

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

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

Board Secretary Leonard B. Przywara called the roll.

9 MEMBERS PRESENT: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey
Walker- participated via phone conference call

President Caffrey stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting of February 8, 2016.
- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2016, and dispense with the reading of those minutes. The vote was as follows:

All In Favor: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Leonard B. Przywara, Business Manager, presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2015

WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2015

GENERAL FUNDS

GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(\$1,263,954.47)
GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB	\$23,858,895.79
FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB	\$285,938.33
FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB	\$583,833.08
OMEGA BANK	\$2,935,225.96
OMEGA BANK	\$2,069,037.73
JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT	\$708,867.10
PNC BANK	\$3,733,529.34
PNC BANK INVESTMENT	\$0.00
LPL LINSCO PRIVATE LEDGER	\$828,596.60
EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB	\$45,068.75
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1	\$11,598.39
REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB	\$22,899.78
LANDMARK CD	\$460,982.29
PLGIT EIT	\$819,481.33
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$35,100,000.00

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	
2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$10,371.48
ATHLETIC FUND-OMEGA BANK	\$522,141.06
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$532,512.54
TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	
PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB	\$1,386,881.26
PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB	\$262.73
WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$225,066.44
ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-OMEGA BANK	\$107,616.56
SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-OMEGA BANK	\$292,379.24
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #5	\$333,234.50
TOTAL TRUST AND AGENCY FUND	\$2,345,440.73
FOOD SERVICE FUND	
CHECKING ACCOUNT-OMEGA BANK	\$1,493,697.41
TOTAL FOOD SERVICE FUND	\$1,493,697.41
DEBT SERVICE FUND	
COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS #7	\$9,283.25
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$9,283.25

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2015.

The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Unfinished Business

Miss Katsock moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to appoint Mr. Evans to serve as the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Representative to the Board of the Osterhaut Free Library. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Abstain: Evans

Communications from the Superintendent

Dr. Prevuznak noted that the Meyers High School faculty, staff and students along with the entire Wilkes-Barre Area School District are saddened by the recent loss of Tashandra Burton, a former graduate of E.L. Meyers High School. Dr. Prevuznak thanked Dr. Rochelle Koury, Director of Pupil Services, WBASD school psychologists and the faculty of Meyers High in regard to providing grief counseling services for anyone who required those services.

Dr. Prevuznak also thanked Mr. Costello, Dr. Koury, Mr. Patte, Directors and Coordinators, and the faculty of Coughlin High School in regard to the success of the open house held at the Mackin School.

Communications from Citizens

1. Bob Holden
2. Ruth Borland
3. Kim Borland
4. Joe Borland
5. Dr. John Zubris
6. Dave Wilson
7. George Brown
8. Joanne Tenneriello
9. Steve Moon
10. Ron Woznock
11. Robert Karasek
12. Tracey Hughes
13. Angel Mathis

The above listed Citizens addressed the Board in regard to the following:

1. People are not happy, consider their concerns.
2. Place Plan Con A on a Referendum.
3. Take a step back on leasing the Times Leader Building.
4. Involve G.A.R. in the building process.
5. Coughlin parents are upset; they want to know what is going to happen with CHS students for the next school year
6. Do what is best for the students.
7. Appreciation expressed to Dr. Prevuznak and Mr. Galella for attending the Meyers Speech and Debate Team Martin Luther King Tournament and taking notice of the maintenance issues that need to be addressed at Meyers High School.
8. Concern expressed that parents indicated at the Informational Meeting held on February 1, 2016, that they did not want their students going to school with Meyers students, and not one Board Member or Administrator addressed those statements.
9. Board and Administrators should be concerned with those statements and recognize there is a need to address issues of students being integrated in a consolidated school environment.
10. Why is it not possible for Coughlin High School students to go to Meyers High School while the new consolidated school is being built?
11. Referendum is appropriate in regard to Plan Con A.
12. Why was the Times Leader item not listed on the Regular Board Meeting agenda?
13. Will there be an environmental inspection done in regard to the Times Leader Building?
14. Will there be a zoning issue with the use of the Times Leader in regard to being used as a school facility?
15. Stop making decisions by emergency.
16. Consider temporary heat at the Coughlin Annex.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

17. Was there a plan all along to purchase the Times Leader Building to use as the District Administration Building?
18. Public opinion is that the Board is out to protect themselves and not their constituents.
19. Why did you not have Informational Meetings sooner than February 1, 2016?
20. Belief that due diligence is done behind closed doors.
21. There should be an open discussion in regard to having one, two or three high schools.
22. Follow recommendations from Internal Committee and have one consolidated high school.
23. Separate Junior High students from Senior High Students.
24. Build school large enough to hold all three current High Schools.
25. Many issues at Meyers High School such as heat, broken water fountains, missing doors on lockers, unsatisfactory conditions of bathrooms.
26. Paint plywood at Meyers in time for Graduation.
27. Building Maintenance Committee is a great idea, however, too little too late.
28. Times Leader option is a better solution than a split schedule.
29. Did the Board consider using modulars at Kistler?
30. Did the Board consider sending ½ of Coughlin students to G.A.R. and ½ of students to Meyers during construction of consolidated High School?
31. Consider a Board motion to build one consolidated High School.
32. This Board which is comprised of several past Administrators had to be aware of issues at Meyers, they have existed since at least 1985, why have they never been addressed?
33. Teachers and staff need to feel that there won't be repercussions if maintenance issues are brought to the Boards attention.
34. Time for the Board to listen to the will of the voters and put the issue of a consolidated school on a Referendum.
35. When was water tested at Union Street?
36. Is there a practice room available for Coughlin High School Orchestra?

All questions and concerns were addressed by Dr. Bernard Prevuznak, Superintendent, Attorney Wendolowski, District Solicitor, Board Members, Joseph Caffrey, Dino Galella, John Quinn, Rev. Shawn Walker, Ned Evans, Brian Costello, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Miss Katsock informed the Board that the next meeting of the LIU is scheduled for February 24, 2016.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Quinn informed the Board that there is no meeting scheduled for the Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center in the month of February.

There was no **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

BUDGET FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Miss Katsock presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the below listed payments:

Contractor	Project	Fund	Cert/Appli. Invoice #	Payment Due
Borton Lawson Architecture	Mackin Renovation	Capital Projects	14	\$42.86
G.R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc.	Mackin Renovation	Capital Projects	10	\$3,040.00
C-K Alarm Systems	Mackin Renovation	Capital Projects	80048	\$12,508.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School	Capital Projects	07	\$3,208.40
Borton Lawson Architecture	New High School	Capital Projects	08	\$24,879.60
TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School	Capital Projects	08	\$18,510.00
WKL Architecture	New High School	Capital Projects	08	\$44,010.31
TGL Engineering, Inc.	Coughlin High School Demolition	Capital Projects	03	\$14,750.00
Borton Lawson Architecture	G.A.R. Drainage & Retaining Wall	Capital Projects	04	\$279.30
Fabcor, Inc.	G.A.R. Drainage & Retaining Wall	Capital Projects	04	\$78,697.35

2. That the School District's operating budget for the 2015-2016 school year be revised, to reflect the following changes:

Account No.	Description	Amount
10.2420.610	Medical, Material & Supplies	-\$300.00
10.3390.610	Crossing Guards, Supplies	+\$300.00

B. FEDERAL

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1477-1481 and Federal Wire transfer 201500456 from November 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015 and Chapter I AP checks #1489-1502 and Chapter I Wire Transfers 201500447-201500455 were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 11, 2016 be approved.

- C. That payment be approved for the following General Fund Wire Transfers #201510296-201510311 and General Fund checks, #41298-41499 and Food Service Checks 2710-2726 which were drawn for payment since the last regular meeting of the Board of Education held on January 11, 2016.

- D. That the checks listed on the following pages #41500 to 41767 which have been inspected be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

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

9 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Nay: Katsock: C & D

Miss Katsock informed the Board and those present at the Board Meeting that a Budget Finance Committee Meeting was held on January 29, 2016 and there will be a Budget Finance Committee Meeting scheduled every two weeks. Miss Katsock noted that there will also be public Budget Finance Committee Meetings and she encourages all stake holders within the Wilkes-Barre Area School District to attend.

There was no **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Thomas informed the Board that Michelle Williams, Director of Federal Programs, along with Office Brian Lavan, WBASD Chief Resource Officer, have secured grant monies to hire an additional Resource officer for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to enter into a contract with Sargent Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 193, Jim Thorpe, PA to perform an environmental abatement for asbestos at Elmer L. Meyers Jr./Sr. High School at a cost of \$12,750.00. This award is based upon the recommendation of the Apollo Group, Inc., the District's construction manager

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

9 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

There was no **TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPORT

Rev. Walker informed the Board that the Building Maintenance Committee is meeting on a regular basis and progress is being made in addressing and correcting current building maintenance issues.

There was no **LEGISLATIVE /FEDERAL REPORT**

MATERIAL SUPPLIES REPORT

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

1. That the Purchasing Agent be authorized to advertise for a Request for Proposal for the following:

PRINT MANAGEMENT SERVICES
(Copiers and printers)

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Miss Katsock, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Personnel Committee Report

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

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

A. Professional

1. That **Dora Lynn Samartzis'** request for unpaid leave beginning January 21, 2016 be approved.
2. That **Sara Gorman** be appointed a secondary art long term substitute for the second semester of the 2015-16 school year.
3. That **Heather Vincarelli** be appointed a temporary professional as a school nurse.
4. That **Molly Gorman** be appointed a secondary math long term substitute for the second semester of the 2015-16 school year.
5. That **Joey James**, who will have been a day to day substitute for over 90 days in one position on January 22, 2016, be appointed a half day long term substitute effective August 31, 2015.
6. That **Michael Mitchel** who will have been a day to day substitute for over 90 days in one position on January 25, 2016, be appointed a long term substitute effective September 1, 2015.
7. That **Amanda Butch** who will have been a day to day substitute for over 90 days in one position on January 20, 2016, be appointed a long term substitute effective August 27, 2015.
8. That **Erin Gerrity** who will have been a day to day substitute for over 90 days on January 20, 2016, be appointed a long term substitute effective August 27, 2015.

9. That the following professional employees be appointed as after-school School Intervention Grant (SIG) Teachers at an hourly rate of \$25:

Elementary

It is estimated that there is a need for a total of 1580 teachers' hours, those hours will be divided among the following:

Sandy Atherton

Sandra Marinko

Susan Augello

Lauren Medvec

Cynthia Craig

Anthony Mercadante

Dionne Fisher

Darlene Payne

Christina Grendzinski

Kristen Pstrak

Diane Grochowski

Keli Shanahan

Mary Louis Harris

Amy Sullivan

Jessica Hendler

Daniel Volpetti

Kelly Jackson

Leah Zelinka

Secondary

It is estimated that there is a need for a total of 224 teachers' hours, those hours will be divided among the following:

Corinne Gawelko

Heather Green

Diane McFarlane

Tamera McMahon

Erin Gerrity

MaryAnn Rizzo

B. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That the retirement of **Peg Mihal** be accepted with regret effective the last day of the 2015-16 school year.
2. That **Patricia Kondracki's** request for leave, a combination of paid and unpaid, beginning on approximately February 8, 2016 for a period of approximately 9 weeks be approved.
3. That the following employees be appointed as after-school School Intervention Grant (SIG) Teachers' Associate:

Betsy Carey

Michelle Conahan

Mary Clair Corcoran

C. Custodian

1. That **Evan Plantamura** be appointed a substitute custodian.

D. Crossing Guard

1. That **Joyceline Laurent** be appointed a substitute crossing guard.
2. That **Michael Mcdade** be appointed a permanent crossing guard.
3. That **Anthony Miles** be appointed a permanent crossing guard.

E. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Teresa Popielarski** as Coughlin's varsity head boys' tennis coach be accepted with regret.
2. That **Mykel Dempsey** be terminated as the GAR boys' basketball junior high head coach effective January the 19TH, 2016.
3. 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	Softball	Junior High Assistant Coach	Kendra Hayward
Coughlin	Softball	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Marissa Ross
Coughlin	Boys' Tennis	Varsity Head Coach	Christopher Buzinkai
Coughlin	Boys' Tennis	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Teresa Popielarski
Meyers	Swimming	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Emily Cook

ADDENDUM

A. Security Greeters

1. That the resignation of **Shariah Stacy Dunn** be accepted with regret effective February 10, 2016.

B. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That **Donna Hooker's** request for unpaid leave beginning January 22, 2016 through the end of the school year be approved.

C. 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.

G.A.R.	Boys' Basketball	Interim Jr. High Head Coach	Carlo Thomas
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Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Galella, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

9 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Evans presented Resolution No. 1

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the recent death of **WILLIAM (BILL) COBURN** has brought sorrow to his family, friends, and all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, he is the father of Barbara Davis, Production, Print and Postal Services Coordinator for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, father in-law of Thomas Davis retired secondary teacher for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; and

WHEREAS, his passing on January 21, 2016 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 Irene; his daughter, Barbara and her husband Tom, his son, Robert ; and to his entire family.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
February 8, 2016

Mr. Evans moved, to accept Resolution No. 1 by Acclamation.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

Mr. Geiger presented Resolution No. 2

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the recent death of **CATHERINE L. ROUGHSEDGE** has brought sorrow to her family, friends, and all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, she was a teacher associate, for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; and

WHEREAS, she is the mother of Diane Lorenzotti, secondary secretary, grandmother of Corey Hanson, secondary teacher and Meyers High School Jr. High Athletic Director, Olivia Hanson Richart, paraprofessional, Erica Goyne, ESL Elementary teacher, Todd Jones, Instructional Technology teacher, mother in-law of Lois Roughsedge, para professional, and grandmother in-law of Marsha Hanson, elementary teacher; and

WHEREAS, her passing on January 12, 2016 will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that her 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 her daughters, Diane, Marilyn, and Patricia, her sons, William, David, C. Thomas; and to her entire family.

Wilkes-Barre, PA
February 8, 2016

Mr. Geiger moved, to accept Resolution No. 2 by Acclamation.

New Business

Mr. Quinn moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to authorize the Superintendent, Business Manager and Solicitor to immediately begin the process of attempting to negotiate, with Panzitta Enterprises, for a Lease Purchase Agreement for the Times Leader Building that would be acceptable to the Department of Education and the Board of Education. The terms and conditions of any proposed Lease Agreement would require final approval by a majority vote of the Board of School Directors. Should the negotiations fail, or should the Department of Education not approve the proposed Lease Purchase Agreement, then the Superintendent, Business Manager and Solicitor are authorized to pursue the direct acquisition of the Times Leader property by direct purchase or by eminent domain. Any such acquisition would require final approval by a majority vote of the Board of School Directors.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

Prior to the vote, Miss. Katsock made the following statement:

Miss Katsock stated that she agrees that we need to house our Coughlin High School students somewhere and not engage in a split schedule. Miss Katsock noted that she has been crunching numbers since the last Board Meeting which include a proposal from Panzitta and the numbers do not make sense, they don't make sense from a business standpoint. Miss Katsock stated that she wonders that, who would take out a twenty year loan and only make 1.12 million dollars over twenty years, that does not make sense on paper. Miss Katsock further stated that if this is going to go forward, she (Miss Katsock) does not see a reason why Wilkes-Barre Area School District cannot get the Times Leader Building by eminent domain and do the construction work ourselves. Miss Katsock noted that the District should consider the old Plains Jr. High building, noting that she is also on the Board of the LIU and it has been discussed on that Board that if necessary, the Alternative Learning Center students can be moved to Lynwood. Miss Katsock firmly stated that she agrees that the Coughlin High School students need to be moved somewhere, however, she (Miss Katsock) will vote "NO" to the Panzitta proposal this evening.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Evans made the following statement:

Mr. Evans stated that he (Mr. Evans) understands that this is a major decision that the Board is making for thousands of students. Mr. Evans noted that there were options for the Coughlin High School students; modular, split schedule or the Times Leader Building. Mr. Evans stated that he weighed every option, considered what was in the best interest of safety for the students and is voting for, in his opinion the best option. Mr. Evans stated that he is voting "Yes" in regard to the Panzitta Proposal/Times Leader Building.

The vote was as follows:

7 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

2 Nays: Katsock, Walker

Rev. Walker stated the following:

Over the last 7 months I have heard the passionate pleas from you, the taxpayer, the concerned citizen, the parent, the student, the people of this WBASD. After taking your concerns into consideration, reflecting upon my own concerns as it relates to the motion currently passed to consolidate Meyers and Coughlin at the Washington Street site, I make a motion to this board that an indefinite moratorium be put on the consolidation project. This action will allow us to pause and consider other options that are more suitable for all, and I stress, all the people of this district.

Coughlin parents and children have spoken about the disruption a split schedule would bring to their lives. As a parent of two children in the district, I asked myself, "how would you feel? What would you do?" I wouldn't want it. I wouldn't want it for me and my wife. I wouldn't want it for my son and my daughter. Therefore, I don't want it for you.

SWB parents and children have spoken loudly and clearly regarding the closing of Meyers and the degradation this would cause to a community, the quality of education, and their quality of life.

I did not vote for this consolidation. I don't agree with it as I have previously expressed. The overwhelming majority of the people who elected us to serve also do not agree with the current consolidation and are having trouble fully understanding the consequences we must address immediately.

I strongly believe in the small neighborhood school model. This belief may have begun in my heart, but has been validated with my brain after extensive research. The country tried consolidation and is moving away from it as anticipated cost savings have not been realized. Research shows that consolidation in high poverty and high minority populations doesn't work. Our district has an 80 percent poverty rate and 48% minority. This leads me to believe that consolidation won't work here in our district. We rank towards the bottom in scores in the state and I fear our kids will fall even further if we consolidate.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

So, I urge you to approve this moratorium so we can get this right. Next, I implore you to consider a few options:

1. If we lease/purchase TL building, can we connect that to the annex and establish that newly renovated building tied into the annex as the new Coughlin? This will save the district 50 million dollars. The savings can be reallocated to address structural and other needs at the neighborhood schools in a phased and properly planned strategy rebuild or renovation plan.
2. Instead of utilizing the TL building, can we use the Bear Creek Elementary School and Plains Elementary School to house Coughlin 9th and 10th graders? This will save the district 20 million dollars. Moreover, it provides Coughlin parents and children a school to attend without major disruption. I also am interested in understanding the exact cost of implementation of temporary heating at the annex building. Up to this point, I have only heard why this can't or shouldn't happen from our design team. I would like to not just hear, but see, on paper and in writing from a company that provides this service, as to the feasibility of this option.
3. Finally, please consider the plan that I have presented via email to the Superintendent, Solicitor and Board President. This plan presents two options.
 1. Gold plan which maintains the three school neighborhood model, addressing building construction projects over an 8 year period, providing a firm foundation for generations to come.
 2. Silver plan – this plan is a full consolidation of all the area high schools at one location in Plains or SWB.

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Miss Katsock, to place a moratorium on all Building Projects.

The vote was as follows:

7 Nays: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Caffrey

2 Ayes: Katsock, Walker

Motion did not pass.

Communications from Solicitor

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motion:

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Evans, to approve the Settlement and Release Agreement as it relates to a Special Education student, C.H. The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Quinn, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Nay: Katsock

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

Dr. Prevuznak presented the following statement to the Board and those in attendance at the Board Meeting of February 8, 2016.

Some 50 years ago a boy was lead up the road by a curly dark haired man to a kindergarten class at the Calvin elementary school in the Parsons Section of Wilkes-Barre. And so began my journey as student in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and a life that has known no other way then this school district. For 35 years I have attempted to serve this district as a coach and teacher who taught in all 3 high schools as well the old Plains Junior High School, as an assistant principal and then principal at James M. Coughlin High School, and finally as a central office administrator for the last 14 years. And so today I announce my retirement from the Wilkes Barre Area School District.

My career has been filled with much joy in attempting to help others especially the children of this district, and I hope I have in some small way I contributed to both their happiness and accomplishments during their time as students in our schools.

I am very thankful for and have been blessed to have people who have supported me, mentored me, and cared about me along the way, many of whom are in this room today. I thank this Board of Education for their friendship and support. Your constant words of encouragement were an inspiration and a blessing to me. I thank our district directors, subject supervisors, coordinators, building administrators, secretaries, support staff, custodial and maintenance staff, security director, resource officers and all of our many employees who always were loyal to me and to the mission to provide a quality, professional environment to all our stakeholders. I thank our solicitor, our construction manager, and our design team for their assistance and perseverance in assisting me during these difficult times. I appreciate the presidents of our unions who helped me try to police and protect the integrity of unions that they represent. Additional recognition to the LIU 18 and our CTC directors for their friendship along with all the Superintendents from other districts who always kept my spirits high and my feet on the ground. Special thanks to the lady who always kept me on task and was the pit bull at the door, my work wife and protector Patty Wallace. Patty, words cannot describe your commitment to me and I am forever grateful.

There are three women who I must recognize. They prayed for me; give me their strength, support, and endless love. My wife, my mom, and my daughter. Thank you ladies. But more important, thank you all for

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

being Pro-Life and giving me the gift of grandchildren. To my brother I have no words, except the word itself, brotherly love.

To say that this journey has been easy is not accurate nor truthful; the last few years have given me very few moments of pleasure. Despite my leaving, I know this District will remain focused on the goals at hand and this Board of Education has the courage to move forward. And that is addressing the issues of tired, obsolete high schools, failing finances that will constitute the need to cut personnel in order to address an 8 million dollar deficit, and decisions that will prove unpopular with many of our stakeholders and citizens.

I retire with very few regrets. One of those regrets is not having the opportunity to see the completion of what was started. The fates were not in my corner to do so and I am disappointed, but not discouraged. My other regret is the fact that 3 men, who have helped shape the person I am today are not with me to hear this announcement. The first is the man who gave me the opportunity to begin my life's calling in the education field and that was Owen Costello. He hired me as playground instructor back in 1975. It began a lifetime friendship that endured and I am eternally grateful to him for that. The second person was a college professor Dr. Mathew Farrell, who challenged me to do more and strive to achieve my doctorate. The road to Temple University in Philadelphia after teaching all day was long at times but his encouragement and friendship kept me going. Finally the curly black haired man who took my hand and lead me to that first day of kindergarten back in 1962, my father. He always told me to stay positive and things are going to be just fine. I think of him often and he was with the angel on my shoulder during this perfect storm of challenges. He and my Mom never stopped believing in me and that has made all the difference in the world.

Although my official retirement date will not be until August, I wanted to give this Board, this District ample time to begin the transition phase in order to move forward with the search for a new superintendent and the possible restructuring process of this district. I will be available to serve this Board, this district, in assisting where ever possible over the next few months. Some may ask what does the future hold for me after being involved in education for so many years. Truthful, I want to step back, decompress, and then reflect on the last few years. I want to reflect on the positive gains that district has enjoyed during this

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
February 8, 2016

transitional period, as well the challenges that were inherited. Although opportunities have already been presented to me to stay involved from the standpoint of my educational background elsewhere, my family, and my friends has sacrificed greatly and I owe them the attention and the support they deserve. Their love has been unconditional, and they never wanted for anything else, except for me to find success, peace and happiness.

I know that this district will continue to produce fine young men and women who will continue to achieve great things and will continue to carry on the great traditions that were established in the past. And that is a hunger for learning, the desire to help others, and passion to see dreams fulfilled. Thanks to all who supported me during my tenure with prayers and well wishes. God bless and thanks for the memories.

Board Secretary Report

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

March, 2016

Committee Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2016 – 5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2016– 7:00 PM

Meeting location to be announced.

President Caffrey adjourned the Meeting at 9:03 PM