

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 29, 2019**

---

**Board President Joseph A. Caffrey** called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

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

**8 Members Present:** Atherton, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**1 Member Absent:** Evans

**President Caffrey stated:**

- The Chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of April 29, 2019.
- The subjects discussed in Executive Session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meetings of January 17, 2019 and February 11, 2019 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger** to adopt the above mentioned Minutes. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Atherton, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Thomas F. Telesz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary**, presented the Treasurer's Report ending March 31, 2019.

**WILKES-BARE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES  
MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 2019**

**GENERAL FUND**

	\$	
1 GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(3,473,842.19)	
2 GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB		26,036,874.31
3 FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB		856,833.09
4 FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB		1,626,271.76
5 FNB BANK		450,899.34
6 FNB BANK		75,135.18
7 JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT		1,728,365.95
8 PNC BANK		389,516.43
9 LPL FINANCIAL		831,073.78
10 EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB		205.66
11 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1		12,050.82
12 REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB		-
13 LANDMARK CD		470,876.76
14 PLGIT EIT		845,539.09
15 ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK		219,147.09
16 PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB		1,918,404.91
17 PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB		-

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 29, 2019**

	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>31,987,351.98</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS</b>			
18	2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$	7,345,548.86
19	PNC BANK INVESTMENT		2,975,107.49
20	PLGIT CASH RESERVE		1,770,081.79
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,090,738.14</b>
<b>FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY</b>			
<b>TRUST FUNDS:</b>			
21	WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$	139,283.45
22	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE		346,233.01
<b>AGENCY FUNDS:</b>			
23	ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		154,981.66
24	SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK		362,123.51
	<b>TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,002,621.63</b>
<b>PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE</b>			
25	FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$	3,004,101.94
	<b>TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,004,101.94</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE FUND</b>			
26	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE	\$	9,645.81
	<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,645.81</b>

**Ms. Patla moved, seconded by Mr. Atherton** to adopt the Treasurer’s Report ending on March 31, 2019. The vote was as follows:

**8 Ayes:** Atherton, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Caffrey introduced Atty. Hoegen to discuss the Waterfront Luxury Apartments.

**Atty. Hoegen** - Good Evening. I am Frank Hoegen on behalf of the Spengler’s, the developers of 600 Waterfront. I was with you some time ago since then we made the rounds through Plains Twp. and Luzerne County. We have had our public meeting where several people showed including your solicitor, Ray Wendolowski. He can inform you given the nature of the property and the area that warrants designation for LERTA treatment. Tonight isn’t the night we are going to formally request the full LERTA designation for the site from the School District. Tonight I want to outline the project and what we have accomplished over the past several weeks. I want you to know that Atty. Wendolowski and I met on Friday afternoon and discussed ideas how we can achieve the goal and what

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

our clients want which is to build this project and enhance our community and meet your expectations and generate some revenue for the school district. The next time we come before you we will have something more formalized to present. I can tell you that over the past several months my clients have been successful in signing up at least 20-25 people that have put deposits down. A quarter of the project, before a stone has been turned, people have committed. There are people excited about the project. I think when you picture the building that is depicted; it is pretty obvious this will be an asset to our community as you are coming off the Cross Valley Expressway. Projects like this don't happen every day and require a private/public partnership. Are there any questions for us at this point?

**Rev. Walker** – LERTA's generally are for 10 years are you willing to discuss a lesser period of time?

**Atty. Hoegen** - Atty. Wendolowski and I met on Friday and talked about this project and mapped out a framework that we will consider not necessarily shortening a ten year period but phasing in some tax payments later on in the time frame. My intent is to come back with some more definitive information at a future meeting,

### **Apollo Report**

#### **Mike Krzywicki**

**The District Maintenance Plan** – Apollo observed a number of rollers on the operable skylights at the Kistler pool are worn out and/or cracked. These should be replaced by the District maintenance staff. Apollo has confirmed that the AHERA inspection was performed on or about September 27, 2018 and the annual notification of AHERA compliance for the 2018-2019 school year is on file at the District Maintenance office. Apollo is investigating potential options for application of a slip-resistant product on the cafeteria floor at GAR.

**The Meyers Monitoring Structure/Walkway/Tunnel** – Apollo performed the monthly inspection of the areas where settlement has been observed. No major movement has been observed since the last inspection. Shed roofs and associated roof drains were inspected and found to be in good condition. We recommend replacement and painting of several pieces of plywood sheathing to extend the service life of these structures. Safety netting was checked during our last inspection. No tears were observed, but we recommend that netting should be tensioned and trash should be removed by District maintenance staff. An additional inspection will be conducted on two roofs where anomalies were observed. John Chiumento and I were on the roofs today. One of them appears to be a 3 foot long piece of metal about a half inch in diameter. Based on the color it looks like it is trim from a window. The good news is – it didn't fall from a window above. It may have been on the ground and thrown up because it looked like a javelin sticking out of the roof. Dunmore roofing was contacted to repair the hole. The other was a small piece of concrete adjacent to the cafeteria roof. Appears to have come from the soffit.

**New High School** – The new entrance drive to Maffett Street was excavated to subgrade. Dynamic compaction has continued and is expected to be completed in mid-May. A Notice of Award/Notice to Proceed letter was issued to the (11) Prime Contractors related to building construction and site improvements. Contracts for construction have been fully executed. Project kickoff meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

**Kistler Pool Roof Replacement** – The lawn area disturbed during construction will be re-seeded within the next two weeks.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

Good evening everyone – We have scheduled graduation for June 14, 2019. Meyers ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m.; Coughlin at 11:00 a.m. and GAR at 1 p.m.

In continuation of our master plan of Pathway to the Future, we have gone back and forth with various presentations to provide as much information as we can to let the public know how we are moving forward from the feasibility studies to consolidation plans, academic plans and facility plans. One thing we have been trying to get through is what we call Phase 1. I am going to take you through how we are funded by the State and The Basic Education Formula. With this being said – the BEF is really a commission of Act 51 that was put in place in 2014 in order to examine the Basic Education Funding Formula.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

This Commission recommended that the General Assembly adopt a new formula for distributing state funding in the basic education funding appropriation. The allocation of basic education funding needed to allow for accountability, transparency and predictability.

In 2016, Act 25 of 2016 allowed the basic education funding formula to be allowed by the Commission for the 2015/2016 school year. Later that year, June 1, 2016 Governor Wolf signed House bill 1552 (Act 35 of 2016), which places BEFC's formula in the permanent section of the PA Public School Code, which allows the formula to continue for 2016-17 and beyond.

The main objective of the formula is meant to equitably distribute state resources according to various student and school district factors.

When the formula was adopted, it has not been properly funded. What the formula has identified are the inadequacies in the distribution of funds. We always knew we were underfunded, but how much? There's about 151 school districts that this formula recognizes and quantifies. It says that if the money was put toward this formula, this is how much you should receive for each student.

Because it is underfunded, this unfair distribution of funding has really crushed our taxpayers, our students, our educators and our local economies. In many underfunded school district, school property taxes have skyrocketed.

When you look at the State rank of under-funded school districts, I have cut out the top seven, you will notice that the Wilkes-Barre Area School District is fourth in the state of being underfunded. We are thirty three million dollars annually underfunded based on the BEF Formula. Our students are underfunded by about \$4,468. When you look at the numbers, York City School district is about \$6,500, Reading SD at \$6,500; Harrisburg at \$5,200 and Wilkes-Barre at \$4,468. Take the population, multiple it by that number which gives you the underfunded amount.

In Luzerne County we are the number one underfunded school district. In fact one of the things the formula has shown is, although we are \$4,468 underfunded per student, per year. You will also notice there are school districts, according to the formula are overfunded.

What has taken place during this time is that we have been able to realize how much annually we are underfunded. We have watched over the last 3 years, school districts work outside the formula. Meaning that some schools have received additional funding, some school districts have received modification to their formula. These are some headlines that have taken place over the last two years. The state approved Erie School District \$14 million, adjusted their formula. They are actually receiving \$18 million this year. We know that a school district right by us, Scranton School District, \$6 million plus an additional \$2 million for a total of \$8 million. PA gives Allentown School District \$10 million allowing a balanced budget. We were part of this as well. The WBASD received an additional \$1 million dollars for a Ready to Learn Block Grant.

To put in perspective, when you look at these Districts, Erie is a bigger District. They received seven to eight percent increase on their overall budget. Scranton received a six percent increase in their overall budget and Allentown received about four percent increase in their overall budget. Wilkes-Barre's \$1million increase, we are thankful for, that increase was .8 percent of an increase of the overall budget. When these school districts received these significant amount of monies they were still faced with problems. Erie's plan is to outsource their custodial staff and still increase the taxes. Allentown School District is facing a \$28 million deficit and is looking to borrow money to cover the \$7 million hole in the budget. Scranton School District also needs to increase property taxes.

We want to take a different approach. We want to change this outcome that is taking place right now. One of things we had to do is to formulate a plan for our district and taxpayers. It is a two-step process. The first step was our district consolidation plan. We call this our Cost Control Plan. What we needed to do was, about three years ago, we sought assistance. We didn't receive financial assistance from the state, we received PFM. PFM came in through the state and provided us with suggestions, recommendations and a full report. The Board put it upon themselves to act on those suggestions and formulate a plan that is Pathway to the Future and find a way to financial stability. Which they have. For this plan to move forward, we also had to control operational costs

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

which then brought in consolidation from our three high schools going into one. According to our feasibility study, when I go back to this cost control, the cost of renovating Coughlin and Meyers was indicated in the study as \$196,700,000. Interesting enough the feasibility study also had a cost of constructing a new high school at the Pagnotti site. Approximately four or five years ago they predicted that cost to be approximately \$119,000,000.

In theory we had this document that gave us options and choices. We trusted our experts, we trusted the numbers we had, and when all was said and done the actual cost of construction came in at \$121 million. What does that tell us? It tells us that our feasibility study was very valid it validates our numbers. It also shows that our cost control we have an overall savings between new construction versus renovation of the two high schools of approximately \$75 to \$76 million plus operational savings.

At this stage of the game, contracts are signed, work has begun. Step one has been completed. Now that bring us to the next step – Phase 2.

With Phase 2 the point is to put us on the path to find a way to bring back our tax base. To find a way to not raise taxes every year. What we had to do was come up with a multi-year revenue based plan. If we are going to be able to reduce that burden, we have to come up with a way to bring back money. The WBASD has proposed a solution for our District and the taxpayers in an effort to become equitably funded. In this multi-year approach the state would begin to restore funding for our district. As a result, the District would be able to provide the necessary resources for our students and reduce the tax burden on our community.

To accomplish this goal a five-year plan has been provided. We have been meeting with State Representatives, Senators and the Department of Education. We have gone through a proposal, a strategy if you will. This specific strategy is something that we have said this is a way we can begin to reduce property tax. According to our BEF, we would like to see an additional \$10 million. Remember we are \$33 million under-funded according to the BEF. That number of \$10 million allows us to come to the table and reduce millage by one. This is a multi-year approach where in five years, they will provide us with the funding they are showing according to school codes and get us to a point where we have the ability to reduce the tax burden of our community by 6.25 mills. This plan would decrease property taxes by approximately thirty six percent. While we would decrease the property tax by thirty-six percent we would also be able to provide the necessary resources for our students.

When we go to the state and ask the formula to be funded properly. We want to show them exactly what we want to do. This doesn't get us to exactly where we want to be in 2023 or 2024, but it is a start. We believe this type of strategy whether it's \$10 million in year or less or greater, our plan is to come back with this and reduce the millage of our community.

I want to give the Board the acknowledgement that they have really put together a very strong plan. We have come together where we are trying to be innovative and creative in way where we can get the money that is due, that is required by Pennsylvania School Code based on a formula approved by the Governor. When we get that money, we don't want to just use it for the WBASD, we want to give it back to the community. That's when we become the strongest is together.

We can have our differences about where we are with various situations in the District. Whether you are for consolidation or not. I would like to ask for your support. Together if we can begin to contact anyone that would listen from our Senator, to State Representatives to the Governor's office that you would like to support the WBASD's plan in providing equity to our students and helping reduce the property taxes of our community. We would be very appreciative of that. Our State elected officials, Senator Yudichak, Representative Mike Carroll, Representative Eddie Day Pashinski, have been working with us and fighting to get us additional funding. We just need you to support us. You can contact me for additional information.

For this to work, we need a commitment from the state that is a multi-year approach. We don't expect \$33 million next year, that's not realistic. If there is a way to begin funding the formula and begin doing what the formula expects it to do, through a multi-year approach. We can lessen the burden on the state and go through a way

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

that's accumulative. So the first year we ask for \$10 million, the second year we ask for \$7 million and as we do so we show the cumulative way we reduce the millage. Overall, we can decrease the millage by 6.25 mills.

**Rev. Walker** – Is there any confirmation or indication that we would receive any type of additional funding?

**Brian Costello** – Our last conversation with a local representative was about a month ago. Last time we met with the state was in January. At this stage the Governor will continue to work out his budget. We are hopeful that we are indicated in that budget for additional funding. There are no guarantees – that's why we are asking for your help.

**Joseph Caffrey** – The \$14 million that Erie School District received and the \$10 million that Allentown received, will that be annually in their budget?

**Brian Costello** – The \$14 million Erie School District is an ongoing annual increase in their budget. It also adjusted their formula. This year will actually be \$18 million they receive.

**Old Business - None**

**Communications from Citizens**

**John Suchoski**

If you are doing tax proposals, we can't be giving money away for LERTA to that gentlemen that was here. You have to keep increasing taxes; I don't think it would be smart to be giving away any revenue at this point. Next question is for the Board Members – Can you tell me what chemicals or pollutants are in the ground at the site of the new High School?

**Rev. Walker's Response:** My understanding of it is similar to yours – you have done research I have done research. We have sat in these meetings months on end. We know there is high levels of arsenic in certain parts of the ground and the other topic is coal ash. I think there is a big misunderstanding of where that ash is actually located and how to remedy that situation. My understanding is there are issues that need to be dealt with and they are being dealt with appropriately. So as long as that remedy is in place, I feel very comfortable in moving forward with this project. I have a daughter that will attend that school. I have nieces and nephews that will attend that school. My very best friend since I was three years old will be teaching in that school as well as his sister and many other friends. If I thought for one second that they would be in harm 's way, I wouldn't have voted to put that school on that site.

**John Suchoski** – I'm just asking for a list of what is in there? Will there be field where the coal ash is located.

**Denise Thomas** – I have two children that I am co-parenting – If I thought for one minute that these kids would be in harm's way, I would never vote for this.

**Ray Wendolowski** – It's all in the reports.

**Brian Costello** – Right now it is Phase 1 – the building pad. There is no coal ash in that area. A lot of people think that the coal ash is that big mound. That is not coal ash – the coal ash has actually been buried throughout the entire property and properly capped. There is no coal ash you can be exposed to. The only coal ash that has come up is when we cut the road to Maffett Street. It will be capped, placed in an area where the fields won't be located and seeded properly before we move on.

**John Suchoski** – Can we have an expert come in and discuss this?

**Sam Troy**

I thought I heard it all. Dr. Costello I don't know what your abilities as a Superintendent are but you are certainly a good spin Dr. You think this District is locked in, are you deceiving this board and public into thinking the state

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

is going to turn over \$7 million every year to enhance the District's financial situation? I think that's a pipe dream. Even if that is the case – there is three areas this district finds very burdensome – special ed, pensions and health care. There was just an article in the CV on how this district's special ed fees have risen 114% over a few years. I can see how this can spike to continue to occur in special ed. Mr. Telesz can you inform us of what the liability of the pension fund is – I know there's a sizable liability which will grow. Health care continues to skyrocket because of the labor agreements. I'm getting confusing signals here – I would probably have a heart attack if my property taxes went down thirty-six percent the next few years. Pardon me for being a skeptic, I just find it hard to believe. I would like an answer Mr. Costello, where is this money this \$7 million going to come from? I would love to see a tax decrease, I just don't see with these three critical areas continuing to increase. The fact that you cannot assume this \$7 million, especially if there is a change in administration. If Republicans come in...you remember when Corbett came in and funding to the schools was cut. The District went through some tough times. Some of these people weren't even on the Board at that time. I have a couple of requests for the Board – The District has been operating with very little transparency and I think we might assume as taxpayers and anyone concerned with the consolidation plan has been jammed down our throats. Whether or not it's beneficial to the students has been tossed aside because the important thing is to rush this thing through and forget about how much opposition there is. I am calling as a taxpayer for a complete moratorium on this project until this can be looked at more closely. One thing that happened here the last few months, I would like someone to make a motion to have a public comment period for five minutes as well as five minutes reserved for the public for general comment. This agenda isn't really spelled out. I don't know what you are voting on here tonight. Just like when Mr. Walker introduced the GAR factor into the consolidation plan several months ago. That was not on the agenda, there was no separate public comment period for that. Therefore, that plan should have been eliminated. There was a violation of the sunshine law or just a violation of being fair and ethical about it. PlanCon forms are going to Harrisburg. Are you voting on these tonight?

**Mark Atherton** stated– When I came on this Board four months ago, I knew school consolidation was going to be a big issue. I was excited about the plan to help the taxpayers. I didn't think you would come up here and denounce it. I thought you would support it. That is why we are asking for help with letter writing. I'm shocked you would come up here and call it a pipe dream. Maybe it is – but aren't we trying to do something to help the taxpayers. We are trying.

**Dave Wilson**

Last Board meeting I asked about life cycle costs for the consolidated school. Mr. Telesz you said you didn't have that. I asked for the total life cycle cost for 40 years. The life expectancy for the building is about 40 years and I would like to know what you are projections are.

Tom Telesz responded - When you are looking at the life cycle of the building, I think you would want to compare that to something. I would compare that to what it costs to run Coughlin and Meyers. From the presentation you see there is a \$75 million dollar savings in construction costs and we will save money through staffing. What I can tell you is in the projection what I currently have budgeted for the maintenance of Coughlin and Meyers I have kept in there the same dollar amounts. The new building is about 40,000 square feet less than Coughlin and Meyers combined. I feel comfortable with the numbers I have in there considering we have less square footage.

Mike Kryzwicki responded – You made a statement that the life cycle of the new building is 40 years. You know as well as I do that isn't true. It is a load bearing masonry structure – no different than any load bearing masonry structure. The life cycle of a masonry structure is 75 years. Within the life cycle of those 75 years, there are systems and components that are substantially less. For example, a twenty-five year rubber roof on a new school, will last about 25 years. The same as it would last on Meyers, GAR or Coughlin. A boiler might last thirty years whether it's in a new school or an old school. It's systems and components have a life cycle. The building has a life span of 75 years.

**Ruth Borland**

Good Evening – As you know I spend a lot of my time at Meyers High School for Speech and Debate practice. About two weeks ago I came across something that was really troubling to me. When we were leaving at ten o'clock, we have to go out through the janitors room, and there were all these boxes filled with all brand new

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

Wolfpack helmets. Why did this upset me? It upset me because I have been coming here for months telling you that in the classrooms, very close to the piles of expensive Wolfpack helmets, there are textbooks that are out of date and not appropriate. I am getting tired of having education ignored in the schools. In place of consolidation of sports, concerns about names for teams and building projects, there's another thing that has troubled me. As we all know, for several years we had a harvest festival. I don't know how many of you attended, but Kim and I did. I know Joe and Denise were there because we would talk to them. The harvest festival was wonderful. It gave students and parents a chance to interface with social agencies without stigmas. It provided food, fun and a general good time for everyone. Earlier this year Kim called the Superintendent and asked "What happened to the Harvest Festival? It's one of the best things you do." The Superintendent told him there was going to be a Spring Festival. Well we are now into May and I don't see anything going on with the Spring Fling and I am concerned. I think that with all the emphasis the Board of Education – Education is what you are supposed to be doing - not about putting on hard hats and getting shovels, it's to be concerned about the students. I'm concerned that we don't have busing numbers for the school. I'm concerned that we don't have a busing plan. I'm concerned that we're not on board with special education like everyone else should be. I'm concerned with the property taxes. With all due respect, my father was an accountant and I don't think the plan is let's have everyone write to the state and ask for more money. Kim will tell you why Erie was much more effective in getting the money than we were because that's his home base. That's not a plan to go forward to educate our kids. I know some of you have kids in private schools, I know some of you have kids that go to school in other school districts. I went to school here, my parents went to school here and my kids went to school here. I was one of the biggest advocates for Wilkes-Barre Area public education. I would talk to clients and friends and said you are never going to get a better education than you are in the Wilkes-Barre Area Schools. I said you will get a variety of education – that was even when the buildings were not perfect. That's not the case anymore. I don't think I could recommend someone to come to Wilkes-Barre Area schools until we can concern ourselves with education. So I ask you, please take some time so that we can see some progress being made. We can see kids getting textbooks that are appropriate. We can see the Harvest Festival going on. Not all of our emphasis is about plans for the future because let's take care of what's going on today before we even have a bigger problem with our education in Wilkes-Barre.

**Dr. Costello's** response – As a follow up to your question and I spoke of this in January. The WBASD in Keystone Literature ranked first in Luzerne County and 24<sup>th</sup> out of 563 districts and charter schools we were in the top five percent for growth in Keystone Literature Assessment throughout the State of Pennsylvania this year. In grades three through eight on our PSSA's results and ELA Wilkes-Barre Area ranked fourth in Luzerne County and 66<sup>th</sup> out of 638 districts and charter schools. We were in the top ten percent for growth in the third through eighth grade PSSA and ELA assessments throughout the state of Pennsylvania. We truly are making strides, we clearly aren't where we want to be, we have to start somewhere. To show that growth shows that we are putting an emphasis 100 percent on academic improvement.

**Kim Borland**

With all due respect Dr. Costello, I'm a Cleveland Browns fan. I can talk about growth and improvement all you want to because we didn't win any games the past two years. Then we win a couple and nobody beats the Browns for growth right now. That doesn't mean I'm proud of that. Second with respect to Erie – Erie got extra money from the State immediately after the Superintendent from that district said we are shutting down. We will have no public schools in Erie, Pennsylvania and we will send all of our students to the neighboring schools and see how they like getting the tuition paid. That was a desperate, desperate move. I applaud Erie for it. We are not in that position. So there's no comparison there.

I'll compare Allentown and Scranton. I don't know Mike Carroll. I don't know Eddie Day Pashinski. I don't know John Yudichak – you guys do. I wasn't up on the hill with a shovel and a hard hat. I will call them everyday. But I won't be no more influential with them than I am with you guys. So to say the plan is to ask more money from the State without a structural improvement.

Dr. Costello – I'm just asking for a comparison – you said there was a comparison. So Brian Polito in Erie \$14 million – you are absolutely right. That was a last stance because they were underfunded. So he said they cannot accept anymore students, in fact they actually "furloughed" students. What had taken place as you know they

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

were in one of the top five categories of being severely under funded like the WBASD is. So they definitely did a drastic measure to get change. Allentown SD and Scranton SD they were able to get the change without that drastic effect. However, what is taken place – what we are trying to do is find an innovative way, because it sounds like you don't want us to be funded properly. Instead of fighting and arguing how else do you generate revenue?

**Kim Borland** – when you take a secondary school out of a neighborhood, property values within a mile and half of the area drop by fifteen percent. So that's how you hurt revenue.

**Brian Costello** – Let's just say we don't do anything, how do you generate revenue?

**Kim Borland** – What you do is promote what you have – I think the problem is with the expenditure of money with the new school is greater than the expenditure of money

**Brian Costello** – We are trying to find a way to receive additional funds. We can say Erie did something a little bit different. Not sure you can say that about Scranton and Allentown. I'm not putting you on the spot – I can tell you they received additional funding, not anything out of the ballpark of what we are asking – and they will continue to receive the additional funding. When you look at the top five of under-funded school district, they are not in the top five – we are. Something has to change. Instead of debating on what works better or doesn't, we are trying to do something. We are just trying to do it for the betterment of our kids and community. You don't have to support our cause and that's your right. We are just trying to find a better way to move forward with our District. Do you want to help us get more funding? Will you help us? I would appreciate it if you would sit down with me. I think it would be a huge asset to our District.

**Kim Borland** – I will help but I'm not sure what kind of commitment I will get from the legislators. I come up here with legitimate concerns and a strong position on how we can make improvements on our budget with doing things other than building a new school and it's my obligation to call? Let me move on. Two things I want to make a point on. First, Mr. Telesz, talks about how the feasibility study was borne out. Let me remind you that the feasibility study said "rehabilitation of GAR would cost \$51,500,000 dollars. You now plan, according to last month's meeting to use GAR after spending \$10 million dollars. That means twenty percent of what the feasibility study said. When you wanted demonstrate that the present schools could not be sustained. You wanted to present that and said it's \$51,500,000. Now that you need to use the building, it's only \$10 million. You apply the same proportion to your Meyers figures, which in 2016 were \$113,500,000 that would mean Meyers rehab would cost \$22,700,000. That's just arithmetic. The fact of the matter is, you've used numbers to serve your political purposes. The real numbers are not that. It's very hard for us to trust your numbers.

Now the real reason I want to speak tonight is, this morning I received notification from the PDE from Secretary Rivera that there will be a full evidentiary hearing on our complaint petition to overturn the PlanCon D, E and F approvals. That's going to be done through the administrative procedures act. We will have a full hearing with them. The history on the petition we filed is, we made our initial complaint to PDE about the processes that were used here on February 8, 2017. We got no response until after May 30<sup>th</sup> of last year, after we wrote the secretary again and said we have heard nothing about our complaint about the processes. You received PlanCon D and E approvals on April 2 and PlanCon F on April 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year. We made our appeal to Secretary Rivera, based on those approvals which came from the Division of Facilities the following day April 4, 2019. Today we found out we will have the evidentiary hearing from the State that we have asked for all these years. Accordingly, because that appeal, that hearing is pending, I ask that you not go any further with any more work on the consolidated high school until that issue is resolved. Because it is not resolved. We are going to get our full opportunity to have that developed with. Part of that will be is do we save money by doing it the way we have suggested the last four years – but a bigger part is what is the educational benefit to the students of this consolidation. That's a good reason to go to the State and say we need more money for educational purposes, not bricks and mortar. We already established that GAR is fine to serve the middle school students in the District. Meyers when we last saw in the PlanCon C submission that was never made to the state but was prepared was going to be used indefinitely by the District if needed for its purposes. Those buildings are capable of being used. The original numbers on Meyers were based on a reconstruction of Meyers as new. Everyone knows that's not what you do on renovations

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

of buildings. You simply do what you can to improve them, add an HVAC system. You do not have to rebuild them as new. The reality is you are now going to have based on our appeal and our petition. You should all really think seriously about not plunging forward any further until the State makes its determination and the Secretary makes his determination on that issue following a full hearing. Thank you very much.

**Atty. Wendolowski** response – I appreciate you sending me the hearing notice today. I can weigh in on this from the District's prospective. the Secretary requested the appointment of the hearing officer in that letter, which is what is accomplished as a result that letter. I fully expect PDE will deal with that process as it moves forward. My understanding is there may not be a hearing. My experience and research that I've done is the vast majority of these cases, preliminary motions are filed and very few hearings take place. Again, I'm not sure of what will happen in regard to this process but that is between the Department and SOS. The other thing I can say is what your hearing is about is PlanCon D, E, F. Let's assume for the sake of argument you are successful with the petition you have filed all that does is jeopardize the District's ability to receive PlanCon reimbursement for the project. It has no affect in regard to the District's ability to construct the project or proceed after the hearing.

**Deb Formola**

Good Evening. What kind of insurance is included in the plan? What kind of insurance we were able to get on the site - Future health benefits – was there anything on sewer lines – fresh water lines that might come in – do they include future health? What is price, what does it cover, and when does it start?

**Atty. Wendolowski** response – The District was able to just secure, it's on the agenda tonight, Builder's Risk Insurance for the construction of the new building. Mr. Telesz can give you more details on what the policy limits are, as well as, on Mine Subsidence from the State for the site itself. We have the same insurance on the site as we do in every other school in the District for mine subsidence. We were able to secure a Builders Risk package with no substantial exclusions and/or reservations. We are getting the full coverage that would be available to any entity building on that site or any site in NE Pennsylvania. We are getting insured at regular rates by these carriers.

**Deb Formola** – Will it cover the entire school – because I know in Missouri when they had mine subsidence they only were covered for maybe ten percent of the damage and then the school district had to get authorization – they couldn't even get any more loans to repair the school. Does it cover the entire building?

**Atty. Wendolowski** response – the mine subsidence insurance is the maximum available under law which includes this site.

All of our buildings are covered for a half million dollars. Any place you go in Wilkes-Barre Area School District that have had deep mines.

**Deb Formola** – What happens if there is more than a half million dollars worth of damage – where are the sewer and water lines?

**Mike Krzywicki** – The Water line coming into the school is going to be eight inches so if there is a crack in the water line you will notice immediately.

**Deb Formola** - What is the complete reclamation process price? What is the project costing for soil prep?

**Mike Krzywicki** – The only thing you can call reclamation is when we cut the driveway into Maffett Street, was when we cut into that there was coal ash. We had to take it, relocate it, bury it and put a four foot cover over it. That wasn't done because Pagnotti didn't do it, it was done because we disturbed it to make the new driveway.

**Deb Formola** – So the 85 acres we bought are all reclaimed?

**Mike Krzywicki** – We will find out because DEP was there and did their walk through.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

**Atty. Wendolowski** – Let's assume for the sake of argument that ten years ago Pagnotti had fully reclaimed the site abandoned their mining permit and the site was totally reclaimed and it was on the market for sale. We bought it and we wanted to do exactly what we are doing right now. What would we be doing? We have to build the school on the site where it is best suited for a footprint. Which we believe is where it is going right now. What that would entail is, we would have to clear all of the vegetative material that Pagnotti would have grown as part of their reclamation obligation as a mining permittee and wasted that material. We would get rid of the vegetative material, stockpile the topsoil – hopefully be able to use the topsoil in the future. It would involve additional work that we didn't have to do because the site didn't have that vegetative material. For you to say that we are doing their work is not accurate.

**Deb Formola** – I know on the building footprint you aren't but where the fields are going that's not reclaimed yet.

**Mike Krzywicki** – We are disturbing approximately 30 acres doing earthwork. The Building Site and parking lots is twenty something. We always envisioned between the 30 and twenty some reseeding those areas.

**Terri Schiowitz**

As a bipartisan candidate for the School Board in the May primary, I want to address the concerns regarding my union history. For most of my career I belonged and paid dues to a union. First PSEA and after that PANSAP. To promote the inuendo that I am anti-union is unfair and unjustified. Regarding the misinformation that I plan to eliminate maintenance positions this too is premature and unwarranted. If anything, I plan to strengthen the custodial care to eliminate past failures in the facilities upkeep. This is a statement. I will not address questions. One final statement, a show of hands, how many teachers of the hundreds in the district are here today? Stop speaking for me, I'm very capable of speaking for myself. I rest my case.

**Cecilia Williams**

I have lived in Wilkes-Barre since 1969. I am a graduate of Wilkes University. I worked in the Food Marketing business and for the last 13 years my husband and I have run a successful business from our home. We lived on Old River Road previous to this and we raised five children who attended Kistler School and Meyers. They all graduated. They were all able to walk to school. They all went on to further their education. The neighborhood schools worked for my children and my family. I really think they would work, given the chance, for other children. My husband and I live in a building that was built in 1865. We operate our business out of that building. The way to keep that building going is to maintain it, repair it, keep track of it. We work on a budget. We can't expand on that budget, we can't charge our customers more because we need something done. Taxpayers cannot take anymore from the school district with an increase. We have an increasingly lower tax base. I know that when you have children and employees that you are responsible for, you do not put them in harm's way. I know that two of our grandchildren will not attend that high school if it is built on that site. I know this has been an area that has been plagued by health issues for generations caused by the mining industry. I cannot understand why we would endanger another generation of this area by building on that site.

**LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18** - Ms. Thomas announced the next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

**WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER** - Mr. Quinn announced the next meeting will be on Monday, May 20.

**CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Atherton presented the following report and recommendation for the Board's approval.**

1. That the following 2018-2019 calendar be adopted.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

**WILKES BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

September 4, 2018.....	Act 80/Professional Development
September 5, 2018.....	Act 80/ Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 6, 2018.....	Student First Day –School Opens
October 8, 2018.....	Columbus Day
November 12, 2018.....	Veteran’s Day
November 13-16, 2018.....	American Education Week
November 22-26, 2018 .....	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 3-14, 2018.....	Keystone State Exams Wave 1
December 24 - January 1, 2019.....	Christmas Vacation
January 2, 2019.....	School Re-Opens
January 21, 2019.....	Martin Luther King Day
January 26, 2019.....	Second Semester Begins
February 18, 2019 .....	Presidents Day
April 18-April 22, 2019.....	Easter Vacation
April 1-5, April 8-12, April 29 - May 3, 2019 .....	PSSA Testing
May 13-24, 2019 .....	Keystone Exams
May 27, 2019.....	Memorial Day
June 14, 2019.....	Last Student Day
June 14, 2019.....	Graduation
June 14, 2019.....	Staff, Clerical, Evaluation, Planning, Last Teacher Day

2. That the following 2019-2020 school calendar be adopted

**WILKES BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

September 3, 2019.....	Act 80/Professional Development
September 4, 2019.....	Act 80/ Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 5, 2019.....	Student First Day –School Opens
October 14, 2019.....	Columbus Day
November 11, 2019.....	Veteran’s Day
November 12-15, 2019.....	American Education Week
November 28 – December 2, 2019 .....	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 3 – 13, 2019.....	Keystone State Exams Wave 1
December 23 - January 1, 2020.....	Christmas Vacation
January 2, 2020.....	School Re-Opens
January 20, 2020.....	Martin Luther King Day
January 27, 2020.....	Second Semester Begins
February 17, 2020 .....	Presidents Day
April 9 - 13, 2020 .....	Easter Vacation
April 20 - May 8, 2020 .....	PSSA Testing
May 11 - 22, 2020 .....	Keystone Exams
May 25, 2020.....	Memorial Day
June 5, 2020.....	Last Student Day
June 5, 2020.....	Graduation
June 8, 2020.....	Act 80/ Prof. Dev. Clerical, Evaluation, Planning, Last Teacher Day

\*Potential snow make up days:  
December 2, 2019  
December 23, 2019  
April 9, 2020  
April 13, 2020

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 29, 2019**

---

3. That approval be given to establish Friday, June 14, 2019, as Graduation Day for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District at the following times:
 

Meyers High School	9:30 AM	Meyers High School
Coughlin High School	11:00 AM	F.M. Kirby Center
G.A.R. High School	1:00 PM	G.A.R. High School
4. That approval be granted to hold Secondary Summer School at G.A.R. High School beginning Monday, July 8, 2019 through Tuesday, August 6, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
5. That approval be given to the G.A.R. High School Marching Band to perform in the American Legion Post 815, Wilkes-Barre Township, Memorial Day Service and Parade on Monday, May 27, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
6. That authorization be granted to Joseph Caffrey, Board President, to sign-off on the School Improvement Plans for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. That approval be given for 2 students and 1 teacher from the Meyers High School FBLA to attend the FBLA National Convention in San Antonio, Texas June 27, 2019 through July 3, 2019. There is no cost to the district.

**Mr. Atherton moved, seconded by Mr. Geiger to adopt this report. The vote was as follows:  
8 Ayes: Atherton, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey**

**BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES REPORT**

**Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendation for the Board's approval.**

**A. Administrative**

**1. Capital Projects**

That approval be given to the below listed payments:

Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 24	\$49,417.84
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000009	\$108.18
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000017	\$27,284.98
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000010	\$3,537.92
Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000011	\$3,962.05
Densification, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 5	\$102,499.88
Geo-Science Engineering & Testing, LLC	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 017382	\$22,475.10
Geo-Science Engineering & Testing, LLC	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 017533	\$14,606.67
Geo-Science Engineering & Testing, LLC	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #016966Rev.	\$5,174.88
Stell Enterprises, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 3	\$292,880.70

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

WKL Architecture	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. #17	\$89,835.04
------------------	-------------------------	------------------	----------	-------------

2. To approve the submission of PlanCon Part K (Project Refinancing) "Exhibit A" in connection with General Obligation Bonds, Series A & B of 2016.
3. The District is in receipt of the approval, by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management of PlanCon Part D: Project Accounting Based on Estimates in respect to the Wilkes-Barre Area High School new construction. A copy of this Document "Exhibit B" 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.
4. The District is in receipt of the approval, by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management of PlanCon Part E: Design Development in respect to the Wilkes-Barre Area High School new construction. A copy of this Document "Exhibit C" 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.
5. The District is in receipt of the approval, by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management of PlanCon Part F: Construction Documents in respect to the Wilkes-Barre Area High School new construction. A copy of this Document "Exhibit D" 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.
6. To approve the Relocation of Verizon Facilities (Poles and Cabling) along Maffett Street to accommodate the construction of the new Wilkes-Barre Area High School driveway in Plains Township at a cost of \$19,950.
7. That approval be given to purchase "Builders Risk Insurance" in regard to the new High School construction from Liberty Mutual for a yearly premium w/terror of \$130,611.
8. That approval be given to purchase "Mine Subsidence Insurance" in regard to the new High School from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection for a yearly premium of \$257.50.

**B. FEDERAL**

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1813 to #1837 and Federal Wire Transfer #201800618 & 201800674 and Chapter 1 AP checks #2056 to #2096 and Chapter 1 Wire Transfers #201800607 to #201800617 and #201800680 to #201800691, were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on March 27, 2019 be approved.

**C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE**

That payment be approved for the General Fund Wire Transfers #201811076 to #201811119 and General Fund checks #51877 to #51980 and Food Service Checks #3273 to #3299 which were drawn for payment since the regular board meeting of the Board of Education on March 27, 2019.

**D. GENERAL FUND**

That the checks #51981 to #52108 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.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

**E. Contracted Services**

1. That approval be given to authorize and direct certain action necessary for the procurement of natural gas basis (transportation/capacity) jointly designating the Superintendent and the Business Administrator to enter into an agreement based upon the recommendation of Provident Energy Consultants.
2. That approval to given to accept the proposal from Geo-Science Engineering & Testing, LLC for additional boring to be done at the New High School site. The cost of this effort will be based on the estimated unit costs below:

Mobilization/Demobilization	\$1,800
Drill	\$5,265/per day
Grout backfill	\$10/lineal ft.
PVC Casing	\$20/lineal ft.
Camera	\$510/day
Geotechnical Observer	\$500/day

The estimated cost for this proposal is \$49,087.50.

3. That approval be given to permit the American Red Cross of Eastern Pennsylvania to use the following District Facilities on a temporary basis as emergency public shelter for disaster victims. A complete copy of the agreement 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. This agreement period is for the years 2019 to 2022. The facilities to be used are: G.A.R. High School, Kistler Elementary School, Leo E. Solomon/Plains Educational Complex and the Heights-Murray Elementary School.
4. To approve Change Order #3 for Stell Enterprises in the amount of \$11,260.99 which consists of:
  - Scrape mud and frost \$5,594.50
  - Over-excavate unsuitable material \$1,015.56
  - Cut & cap (2) mining pipes \$4,650.93
5. That approval be given to accept the 2019-2020 Budget Proposal, as presented by The Nutrition Group, 580 Wendel Road, Suite 100, Irwin, PA in respect to Food Service Management Services for the 2019-2020 school year. This proposal incorporates the continuation of the CEP program. A copy of the Budget proposal in on file in the Office of the Board Secretary and incorporated into this resolution will full force and effect as if same had been pronounced in its entirety herein.
6. That approval be given to enter into a 3-year contract with Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. for Non-Hazardous Waste Service Removal beginning August 1, 2019 for all District buildings, except the Solomon Complex at a cost of \$8,700.00 per month. ("Exhibit E")
7. That approval be given to enter into a 3-year contract with Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. for Non-Hazardous Waste Service Removal beginning August 1, 2019 for at the Solomon Educational Complex at the fees listed below: ("Exhibit F")

Haul Rate	\$ 150.00
Disposal Rate per Ton	\$ 52.00
Container Usage/Month	\$ 373.00
Minimum Haul/Month (Over 30 days)	\$ 350.00

8. To approve the first amendment to the medical service agreement with Geisinger Clinic for the provisions of Physical Exams. ("Exhibit G")

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 29, 2019**

---

**Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt this report.**

**On the question:**

Ms. Thomas – Regarding E 5 – Nutrition Group – Is this a one year contract?

Response: It is a five year agreement that you renew every year.

Mr. Caffrey - Regarding A 2 – PlanCon K

Response: Part K is a Project Refinancing. We refinanced and combined part of the 2015 Bond, the 2016 Bond the Mackin Project and some of the new high school project. This is a refinancing to blend those projects together.

Mr. Caffrey – Regarding E 6–7- 8 Is this in regard to the new building?

Response: Yes

**The vote was as follows:**

**8 Ayes: Atherton, Geiger, Patla (On B C D E1,3) Quinn, Susek, Thomas (Abstain E5), Walker, Caffrey**

**1 Nays: Patla (A 1-8, E 2, 4)**

**1 Abstain: Thomas E 5**

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Mr. Quinn presented the following report and recommendation for the Board’s approval.**

1. That permission be granted to the Jarad Grohowski Foundation to host a “Free Football Camp” at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium on Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In consideration of a yearly \$1,000 scholarship from the Jarad Grohowski Foundation awarded to a qualifying male and female athlete at G.A.R. High School, there will be no charge for the use of Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium. Proof of insurance identifying Wilkes-Barre Area School District as an additionally insured for the day of the event will be provided.
2. That approval be given to Shakir Soto, “570 On the Go” LLC, the use of Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium, on Saturday, June 29, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Rain date – Sunday, June 30, 2019) for an Annual Clinic/Camp. This clinic/camp is free of charge to area youth ages 5 thru 18 to instill physical fitness, discipline, self-esteem and healthy choices. All food, snacks, drinks, shirts and gift totes will also be available at no cost to the participants. A cheerleading clinic has been added this year for the above listed ages. Proof of insurance will be provided. Fee for the use of the stadium is requested to be waived.

**Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Rev. Walker to adopt this report. The vote was as follows:**

**8 Ayes: Atherton, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey**

**Safety/Security Committee – No Report**

**Transportation Committee – No Report**

**Policy Committee – No Report**

**Pathway/Transition Committee – Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Student Wellness Committee – Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Dr. Susek presented the following report and recommendation for the Board’s approval.**

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

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

**A. Professionals**

1. That the retirement of **Maureen Doyle** be accepted with regret effective the last day of the 2018-19 school year.
2. That **Carrie Bubul's** request for unpaid leave for the 2019-20 school year be approved.
3. That **Jennifer Welgosh's** request for an unpaid leave beginning May 13, 2019 through the end of the 2019-20 school year be approved.
4. That **Linda Scarantino** be appointed an English as a Second Language Long Term Substitute Teacher for the 2019-20 school year.
5. That **Anthony Neak** be appointed as a Temporary Professional as a School Psychologist effective the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.
6. That the following professional employees be hired as a Secondary Summer School Teacher, July 8, 2019 through August 16, 2019, Monday through Thursday, 7:45AM to 2:00PM at rate of \$1,000 per course:

**Social Studies**

**Joseph Busulca**

**Amanda Mendoza**

**ESL**

**Keryn Bevan**

**English**

**Ryan Wrobleski**

**Maureen Sovan**

**Reading**

**Ryan Wrobleski**

**Mathematics – TABLED**

**Health & Phys Ed.**

**Daren Keen**

**Special Ed.**

**David Kuhl**

**Kelly Campas**

**Science**

**Deborah McNichol**

**Michael Namey**

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

**Renee Pizzella**

7. That a maximum of 140 hours of psychologist testing during the summer be approved at a rate of \$43.91 per hour.

**B. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates**

1. That the retirement of **Gloria Watson** be accepted with regret effective April 11, 2019.
2. That **Heather Marcellini's** request for unpaid leave on April 11 & 12, 2019 be approved.
3. That **Jamie Pesotski's** request for unpaid leave on March 28 & 29, 2019 be approved.
4. That **Joni Hooker** be appointed as a 22.5 hour per week Part Time Teacher's Associate as a locker room aide.
5. That **Jacquelyn Bonitatis** be appointed as a 22.5 hour per week Part Time Teacher's Associate as a locker room aide.
6. That **Yolanda Harris** be appointed as a 20 hour per week Part Time Para-professional.
7. That **Kasey Conahan** be appointed as a 20 hour per week Part Time Para-professional.
8. That **Kim Holley** be appointed as a 20 hour per week Part Time Para-professional.

**C. Custodians, Housekeepers & Food Service**

1. That the resignation of **Corey Kehoe** be accepted with regret effective March 29, 2019.
2. That **Donna Kalson's** request for 4.75 hours unpaid leave on April 29, 2019 be approved.
3. ~~As per Article VI, Section 2 of the WBACMCESPA Agreement, the following Food Service Employees be appointed as summer custodians at their 2018-19 hourly rate. Summer work hours are established in Article XII, Section 4, of the WBACMCESPA Agreement: -~~ **TABLED**
4. That **Stanley Wychock** be appointed a Substitute Custodian.
5. That **Nancy Baker** be appointed a Substitute Custodian.
6. That **Joseph Leo** be appointed a Substitute Custodian.

**D. Security Greeters**

1. That the resignation of **Nathan Spagnuola** be accepted with regret effective March 29, 2019.

**E. Athletics**

1. That the resignation of **Hannah S. Beach** as Varsity Assistant Field Hockey Coach be accepted with regret effective April 10, 2019.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

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.

Coughlin Baseball	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Edward Hendzack</b>
Athletic Director	Senior High	<b>Michael Namey</b>
Cheerleading	Senior High Advisor	<b>Kayla Kulikowich</b>
Football	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Christopher Cinti</b>
Football	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Nino Cinti</b>
Football	Volunteer Assistant Coach	<b>Francis Clifford</b>

**ADDENDUM**

**F. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates**

1. That the Settlement Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and **Employee # 50800** be approved.

**G. Custodians, Housekeepers & Food Service**

1. That the Settlement Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and **Employee #51194** be approved.
2. That the Settlement Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and **Employee #50375** be approved.

**C. Professionals**

1. That **Sean McLaughlin** be appointed as Secondary Summer School Dean of Students at a rate of \$4,000.

**Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Patla to adopt this report. The vote was as follows:**

On the question:

Ms. Thomas: I have a concern – as of yesterday there was a second applicant for the cheerleading job. It was brought to our attention that all clearances were submitted on time. Her resume was presented this evening. Asking consideration of this board to reconsider and possibly table this appointment. I feel this applicant should be given further consideration.

Shawn Walker Response: Upon looking at these two resumes one of them had varsity experience the other resume did not. The other applicant is currently doing the job at one of our high schools. Looking from a resume stand point it is clear the candidate that was chosen is the most qualified.

**The vote was as follows:**

**8 Ayes: Atherton, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey**

**2 Nays: Patla (Cheerleading) Thomas (Cheerleading)**

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 29, 2019**

---

**Mr. Atherton presented Resolution #1**

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the recent death of **PAUL CRAWFORD** has brought sorrow to his family, friends, and all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, he was a 1987 graduate of Bishop Hoban High School and earned his undergraduate degree from Wilkes University and master's degree in organizational management from Misericordia University. Paul proudly served our country as a soldier in the United States Army for four years during the Gulf War era; he earned rank of sergeant and later accepted a position as a police officer for the City of Wilkes-Barre; and

WHEREAS, he was the husband of Heather Crawford, Technology Instructor for Wilkes-Barre Area School District; and

WHEREAS, his passing on March 14, 2019 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, Heather; and son, Jake Declan, and to his entire family.

**Communication from Solicitor**

As discussed in Executive Session I would request that the Board authorize the Solicitor to execute a settlement stipulation and secure an order in court resolving the tax appeal instituted by the School District involving Mundy Street Square, LP, for those in the audience this is the strip mall on Mundy Street across from the Olive Garden Restaurant, includes Chipotle, Mattress Warehouse and Five Guys. Under the resolution the assessment on the property will increase from \$2,435,000 to \$3,409,000 at an annual increase of approximately \$18,000 in school district taxes going forward. In payment on the back years in excess of \$50,000. I request the Board to authorize the execution of the stipulation.

**Motion by: Dr Susek seconded by Ms. Patla. The vote was as follows:**

**8 Ayes: Atherton, Geiger, Patla, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey**

Mr. Dombroski, I would like to thank you for bringing something to my attention regarding the deeds to the Pagnotti parcels that included the exclusionary language with regard to mineral rights. We had entered into an agreement of sale to acquire all rights with regard to those properties including the sub-surface minerals. The corrected deeds conveying the mineral rights to the school district were recorded on Friday. Again, I appreciate bringing that to our attention.

**Motion to adjourn by Dr. Susek, seconded by Rev. Walker.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm**