

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020**

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Terry Williams, a teacher that recently passed away.

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

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll

9 Members Present: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

President Caffrey began the meeting:

- The Chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of March 9, 2020.
The subjects discussed in Executive Session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.
- President Caffrey presented Noah Riley Taylor, a Junior at GAR High School, a Certificate of Achievement Award for being an Eagle Scout Award recipient.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 10, 2020 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Ms. Patla moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the above-mentioned Minutes. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Treasurer's Report:

Thomas F. Telesz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, presented the Treasurer's Report ending January 31, 2020.

**WILKES-BARE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2020**

GENERAL FUND

	\$	
1	GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(275,993.61)
2	GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB	38,245,495.31
3	FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB	2,746,097.81
4	FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB	5,872.62
5	FNB BANK	458,200.95
6	FNB BANK	76,371.27
7	JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT	1,752,859.78
8	PNC BANK	392,905.33
9	LPL FINANCIAL	832,916.58
10	EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB	60,936.68
11	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1	12,270.71
12	REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB	-
13	LANDMARK CD	478,565.19
14	PLGIT EIT	859,328.41
15	ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK	244,382.44

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

16	PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB		1,802,788.69
17	PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB		-

TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$	47,692,998.16
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CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

18	2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$	(19,782.19)
19	PNC BANK INVESTMENT		2,098,997.84
20	2019 BOND ISSUE		111,431,267.48
21	PLGIT CASH RESERVE		1,798,948.83
22	FNCB 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS		8,700.39

TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	\$	115,318,132.35
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FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY

TRUST FUNDS:

23	WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$	108,387.53
24	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE		352,550.44

AGENCY FUNDS:

25	ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		163,614.67
26	SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		337,177.87

TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	\$	961,730.51
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PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE

27	FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$	3,630,193.15
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	TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE	\$	3,630,193.15

DEBT SERVICE FUND

28	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE	\$	9,821.81
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$	9,821.81

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Treasurer's Report ending January 31, 2020.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

APOLLO REPORT

Mr. Mike Krzywicki – District Maintenance Plan: Elevator control repairs at Heights-Murray Elementary have been postponed until the Contract is signed. Atty. Wendolowski has been in contact with the low bidder on Monday and the contract package will be signed. **E.L. Meyers Monitoring Structure/Walkway/Tunnel:** An inspection was not performed in the last three weeks. **New High School (Plains Site) –** The Building Shell Contractor has continued installation of foundation, dampproofing, foundation insulation, backfill, CMU walls, steel beams and lintels, door frames, concrete floor slabs, bar joists and metal roof deck, wood blocking, roof insulation, and EPDM membrane. The Plumbing Contractor has continued installation of underground sanitary piping, storm water piping and cleanouts, above ground sanitary piping, roof drain piping, domestic water piping, and associated hangers. The Electrical Contractor has continued installation of conduit and boxes under slab and in masonry walls, site lighting foundations, conduit and conductors, medium voltage duct bank to kitchen, temporary lighting inside and outside the building and temporary power inside building. HVAC Contractor has continued installation of roof curbs, duct hangers and ductwork, fabrication of ductwork, preparation of 3D coordination drawings, and performing clash detection with other trades. The Drywall Contractor has commenced installation of metal stud framing.

Soil test samples were taken on all area within the limit of work that will not be covered by concrete or bituminous paving. Lab test results for all areas show now detectable amount of hexavalent chromium. Arsenic levels for the most recent areas tests are below the non-residential direct contract limit of 61 mg/kg. Most of the arsenic levels from the latest testing range between 15-25 mg/kg. The highest reading from the last round of testing was 50.6 mg/kg and is located near the small detention basin along Maffett Street. An area of less than 1 acre that is located to the east of the larger detention basin will be covered with an additional 6" layer of topsoil with two layers of visual indicator material based upon previous test results, as required by DEP.

An advertisement for bids were published for connecting the sanitary sewer to a manhole on Ann Street. A pre-bid meeting was held on February 25. Bids are due March 12.

Ms. Thomas – Are we keeping up with the maintenance on the elementary schools? **Mr. Atherton responded:** We will be visiting all schools beginning next week. There is a capital fund improvement plan in place in the event of any issues. Dr. Costello added they would be meeting with the Principals and teachers in the buildings to discuss any concerns they may have.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Caffrey congratulated the administration, faculty and students for a very successful Read Across America Week. He also commended the cast of Cinderella for an outstanding performance. The talent in all programs in Wilkes-Barre Area School District is incredible.

Rev. Walker also mentioned the Speech and Debate students had a very successful weekend.

Mrs. Schiowitz presented more information regarding the Student Principal for a Day. Entry requirements are: the student must be a Senior this year, submit a brief essay indicating what leadership means, student must be available on May 1, National Principal's Day. A runner up will be chosen from each high school in the event the winner is not available on that day. Permission slip must signed by the parent/guardian. The student will be recused from sensitive issues. These winners and runners up will also be considered for Mayor of the Day. This will be coordinated through the social studies department.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As you are aware, there have been new positive cases of Corona Virus, which were identified in Pennsylvania. It is important that we prepare accordingly. Our custodial staff is disinfecting high touch surfaces within the buildings continuously throughout the day. In addition, we currently have a plan to provide instruction in the event our current academic schedule becomes disrupted. During this time, we can all understand how difficult this is for parents, community members and educators. Inevitably, there will be rumors and possibly inaccurate information within the community and on social media. The District is continuously receiving accurate information for the PA Department of Education who is collaborating with the Department of Health, the PA Emergency Management

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

Agency, and the County Municipal Health Department and others to ensure the most current and accurate information and resources will become available for our school district. I will be in direct contact with parents, students and district employees with timely and accurate information when it becomes available. Information will always be made available through the District website, the Skyalert messaging system, or local media outlets.

I understand these are challenging times and if we work together as a community and school district, we will get through this. Thank you for your cooperation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

These citizens addressed the Board regarding the following:

Javier Ortiz:

- Discussed an ongoing situation with this daughter at Heights-Murray Elementary. Atty. Wendolowski noted there are current legal proceedings taking place regarding this complaint. The complaint cannot be discussed or commented on at this time.

Richard Holodick:

- Praised the quality of the production of Cinderella and Ms. Deluca. There are good things happening in this District.
- Discussed the STEM program
- Against a plan that would involve a Middle School model.
- What is the cost and plan to expand the off ramp on River Street

Mr. Atherton responded to the positivity a Middle School program provides.

Mr. Kryzwicki responded to the work to be provided by PennDot and all of that work was part of the Stell Bid package.

Atty. Wendolowski noted that we will be getting grants from the State for approximately 2.5 million dollars to do that off-site work.

Dr. Costello responded to the Middle School question. There are about 852 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade that will be going into GAR. That school can house one thousand students. Solomon/Plains will be about the same with some students from Flood Elementary that will go to the Solomon/Plains Complex. All elementary schools will be K-5. This will give each building the ability to lower the number of students per class on the elementary level. GAR and Solomon/Plains Jr. High will become house grades 6 to 8.

Mr. Quinn asked about the use of the Mackin Building. **Dr. Costello** noted that Mackin can house 500 students and looking into a few possibilities for its use.

Sam Troy:

- Have you received a report from the Auditor General?

Atty. Wendolowski stated we have not received a report from the Auditor General.

- Will I still be able have a meeting regarding the Budget process?

Dr. Costello will set up a meeting at the conclusion of the meeting this evening.

- Asked about the Change Order process.
- What is the process to approve the invoices for the new high school construction?

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Quinn – Next meeting will be March 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Next meeting will be Friday, March 20, 2020.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES and CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

A. Administrative

1. Capital Projects

That approval be given to pay the following invoices:

Apollo Group, Inc.	Heights-Murray Elevator Repair	Capital Projects	AGI-19031-WBASD PR#4	\$135.20
Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 32	\$61,856.70
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	Pagnotti Property – Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000018	\$3,373.94
Geo-Science Engineering & Testing	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. 018166	\$20,735.80
Benell, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 9	\$156,537.77
Duggan & Marcon, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$17,640.00
Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 9	\$192,164.38
Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 10	\$1,476,958.43
Scranton Sheet Metal, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 9	\$256,136.40
Sterling Glass, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 2	\$247,500.00
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000026	\$9,510.26
TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #24	\$19,007.50
WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #27	\$10,000.00
WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. AS#3.1	\$5,522.50
WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. Nat A.S. #2	\$3,664.36

2. That approval be given to ratify the following Capital Project checks:

PA American Water Co	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Check #228	\$250.67
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3. To approve PPL relocation of three poles on River Street at a cost of \$23,503.00.

4. The District is in receipt of the approval, by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management of PlanCon Part I: Interim Reporting Project No. 3885 – May 31, 2019 – Change Order Nos: (2.02/04.004, 2.07.001, 2.08.001). **“Exhibit A”**

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020**

5. The District is in receipt of the approval, by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management of PlanCon Part I: Interim Reporting Project No. 3885 – February 10, 2020 – Change Order Nos: (2.02/04.005, 2.07.002, 2.08.002, 2.09.003). **“Exhibit B”**
6. To approve the submission of PlanCon Part I, Interim Reporting, documents and related materials to the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding PDE Project #3885 (New High School Project) concerning Stell Enterprises Change Order #004.
7. 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 Address	Parcel No.	Proposed Bid
Vacant Lot Bear Creek Twp.	04-H11-00A-25A-000	\$1,497.79
Residential Lot Bear Creek Twp.	04-N1252-004-003-000	\$500.00
Buck Twp.	05-J145SE1-009-028-000	\$500.00

B. FEDERAL

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1972 to #1998 and Federal Wire Transfers #201900645 to #201900661; and Chapter 1 Wire Transfer #201900644 drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on February 10, 2020 be approved.

C. GENERAL FUND

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Wire Transfers #201911344 to #201911364 and General Fund checks #54186 to #54270 and Food Service checks #3414 to #3437 which were drawn for payment since the regular board meeting of the Board of Education on February 10, 2020 be approved.

D. GENERAL FUND

That the checks #54271 to #54462 listed on the following pages, which have been inspected, be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

E. Contracted Services

1. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for the Department of Education Project MOM/Young Fatherhood Initiative (ELECT) Grant. The district’s 2019-2020 pro-rated share of \$5,460.00 is based on the number of participating students as of January 2020. **“Exhibit C”**
2. That approval be given to re-new an agreement with Frontline Education to provide Absence and Substitute Management at a fee of \$14,456.75 and Professional Learning Management at a fee of \$9,956.91 for the 2020-2021 school year. **“Exhibit D”**
3. To approve Change Order #002 for Green Valley Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$5,828.00. The Change Order consists of the following:

Change fence around Maffett Street detention basin to vinyl coated	\$5,828.00
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SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

4. To approve Change Order #006 for Quandel Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$61,403.07. The Change Order consists of the following:

Lower Natatorium foundation drain to 8' below finish floor	\$ 8,469.48
Steel angles, metal deck and conc. infill @ chases in classroom wings	\$ 36,474.04
Bent plate at Main Street overhang	\$ 10,348.59
Added plate on beam to carry CMU above	\$ 2,015.18
Add lintels to accommodate 12" CMU wall	\$ 1,023.76
Metal deck @ (2) duct chases adjacent to stage	\$ 785.69
Dampproofing and protection board @ auditorium	\$ 2,286.33

5. To approve Change Order #004 for Stell Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$251,059.71. The Change Order consists of the following:

Roof and foundation drain connections	\$ 3,649.71
PADOT revisions @ Courtright Street	\$ 146,597.00
Additional topsoil near basin per DEP	\$ 39,371.00
Curb along easterly side of main drive	\$ 43,749.00
Curb along South Main Street entrance	\$ 17,693.00

6. To approve Change Order #003 for Sterling Glass, Inc. in the amount of \$4,665.44. The Change Order consists of the following:

Vertical mullions at main entrance	\$ 4,665.44
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Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla - (A 1 (Only Heights-Murray Elevator Proj.) Quinn, Schiowitz - (A1 – Only Heights Elevator Proj.), Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

2 Nays: Patla - A 1 (All New High School Project) and E 3, 4, 5, 6; Schiowitz, A 1 (All New High School Project) and E 3, 4, 5, 6

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT – No report at this time.

SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Friday, March 20, 2020.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT – No Report at this time.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – We will be doing random visits to the schools beginning Wednesday, March 18.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

- That the following policies be adopted:
 - 222 Tobacco/Nicotine
 - 226 Searches
 - 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
 - 233 Suspension and Expulsion

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT – No Report

FACILITIES TRANSITION – No Report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

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

A. Professionals

1. That **Brian O'Connor** be appointed a Physical Education Long Term Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year.
2. That **Jeanette Aiello** be appointed a Music Education Long Term Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year.
3. That **Sean McLaughlin** be appointed as the Social Studies Coordinator effective September 5, 2017.

B. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That **Marie Mushinski's** request for unpaid leave for the remainder of the school year be approved.
2. That **Migdalia Roldan's** request for unpaid leave beginning March 18, 2020 through March 18, 2021 be approved.
3. That **Doris Williams's** request for unpaid leave on March 6, 2020 be approved.
4. That **Jessica Miorelli's** request for unpaid leave beginning March 4, 2020 through March 6, 2020 be approved.
5. That **Cynthia Gardner's** request for unpaid leave from May 6, 2020 to May13, 2020 and from May 29, 2020 to June 6 be approved.
6. That **Barbara Zelnick** request for unpaid leave beginning January 13, 2020 for a period of one year be approved.
7. That **Debra Pickett's** request for unpaid leave through the remainder of the school year be approved.
8. That the retirement of **Lorraine Centini** be accepted effective the last day of the 2019-20 school year.
9. That the retirement of **Cynthia Gardner** be accepted effective the last day of the 2019-20 school year.
10. That the retirement of **Ann Belles** be accepted effective December 12, 2019.
11. That **Jamie Pesotski** be appointed a Full Time Teachers' Associate as a 32.5 hours per week Paraprofessional/PCA.
12. That **Barbara Shemanski** be appointed a Long Term Substitute Full Time Teachers' Associate as a 32.5 hours per week Paraprofessional/PCA through the end of the 2019/20 school year.
13. That **Michelle Peters-Collis** be appointed a Long Term Substitute Full Time Teachers' Associate as a 32.5 hours per week Paraprofessional/PCA through the end of the 2019/20 school year.
14. That **Jannet Stilp** be appointed a Part Time Teachers' Associate as a 20 hours per week Paraprofessional/PCA.
15. That **Connie Pace-Brown** be appointed a Part Time Teachers' Associate as a Kindergarten Aide 25 hours per week.

C. Custodians, Housekeepers & Food Service

1. That **Ronald Okrasinski's** retirement be amended to effective March 19, 2020.

D. Security/Greeters

1. That the retirement of **Sophie Pelak** be accepted effective the last day of the 2019-20 school year.
2. That **Christine Kuhl** be appointed a Substitute Security Greeter.
3. That **Brian Miller** be appointed a Substitute Security Greeter.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020**

E. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Brandon Mulaski** as the Boys Basketball Junior High Assistant Coach be accepted.
2. 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.

Boys Basketball	Junior High Assistant Coach (1/2 pay)	Brandon Mulaski
Boys Basketball	Junior High Assistant Coach (1/2 pay)	Gabriel Saracino
Baseball	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Nicole Hoskins
Track & Field	Volunteer Assistant Coach	David Rubbico
Track & Field	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Steve Moorhead
Football	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Tim Luton

ADDENDUMS

F. Professionals

1. That the retirement of **Carol Lynn Rensa** be approved effective February 17, 2020.

G. Secretaries and Teacher's Associates

1. That the termination of Jessica Krutski be approved effective March 9, 2020.

H. Custodians, Housekeepers & Food Service

1. That **Jeff Craig** be appointed as a RAISE (Reinforcing Academic Instruction for Student Excellence) Program Substitute Custodian for January 4, 2020 and January 11, 2020 at a rate in accordance with the agreement. This Saturday tutoring program is fully funded by the Title IV Grant Program and will take place at Heights-Murray Elementary School. Salaries and benefits will not exceed the Title IV allocation.

F. Security/Greeters

1. That **Shirley Anderson** be appointed a Substitute Security Greeter.

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Nay: Quinn – G 1

Mr. Atherton presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, the recent death of **Jill Adams Wujcik** has brought sorrow to her family, friends; and

WHEREAS, she was a graduate of Wyoming Valley West High School, where she lettered in volleyball and went on to Bloomsburg University and in 2014 earned a master's in education degree from Wilkes University. Jill loved impromptu dance parties with her daughters, singing at bedtime, and hosting backyard barbecues; and

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020**

WHEREAS, she taught both special education and general education for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, and

WHEREAS, her passing on February 7, 2020 will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that her death be recorded in the minutes of the Board of School Directors and that the Secretary be instructed to express the sympathy of the members of the Board to her parents, Gina and Robert; her daughters, Alivia and Lily, and to her entire family.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
March 9, 2020

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Caffrey presented Resolution #2

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS, the recent death of **Mary Ellen Craig** has brought sorrow to her family, friends, and all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, she was a graduate of Pittston School of Nursing and began her career as a private duty nurse and eventually working at John Heinz Rehabilitation Center, Summit Nursing and then served as a Hospice nurse at the Heritage House. She was a devoted “pierogi lady,” bazaar volunteer, and enjoyed bowling. Her favorite pastime was spending time with her cherished family, and;

WHEREAS, she was mother of Mary Claire Corcoran, Teacher Associate, Wilkes-Barre Area School District; Corinne Drost, Secondary Mathematics Supervisor, Wilkes-Barre Area School District, and;

WHEREAS, her passing on February 7, 2020 will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that her death be recorded in the minutes of the Board of School Directors and that the Secretary be instructed to express the sympathy of the members of the Board to her daughters, Mary Claire and Corinne; son, Robert; and to her entire family.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
March 9, 2020

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020**

Rev. Walker presented Resolution #3

RESOLUTION #3

WHEREAS, the recent death of **Terry L. Williams, Jr.** has brought sorrow to his family, friends; and

WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Corry Area High School, where he was a three-sport athlete and an all-state basketball player in his senior year. He graduated from Edinboro University and began his teaching career in South Carolina and for the last 29 years he was a beloved teacher and coach for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. He enjoyed hunting and spending time with his family, friends and especially his beloved wife and sons; and

WHEREAS, his passing on February 19, 2020 will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that his death be recorded in the minutes of the Board of School Directors and that the Secretary be instructed to express the sympathy of the members of the Board to his wife, Romaine; and his sons, Brett Robert and Brady LaRue, and to his entire family.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
March 9, 2020

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Rev. Walker presented Resolution #4

RESOLUTION #4

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the District Superintendent or his designee, in the absence of a board approved policy, to utilize any Pennsylvania School Boards Association Policy, in whole or in part, as a guideline when dealing with any issue that may arise in the day to day operations of the District.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
March 9, 2020

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Evans presented Resolution #5

RESOLUTION #5

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM

**BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the average Pennsylvania school district spends millions of dollars in taxpayer money annually in mandatory payments to brick-and-mortar and cyber charter schools; and these payments are calculated in a manner which requires districts to send more money to charter schools than is needed to operate their programs and places a significant financial burden on districts' resources and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the current charter school funding formula was established in 1997 under the state's Charter School Law and has not been changed in the 23 years since it was first created; and the formula for regular education programs is unfair because it is based on a school district's expenditures and not what it actually costs to educate a child in the charter school; and

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020**

WHEREAS, the calculation for charter special education is unfair because it is also based on the special education expenditures of the school district rather than the charter school; and although the General Assembly revised the special education funding formula in 2014 to more accurately target special education resources for students identified with high, medium and low needs, this formula was applied only to school districts and not to charter schools; and

WHEREAS, because the tuition rate calculations are based on the school district's expenses, they create wide discrepancies in the amount of tuition paid by different districts for the same charter school education and result in drastic overpayments to charter schools; and these discrepancies in tuition rates for regular education students can vary by almost \$13,000 per student and by \$39,000 for special education students; and

WHEREAS, the latest data from the PA Department of Education (PDE) shows that in 2017-18, total charter school tuition payments (cyber and brick-and-mortar) were more than \$1.8 billion, with \$519 million of that total paid by districts for tuition to cyber charter schools; and

WHEREAS, further analysis of PDE data shows that in 2014-15, school districts paid charter schools more than \$100 million for special education services in excess of what charter schools reported spending on special education, and

WHEREAS, the costs of charter schools for school district continue to grow significantly each year; and on a statewide bases are the most identified source of pressure on school district budgets; and

WHEREAS, the need for significant charter school funding reform is urgent; and school districts are struggling to keep up with growing charter costs and are forced to raise taxes and cut staffing, programs and services for their own students in order to pay millions of dollars to charter schools.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board calls upon the General Assembly to meaningfully revise the existing flawed charter school funding systems for regular and special education to ensure that school districts and taxpayers are no longer overpaying these schools or reimbursing for costs the charter schools do not incur. We, along with the Pennsylvania School Board Association, are advocating for substantial change.

Adopted this 9th day of March, 2020.

Signed,

School Board President

Board Secretary

Wilkes-Barre, PA
March 9, 2020

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Ms. Thomas Presented Resolution #6

RESOLUTION #6

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND EXECUTION OF
COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF ACCESSING ISRP GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Wilkes-Barre Area School District (the "**School District**") has acquired certain real property consisting of 78.22 acres of land located in the Township of Plains Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, identified as Property Identification Number: 50-G10-00A-18M and as more particularly described in the Corrective Confirmatory Deed dated April 26, 2019 and recorded on April 26, 2019 in the Office of the

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

Recorder of Deeds in and for Luzerne County in Record Book 3019, Page 70533 to Instrument Number 201922405 (the "**Property**");

WHEREAS, the Property requires certain environmental remediation;

WHEREAS, The Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund (the "**Fund**"), on behalf of the School District, has applied for and received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, under the latter's Industrial Sites Reuse Program (the "**ISRP Grant**");

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the ISRP Grant and the responsibilities of the Fund, as Grantee under the ISRP Grant, are set forth in the Contract between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by and through its Department of Community and Economic Development ("**DCED**") and the Fund, (the "**ISRP Contract**");

WHEREAS, in order to access the ISRP Grant, which will be utilized by the School District to help underwrite the costs of the environmental remediation at the Property, it is necessary for the Fund to hold title to the Property while the environmental remediation is undertaken;

WHEREAS, the Fund is willing to hold title to the Property while the environmental remediation is being undertaken, so long as doing so is only as an accommodation to the School District and so long as the School District is bound to the terms and conditions of a Cooperation Agreement by and between the Fund and the School District setting forth certain duties and obligations of the School District and the Fund, respectively, in connection with the Fund's ownership of the Property in accordance with the ISRP Grant, (the "**Cooperation Agreement**"); and

WHEREAS, in order to access the ISRP Grant, the School District has agreed to transfer title to the Property to the Fund and to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Cooperation Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School District is hereby authorized and directed to convey title to the Property to the Fund and to enter into and perform the School District's obligations under the Cooperation Agreement;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Superintendent and District Solicitor are authorized to negotiate the terms of the Cooperation Agreement:

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Joseph Caffrey, as President of the Board of School Directors, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to: (1) execute and deliver the deed to the Property to the Fund; (2) execute and deliver the Cooperation Agreement to the Fund; (3) execute and deliver to the Fund, the DCED or any third party any and all necessary documents and instruments as may be necessary or advisable in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution, to comply with the terms of the ISRP Grant or to comply with the terms of the Cooperation Agreement; and (4) pay or incur any costs, fees or expenses, and to take any other actions, as may be necessary or advisable in order to effectuate the foregoing resolution, to comply with the terms of the ISRP Grant or to comply with the terms of the Cooperation Agreement.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any actions previously taken or to be taken by the School District in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions are hereby ratified and approved.

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that this Resolution was adopted by the School District at its Public Meeting held on this 9th day of March, 2020.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
March 9, 2020

9 Ayes: Atherton, Evans, Harris, Patla, Quinn, Schiowitz, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 9, 2020

NEW BUSINESS - None

COMMUNICATION FROM SOLICITOR

There is no formal report this evening.

Motion to adjourn – Rev. Walker moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Patla.
President Caffrey adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.