

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – November 16, 2023

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

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary, Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

8 Members Present: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey,

President Caffrey – The chair wishes to announce the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of November 16, 2023. The subjects discussed in the Executive Session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Board meetings on October 23, 2023 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by Mr. Evans seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of October 23, 2023.

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello asked for a moment of silence for in memory of Orlando Dyer, a GAR student who recently lost his life during a tragic event.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Admin Building:

Commenced leaf cleanup

Dan Flood Elementary:

Continued to address work requests
Completed asphalt paving & re-installation of fence
Commenced leaf cleanup
Continued to address plumbing repairs

Dodson Elementary:

Completed leaf cleanup

E.L. Meyers Building:

Continues to perform building security checks while building is unoccupied
Commenced leaf cleanup

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GAR Middle School:

Continued to address work requests
Continued lighting replacement in areas not included in previous ESCO project
(Basement, Stair Tower, Auditorium)
Continued to address plumbing repairs

Heights Murray Elementary:

Continued to address work requests
Completed leaf cleanup
Completed replacement of broken windows
Continued to address plumbing repairs

Kistler Elementary:

Continued to address work requests
Completed leaf cleanup
Completed replacement of broken windows
Completed replacement of exterior lighting fixtures & repair to power circuit

Mackin Elementary:

Continued to address work requests
Completed plumbing repairs

Solomon Complex:

Continued to address work requests
Commenced leaf cleanup
Completed line striping and crosswalks
Continued to address plumbing repairs
Continued to complete punch list items for ESCO project

W-B High School:

Continued to address work requests
Continued to address remaining punch list/warranty items
General:
Continued annual testing & inspection of fire alarm systems

During the last four weeks, we have completed approximately 37 work requests. Our maintenance staff is currently addressing approximately 241 new work orders. The current number of unassigned work requests is 16. The majority of those work requests are related to issues that need to be further investigated.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Sally Sosa – a 2012 Coughlin Graduate and former employee of the Building Blocks Early Learning Academy, shared concerns that there are teachers without teaching certifications teaching at the Early Learning Academy. Dr. Costello shared that they are a separate entity, but will address her concerns with Building Blocks' administration.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

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Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 20th.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Atherton – The next meeting will be December 20th.

CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans presented the following report and recommendations for the Board’s approval.

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

The Curriculum/Administration Committee respectfully submits the following report and recommendations:

1. That approval be given to amend the agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Pediatria Healthcare, LLC d/b/a AVEANNA Healthcare to add Schedule “B”. **“Exhibit A”**

Motion to accept Mr. Evans, Seconded by Ms. Thomas

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

The Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Committee respectfully submits the following reports and recommendations:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer’s Reports for September 2023. **“Exhibit B”**
2. Capital Projects – That approval be given to the payments listed below.

	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A2.1	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	Admin. Building	Capital Reserve	726-11-2023	\$ 3,921.75

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A2.2	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	GAR Re-Roof	Capital Reserve	725-11-2023	\$ 320.00
A2.3	JNR Adjustment Company, INC	High School	Capital Projects	3FL185895	\$ 17,082.90
A2.4	Green Valley	High School	Capital Projects	APP 25	\$ 16,036.57
A2.5	Apollo Group, Inc.	Stadium Project	Capital Projects	APP 20	\$ 942.12
A2.6	Keystone Sports Construction	Athletic Fields	Capital Projects	2545	\$ 214,468.24
A2.7	Keystone Sports Construction	Athletic Fields	Capital Projects	2676	\$ 258,404.59
A2.8	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Capital Reserve	APP 5	\$ 97,286.00
A2.9	The Brewer-Garrett Company	GAR/Kistler ESCO	Federal	APP 3 F	\$ 38,261.00

3. That approval be given to contribute \$10,000.00 to the Osterhout Free Library for the 2023-2024 school year.

B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #3046 to #3085; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202300306 to #202300323 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on October 23, 2023.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #61620 to #61661 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202300324 to #202300325 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202312205 to #202312222 and General Fund Wire Transfer 202300001 and Food Service Checks #3882 to #3897 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on October 23, 2023 be approved.

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D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #61662 to #61789 listed on the following pages, which have been inspected, be approved and that order be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

E. CONTRACTED SERVICES

1. That approval be given to enter into a software service agreement with Berkshire Systems Group, Inc., 50 S. Museum Road, Reading, PA 19607 for camera systems used in Dodson, Flood, GAR, Heights, Kistler, and Solomon in the amount of \$8,775.00.

Motion by Rev Walker, seconded by Dr. Susek

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Atherton shared that the Athletic Committee met and began coaching evaluations.

SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans shared that the Safety & Security Committee met and discussed the recent threats and the start of the new school year. He further addressed concerns about drivers starting at stop signs on the high school parking lot. We may install flashing lights on each stop sign.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Thomas – “safe and sound”

Building Maintenance

Mr. Atherton – The Committee toured Dodson and was pleased with the overall condition and cleanliness.

FACILITIES TRANSITION

Attorney Wendolowski

Grant Street Property – Rolling Closing
Meyers – December 20th Zoning Meeting

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Breese met with Mr. Gieger to discuss some new initiatives.

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POLICY COMMITTEE

No Report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

The Personnel Committee respectfully submits the following report and recommendations.

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

A. Agreement

1. That the “Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Coordinator” agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Wilkes-Barre Area Education Association be approved. **“EXHIBIT D”**

2. ~~That approval be given to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and The Wilkes-Barre Area Custodial/Maintenance Educational Support Personnel Association-ESPA-PSEA-NEA effective _____ through _____.~~ **Tabled**

B. Act 93

1. That That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions at a rate of \$40.00 per hour. ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

ARP ESSER After School Program Session 2 SRO

James Sheridan

Jeffrey Lutz

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C. Professionals

1. That **Christopher Buzinkai's** request for a sabbatical for the 2nd Semester of the 2023-2024 school year be approved.
2. That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions at a rate of \$35.00 per hour. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

RAISE After School Program Session 2

Mary Jo Petlock	Joan Caffrey	Mary Claire Corcoran
Holly Harowicz	Mary Tranguch	Veronica Tobin
Beth Weber	Amy Degnan Blasco	Kathie Miles
Amy Umphred	Melanie Costantino	Amanda Scott
MaryJo Youndblood	Kelly Pryor	Margaret McGrath
Donna Brenner	Carol Hiscox	Karen Vought
Kristen Barber	Anne Goffredo	Dana Hine
Erin Mcgavin	Jennifer Hunter	Kaycee Mercadante
Amy Sullivan	Rita Gubbiotti	Susan Domiano
Cynthia Craig	Rick Collins	Molly McAndrew
Heather Engle	Susan Schwab	Maureen Sovan Carey
Maria Mathis	Lauren Letteer	Lisa Giovannini
Melissa Watkins	Kelley Campas	Amanda Poplawski
Aubrey Hallinan	Crystal Kane	Leah Zelinka
John Gosciewski	Keryn Bevan	Brittany Scarnulis
Megan Toney	Heather Fritz	Marissa Bradshaw
Charla Potsko	Nichole Gordon	Susan Ferretti
Christina Nordmark	Paul Shymanski	Heather Johnson
Joseph Rodzinak	Erin Moran	Marianne Aboutanos
Diane McFarlane	Glenn Zimmerman	Michael Day
Joelle DeLuca	Michael Ward	Mtichell Marcks
Marianne Kapuschinsky		

A-TSI After School Program Session 2

Arthur Mitchell	Christina Grendzinski	Joanne Kelly
Courtney O'Meara	Marianne Turosky	

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ARP ESSER After School Program Session 2

Brenda Labatch-Cavalari	Elaine Dunn	Jeffrey Krokos
Kimberly Hayes	Tanya Martin Kirkutis	Jennifer Thomas
Tammy Levandowski		

D. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the resignation of **Melinda Gillow** be accepted.
2. That the resignation of **Michele Burden Wood** be accepted.
3. That **Destiny Cabreja** be appointed a Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week.
4. That **Carin Smurl** be appointed a Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week.
5. That **Sadie Schlesinger** be appointed a Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week.
6. That **Susan Conti** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
7. That **Lauren Tomek** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
8. That the following employees be appointed to the following positions at their current hourly rate. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

RAISE After School Program Session 2 AIDE

Blake Meredith	Ashley Brooking	Sandra Namey
Sharon Pascucci	Michelle Cook	Marie Pistack
Sadie Gutierrez	Jamie Pesotski	

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A-TSI After School Program Session 2 AIDE

Janet Jones

ARP ESSER After School Program Session 2 AIDE

Maria Aguila

E. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. That ~~employee #53741 be terminated effective October 11, 2023.~~ **Tabled**
2. That **Brenda Kowalczyk's** request for an unpaid leave on November 1, 2023 be accepted.
3. That _____ be appointed a Grade I Custodian. **Tabled**
4. That **Rafel Andrade** be appointed a Grade I Custodian.

F. Crossing Guard

1. That the resignation Keisha Thomas be accepted effective November 10, 2023.
2. That the resignation David Price be accepted effective November 15, 2023.
3. That **Angie Metzger's** request for an unpaid leave from November 2, 2023 through January 31, 2024 be accepted.

G. Athletics

1. The following appointments are made for the sports season and will be continued on a season to season basis unless the post is declared vacant by the Board of School Directors. All appointments are effective upon all PDE required clearances and documents being submitted.

Softball Varsity Assistant Coach

Stan Sekelsky

Softball Junior High Head Coach

Samantha Williams

Boys Wrestling Varsity Assistant Coach

James Costello

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Girls Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach

Sedrick Beasley

Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach

Alan Rood

Motion to accept Dr. Susek, seconded by Rev. Walker

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

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RESOLUTION #1

Be it resolved, on this 16th day of November, 2023, that the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District approves the Settlement Agreement and Stipulation and the Voluntary Agreement for Payments in Lieu of Taxes between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Downs Racing, L.P. d/b/a Mohegan Sun Pocono. **(Exhibit D)**

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

NEW BUSINESS

No news buisness

Communications from Solicitor

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Susek, seconded by Mr. Atherton.

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Meeting adjourned 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Telesz
Board Secretary