

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting – November 7, 2022

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m.

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary, Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

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

President Caffrey - The chair wishes to announce the Board held an Executive Session via Zoom on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 for one hour to discuss confidential school safety issues.

The Board also held an informational meeting with Dr. Costello on November 1, 2022 regarding the Pilot Program at GAR Middle School.

The Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting on November 7, 2022. 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 meeting minutes from October 3, 2022 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by Ms. Thomas seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes of October 3, 2022.

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello – Welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then addressed the safety and security concerns that occurred over the last few weeks.

When students/visitors enter this building (WBAHS) you are in a contained vestibule with 6 metal detectors and tables that students/visitors have to place their bags. These bags are checked before entering the building. This area was designed to contain students or visitors that would bring a weapon into the building. They would not be able to proceed into the building.

On October 11 there was an incident involving a weapon was detected in a backpack. The SRO and security immediately removed the bag and went into a secure area in the office. The individual did not realize the weapon was in the bag. After an investigation the student(s) were removed and the process was put into place regarding the No Weapons Zone.

On October 26 when the students were dismissing there was a situation in the parking lot. The car was not a red flag, but there were individuals standing in front of the building. These individuals were not recognized as students that belonged to the school. A teacher notified the SRO. The SRO asked the individual to stop and they continued to walk toward their car. The

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SRO radioed the Plains Police to stop the car after exiting the property. The Plains Twp. police had enough reason to search the car after noticing a baseball bat. Upon a search they found weapons inside the vehicle. The individual(s) had charged placed against them.

The incident at Solomon/Plains Middle School involved a student having a medical issue. The student body was never in any danger. Dr. Costello understood that more information should have been given to the faculty and staff, however, at the time the school administration was dealing with the student. He will meet with the administrators at both schools to develop a plan that will allow information to be sent out in a more timely and accurate manner.

Mrs. Lyons hopes everyone will attend “Snoopy the Musical” presented by the Wolfpack Players on November 17, 18, and 19. They always do an outstanding job.

APOLLO REPORT/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Krzywicki – E.L. Meyers – We continue to perform security checks while the building is unoccupied. **D.J. Flood Elementary** - Continue to address work requests and commenced the evaluation of the clock system. There are issues with the clock system at Flood and Kistler. **Heights-Murray Elementary** – We continue to address plumbing repairs and work requests. **Leo E. Solomon Complex** – Completed roofing, gutters, downspouts and metal coping. The roofing project is substantially complete. We are in the process of putting the punch list together. Commenced the installation of panic hardware in the vestibule on the elementary side. We continue to address plumbing and HVAC repairs. **Dodson Elementary** – Continue to address plumbing repairs and work requests. **GAR Middle School** – Continued to address work requests and plumbing repairs. We received bids for the partial roof replacement. **Kistler Elementary** – Completed paving repairs and cleaning out catch basins near the loading dock. Continuing to address plumbing and HVAC repairs, the clock system and work requests. **High School** – The traffic signals at Abbott Street will not be activated until review of the addpaving repairs is scheduled for October 10. **Mackin Elementary** – Continuing to address work requests. **WBA High School** – The Building Shell Contractor, HVAC Contractor, Sitework Contractor continue to address punch list items. The Landscaping Contractor continues to address warranty items. **Stadium Project** - The General Trades contractor has completed roof steel and metal deck, continued installation of masonry, commenced installation of roof insulation and membrane. The Plumbing and HVAC Contractor has continued has continued sanitary piping, domestic water piping, conduit and wire.

Over the last four months we have been able to reduce the number of work requests from 900 down to 150. The majority of these request are related to HVAC issues that need further investigation. Some of these are duplicated items and we are continuing to address them.

OLD BUSINESS – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Carolyn Connell, Plains, PA – Thanked Dr. Costello for explaining the Security and Safety Procedures that are in place by the District. She asked if it were possible to have sidewalks installed on Maffett Street to the left of the exit.

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Keith Gilmore, Laflin, PA – He appreciated Dr. Costello explaining the procedures that took place regarding the recent incidents at the schools. He would like to see the information disseminated in a more timely and precise manner.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the LIU, Tioga Ave., Kingston.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Ms. Harris – The next meeting date TBA.

CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

1. That approval be given to enter into the 2022-2023 IDEA Agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 (LIU) whereby furnishing of all certified personnel, facilities, materials and other services (in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education) needed to perform the services described, and compliance with the terms and conditions of PDE’s most current IDEA Application Guidelines will be the sole obligation of the District and will no longer be the responsibility of the LIU. The District’s estimated allocation for 2022-2023 is \$955,913. **“Exhibit A”**

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Curriculum Administration Report.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer’s Report for August 2022. **“Exhibit B”**
2. Capital Projects – That approval be given to the below listed payments.

A2.1	Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 57	\$556.34
A2.2	Green Valley Landscaping, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 19	\$12,350.00
A2.3	Apollo Group, Inc.	New Stadium Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 11	\$47,148.43

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A2.4	Everon Electrical Contractions, Inc.	Field House Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 000-5	\$48,022.34
A2.5	Myco Mechanical, Inc.	Field House Project	Capital Projects	HVAC App. No. 5	\$32,031.00
A2.6	Myco Mechanical, Inc.	Field House Project	Capital Projects	Plumbing App. No. 5	\$122,284.08
A2.7	Panzitta Enterprises, Inc.	Field House Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 4	\$607,145.40
A2.8	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	New Stadium Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 716-10-2022	\$6,964.40

A2.9	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	GAR Partial Roof Replacement	Capital Projects	Inv. # 725-10-2022	\$16,257.00
A2.10	Dunmore Roofing	Solomon/Plains Roof Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 6	\$93,216.54

- That approval be given to reimburse the following Parent/Guardians for transporting their child to and from school at the current IRS mileage rate:

C.W.	42 East Mountain Ridge, MHP, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
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- That approval be given to ratify the agreement by and between Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. (the Purchaser) and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District (the District) whereby the Purchaser agrees to purchase meals from the District during the 2022-2023 school year. **“Exhibit C”**
- That approval be given to enter into an Agreement for Participation in the Child Nutrition Program between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Lighthouse Academy-LIU18 for the 2022-2023 school year. **“Exhibit D”**
- That approval be given to enter into an Agreement for Participation in the Child Nutrition Program between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Alternative Learning Center-LIU18 for the 2022-2023 school year. **“Exhibit E”**
- That approval be given to enter into an Agreement for Participation in the Child Nutrition Program between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Milford E. Barnes Jr. School/CSC for the 2022-2023 school year. **“Exhibit F”**
- That approval be given to the stipulation to set aside the judicial tax sale for the property located at 284 Blackman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

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B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #2661 to #2728; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202200234 to #202200248 and #202200295 to 202200307 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on October 3, 2022.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #59207 to #59286 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202212003 to #202212014 and Food Service Checks #3768 to #3783 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on October 3, 2022 be approved.

D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #59287 to #59512 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 ratify the proposal from Liberty Mutual Insurance for Builders Risk Insurance for the two additional athletic fields construction project in the amount of \$9,096.00.
2. That approval be given to ratify the Mine Subsidence Insurance for Solomon/Plains Educational Complex at a yearly premium of \$154.85.
3. That approval be given to enter into a three (3) year agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and NRG Controls North, Inc., P.O. Box 235, Selinsgrove, PA 17870-0235 to provide preventative maintenance visits on the Schneider Electric TAC I/A Series control system which are located at GAR Middle School, Daniel J. Flood Elementary School, Heights-Murray Elementary School, Kistler Elementary School, Mackin Elementary School and the Wilkes-Barre Area High School beginning 11-1-2022 and end 10-31-2025. The yearly costs are listed below. **“Exhibit G”**

Contract Year #1 (11-1-2022 – 10-31-2023)	--	\$37,786.00
Contract Year #2 (11-1-2023 – 10-31-2024)	-	\$37,786.00
Contract Year #3 (11-2-2024 – 10-31-2025)	-	\$38,884.00

4. That approval be given to Change Order #3 for Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$4,510.00 The Change Order consists of the following:

T & M Work Temporary Under Bleachers	\$4,510.00
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5. That approval be given to Change Order #3 Myco Mechanical ,Inc. (Plumbing) in the amount of \$4,758.43. The Change Order consists of the following:

Install Armaflex Insulation in Lieu of Fiberglass (M04)	\$4,072.16
Install (4) Return Grilles to Serve as Access Panels for DF-1 Fixtures (M05)	\$686.27

6. That approval be given to Change Order #3 for Panzitta Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$14,797.51. The Change Order consists of the following:

Change Lockers to Locking Bench (P08)	\$2,642.41
Ticket Booth Sign Change (P09)	\$12,155.10

7. That approval be given to Change Order #24 for Stell Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$20,721.49. The Change Order consists of the following:

Road signs per Luzerne County 911	\$3,125.11
Trench drain and signage	\$17,596.38

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – The District cheer competition will be held at the High School on Sunday, December 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our coaches have done a great job organizing this competition.

SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE – No Report

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No report

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

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

1. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and NRG Control North, Inc., based on Costars Contract – NRG Control North, to upgrade one (1) new replacement JACE with required RS-485 LON expansion card and wall adapter to replace one (1) existing obsolete JACE at the following schools:
“Exhibit H”

GAR Middle School	--	\$10,502.00
Heights-Murray Elementary School	--	\$13,578.00
Daniel J. Flood Elementary School	--	\$13,578.00
Kistler Elementary School	--	\$14,988.00

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2. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Sterling Glass, Inc. 1101 Penn Ave., Scranton, PA to repair or replace the glazing gaskets at the Main Entrance of Solomon/Plains Elementary at a cost of \$3,500.00. **“Exhibit I”**

Mr. Atherton moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Building Maintenance Report.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

FACILITIES TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Atty. Wendolowski – The Grant St property sale is being advertised. The Hearing is in early December. The prospective buyer for the Empire Street property just received additional information from the District regarding phase 1 property and continues with their due diligence. The prospective buyers for the Meyers property has approximately two more weeks in their due diligence period.

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Ms. Thomas – We had a very therapeutic meeting this week. The nurse’s asked that parents keep their children home if they are sick. The Guidance and Psychologists noted that the organization that provided “comfort kits” for students experiencing a trauma are no longer providing that service. 570 on the Go will be distributing kits as needed.

POLICY COMMITTEE

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

1. That the following policies be adopted:
 - 222 Tobacco & Vaping Products
 - 323 Tobacco & Vaping Products
 - 351 Drug & Substance Abuse

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Policy Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

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Atty. Wendolowski stated in the Executive Session it was determined an Addendum to the Personnel Report needs to be added and was deemed necessary after the publication of the Agenda.

Rev. Walker moved to add the Personnel Addendum to the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Faust.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

A. Agreement

1. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Misericordia University agreement. **“EXHIBIT J”**

B. Act 93

1. That the resignation of **Maurice Lamoreux** be accepted effective October 27, 2022.
2. That the resignation of **Michael Lehman** be accepted effective October 16, 2022.
3. That **Brett Smith** be appointed Supervisor/School Police Officer effective November 8, 2022 with a stipend in the amount of \$5,000.

C. Professionals

1. That the retirement of **Patricia Martin** be accepted effective October 31, 2022.
2. That **Tracey Hakim's** request for a sabbatical for the 2nd Semester of the 2022-2023 school year be approved.
3. That **Geoffrey Bell's** request for a sabbatical for the 2nd Semester of the 2022-2023 school year be approved.
4. That **Thomas Tyson** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher effective October 3, 2022.
5. That **Sarah Paul** be appointed Long-Term Substitute School Nurse for the 2nd Semester of the 2022-2023 School Year.
6. That the following professional employees be appointed to the following positions at a rate of \$35.00 per hour. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER assignments will be based on student participation and grant program funding available. RAISE, A-TSI, and ARP ESSER tutoring hours not to exceed grant program funding.

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RAISE After School Program Session 1 (Effective October 11)

Melissa Watkins
Laura Zawatsky

RAISE After School Program Session 2

Janet Castrignano	Donna Brenner	Melinda Heffron
Susan Ferretti	Melanie Costantino	Jessica Hendler
Cassandra Walkowiak	Amanda Scott	Erin McGavin
Melissa Watkins	Veronica Tobin	Kelley Campas
Laura Zawatsky	Mary Tranguch	Crystal Kane
Michael Day	Joelle DeLuca	Glenn Zimmerman
Kelly Pryor		

A-TSI After School Program Session 2

Joanne Kelly
Amy Wargo-Secor
Heather Engle

ARP ESSER After School Program Session 2

Nichole Gordon
Tammy Levandowski

7. The following members of the professional staff, having made claim for an incentive raise under the WBAEA Agreement and having produced official transcripts listing the graduate credits earned, be granted the following effective September 1, 2022:

Masters' +18 (Amended from 10/3/2022 board meeting)

Michael Mitchell
Ashleigh Soboleski

Masters' +36

Mary Ann Rizzo

Masters' +54 (Amended from 10/3/2022 board meeting)

Lauren Yanniello

8. That the following be appointed as ESL Parent Outreach Facilitators at Heights Elementary School at a rate of \$35.00 per hour. These positions are grant funded in accordance with the Title III, Language Instruction for English Learners Federal Grant Program and funding is not to exceed \$1200.00 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Erika Hanson
Sara Zydallas

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D. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the resignation of **Porsha Cassaberry** be accepted effective October 7, 2022.
2. That the resignation of **Marisol Curtis** be accepted effective October 24, 2022.
3. That **Cynthia Jarus** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Locker-room/Cafeteria) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
4. That **Jessica Barrientos** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
5. That **Kaleb Cook** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
6. That **Melanie Herbel** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
7. That **Bohdan Krawczeniuk** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
8. That **Ana Luna** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
9. That **Kimberly Munoz Jimenez** be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
10. 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 1 AIDE (effective October 18th)

Betsy Carey
Michaela Minnick

RAISE After School Program Session 2 AIDE

Karen Taylor
Naomi Arzola-Morales
Michelle Cook

A-TSI After School Program Session 2 AIDE

Lisa Wright
Marianne Egan

ARP ESSER After School Program Session 2 AIDE

Michelle Conahan

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E. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. That **James Apolinaro's** request for an unpaid leave for September 14, 2022, September 16, 2022, and September 30, 2022 be approved.
2. That the resignation of **Alexis Santana Quinones** be accepted effective November 4, 2022.
3. That the resignation of **Michael Lavin** be accepted effective October 24, 2022.
4. That the resignation of **Ryan Jones** be accepted effective November 2, 2022.
5. That **Nancy Baker** be appointed a Custodian.
6. That **Andy Ellis** be appointed a Head Custodian.
7. That **Dwayne Harrison** be appointed a Head Custodian.
8. That **Elizabeth Cosme** be appointed a Sub Custodian.
9. That _____ be appointed a Sub Custodian. **TABLED**
10. That _____ be appointed a Sub Custodian. **TABLED**
11. That _____ be appointed a Sub Custodian. **TABLED**

F. Crossing Guards

1. That the resignation of **Anthony Miles** be accepted effective November 1, 2022.
2. That the resignation of **Mary Sonny** be accepted effective November 3, 2022.
3. That **Geizamar Santana's** request for an unpaid leave from November 3, 2022, through November 18, 2022 be approved.
4. That **Carolina Bell Casilla** be appointed a Crossing Guard.
5. That **Kimberly Blue** be appointed a Crossing Guard.
6. That **Anny Peguero** be appointed a Crossing Guard.
7. That **Vladmir Santos** be appointed a Crossing Guard.
8. That _____ be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard. **TABLED**

G. Security Greeters

1. That the retirement of **Michael Khalife** be accepted effective October 7, 2022.

H. Extra-Curricular Salary Schedule-6

1. That _____ be appointed ESL Dept./Building Chair. **TABLED**

I. Athletics

1. 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.

Girls Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach
Girls Basketball JH Assistant Coach

Amber Scalzo
Da'Nayla Ballard

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Swimming Volunteer Coach
Wrestling Volunteer Coach
Track & Field Volunteer Coach
Track & Field Volunteer Coach

Danielle Castanaro
James Geiger
Shawn Austin
Stephanie Brewster

ADDENDUM

A. Security Greeters

1. That **Aleisha Potechko** be appointed a Substitute Security Greeter effective October 24, 2022.

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Personnel Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

3 Nays – Evans (E-7), Harris (E-7), Thomas (E-7)

NEW BUSINESS – No Report

SOLICITOR REPORT – No Report

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Susek and seconded by Mr. Evans.

The meeting adjourned at: 8:09 p.m.