki shared that the GAR project is progressing with few incidents.

Mr. Atherton inquired about a United Heating payment. **Mr. Krzywicki** explained there were some issues at our older schools. He will investigate the invoice for the high school.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Caffrey complimented the elementary schools for how nice their Read Across America days were. He also shared how wonderful our recent CAPAA performance of Grease was.

Mr. Breese shared that he attended the United Against Hate presentation, and while he was impressed with the number of state officials who attended, he was surprised to hear that sexual orientation was not classified as a hate crime.

Ms. Harris shared that several students from our middle schools will be participating in STEM program at Wilkes University for the next 6 weeks.

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Dr. Costello shared that our new Facebook page will highlight many of the above-mentioned events.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Glen Cronauer, president of the boys' soccer booster club, inquired about hosting a soccer tournament at our facilities in July 2025.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27th at 5:30.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Faust – The second annual NEPA Building Trades Fair will be on March 26th from 10:00-2:00. Over 1,000 students will attend.

Ms. Harris – The next meeting will be Monday, March 15.

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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 the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Comprehensive Plans which includes the Induction Plan (Chapter 49); Professional Development Plan (Act 48); and the Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16).

Motion by Mr. Evans seconded by Ms. Thomas

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, 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 December 2023 and January 2024. **“Exhibit A”**
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	Apollo Group, Inc.	Stadium Project	Capital Projects	APP 23	\$ 363.25
A2.2	Apollo Group, Inc.	High School	Capital Projects	APP 64	\$ 403.73

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

TO				Amount	From				Amount
1200	200	Special Education	Benefits	\$ 300,000	1100	200	Regular Programs- Elem/Sec	Benefits	\$ 300,000
1300	500	Vocational Education	Other Purchased Svcs.	\$ 400,000	1100	500	Regular Programs- Elem/Sec	Other Purchased Svcs.	\$ 400,000
2300	500	Support Services - Administration	Other Purchased Svcs.	\$ 500,000	2700	500	Student Transportation Services	Other Purchased Svcs.	\$ 500,000
4600	700	Existing Building Improvement Svcs	Property Expenditures	\$ 4,280,000	2600	700	Operation Maintenance Plant Svcs	Property Expenditures	\$ 4,280,000
2300	600	Support Services - Administration	Supplies	\$ 26,000	1100	600	Regular Programs- Elem/Sec	Supplies	\$ 26,000

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2800	600	Support Services - Central	Supplies	\$ 188,000	1100	600	Regular Programs- Elem/Sec	Supplies	\$ 188,000
3100	600	Food Services	Supplies	\$ 2,000	1100	600	Regular Programs- Elem/Sec	Supplies	\$ 2,000
3200	600	Student Activities	Supplies	\$ 53,000	1100	600	Regular Programs- Elem/Sec	Supplies	\$ 53,000

4. That approval be given to forgive school taxes owed on the following properties so Wilkes-Barre City to convey the properties to Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity. WVHFH has agreed to build homes on the properties.

Parcel Numbers: 73-H9SE4-022-014-000, 73-H9SE4-022-015-000, 73-H9SE4-022-013-000

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B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #3144, #3171 to #3210; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202300417 to #202300431 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on February 5, 2024.

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C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #62305 to #62353 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202300398 to #202300400 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202312273 to #202312289 and Food Service Checks #3926 to #3936 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on February 5, 2024 be approved.

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D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #62354 to #62514 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 Change Order #CO1 for Keystone Sports Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$ 25,072.04. The Change Order consists of the following:

Sportaflex 320' Turf Fence Outfield Pkg	\$ 18,721.74
Player Bench w/Shelf, 12' (4 each)	\$ 6,350.30

2. That approval be given to enter into a one-year agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Mechanical Service Company for the semi-annual planned maintenance service and inspection of the emergency electrical generating equipment at Dan Flood Elementary School, Dodson Elementary School, GAR Middle School, Heights Murray Elementary School, Kistler Elementary School, Mackin Elementary School, Solomon Elementary/Middle School, and Wilkes-Barre Area High School at an annual price of \$4,860.00 effective February 2024. **“Exhibit B”**
3. That approval be given to purchase an ice maker for the high school field house from Rice’s Food Equipment and Consulting, Inc. at a total cost of \$5,584.87. The purchase includes the following: **“Exhibit C”**

Hoshizaki Ice Cube Maker, Cube Style	\$3,952.67
Ice Bin	\$ 1,351.97
Water Filtration System	\$ 280.23

4. That approval be given to enter into a one year agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Cintas Fire Protection for Sprinkler System Inspection at a total cost of \$25,995.00. The agreement includes the following locations: **“Exhibit D”**

Solomon	\$ 9,460.00
Mackin	\$ 8,045.00
Heights	\$ 1,415.00
High School	\$ 7,075.00

5. That approval be given to enter into a one-year agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Cintas Fire Protection for Emergency/Exit Lighting Inspections at a total cost of \$5,907.00. The agreement includes the following locations: **“Exhibit E”**

Solomon	\$ 990.00
Mackin	\$ 396.00
Kistler	\$ 371.25

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Heights	\$ 297.00
GAR	\$ 759.00
Dodson	\$ 346.50
Flood	\$ 313.50
High School	\$ 2,433.75

6. Pending solicitor review, that approval be given to Change Order #CO1 for Brewer Garrett Co. in the amount of \$ 81,195.00 to renovate the student restrooms in GAR's B Building.
7. Pending solicitor review, that approval be given to Change Order #CO2 for Brewer Garrett Co. in the amount of \$ 10,847,691.00. The Change Order consists of the following:

Dan Flood (Base Bid)	\$ 4,663,619.00
Dan Flood Alternate– Add ducted distribution system	\$ 230,000.00
Dan Flood Alternate– Replace (3) mini splits in ducted VAV	\$ 58,808.00
Dan Flood Alternate– Exterior lighting	\$ 16,665.00
Savings for awarding both schools	(\$ 220,000.00)
Total Cost of Dan Flood Project	\$ 4,749,092.00
Heights Murray (Base Bid)	\$ 6,295,322.00
Heights Murray Alternate – Exterior lighting	\$ 23,277.00
Savings for awarding both schools	(\$ 220,000.00)
Total Cost of Heights Murray Project	\$ 6,098,599.00

8. After review of the Requests for Proposals for classroom wireless services, that approval be given to Riverside Technologies at a total cost of as follows:

Total Cost	\$ 388,170.62
Erate Discount	\$ 329,645.03
The District Cost	\$ 58,225.59

9. That approval be given to renew the agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Skyward, Inc., for a three year period effective July 1, 2024. The annual per student license fee for each of the three calendar years of the extended term shall be as follows: **“Exhibit F”**

Business Suite-Core Modules	\$ 4.56
Bid Management	\$ 0.52
Support – Business Suite	\$ 2.09
True Time	\$ 0.55
Work Order	\$ 1.05

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Motion by Dr. Susek seconded by Mr. Faust

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

No Report

SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans highlighted a recent in-service on safety and security. He also mentioned the new blinking lights on the stop signs at the high school.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No report

Building Maintenance

Mr. Faust shared a story about a young man who graduated from GAR, Bill Fiest, who worked his way through the sheet metal apprenticeship program and now owns his own sheet metal company that was awarded the dry side of the mechanical package contract by Brewer Garrett.

Facilities Transition

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

The Facilities Transition Committee respectfully submits the following report and recommendations:

1. That approval be given to Amendment No. 2 to the Purchase and Sale Agreement regarding the sale of the property located at 341 Carey Avenue, Wilkes-Barre (Meyers High School) property. **“Exhibit G”**

Motion by Mr. Atherton seconded by Mr. Evans

The vote was as follows:

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

1 Nay: Thomas

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Breese recently shared a proposal for some of our employees to attend the Mindfulness Institute.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No report

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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 “National Honor Society Advisor Compensation” agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Wilkes-Barre Area Education Association be approved. “**EXHIBIT H**”

B. Professionals

1. The Board agrees to waive **Candace Day’s** return to service requirement in Article XIX, Section 3 of the WBAEA Agreement for the sabbatical leave for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board further agrees to accept Candace’s retirement effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
2. That the retirement of **Jill Space** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
3. That the retirement of **Michael Jarus** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
4. That the retirement of **Susan Canavan** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
5. That **Misael Hernandez** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Special Education Teacher effective March 11, 2024.
6. That **Leonardo Brennan** be appointed a Special Education Long-Term Substitute Teacher for 90 days.
7. That **Katlyn Beidler** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Math Teacher effective the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.
8. That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions at a rate of \$35.00 per hour. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

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RAISE After School Program Session 3

Mary Tranguch	Veronica Tobin	Kathie Miles
Beth Weber	Amy Degnan Blasco	Amanda Scott
Melanie Costantino	MaryJo Youndblood	Kelly Pryor
Margaret McGrath	Donna Brenner	Carol Hiscox
Karen Vought	Mary Gallis	Kristen Barber
Dana Hine	Erin McGavin	Jennifer Hunter
Amy Sullivan	Rita Gubbiotti	Susan Domiano
Cynthia Craig	Rick Collins	Molly McAndrew
Susan Schwab	Maria Mathis	Lauren Letteer
Lisa Giovannini	Rachel Hedgcock	Melissa Watkins
Kelley Campas	Crystal Kane	Meagan Sabbatini
Tamara Rogowski	John Gosciowski	Megan Toney
Heather Fritz	Marissa Bradshaw	Charla Potsko
Susan Ferretti	Christina Nordmark	Paul Shymanski
Heather Johnson	Joseph Rodzinak	Erin Moran
Marianne Aboutanos	Diane McFarlane	Glenn Zimmerman
Michael Day	Joelle DeLuca	Michael Ward
Mtichell Marcks	Marianne Kapuschinsky	

Federally Funded After School Program Session 3

Arthur Mitchell	Courtney O'Meara	Marianne Turosky
Kimberly Hayes	Maureen Carey	Tanya Martin-Kirkutis
Amy Pascale	Sherri Yelen	Jamee Hopkins

C. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the retirement of **Joanne Bayer** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
2. That the retirement of **James Pugh** be accepted effective the last day of the 2023-2024 School Year.
3. That the resignation of **Sadie Gutierrez** be accepted effective February 1, 2024.
4. That the resignation of **Darrian Tyson** be accepted effective March 11, 2024.
5. That **Jennifer Germosen** be appointed a 12 Month Secretary Level I.
6. That **Lisa Fink** be appointed a Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week.
7. That **Danielle Ishman** be appointed a Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week.

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8. That **Karen Ceruti** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
9. That **Barbara Shemanski** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
10. That **Amy Skursky** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
11. That **Courtney Wender** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
12. That **Jamil Williams** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
13. That the following employees be appointed to the following positions at their current hourly rate. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

RAISE After School Program Session 3 AIDE

Blake Meredick
Jamie Pesotski
Pam Peters

Sharon Pascucci
Pamela Ostroski

Marie Pistack
Karen Taylor

Federally Funded After School Program Session 3 AIDE

Janet Jones

Marianne Egan

D. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. The Board agrees to waive **Robert Gubbiotti's** three month written notification as stated in the WBA Custodial/Maintenance Educational Support Personnel Association agreement. The Board further agrees to accept Robert's retirement effective February 29, 2024.
2. The Board agrees to waive **Gene Belardinelli's** three month written notification as stated in the WBA Custodial/Maintenance Educational Support Personnel Association agreement. The Board further agrees to accept Gene's retirement effective March 22, 2024.

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3. The Board agrees to waive **Michael Emmert's** three month written notification as stated in the WBA Custodial/Maintenance Educational Support Personnel Association agreement. The Board further agrees to accept Michael's retirement effective March 8, 2024.
4. That **James Apolinaro's** request for unpaid leave from April 5, 2024 through April 8, 2024 and April 16, 2024 through April 19, 2024 be accepted.
5. That **Zachary Wojtash** be appointed a Grade I Custodian.
6. That **Morgan Luton Sr.** be appointed a Grade I Custodian.
7. That **Sydney Baker Hokien** be appointed a Grade I Custodian.
8. That **Sashana Shand** be appointed a Grade I Custodian.
9. That **Sonia Rodriguez** be appointed a Substitute Custodian.

E. Crossing Guard

1. That the retirement of **Angie Metzger** be accepted effective February 20, 2024.
2. That **Dorothy Henry** be appointed a Full Time Crossing Guard.
3. That **Irvin Lopez** be appointed a Full Time Crossing Guard.
4. That **Brenda Stchur** be appointed a Full Time Crossing Guard.
5. That **Dawn Dickerson** be appointed a Full Time Crossing Guard.
6. That **Khadeedra Burke** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard.
7. That **Shiara Burke (Cruz)** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard. (The incorrect name was read at the meeting. Cruz is the correct name. It will be corrected next month.)

F. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Jillian Smith** as Head Cheerleading Advisor be accepted effective February 27, 2024.
2. 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.

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Girls Lacrosse Varsity Assistant Coach	Samuel Fox
Boys Lacrosse Varsity Assistant Coach	Caleb Metcalf
Baseball Junior High Volunteer Assistant Coach	Ciro Cinti
Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach	Gary McGuinness
Girl's Lacrosse Volunteer Assistant Coach	Hannah Fox
Boys Tennis Varsity Head Coach	Josh Wasielewski

Motion by Dr. Susek seconded by Ms. Thomas

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

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NEW BUSINESS

No news business

Communications from Solicitor

No Report

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Harris seconded by Mr. Faust

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

Meeting adjourned 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Telesz
Board Secretary