

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

Prior to the start of the March 5, 2018 Board Meeting, Superintendent, Dr. Costello, requested a moment of silence for the students, families and the community of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

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

Board Secretary Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Evans, Galella, Geiger, Patla, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 MEMBER ABSENT: Quinn

Note: Ms. Thomas participated via conference call.

President Caffrey stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Committee Meeting of March 5, 2018 and prior to the Regular Board Meeting of March 5, 2018.
- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

Ms. Patla moved, seconded by Rev. Walker, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 12, 2018 and dispense with the reading of those minutes.

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

Thomas F. Telesz, Business Manager/Board Secretary, presented the Treasurer's Report of January, 2018.

**WILKES-BARE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCES
MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2018**

GENERAL FUND

	\$
1 GENERAL FUND CHECKING - FNCB	(399,552.52)
2 GENERAL FUND CASH CONCENTRATION - FNCB	29,214,623.91
3 FEDERAL PROGRAMS - FNCB	319,035.63
4 FEDERAL PROGRAMS CHAPTER 1 -FNCB	731,370.70
5 FNB BANK	444,474.92
6 FNB BANK	74,064.66
7 JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT	1,692,863.84

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

8	PNC BANK	385,457.06	
9	LPL FINANCIAL	828,983.32	
10	EARNED INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-FNCB	58,202.41	
11	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT #1	11,766.32	
12	REAL ESTATE TAX ACCOUNT - FNCB		-
13	LANDMARK CD	466,417.90	
14	PLGIT EIT	828,241.85	
15	ATHLETIC FUND-FNB BANK	151,271.60	
16	PAYROLL CHECKING-FNCB	1,416,151.39	
17	PAYROLL CLEARING -FNCB		-

		\$	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	36,223,372.99	

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

		\$	
18	2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	15,416,282.11	
19	PNC BANK INVESTMENT	4,280,141.99	

		\$	
	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	19,696,424.10	

FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY

TRUST FUNDS:

		\$	
20	WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	168,433.70	
21	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE	338,058.92	

AGENCY FUNDS:

22	ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	140,971.12	
23	SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	317,929.42	

		\$	
	TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	965,393.16	

PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE

24	FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$	
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Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

		943,921.60
		.
		\$
	TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE	943,921.60
	DEBT SERVICE FUND	
		\$
25	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE	9,418.08
		\$
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	9,418.08
	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	
18	2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS CASH CONCENTRATION-FNCB	\$ 15,714,155.50
19	PNC BANK INVESTMENT	4,280,141.99
	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	\$ 19,994,297.49
	FIDUCIARY FUNDS - TRUST AND AGENCY	
	TRUST FUNDS:	
20	WHOLE LIFE GROUP TRUST-CITIZENS BANK	\$ 168,404.58
21	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS WHOLE LIFE	337,337.33
	AGENCY FUNDS:	
22	ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	127,971.25
23	SECONDARY ACTIVITY FUND-Landmark BANK	319,757.17
	TOTAL FIDUCIARY - TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS	\$ 953,470.33
	PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE	
24	FOOD SERVICE CHECKING ACCOUNT-Landmark Bank	\$ 1,658,425.64
		.
	TOTAL PROPRIETARY FUND - FOOD SERVICE	\$ 1,658,425.64
	DEBT SERVICE FUND	
25	COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENTS DEBT SERVICE	\$ 9,397.97
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$ 9,397.97

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Ms. Patla, to adopt the Treasurer's Report of January, 2018.
The vote was as follows:

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

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

Mr. Mike Krzywicki, Apollo Project Manager, presented information in regard to the status of WBASD current projects.

Report of the Superintendent

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the families and community members within the Broward School District after yesterday's horrific event. As information becomes more available to the public, it is becoming apparent that there were some disturbing images of this person on social media...I ask all of you today and tomorrow to take a moment out of your lessons and talk to each individual class about how important it is to contact a teacher, administrator, SRO, guidance counselor, authority figure...if they ever come across disturbing images on social media, hear conversations with the intent to harm anyone,...etc. Please stress the fact that no matter how irrelevant they think it is or even if what they see or hear may only be a joke, how important it is to let us know. Remind our students that when they provide us information like this, they will always remain anonymous and will not be in any type of trouble.

Over the next several days we will be holding faculty meetings to review our procedures and make sure all staff understand what we need to do in the event of an active shooter. As important it is to have our students inform us of information, it is also imperative that you contact your administration when you see possible security issues happening within your building. For example, if a door is left open during the day or you witness a visitor entering the building without going through our metal detectors or perhaps not having their bag (purse) checked please let us know...As a reminder all doors to the outside should be locked at all times and visitors entering our buildings must go through the screening process.

We are currently working on a proposal to provide extra staff during the morning hours to be able to screen all students who enter the building (not just a random group). I will provide you more information with this when it becomes available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. It is when we all work together our schools become as safe as possible.

Communications from Citizens

1. Amy Basham
2. Richard Holidick
3. Nicholas Wiley
4. Bob Holden
5. Patrick Franckiewicz
6. Tio Marello
7. Paul Michael Horvath
8. Brian Kelly
9. John Suchoski
10. Kim Borland
11. Jack Nolan
12. Ruth Borland
13. Dave Wilson
14. Gabby Richards

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

1. Board should make a Resolution to allow students to use clear or mesh back packs.
2. There has been a decline in students completing homework assignments due to back packs not being allowed.
3. The fencing at Meyers is a safety issue if students need to exit a classroom in an emergency situation. Fence needs to be removed immediately.
4. Is the District renting or did the District purchase the fencing being used at Meyers High School?

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

5. Use caution tape instead of fencing.
6. Smaller schools are better for student's education.
7. The District can't afford a new Consolidated High School.
8. Board needs to get rid of the ridiculous Dress Code.
9. How many Board Members are aware that Meyers High School is designated a Historic Site?
10. The word on the street is that this Board does whatever they want.
11. The Pennsylvania Dept. of Education and the Historic Association are in favor of restoration of schools.
12. It takes too long to go through metal detectors.
13. Students do not feel safe.
14. Students should be involved in sports, sports gives them structure and keeps them off the streets.
15. Is grief counseling available to students and could there be a program implemented in which students counsel other students?
16. Students arrive on time for school and then are delayed when going through metal detectors, resulting in students being late and missing first class period.
17. Security greeters permit students to go into building when metal detectors beep and one security greeter stated he/she does not know how to use wand, resulting in students feeling unsafe.
18. Why are the Vo-tech and athletes the only students permitted to have bags?
19. Hope the security at the new school is better than the security at Meyers.
20. Does the Board consider how most citizens feel about the consolidated school?
21. People are moving out of the city because of taxes and are against building a new school.
22. How did the current schools condition get so bad and who will maintain the new school?
23. WBASD does not have an architect so how can you monitor construction?
24. Hire people to repair Meyers and Coughlin High Schools.
25. Why are garbage bags placed on the windows on the inside of Meyers High School auditorium?
26. Armed Resource Officers were not effective at Parkland or Columbine, all risks cannot be eliminated.
27. What are the operating costs of the new high school?
28. Meyers High School is sustainable.
29. What is the projected operating budget for the new high school as compared to maintaining three high schools?
30. What is the target date for the completion of the new high school?
31. What is the tax benefit in regard to consolidation?
32. Students get more out of sports than wins/losses. Participating in sports is a positive place to be after school. Many Districts are going through the same thing in regard to decline in number of students participating in sports.
33. Not all students will be able to participate in sports if they are consolidated.
34. Refreshing to hear from teachers. Teachers have strong feelings and do not feel free to talk, they are in fear of retribution.
35. The Board needs to let everyone know their voices can be heard.
36. The Board and Community need to work together.
37. The mission of the Board is to educate. The Board has not provided any information that a consolidated school will provide a better education.
38. The Public needs to hold the Board accountable. The Board does not listen to the members of the Community. The Board cannot be trusted.
39. Is there an operating Budget?
40. The fence at Meyers High School needs to be removed.
41. There is no plan in place for an active shooter situation.

Superintendent, Dr. Brian Costello, and Board President Joseph Caffrey, responded to questions/statements presented by the Citizens who addressed the Board.

There was no Unfinished Business

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Mr. Galella stated the next meeting of the LIU will be held on March 28, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

No report

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Galella presented the following:

CURRICULUM REPORT

National Grade-Level Reading Council of Champion Nominee: Dr. Costello and Dr. Koury are being recognized for all of their efforts in taking steps toward improving student success through the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (GLR), a nationwide movement to increase early reading proficiency. The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a collaborative effort between The Wilkes-Barre Area School District, United Way, and other business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that children from low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and for an active citizenship. The plan focuses on addressing the three underlying challenges that can keep young children, especially those from low-income or stressed families, from learning to read proficiently: school readiness, attendance, and summer learning.

TAG In Program Update: This past summer, we partnered with the United Way and offered a summer reading program at Kistler Elementary School from June until August, when teachers tag out and parents tag in. The program was an eleven-week program aimed at ending the “summer slide” in reading by providing the parents and students with a weekly reading activity that is completed together, as a family, if possible. At the end of the eleven weeks, 70 families successfully completed the program and were awarded with an ice cream party and other rewards. After conducting some research, we realized that more families wanted to participate but did not have the resources to do so. To eliminate this obstacle for this summer, in partnership with the United Way, we will be having a Free Book Fair for all of the students at Kistler Elementary School.

Free Book Fair: All students at Kistler Elementary School will be attending a book fair whereby they will have thousands of books, addressing various interests and reading levels, to look through. They will be given the opportunity to select ten books to take home for free. They will be encouraged to read these books as part of the TAG In Program. (Books are provided by the United Way)

Osterhout Library: The United Way of Wyoming Valley is teaming up with Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Osterhout Free Library to support a public library and school district partnership in an effort to engage kindergarten and first grade students in school-based library services. This is in response to the furlough of Wilkes-Barre Area School District school librarians. Community librarians will support lessons that incorporate or enrich what students are learning in the classroom.

The new partnership will also enhance the reading attitudes and abilities of kindergarten and first grade students, provide equitable access to library resources and materials, and increase the visibility of the Osterhout Free Library in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District elementary schools.

Dinner For Kids: We were able to bring this program to Flood Elementary School for students at risk. They are provided with free, freshly prepared, kid approved nutritious and balanced dinners in microwave-safe containers, accompanied by fresh fruit. The program delivers six meals a week to each child and his/her siblings. This is a year

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

round program whereby the impact of this service is significant. The children do not go to sleep hungry, there is improvement in their behavior, learning ability, and school attendance.

Attendance Awareness Project: Attending school regularly is essential for students to gain the academic and social skill they need to succeed. The United Way of Wyoming Valley has partnered with Dodson Elementary and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading to sponsor an Attendance Awareness poster contest. The students will use his/her creativity and illustrate what good attendance looks like and means to them. There will be one winner per grade (7 winner's total) and the prize will be 4 tickets to an event at the Kirby Center in April. Judges will choose the winner on Friday March 2, 2018.

Lessons in a Lunchbox: Wilkes-Barre Area School District teamed up with the Benco Family Foundation and Benco Dental to provide all of our kindergarten to second grade students with Lessons in a Lunch Box. The lunch box was designed to reinforce dental facts and proper dental hygiene. It also contained toothpaste, toothbrush, and dental floss. Before the students received his/her lunchbox, an oral health education program was presented by volunteers from The University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Wilkes University, and The Children's Oral Health Institute.

Operation Warm Coat: Wilkes-Barre Area School District teamed up with the Wilkes-Barre Area Firefighters, Police Department, and Paramedics this winter and provided our kindergarten students in need with new coats, hats, and gloves.

Strengthening Families Program: This program is offered to the students and families of fifth and sixth graders in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. It is a research/evidence based program run in coordination with Penn State and the United Way. It is geared at helping to improve family communication skills and give them the tools and skills needed to help ease the transitions and better face the challenges that the youth and families will face as the students move on to middle school and adolescences. Some topics covered include resiliency, peer pressure, love and limits, substance abuse, community resources, identifying family strengths, etc. This program consists of seven sessions that all begin with a family meal. Following the shared meal, the group breaks up into two different break out groups for the first hour: 1) youth, 2) parents. During this hour these groups work on specific age-appropriate topics and incorporate fun activities, videos, and discussions into the session. For the second hour of the program, the families come back to work in a joint session honing their skills and for family/group bonding activities. This year we also had the gym teachers from both Dan Flood and Dodson trained to facilitate the Life Skills Program, which is a research based Drug and Alcohol prevention program. The studies have shown that when this prevention program is used in conjunction with The Strengthening Families Program, the results are substantial. The Life Skills curriculum is being used this year with the fifth grade students at both Dan Flood and Dodson.

Opioid Prevention Assembly: DJ Choices along with Geisinger Health Plan teamed up to develop and present an assembly on opioids to all 7th-12th grade students in January and February. The show began with DJ Choices capturing the students' attention by playing popular music videos on large screens accompanied with a spectacular light show. This engaging entertainment was then mixed with important educational statistics and graphics related to the dangers and consequences of using drugs which led into true stories about families which have been devastated by drug addiction. DJ Choices then revealed a heartfelt surprise to the audience and the show concluded following a brief questions and answer session.

School-Wide Behavior Support Program: This program was introduced to the students through grade level presentations by the school psychologist and school counselor introducing the students to the new school-wide rules and outlining our behavioral expectations. We also shared with the students the incentive programs brought about through this program including the earning on "school money" to be used at our school store and earning a golden ticket to go onto the Principal's 200 Board and receiving a positive phone call home sharing their accomplishment with the student's family. After this kickoff event, the classroom teachers were given lesson plans to teach in their homerooms helping to guide their students in understanding the school rules, practicing the appropriate behaviors, and completing fun activities, such as role-plays, in order to gain experience applying what they have learned. The

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

school-wide rules are reinforced daily over morning announcements and the rules matrix is posted in every classroom throughout the building. Every week students who earned “school money” through “being caught” demonstrating appropriate behaviors and following the rules are invited to the school store to purchase fun items rewarding their success.

Bullying Prevention Month: The elementary schools celebrated Bullying Prevention Month with a variety of engaging, informative, and enlightening activities aimed at helping students learn to stand up to bullying and create a peaceful, kind school environment for all. Kistler participated in the “GO Blue” day in which all students wore blue shirts and a drone took a picture of the entire student body as they formed a peace sign and a heart outside in front of the building. The students also listened to “The Juice Box Bully” and signed a pledge standing up to bullying. Other activities during the month included, teaming up together in which older and younger students worked together to read anti-bullying stories, the “walk away” parade in which students wore socks/sneakers to show their individuality and practiced the act of walking away from bullying, dressing in super hero shirts to show how to be a hero by reporting bullying, the dedication of a Buddy Bench in the school, and the beginning of the Kistler “Rocks” – Garden of Kindness initiative in which students submit kind sayings to be selected to be engraved on stepping stones that will be planted in our Garden of Kindness around the school’s flag pole.

Free Vaccine Clinic: Through a cooperative effort by Dr. Costello, Dr. Koury, Angelo Marino, and Dr. Maria Edwards of The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education in Scranton, a free-of-charge Vaccine Clinic during the summer of 2018 will be offered for any students of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District who are in need of any State-required vaccines for attendance in school. This will provide another convenient avenue for our students to obtain free vaccines to be in compliance with state law and, more importantly, be healthier adolescents. While the details of this clinic are still being ironed out, it is yet another example of our Medical Department and District finding opportunities for our students and the school community to be healthier!

Updated and Ongoing Training of our Nurses: With the rejuvenation of our Medical Department, through new hires and a newly appointed Director of Nursing, the focus of our recent continuing education seminars and in-services has not been just about the normal updates in the care of students with diabetes, seizures, asthma, etc. The focus has shifted to more current and relatable topics for the nurses, such as Mental Health Crises in Adolescents, Active Shooter Scenarios, Narcan Use in the School Setting, and Medical Marijuana Rules and Regulations in Pennsylvania Schools. Through a cooperative effort with our School Resource Officers (SRO’s), the Medical Department has acquired new Emergency “Go Bags,” which have supplies necessary for emergency treatment during an evacuation or in a traumatic situation and will be implementing a Mobile Emergency Response Plan (MERP) program as a cell phone application and for use in emergent situations. With upcoming in-service topics like The School Nurse’s Role in Traumatic Events, Stop the Bleed and updated, hands-on CPR/First Aid Certification, we are preparing for situations which we hope to never face but will certainly be prepared for in an attempt to keep our students and faculty family members safe.

PDE Research: PDE sent a letter inviting a team of ESL teachers, from Wilkes Barre Area School District, to join DASA. The Data Analysis and Support Academy (DASA) is a process to help schools design customized, smaller scale, data-based solutions to improve EL achievement. The team has been conducting research to reduce communication barriers between teachers and parents of English Language Learners. Data is continuously being collected, and the team will work throughout the remainder of the school year to complete the Action Phase of the research.

Parent Outreach: Ensuring effective communication between the school and the parents is essential to meet the child’s educational needs. The first and most important thing schools can do is to establish outreach programs to the parents. With the increase of families who do not speak English, there is a need for this type of class for the parents. We offer an adult ELD class for parents of students in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The class meets twice a week at Heights Elementary School and runs October-May.

Wilkes University Interpreters: The ELD department has established a partnership with Wilkes University whereby our district is able to acquire volunteer interpreters to aid in parent-teacher conferences.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

Harvest Festival: The 7th annual FACES (Family and Community Enrichment Services) of Wilkes-Barre Harvest Festival was held at Heights Elementary School on November 2nd. Once again, the festival was open to everybody in the community and included free turkey dinners, carnival games, free snacks, a D.J., and representatives from community agencies providing proactive information to our students and families regarding services they provide. Some of the community agencies/leaders that were in attendance included Children's Service Center, State Police, Fire Department, Wyoming Valley Drugs and Alcohol, YMCA, NAACP, Victims Resource Center, First Hospital, The Bridge, and the United Way, just to name a few. F.A.C.E.S. of Wilkes-Barre focuses on a proactive approach to the mental health and wellness of our students and their families. One of the key components of this initiative is community and family outreach, focusing on strengthening our community partnerships and family-school relationships.

Kindness Climate: As of Monday, October 23rd, Dodson Elementary School kicked-off a *Kindness Climate!* By adopting the philosophy of *Pay it forward*, we are giving our students the opportunity to participate in a year-long program which enhances their understanding of giving by doing a good deed for someone and expecting nothing in return—instead, the receiver is encouraged to pay it forward. October's scheduled activities included kindness paper chains, research local charities, guest readers, chalk-fest (positive messages), and King and Queen of Kindness.

PAYS Survey- Students in grades 7th -12th completed a survey that measures risk and protective factors. PAYS provides an important benchmark for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and delinquent behavior among district use. This information allows school and community leaders to prioritize prevention targets and to direct prevention resources to areas where they are likely to have the greatest impact.

School Climate Survey: All educators in the district completed a survey to investigate perceptions of school climate and help determine additional needs the district can address.

King's College Juvenile Justice Mentoring Program: For students in grades 6th-12th, ages 12-17. This is an innovative peer mentoring program for Luzerne County juveniles who are first times non-violent offenders, have truancy issues, or other students who may be taking part in high risk behaviors. College students under the supervision of College faculty provide one-on-one mentoring on homework and provide opportunities for the juveniles to be exposed to a variety of educational, vocational, and community based activities.

Road Radio USA Assembly: This assembly was presented to all 9th grade students in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District in May, as well as 7th and 8th grade students at Solomon Junior High. It is aimed at steering students from substance abuse and other dangers by using a fun blend of live entertainment, popular music videos and a spectacular light show. The show began with a DJ playing popular music videos on a large screen mixed with spectacular lighting effects. Messages and statistics about the dangers that students face are mixed in as well. Near the end of the program, personal stories were told by people who have experienced these tragic events first hand and about the ongoing consequences they continue to suffer from bad choices made. Finally, the show wraps up with questions from the audience

Attendance HERO Program: In order to strive to improve our school's attendance rates, an attendance incentive program was created. Every day, the names of our school's HEROs, those classrooms that have all students Here Every Day Ready and On time, are announced over the intercom. As part of this program, every day that a homeroom has perfect attendance (including no tardies or early outs) that classroom earns a letter. When they earn all of the letters in the word "attendance" they will receive a class wide reward. Also, on a daily basis, we select three student names from the classes with perfect attendance and announce those HEROs names over the loud speaker and call them to the office for a certificate and small reward.

District STEM Parent Information Night: Students and Parents of current and potential STEM students (must be currently in 8th grade Algebra 1) from Meyers, GAR, Solomon and Bear Creek are invited to tour the STEM classrooms, meet current STEM students and the teachers.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

Junior Jump Start: E.L. Meyers/ GAR/ Coughlin Guidance Department, along with PHEAA, and local admissions counselors will be conducting a Junior Jump Start for College in the spring. PHEAA and Counselors talk to junior parents and students about what is expected over senior year through financial aid and college applications.

FAFSA Completion Night (Meyers): PHEAA and Educational Talent Search representatives are on hand in October to assist senior parents and guardians with filling out the FAFSA form. King's College also provides interpreters for our Spanish speaking families.

Partnership with Luzerne County Community College: In October our senior students from Meyers/ Coughlin and GAR take part in LCCC Instant Admissions Day. Admissions Counselors from LCCC are at each school to meet with seniors to complete the LCCC application and students receive their acceptance letters that day.

McGowan Hispanic Outreach High School Mentoring Program-Pathways to College:

This is a program for Hispanic high school sophomores & juniors who want to continue their education after high school in a college or university. The program provides the opportunity for the participants to meet with King's College students, and staff once a week for approximately 1 hour. There will be a variety of activities during the sessions. Some of the sessions will focus on mentoring, which means that the college students will be sharing with you some insights about college life: deciding on a major; courses and course workload; professors' expectations; living away from home. Other sessions will be academically focused, helping you improve your literacy and math skills, and getting you ready for college entry tests like the PSAT, SAT or ACT.

Those participants who show a strong interest in continuing their education will be invited to attend a three-week summer residential program at King's College.

The McGowan Hispanic Outreach High School Mentoring Program and the summer residential program are free.

Educational Talent Search (Meyers/GAR Program): This program is for all students interested in exploring post-secondary options. Weekly meetings are held on Mondays during lunch period in the library. ETS students will be learning about Hot Jobs, College Planning, Post- Secondary Options, Financial Literacy and study skills. ETS participants have the opportunity to shadow professionals, connect with a mentor as well as visit college campuses.

Potential Lesson Schedule

- Financial Literacy-January
- Study Skills-February
- Post-Secondary Options- March Madness
- Field Trips- April
- Career Exploration- May

SAT Lunch and Learn for Juniors: Once a week, for five weeks, lessons are taught during lunch time for all interested.

SIG after school Tutoring Program: 7th and 8th grade students meet after school on Tuesdays and Wednesday to receive a supplemental academic program which targets reading and math.

Student Participation in the Strengthening Families Program: Meyers students participate in The Strengthening Families Program. During these sessions, the elementary students participating in Strengthening Families team up with a "youth panel" made up of approximately five high school students. This is a time for them to talk and ask questions about high school and gain insight from the panel's experience.

Meyers/Coughlin Ambassador Program: Meyers and Coughlin students assist the guidance office with welcoming new students. Students meet students and provide an extensive tour of the classrooms and important areas of the school. They meet new teachers and our bilingual students assist with translation and mentorship. This new program is part of a "Transition Program" that we have in place to help new students grade students become more confident in this time of transition

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our Peers Excel): The senior National Honor Society Members volunteer weekly to assist in a peer tutoring / mentoring program.

Career Decision Making Workshop with O'net Interest Inventory: This workshop is for the undecided career changer that is looking for a starting point. The workshop includes an Interest Inventory to identify your Holland Occupational Code. From there we look to the High Priority Occupation List (HPO) as well as other market trends to determine future growth trends.

Hot Jobs of the Future with Financial Aid: This workshop combines all hot careers using the High Priority List for Pennsylvania. It also includes information on salaries and job growth potential. The financial aid portion covers how to pay for a degree program as well as explaining student loans, grants, and scholarships.

Matching My Skills to Today's Workforce: This workshop employs the Covey principles of "sharpening your saw" and filling your toolbox with skills and education needed to succeed in today's high demand occupations. The workshop includes resources for improve skills to meet employer's expectations.

College Fair: Meyers/Coughlin and GAR take all juniors to King's College for the annual college fair every spring. Each student has about an hour to explore over 100 different colleges and universities from all different states. Beforehand, the students are given a list of colleges/ universities that will be in attendance and also prompted on the best way to tackle the fair.

Wyoming Valley Youth Salute: Meyers/GAR and Coughlin nominate juniors with a GPA of a 3.0 or higher and are involved with several activities that include school; religion and community. Each student represents the school and is showcased in a display around the Wyoming Valley.

Junior Achievement Biztown Program: Wilkes-Barre Area teams up with the Junior Achievement Program in order to obtain a business scholarship for our 5th grade students to participate in the Biztown Program. This program provides the students with the opportunity to learn about career readiness, the world of work, financial management, civics, and economics, various business/employment opportunities, the work skills/education needed to obtain a variety of career, and learning the importance of developing skills in order to grow as contributing members of society. After completing the classroom based curriculum, the students then attend a culminating field trip to Biztown where they use their skills to run the town for a day. The elementary students work collaboratively with high school students

Senior High Junior Achievement Biztown Program: Students from Meyers/Coughlin and GAR partner up with the perspective elementary schools to chaperone the 5th grade students through the important elements of economy, work readiness, financial literacy, and business management. Each high school student must complete an on-line training program to prepare and be able to understand the in-class curriculums and procedures.

Student Assistance Program: Each school has their own school-wide resource for students and families who are experiencing barriers to learning because of a variety of reasons which may cause concern. All referrals are confidential and can be placed in the concern box located in a different location in each school.

Career Development: This program is for the 10 and 11 grades to be used toward the requirements for Career Readiness Indicators. The 10th grade students worked with PA Career Cruiser with interest inventories, career & college planning. The 11th grade students will use the program for college and career inventories and college and career planning. The students will then be able with the assistance of the IU representatives in the Career Counseling department set up job shadowing for the winter/spring.

Wells Fargo Personal Finance Program: Mark Spatafora, from Wells Fargo provides a program for students about saving money, interest rates, and personal finance. Mr. Spatafora works within our Consumer Applications Math class for his presentations.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

Children's Service Center Small Group Counseling: Working with Children's Service Center, students are identified to participate in a weekly small group counseling experience. This group meets for an hour each week throughout the school year to help the group member. Weekly topics may include, but are not limited to anger management, impulse control, social skills, friendship, etc.

1. Revision and modification of Secondary Course Catalog.
 - a. Creation/modification of course sequencing documents which when finalized will be embedded in the Secondary Course Catalog.
2. On-going discussion with secondary building and administration regarding 7th & 8th grade Pathways course. Created a shared document with additional instructional resources for guidance and administration.
3. Monthly data meetings with building administration and data teams composed of grade level and department teachers to review building state and local assessments, identify building goals, and discuss strategies to improve instruction.
4. Addition of Chromebooks in major subject areas in grades 4 to 9.
5. In addition, to the Young Scholars Program, students are enrolled in the LCCC Early College program at G.A.R. and Meyers which allows students to take courses through LCCC.
6. 5th grade students at multiple schools took part in Junior Achievement which incorporated 10 economic lessons into elementary Social Studies classes and culminated with a trip to Biz Town where students were able to gain hands on experience regarding the material taught (operating a store, banking, etc.)
7. Elementary computer science curriculum to be incorporated into all elementary schools tied to ELA and Mathematics standards to foster higher order thinking. Students in grade 3-6 are receiving instruction in Computer Science and Digital Literacy through Code.org and Common Sense Media curriculum. Students are applying coding skills to robotics.
8. Elementary schools incorporating STEM elementary curriculum.
9. Continued participation in PA Trout in the Classroom Program in elementary and secondary science classrooms.
10. Implemented Computer Software Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Civil & Architectural Engineering Courses into STEM Academy Engineering Pathway.
11. In addition to Young Scholars Program, offered Forensics Study and Networking & Telecommunications courses through the Penn State Early College program at STEM Academy.
12. Secured Penneast Pipeline Grant which sponsored Wilkes-Barre Area STEM Summer Camp located at STEM Academy. Camp was offered to district students in grades 6-8.
13. Implementing Cybersecurity course into STEM Engineering Pathway beginning 2018-19 school year.
14. Piloted an elementary physical education equipment rotation to facilitate physical fitness in elementary gym classes while reducing district costs.
15. Started facilitating principal meetings via Google Hangouts to reduce travel time and expense.
16. Raising A Reader Grant (RAR) Year 2 - Enough books were donated so each kindergarten student would be able to take home 3 books per week and then rotate those books so that each student could have an opportunity to take 3 different books home each week during the school year. Dodson, Dan Flood, and Heights-Murray participated.
17. Twenty-two grade 6 elementary girls representing our elementary schools participated in hands-on, inquiry-based lab lessons at Wilkes University with college instructors and students during the spring semester for the 11th year
18. Students from Wilkes University's Biology Club visited our elementary schools to work with students with hands-on activities during 1st and 2nd semester
19. Students from Wilkes University Pharmacy department visit each elementary schools' 5th and 6th grade students to present on the importance of medication safety. Year 2
20. SPARKS Foundation funded by grants through UGI visited Dan Flood elementary to work with 4th grade on hands-on science. They will visit Dodson in May.
21. Distribute seedlings to every 3rd grade student in the spring through PA Game Commission.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

22. Data Invasion - supervisors/coordinators met with all 4-8 grade teachers, as well as some 3rd grade teachers individually to show them PVAAS data and Performance Plus data with critical reports to use in preparing lessons and instruction.
23. Used grant funds to provide all students, K-8, opportunity to use Sumdog, an online software program to improve computation skills, for a portion of the school year.
24. The Wilkes-Barre Area "College Ready Math" course has completed its fifth year of successful collaboration with Luzerne County Community College. This partnership has allowed students to graduate with two college math courses completed. Since beginning our partnership in 2014, several local school districts have implemented the same course including Nanticoke, Hanover, Crestwood and Wyoming Area. This year we have statistics that attest to the success that our students are having as they continue in their college careers.
25. Supervisors model and collaborate on lessons with teachers to implement best classroom practices.
26. Supervisors completing evaluations with fidelity providing feedback and suggestions to enhance and improve instruction.
27. Supervisors are using **TalentEd**, a streamlined platform for completing and warehousing teacher evaluations. Software program is funded through a grant.
28. Supervisors are using video in the math classroom to record lessons and reflect on teaching.
29. This year (2016-2017) we added AP Computer Science to our math curriculum.
30. Project Lead the Way (PLTW) has been added to the 8th grade math curriculum. Students work on learning advanced skills that will allow lead them into the world of computer science. They apply algorithms and learn to code leading them to develop their own APPS and learning the basics of computer programming.
31. All 7 - 12 math buildings have 7th and 8th grade math clubs. These clubs have been active in helping students learn math and take this knowledge to a higher level. Teacher advisors have been taking all students from all buildings to math competitions, field trips, including a visit to the Junior Achievement Center to participate in the "Finance Park" interactive math program and the "Math Counts" Competition.
32. The 7th & 8th grade gifted support students from Meyers and Solomon Junior High will again participate in the 2018 K'Nex STEM Design Challenge locally through the LIU#18. Last year Solomon students placed 1st and 3rd against all teams who participated. The 1st place team competed at the State Competition at Harrisburg University.
33. The 7th & 8th grade gifted support from Solomon Plains Junior High designed four interpretive signs currently displayed at EC's Askam Borehole AMD Treatment System.
34. College Board Pre-AP Algebra 1 Program for the 2018 - 2019 school year. We have been accepted into a cohort of 100 schools across the United States to implement this new program. The goal is to significantly increase the number of students who are able to access and complete college level work before leaving high school and to improve the college readiness of all students.
35. Implementation of the CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Tool) for the 2018-2019 school year in the secondary math department. This free tool is provided by the PA Department of Education to help teachers focus on individual areas of strength and weakness, then use this information to tailor lessons and activities that are more personalized and focused. The state provides released material in line with the state exams in an effort to help teachers access student progress throughout the year as they prepare for the PSSA and Keystone exams.
36. King's College Math Day Program: Sophomores and Juniors from GAR, Meyers, and Coughlin are attending lectures at King's, designed to provide the students with a true college experience.
37. Solomon 6th grade students visited a site off River Street in Plainsville to study acid mine drainage, effects of flooding, and wildlife in the area. Funded through a grant in partnership with EPCAMR (Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation).
38. Writing in the Math Curriculum: teachers and Administrators will attend training at PATTAN in Harrisburg focusing on writing in the Math classroom.
39. Heights Elementary implemented a Saturday tutoring program (RAISE- Reinforcing Academic Instruction for Student Excellence). RAISE is funded by a grant.
40. Meyers High School and Kistler Elementary continue the SIG program, after school tutoring in Math and ELA for Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Parent events are scheduled throughout the year. Funded by a grant.

Summary of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
March 5, 2018

41. District Literacy Program in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, in its sixth year, continues to support teachers and students through professional development, intervention and differentiated instruction during daily literacy block.
42. District Literacy Program continues to build the technology component with additional Ipads and literacy apps available for teachers and students; also, teachers have been provided additional center materials and resources for hands on intervention activities.
43. Incorporation of Career Readiness standards into curriculum across grade levels and departments.

BUDGET FINANCE /MATERIAL SUPPLIES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Apollo Group, Inc.	GAR Exterior Facade	Capital Project	AGI-15052-WBASP – PR13	\$304.20
Apollo Group, Inc.	Kistler Pool Roof Replacement Proj.	Capital Projects	AGI-17057-WBASP – PR4	\$321.10
Borton Lawson	Kistler Pool Roof Replacement Proj.	Capital Projects	2017-3091-004-0000004	\$805.00
Apollo Group, Inc.	CHS Auditorium Shop Debris Removal	Capital Projects	AGI-17054-WBASP-PR6	\$152.10
Borton Lawson	WBASP – Pagnotti Property – Phase II ESA	Capital Projects	2017-3091-003-0000006	\$292.45
Apollo Group	New High School Plains Site	Capital Projects	AGI-16045-WBASP PR12	\$9,857.46
Borton Lawson	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	2017-3091-001-0000005	\$33,494.95
TGL Engineering, Inc.	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	Inv. #3	\$27,000.00
WKL Architecture	New High School Design – Plains Site	Capital Projects	Inv. #4	\$78,060.00
Tetra Tech, Inc.	WBASP – Pagnotti Property – Phase II ESA Review	Capital Projects	Inv. #51285675	\$3,420.00

2. That approval be given to Plan Con Part C "Site Acquisition" materials/documents in respect to the New High School, project No. 3885 and that authorization be given to the Business Administrator to submit the document to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of School Facilities.
3. That approval be given to enter into an agreement of sale to acquire the 78+/- acre Pagnotti Parcel located in Plains Township at a purchase price of 4.25 million dollars subject to PDE approval. The Agreement of sale shall be negotiated by the Solicitor and subject to review and approval of the Superintendent and Business Manager.

B. FEDERAL

That, in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal AP Checks #1724-1727 and Federal Wire transfer #201700566 and Chapter I AP checks #1862-1874 and Chapter I Wire Transfers #201700557-201700565 were drawn for payment since the last regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on February 12, 2018 be approved.

C. That payment be approved for the following General Fund Wire Transfers #201710776 - #201710798 and General Fund checks, #47172-48330 and Food Service Checks #3085-3100 which were drawn for payment since the regular board meeting of the Board of Education held on February 12, 2018.

D. That the checks listed on the following pages #48331 to #48455 which have been inspected be approved and that orders be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

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

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

1 Nay: Patla – A – 1, 2, & 3

There was no **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Evans presented the following report:

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who were involved with the terrible school shooting that occurred in Florida. With these recent events, the Wilkes-Barre Area School District wants to reassure students, parents, and staff that the District continuously monitors and evaluates our Emergency Operation Plans and security throughout the District. During our monthly Safety and Security Committee meetings procedures were reviewed that are in place in the District.

The following procedures have been in place in our District to facilitate a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff members, and visitors.

A. Physical Security

- Door Control Methods – locking doors, electronic activated doors, and restricted doors
- Security Greeter Stations – monitor and control main doors for ingress and egress
- Video Surveillance System – video camera protection in all schools
- School Police/Resource Officer – the presence of law enforcement in all schools. Program started in 2000.

B. Prohibited Items Control

- Strictly Enforced Control Policies – Weapons, Alcohol and Drug Policies
- Metal Detectors – the use of stationary and mobile metal detectors in all schools.
- Education – all students are advised of the school district policies regarding prohibited items.
- Posting – the placement of warning signs dictating prohibited items or acts.

C. Access Control and Visitor Management

- Employee Identification System and Card Key Access.
- Security greeters check all visitors into all District buildings using the Raptor V-Soft Technology Visitor Management System.

D. Threat Assessment

- Annual Review of the School Emergency Operations Plans
- Annual Risk Assessments to include threat and hazards
- Crime Prevention established through our Memorandum of Understanding with Wilkes-Barre City and Plains Township Police Departments.

Recently, the District has updated its operational plans and guidelines providing electronic access to these materials through a secure electronic platform for administration and staff, providing faster access to these guides in an emergency.

Administration, teachers, and students participate in fire drills, emergency weather drills, evacuation drills, lockouts, lockdowns, and review active shooter protocols. The district has recently increased the frequency of some of these drills to ensure that all staff and students are informed and prepared.

In addition, over the past several years the Safe Schools Grants and School Police Officer Grants has allowed the District to increase and improve our security staff, equipment, and resources.

School Resource/Police Officers continue to work closely with administration and staff to improve and increase security measures. We cannot predict future events that may take place in the schools and the community however, through continued collaboration of all District stakeholders, we can attempt to provide the safest environment possible.

CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to enter into an agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for the Department of Education Project MOM/Young Fatherhood Initiative (ELECT) Grant. The district's prorated share of \$4,461.60 is based on the number of participating students as of January, 2018.

Mr. Geiger moved, seconded by Mr. Evans, to adopt the report. The vote was as follows:

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

There was no **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no **PATHWAY/NEW CONSTRUCTION/TRANSITION REPORT**

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. Professionals

- a. That the resignation of **Beth Anne Harris** be accepted with regret effective March 2, 2018.
- b. That the retirement of **Shelley Liva** be accepted with regret effective the last day of the 2017-18 school year.
- c. That **Dora Lynn Sims'** request for an unpaid leave effective February 21, 2018 for a period of 30 days be approved.
- d. That **Jennifer Yelen** be appointed a long term substitute teacher effective October 10, 2017 through March 13, 2018.

B. Custodians & Housekeepers

1. That the resignation of **Mark Sims** be accepted with regret effective February 21, 2018.
2. That **Robert Marcincavage** be appointed a 25 hour per week housekeeper.
3. That **Kaiden Hayward** be appointed a 25 hour per week housekeeper.

C. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

- a. That the retirement of **Linda Mullery** be accepted with regret effective the last day of the 2017-18 school year.
- b. That the retirement of **Valarie Delaney** be accepted with regret effective the last day of the 2017-18 school year.
- c. That the retirement of **Brenda Meli** be accepted with regret effective February 28, 2018
- d. That **Valerie Rostkowski** be terminated effective February 27, 2018.
- e. That **Jennifer Myers'** request for unpaid leave effective February 28, 2018 through March 2, 2018 be approved.

D. Security/Greeters

1. That **Jill Morris** be appointed a Substitute Security Greeter.

E. 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.

Coughlin	Boys Volleyball	Varsity Assistant Coach	Katlyn Cibello
Coughlin	Girls Lacrosse	Varsity Assistant Coach	Alissa Nugent
Coughlin	Girls Lacrosse	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Jack Robinson

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

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

There was no **New Business**

Solicitors Report

Attorney Wendolowski requested the following motions:

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Ms. Patla, to approve the proposal for Professional Evaluation Services submitted by Richard Krzywicki, to perform an appraisal for the School District at a price not to exceed \$3,500.00. The vote was as follows:

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

1 Nay: Patla

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

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

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Rev. Walker, to approve the Settlement and Release Agreement as it relates to Special Education student RB. The vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Caffrey announced that the April Regular Board Meeting will be held, Monday, April 9, 2018 at a location and time to be determined.

Board Secretary/Business Manager, Thomas Telesz requested the following motion:

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Ms. Patla, that the proposal from the Skyward Co. that houses the accounting and H.R. software, approve a three (3) year agreement to purchase Business Suite software, commencing July 2018. The vote was as follows:

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

President Caffrey adjourned the Meeting at 8:13 PM