

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting
General Purposes
May 28, 2015

President, Louis M. Elmy called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Superintendent Dr. Bernard S. Prevuznak led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Secretary Leonard B. Przywara called the roll.

8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Caffrey, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

1 MEMBER ABSENT: Evans

President Elmy stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Special Board Meeting- General Purposes of May 28, 2015.
- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

There was no **Unfinished Business**

Communications from the Superintendent

At this time Dr. Prevuznak read letters from: Patrick Patte, Principal of James M. Coughlin High School, Colleen Robatin, Principal of G.A.R. Memorial Jr. /Sr. High School and Michael Elias, Principal of E.L. Meyers High School. The letters stated the following: James M. Coughlin High School has 103 males and 109 females, G.A.R. Jr. /Sr. Memorial High School has 79 males and 64 females and E.L. Meyers High School has 58 males and 74 females, who have met the requirements of the State of Pennsylvania and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for high school graduation. They are hereby recommended for diplomas to be awarded on June 5, 2015 provided their academic performance, attendance and conduct are satisfactory for the remainder of the school year.

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Rev. Walker, to approve the 2015 Graduates of James M. Coughlin, G.A.R. Memorial Jr. /Sr., and Elmer L. Meyers High Schools. The vote was as follows:

ALL IN FAVOR: Caffrey, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

At this time Dr. Prevuznak, Superintendent, stated that this evening the District's Task Force will be providing valuable options and possible alternatives to assist this Board and this District, in trying to identify some possible opportunities if a decision was made to engage in a possible high school building construction project. Dr. Prevuznak further stated that this District solicited help from both public and community participants as well as those from within our own ranks. Dr. Prevuznak noted that both the Internal and External Committees of the Task Force will be presenting their information immediately following tonight's Regular Board Meeting. Dr. Prevuznak noted that both Committees have worked long hours and have sacrificed much in order to provide an array of different viewpoints and options. Dr. Prevuznak stated that each viewpoint and opinion will be valued and discussed when a final decision is reached. Dr. Prevuznak noted that the Task Force has functioned with the shadow of deadlines looming on the horizon and have attempted to put aside personal allegiances to schools and communities that bear banners of a proud past, and have looked at the best possible data that was available to them at the time they had to make this presentation. Dr. Prevuznak expressed the appreciation of the District for their contributions to this process and expressed the District's gratitude for their gallant and noble effort in order to help the students of the District. Dr. Prevuznak extended special appreciation to the Chairs of both Task Force Committees, Mr. John Kozerski and Mr. Patrick Patte.

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Communications from Citizens

Sam Troy, 95 Joseph Lane, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Mr. Troy requested additional time to address the Board in addition to the three (3) minute time allotted. President Elmy informed Mr. Troy he had three (3) minutes to address the Board. Mr. Troy stated that the three (3) minute rule to address the Board was a slap in the face to Freedom of Speech and the Board should be encouraging public opinion, not stifling it. Mr. Troy recommended to the Board that they reject the proposed Budget, consider cutting medical and athletic costs and suggested the Board reassess their financial priorities and understand that any raise in taxes is a financial burden to tax payers on a fixed income.

Dr. Mark Schiowitz

Dr. Schiowitz addressed the Board in regard to the anticipated building project. Dr. Schiowitz expressed his concerns and offered his thoughts and suggestions to the Board for their consideration.

CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to the change order requests of Panzitta Enterprises, 72 George Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA in respect to the Mackin School Renovations Project as follows:
 - a. Stabilization of unsafe terra cotta block walls: \$13,730.22
 - b. Frame and drywall at demolished chalkboards: \$35,270.22
 - c. Removal of individual terra cotta units from existing walls at the second floor: \$1,947.81
2. That approval be given to the change order request of G.R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc., 2 Skyline Drive, Clarks Summit, PA in respect to the Mackin School Renovations Project as follows:
 - a. Placement of wiring in wall. Add Quad receptacles in lieu of duplex.
\$684.00
3. That the proposal, submitted by Leonard Engineering, Inc., 251 Mundy Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA to design additional safety sheds at Meyers and Coughlin High Schools at a fee of \$2,500.00 be accepted.

Prior to the vote, Miss Katsock requested information regarding Item #1 under Contracted Services, specifically "b", the cost to frame drywall at a cost of \$35, 270.22. Miss Katsock noted that the chalk boards were hanging there since the 1930's and requested an explanation as to why it would necessitate a \$35,270.22 change order to hang the smart boards.

Gary Salijko, Apollo Group, Inc. and Kyle Kinsman, Architect from the Feasibility Study Design Team explained to Miss Katsock the reason for the change order and the cost of \$35,270.22 to frame and drywall in order to hang the smart boards.

Ms. Thomas noted that the Mackin building was supposed to be thoroughly inspected and any issues were to be investigated. Ms. Thomas asked why the issue of the wall to hold the smart boards was coming to light at this time.

Mr. Kinsman explained that the issue of the wall supporting the smart boards was an unforeseen issue.

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Miss Katsock noted that Panzitta has been paid \$103,000.00 to date and their change orders to date have been \$50,000.00. Miss Katsock further noted the change orders are at a rate of 50% and initially this Board was told that change orders would not exceed 7%. Miss Katsock stated that this District cannot afford this amount of money for change orders and it is her (Miss Katsock) hope that the change orders will go down.

Attorney Wendolowski noted that he was informed by Mr. Salijko, Aoplo Engineer, the change orders are at a cost not to exceed the amount listed and the cost may go down.

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

8 Ayes: Caffrey, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

1 Nay: Katsock - # 1 & 2

1 Nay: Thomas - # 1

1 Nay: Walker - # 1

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, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$117,075,430.

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 2015-2016 and levies a tax of 16.2995 mills per dollar (\$16.30 per thousand dollars) of assessed valuation on real estate; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 29, 1971, providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the following taxes: (a) one (1) per centum on transfers of title of real estate; (b) a local services tax (formerly occupational privilege tax) of ten (10) dollars; (c) the earned income tax (wage tax) of one (1%) per cent; (d) the mercantile tax at the rate and under the terms and provisions set forth in the Resolution previously adopted; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 30, 1986 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the business privilege tax at a rate of one and one-half (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) dollars

Wilkes-Barre, PA

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Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to adopt the Resolution. The vote was as follows.

6 AYES: Caffrey, Galella, Quinn, Thomas, Walker, Elmy

2 Nays: Katsock, Susek

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There was no **New Business**

There were no **Communications from Solicitor**

Board Secretary Report

Leonard B. Przywara, Board Secretary/Business Manager announced the following Meeting schedule.

June, 2015

Committee Meeting

Monday June 8, 2015 – 5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2015– 7:00 PM

Miss Katsock moved to adjourn the Meeting.

President Elmy adjourned the Meeting at 6:35 PM.