

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 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.

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

President Caffrey – The chair wishes to announce the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of April 18, 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 March 13, 2023 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion by Ms. Harris seconded by Mr. Breese to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 13, 2023.

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Costello – I would like to invite everyone including parents, students to our upcoming Community College Career Day which is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Army on April 28th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Over 15 colleges and universities, trades, armed forces, and food trucks will be there along with a Title I family engagement table.

Graduation will be June 9th at the Mohegan Sun Arena at 12:00 or 1:00.

Our graduating class is about 550 students. This year's 9th grade class is 701. Our District is glad to have that many students, but we also need to make sure that we are prepared as they move forward that we can still provide the resources and classes they will need to move forward. Although we don't know what next year will bring, the 9th grade class has grown more than we expected.

Ms. Harris asked if the growth was specific to 9th grade or if there were other bands of growth. Dr. Costello explained that the high school has experienced impressive growth and we have seen other bands of growth throughout our schools. District wide our enrollment has grown from typically 7,200 students to 8,100 over the last year or two. We still have room in our schools to accommodate the growth and we have the ability to expand. Our building was built to hold 2,600 students. This year we started at 2,100 students and are now at 2,400 students.

APOLLO REPORT/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Krzywicki – Meyers High School – We continue to perform security checks and continue to secure the building envelope. Last week, we conducted a site clean up and mowed the lawns. We filled our 5 ton dump truck with weeds and litter from the property. **Dan Flood Elementary** – Continue to address work requests. **Heights Murray Elementary** – Continue to address work requests and address plumbing repairs. **Leo E Solomon Complex** – Continue to address work requests. **Dodson Elementary** – Continue to address work requests and repair

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023

steam piping. **GAR Middle School** – Continue to address work requests and plumbing repairs, commenced demo for partial roof replacement. **Mackin Elementary** – Continue to address work requests. **Kistler Elementary** – Continue to address work requests and plumbing and HVAC repairs. **High School** – Continue to address work requests and remaining punch list items. **Stadium** – A temporary occupancy permit has been issued. Completed exterior signage, canopy, and metal coping. Remaining work included bituminous paving, fences, and completion of punch list items. Keystone has continued site grading and installation of drainage system. **General** - Field prep of grass athletic fields has been completed. Line striping & mowing will be performed on an as-needed basis. We completed a scope review of ESCO Contractors to replace HVAC equipment, lighting fixtures & ceilings at G.A.R. & Kistler. During the last 30 days, we have completed approximately 100 work requests. The current number of unassigned work requests is 19. The majority of those work requests are related to issues that need to be further investigated. Our maintenance staff is currently addressing approximately 168 work orders, many of which were submitted over the last 3-4 weeks. Ms. Harris asked for an update on the mold situation in the trailers at Kistler and are the HVAC repairs regarding that. Mr. Krzywicki explained that that the air quality tests at Kistler and Height came back fine. This was the second test at Kistler to come back okay. There was a minor repair to an HVAC system at Kistler, but nothing related to air quality.

OLD BUSINESS

No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Only Mr. Sam Troy signed in, but he was not in attendance at this time.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Faust – The 127th graduation ceremony of the Nursing Program will be held Friday, May 26th. The Building Trades and CTC Career Fair went very well. Governor Shapiro took us up on our invitation, came in and spoke to the students. Not only was it a great fair for the 12 trades involved, nursing program, Pennsylvania Career, but Nutrition Group did an excellent job and the staff from CTC including building and grounds. Mr. Faust got feedback from all the trades, “this is one of the best.” We are already scheduling for next year, the Tuesday before Easter. “It’s great when you are leaving an event, packing up and there are still students at the table.” Mr. Faust referred to Mr. Mike Buffer article in the Citizens Voice as spot on. We are trying to bridge the gap and show the students what’s out there. Mr. Faust looks forward to the upcoming career fair at the high school. Mr. Atherton and Ms. Harris thanked Mr. Faust. Mr. Caffrey attended the fair and shared his thoughts on well put together it was.

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023**

CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Harris presented the following report and recommendations for the Board’s approval.

1. That the 2023-2024 school calendar be adopted.

**WILKES BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

September 5, 2023.....	Act 80/Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 6, 2023.....	Act 80/Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 7, 2023.....	Student First Day –School Opens
October 9, 2023.....	Columbus Day
November 13, 2023.....	Veteran’s Day
November 13-17, 2023.....	American Education Week
November 23–27, 2023.....	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 4–15, 2023.....	Keystone State Exams Wave 1
December 25 - January 1, 2024.....	Christmas Vacation
January 2, 2024.....	School Re-Opens
January 15, 2024.....	Martin Luther King Day
January 30, 2024.....	Second Semester Begins
February 12, 2024.....	Act 80/Professional Development
February 19, 2024.....	Presidents Day
March 28 – April 1, 2024.....	Easter Vacation
April 22 - May 10, 2024.....	PSSA Testing
May 13 - 24, 2024.....	Keystone Exams
May 27, 2024.....	Memorial Day
June 7, 2024.....	Last Student Day
June 7, 2024.....	Graduation
June 10, 2024.....	Act 80/Professional Development
June 11, 2024.....	Clerical, Evaluation, Planning

*All dates listed that school is not in session are potential make-up days.

2. That approval be given to enter into a placement agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Wyoming Valley West School District, 450 North Maple Avenue, Kingston PA at an annual cost of \$26,691.41 per school year. **“EXHIBIT A”**
3. That approval be given to the Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the parents/legal guardians of the student J.W.
4. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the American Red Cross for the purpose of providing licensing Red Cross training materials, curriculum, and instruction in Red Cross training courses. **“EXHIBIT B”**

Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt the Curriculum Administration Committee Report.

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023**

The Vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. Atherton presented the following report and recommendations for the Boards' Approval.

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer's Reports for February 2023. **"Exhibit C"**
2. Capital Projects – That approval be given to the payments listed below.

A2.1	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	GAR MS Partial Re-Roof	Capital Reserve	Inv. No. 725-04-2023	\$ 3,321.00
A2.2	Detwiler Roofing, LLC	GAR MS Partial Re-Roof	Capital Reserve	APP 001	\$191,160.00
A2.3	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	Fieldhouse	Capital Projects	Inv.No. 716-04-2023	\$ 2,089.08
A2.4	Apollo Group, Inc.	New Stadium Project	Capital Projects	APP 15	\$ 28,759.79
A2.5	Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc.	Fieldhouse & Ticket Booths	Capital Projects	APP 10	\$ 9,572.11
A2.6	Everon Electrical Contractors, Inc.	Fieldhouse & Ticket Booths	Capital Projects	APP 11	\$ 22,511.50
A2.7	Myco Mechanical, Inc.	Fieldhouse & Ticket Booths	Capital Projects	HVAC APP 10	\$ 9,219.75
A2.8	Myco Mechanical, Inc.	Fieldhouse & Ticket Booths	Capital Projects	Plumbing APP 10	\$ 10,716.00
A2.9	Panzitta Enterprises, Inc.	Fieldhouse & Ticket Booths	Capital Projects	APP 10	\$ 142,404.08

3. That approval be given to accept the "Single Audit Report" for the year ended June 30, 2022, as prepared by Rainey & Rainey, Certified Public Accountants.
4. That approval be given to ratify the execution of the Government Entity Release of All Claims for the Juul Labs Inc., Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation and related documents in order to resolve the District's claims in the Litigation. **"Exhibit D"**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023**

B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #2850 to #2875; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202200609 to #202200623 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on March 13, 2023.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #60273 to #60327 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202212081 to #202212100 and Food Service Checks #3823 to #3831 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on March 13, 2023 be approved.

D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #60328 to #60465 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 for Torbik Safe & Lock, Inc to furnish and install the new Avigilon access system at a cost of \$88,730.00. **“Exhibit E”**
2. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with Wilkes-Barre Area School District and BSN Sports for the BSN Sports Rewards Program for the purchase and supply of athletic apparel and equipment for use by the school and its interscholastic programs. **“Exhibit F”**
3. That approval be given for ELA Group, Inc. to provide surveying services of the parcels along Maffett Street and identified in deed 3023-32200 and parcel numbers: 50-G10SW2-004-025, G10SW2-004-024, G10SW2-004-014, G10SW2-004-014A at a cost of \$15,200. **“Exhibit G”**

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

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Atherton – We wrapped up winter sports with our exit meetings with coaches. Looking forward we are full spring into the spring sports.

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023**

Safety Security Committee

Mr. Caffrey – Mr. Evans is not here, but he has a Safety & Security meeting scheduled for this Friday at noon at the high school.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval.

1. That approval be given for Mechanical Service Company to remove, rebuild and reinstall GAR's generator's water pump and radiator at a cost of \$9,000.00 to \$10,000.00. **“Exhibit H”**

2. After review of the Requests for Proposals for the Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract, that approval be given to award a guaranteed maximum price contract to Brewer-Garrett Co, 6800 Eastland Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130 in the amount of \$19,994,899 for the GAR Middle School and Kistler Elementary School HVAC, Ceiling and Lighting projects.

Mr. Faust – Happy to report that under item number 2 the contractor has agreed to use local union labor and classified certified apprenticeship programs.

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

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

Dr. Costello – We have all come together to understand that we have valuable properties and facilities in our district. We don't want to come into a situation as we did years ago when some of our buildings were neglected. Last month we approved Solomon updates. This month we have GAR and Kistler. This is a process we are starting to make sure we refurbish all of our buildings. We are now exceeding our ESSER money. This is now coming out of our capital funds. I want everyone to be aware that as long as we continue to follow the path and continue to be fiscally responsible, these projects will continue to come through as presented in our last pathway. Every building will not only have new HVAC and lighting, but flooring, paint, basically remodel and most importantly as Mike likes to say, “sealing them up, make sure we protect our investment”. This is something we have been able to do without raising taxes and if we continue to follow that path, this is 3 projects this year and next year we will work on the rest of our schools. **Mr. Faust** – We made significant improvements to our air quality with these projects.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Harris presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval.

1. That the following policy be adopted:
 - Procurement – Federal Programs **“Exhibit I”**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023**

Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt the Policy Committee Report.

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Susek presented the following report and recommendation for the Board's Approval.

A. Agreement

1. That the "Learning Academy" agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Wilkes-Barre Area Education Association be approved. **"EXHIBIT J"**
2. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Western Kentucky University. **"EXHIBIT K"**
3. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the University of Denver. **"EXHIBIT L"**

B. Act 93

1. That **Carl Gembitski's** job title be amended to Chief of Police Operations/Director Safety & Security.
2. That **Brett Smith's** job title be amended to School Police Sergeant.
3. That **Michael Namey** be appointed Athletic Administrator at the 2022-2023 WBAEA Matrix Step 15, 54 credits, 194 units effective September 1, 2023.
4. That the retirement of **Michael Corcoran** be accepted effective June 30, 2024 and will be entitled to Article XII Sections 3 and 4 of the WBAEA Agreement.
5. That **Jamie Moska's** previous appointment be amended to a 12 Month Special Education Coordinator at the 2022-2023 WBAEA Matrix Step 15, 54 credits, 210 units effective July 1, 2023.
6. That **Tashara Sheperis** be appointed a 12 Month Special Education Coordinator at the 2022-2023 WBAEA Matrix Step 15, 54 credits 210 units effective July 1, 2023.
7. That the retirement of **Robert Simonetti** be accepted effective April 20, 2023.
8. That **Erika Oswald** be appointed a School Resource Officer at Group E minimum salary.

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023

9. That **David Sobocinski** be appointed a PCCD Funded Year to Year School Resource Officer at Group E minimum salary.

C. Professionals

1. That the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Board of Education approves the Statement of Charges and Notice of Right to Hearing for employee # 51834.
2. That the retirement of **Sharon Detwildaver** be accepted effective the last day of the 2022-2023 School Year.
3. That the retirement of **Nadine Sebastian** be accepted effective the last day of the 2022-2023 School Year.

D. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That **Cassandra Camp** be appointed 12 Month Secretary, Level IV, Payroll effective April 12, 2023.
2. That the resignation of **Sandra Namey** as Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA be accepted. She will remain an ESSER Part-Time Teacher's Associate for the 2022-2023 School Year.
3. That **Shirly Kogoy** be appointed Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week effective April 12, 2023
4. That **Darrian Tyson** be appointed Full Time Paraprofessional/PCA(s) 32.5 hours per week effective April 12, 2023.
5. That the resignation of **Matthew Davison** be accepted April 12, 2023.
6. That the resignation of **Kimberly Munoz-Jimenez** be accepted March 24, 2023.
7. That the resignation of **Lisa Wright** be accepted March 31, 2023.
8. That **Barbara Shemanski's** request for an unpaid leave from March 30, 2023 through April 5, 2023 be approved.
9. That **Derrick West's** request for an unpaid leave from March 21, 2023 through March 24, 2023, and May 4, 2023 be approved.
10. That **Mayra Martinez's** request for an unpaid leave from March 16, 2023 through March 17, 2023 be approved.
11. That **Mary Coulter's** request for an unpaid leave from February 9, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year be approved.

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023**

12. That **Bohdan Krawczeniuk's** request for an unpaid leave from April 11, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year be approved.
13. That **Geizamar Santana's** request for an unpaid leave from June 6, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year be approved.
14. That _____ 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. **TABLED**

E. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. That the retirement of **Jeffrey Craig** be accepted effective May 19, 2023.
2. That the resignation of **Joseph Morales** be accepted.
3. That the resignation of **Diane Zampetti** be accepted.
4. That **Brenda Kowalczyk's** request for an unpaid leave for May 11, 2023 through May 15, 2023 be approved.
5. That the resignation of **Elizabeth Cosme** be accepted effective March 28, 2023.

F. Crossing Guards

1. That **Franklin Giberson's** request for an unpaid leave from March 23, 2023 be approved.
2. That _____ be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard. **TABLED**
3. That _____ be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard. **TABLED**

G. Security Greeters

1. That the resignation of **Shirley Anderson** be accepted effective April 5, 2023.

H. 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.

Cross Country/Track & Field Junior High Assistant Coach **Damon Saxon**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 18, 2023**

Volunteer Softball Assistant Coach	Stanley Sekelsky
Volunteer Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach	Caleb Metcalf
Volunteer Cross Country/Track and Field Assistant Coach	Vincent Breese
Volunteer Cross Country/Track and Field Assistant Coach	TABLED

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Breese to adopt the Personnel Committee report.

The vote was as follows:

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Faust, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

1 Abstain: Breese (H -1 – Volunteer Cross Country/Track and Field Assistant Coach)

New Business

Mr. Faust -Congressman Cartwright office is writing a letter of support on our behalf related to our denial of the Department of Energy grant. I have been in touch with Senator Casey's office as well. Our take is being we are one of the districts successfully proved at the Commonwealth Court that fair funding hasn't been coming our way. On a federal level, federal should do the same with the Department of Energy Grant and the DOE should look at our application again, both, Wilkes-Barre Area and the CTC. Both Congressman Cartwright and Senator Casey are supportive.

Mr. Caffrey – CAPAA program hosting their final production of the year, Clue. That will be Friday, the 28th through Sunday, the 30th. If you haven't seen our kids perform, you owe it to yourself. It's a top rate show. We have a lot of talented students. Alice Lyons and Joelle Deluca and the staff are wonderful. "Clue, get a clue!"

Dr. Costello - FBLA students are competing at the national tournament.

Communications from Solicitor – Atty. Wendolowski - Court petition for the approval of the sale of Meyers will be filed this week. We anticipate a hearing within 30 days, and we anticipate the court's approval of the petition for the sale of Meyers. We'll have that done well before the June meeting, possibly before the May meeting.

Mr. Caffrey – The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 22nd, here at the high school.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Telesz
Board Secretary