

Summary of Minutes
Special Board Meeting
May 24, 2012

The Board of Education of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District held a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2012. **President, Maryanne W. Toole** called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

President Toole stated:

- The chair wishes to announce that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Special Meeting of May 24, 2012.
- THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATED SOLELY TO MATTERS OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR THREATENED OR ACTUAL LITIGATION.

Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey T. Namey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Secretary Leonard B. Przywara called the roll.

8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Corcoran, Elmy, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Quinn, Susek, Toole
1 MEMBER EXCUSED: Latinski

Board Secretary, Leonard Przywara, stated that Board Member, Phillip Latinski has provided a notarized "PROXY" for the Special Board Meeting of May 24, 2012, designating Board Member, Dino Galella, to vote on his behalf.

Communications from the Superintendent

At this time Dr. Namey read letters from: Patrick Patte, Principal of Coughlin High School, Colleen Robatin, Principal of G.A.R. High School and Anthony Schwab, Principal of Meyers High School. The letters stated the following: Coughlin High School has 135 males and 134 females, G.A.R. High School has 59 males and 57 females and Meyers High School has 80 males and 82 females, who have met the requirements of the State of Pennsylvania and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for high school graduation. They are hereby recommended for diplomas to be awarded on June 7, 2012 provided their academic performance, attendance and conduct are satisfactory for the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Miss Evans, to approve the 2012 Graduates of Coughlin, G.A.R. and Meyers High School. The vote was as follows:

All in Favor: Corcoran, Elmy, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Latinski (PROXY), Quinn, Susek, Toole

Communications from Citizens

1. Bob Kadluboski, 41 New Frederick Streets, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Mr. Kadluboski addressed the Board regarding the following:

a. Wilkes-Barre Area School District 2012-2013 Budget

Mr. Kadluboski asked if the entire Board had seen the Preliminary Budget.

b. Attorney Wendolowski's contract

Mr. Kadliboski requested a copy of any contract that exists for Attorney Wendolowski.

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Mr. Kadluboski also informed the Board that it was his opinion that the Board should not consider voting on any contract for Attorney Wendolowski until the legal issues relating to Attorney Lupas are resolved. Mr. Kadluboski also asked if any other Attorneys have inquired/applied for the position of Solicitor/Assistant Solicitor for Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Mr. Kadluboski additionally informed the Board that the rule in place , requiring Citizens who wish to speak at Regular/Special Board Meetings, which require Citizens to sign in 5 (five) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the Meetings is illegal and requested that the Board remove that requirement.

President Toole requested that Dr. Corcoran respond to Mr. Kadluboski's question regarding the Budget.

Dr. Corcoran responded to Mr. Kadluboski's inquiry as to whether or not the entire Board had reviewed the Preliminary Budget. Mr. Corcoran responded "no" to that inquiry.

President Toole responded to Mr. Kadluboski's inquiry regarding Attorney Wendolowski. Mrs. Toole informed Mr. Kadluboski that the Board has met with Attorney Wendolowski one (1) time in Executive Session and Attorney Wendolowski does not have a contract.

Dr. Namey responded to Mr. Kadluboski's question regarding letters of interest/application for the position of Solicitor/Assistant Solicitor. Dr. Namey stated that he had a single phone call inquiring if the School District was going to retain the legal services of both a Solicitor and Assistant Solicitor.

President Toole responded to Mr. Kadluboski's opinion in regard to the Citizens sign in sheet for all scheduled Board Meetings. Mrs. Toole informed Mr. Kadluboski that all Public Meetings are listed on the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Web Site and also listed are the rules and procedures for those Citizens who may wish to address the Board. Mrs. Toole also stated that the April Board Meeting minutes are available on the District Website and minutes of all Regular/Special Board Meetings scheduled after April 2012, will also be available on the District Website.

CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. That approval be given to accept the proposal, submitted by TCI Environmental Services, Inc., 100 North Wilkes-Barre Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA for inspection services for asbestos containing materials at Meyers High School, in respect to the water line replacement project. This approval is based upon the recommendation of the Apollo Group, Inc., the District's Construction Manager. The proposed services and associated, estimated costs are as follows:

Asbestos Material Inspection	\$1,365.00
Develop Specifications for Removal	2,380.00
Air monitoring/Quality Assurance	<u>3,755.00</u>
Total Budget Estimate	\$7,500.00

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Evans, to adopt the report.

At this time Miss Katsock asked if this was the final price and noted it did not state that in the report.

Board Secretary/Business Manager, Leonard Przywara, stated that it is the final price and he has the contract.

Attorney Wendolowski stated that the report should state "not to exceed \$7,500.00".

President Toole asked if Dr. Susek was willing to amend the motion.

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Evans, to amend the report to indicate the price is not to exceed \$7,500.00.
The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Elmy, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Latinski (PROXY), Quinn, Susek, Toole
1 Nay: Corcoran

At this time Board Secretary/Business Manager, Leonard Przywara, presented a "Power Point Presentation" regarding the 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget.

Miss Katsock asked Mr. Przywara how much money was going to be taken from the "Fund".

Mr. Przywara responded that \$2,257,682 would be taken from the "Fund" and stated that any savings that may occur during the 2012-2013 school year would be used to replenish the "Fund".

Miss Katsock asked how much was in the "Fund" prior to money taken out.

Mr. Przywara responded, \$7.9 million.

Miss Katsock noted that would then leave a balance of approximately \$5.7 million.

Miss Katsock asked if the Budget reflected additional revenue from a tax increase.

Mr. Przywara responded that it does reflect additional revenue from a tax increase.

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Miss Katsock noted that the Budget before the Board is removing \$2,597,628 from the fund balance, plus raising taxes.

President Toole asked if there was anything left over from the 2011-2012 Budget.

Mr. Przywara, after a lengthy discussion of the timing of Earned Income Tax Collections, ultimately informed President Toole that there was nothing left over from the 2011-2012 Budget.

President Toole asked if the term "Rainy Day Fund" is being used to refer to the fund balance.

Mr. Przywara responded yes.

Dr. Namey informed the Board that many School Districts are down to a near zero balance in their fund.

Mr. Galella asked if the Union agreed to a higher deductible in their health care Coverage, would that have a significant impact on the Budget.

The general consensus was that a higher deductible would have an impact on the Budget.

President Toole informed the Board that a meeting needed to be scheduled with the unions.

At this time the Board went on to discuss various options regarding cutting health care costs.

Dr. Corcoran presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, in accordance with law, prepared the following budget, of the amount of funds that will be required by the School District in its several departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013 in the amount of \$100,081,800.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District hereby presents the expenditures as hereinafter set forth during the fiscal year 2012-2013 and levies a tax of 15.7372 mills per dollar (\$15.74 per thousand dollars) of assessed valuation on real estate; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 29, 1971, providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the following taxes: (a) one (1) per centum on transfers of title of real estate; (b) a local services tax (formerly occupational privilege tax) of ten (10) dollars; (c) the earned income tax (wage tax) of one (1%) per cent; (d) the mercantile tax at the rate and under the terms and provisions set forth in the Resolution previously adopted; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 30, 1986 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the business privilege tax at a rate of one and one-half (1 ½) mills; re-enacts and /or continues in force the Resolution of June 26, 1987 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of a per capita tax of ten (10) dollars.

Wilkes-Barre, PA

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Dr. Corcoran motioned, seconded by Ms. Evans, to adopt the Resolution. The vote was as follows:

9 Nays: Corcoran, Elmy, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Latinski (PROXY), Quinn, Susek, Toole

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At this time President Toole noted, after checking with Attorney Wendolowski that the Budget needed to be passed by May 31, 2012.

Business Manager/Board Secretary, Leonard Przywara informed the Board that the Final Budget was required to be passed no later than June 30, 2012.

At this time Dr. Namey stated that this is a Preliminary Budget that can still be worked on until June 30, 2012.

After further discussion by the Board it was decided to amend the original Preliminary Budget Resolution.

Dr. Susek motioned, seconded by Mr. Galella, to amend Resolution # 1 to indicate eliminating the proposed tax increase and substitute additional funding through the use of the General Operating Fund Balance. The vote was as follows:

6 Ayes: Elmy, Evans, Galella, Quinn, Susek, Toole

3 Nays: Corcoran, Katsock, Latinski (PROXY)

Amended Resolution listed below.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, in accordance with law, prepared the following budget, of the amount of funds that will be required by the School District in its several departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013 in the amount of \$100,081,800.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District hereby presents the expenditures as hereinafter set forth during the fiscal year 2012-2013 and levies a tax of 15.3684 mills per dollar (\$15.36 per thousand dollars) of assessed valuation on real estate; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 29, 1971, providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the following taxes: (a) one (1) per centum on transfers of title of real estate; (b) a local services tax (formerly occupational privilege tax) of ten (10) dollars; (c) the earned income tax (wage tax) of one (1%) per cent; (d) the mercantile tax at the rate and under the terms and provisions set forth in the Resolution previously adopted; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 30, 1986 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the business privilege tax at a rate of one and one-half (1 ½) mills; re-enacts and /or continues in force the Resolution of June 26, 1987 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of a per capita tax of ten (10) dollars.

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Mr. Galella presented resolution # 2

**Resolution Supporting
Increased State Funding for K-12 Public Education
By the Board of Directors
of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's more than 1.8 million public school students deserve the highest quality education; and maintaining and supporting a 'thorough and efficient system' of public education is a constitutional obligation of the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District to provide for the education of its students in a manner that enables them to be college and career-ready upon graduation; and

WHEREAS, increases in recent years in state investment in K-12 education has resulted in sustained improvement in academic performance for students, as evidenced by these facts that show that Pennsylvania's public schools are succeeding:

- Pennsylvania currently ranks 7th among the 50 states for K-12 student achievement and 13th overall in a national report released in January 2012; and
- Pennsylvania's 2011 PSSA scores show that 94% of public school districts reached targets for Adequate Yearly Progress as required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act;
- The number of Pennsylvania public high school students taking and testing in an Advanced Placement course continues to increase each year, and the numbers of Pennsylvania students scoring a 3+ on AP exams continues to grow each year. In November 2011, Pennsylvania was awarded by The College Board as the state with the most public school districts named to its "AP Honor Roll" for expanding participation in Advanced Placement courses from 2009 to 2011, while increasing or maintaining the test results; and

WHEREAS, evidence of academic achievement in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District has been demonstrated by:

- All three (3) Wilkes-Barre Area High School have been awarded Bronze medals for excellence, by U.S. News and World Report for year 2012; and
- District wide, 17.3% participation in A.P. Testing with 38.3% pass rate; and
- Of the Graduating Seniors, 14 % named "Scholars with Distinction" with a cumulative GPA of 98% or higher; and
- Establishment of Remediation programs in Math and Reading with academic gains on Bench mark testing by more than 50% of participating students.; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for Pennsylvania to continue to make smart investments that improve the ability of our students to compete in the high-skills global economy without shifting the burden to the local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-13 state budget maintains basic education funding at 2008-09 levels, maintains level funding for special education for the fourth consecutive year although the costs for providing such mandated services continues to rise, and eliminates the Accountability Block Grant program; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-13 proposed state budget for K-12 education does not restore funds eliminated in the 2011-12 budget for charter school reimbursement, school improvement grants; education assistance programs, elementary science programs, and dual enrollment programs; and

WHEREAS, expectations and requirements for students do not diminish in times of economic difficulty, as exemplified by the need for school districts to meet rising targets in 2012 for proficiency on PSSA assessments, implement curriculum aligned with new Common Core standards, increase graduation requirements and administer Keystone Exams; and

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WHEREAS, no increases in K-12 education funding actually is a net loss for public education considering increases in costs out of the control of school boards, including pensions, prevailing wage requirements, unreimbursed charter school costs, rising healthcare and energy costs, and more; and

WHEREAS, the continued reduction of state funding for basic education further shifts the burden to the local property taxpayers and provide no mandate relief to school districts as a way of controlling costs; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wilkes-Barre Area School District strongly urges the General Assembly to take legislative action in the 2012-13 state budget to increase funding for K-12 education. Such increases include, at a minimum, additional funding for the basic education and special education subsidies, and restoration of funding for charter school reimbursement and Accountability Block Grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this district also urges the General Assembly to take action on meaningful mandate reform by the time the new 2012-13 state budget is enacted and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be posted on the district's website and submitted to the elected state senators and representatives of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

- Adopted this 24th day of May, 2012.

School Board President

Board Secretary

(seal)

Mr. Galella moved, seconded by Dr. Corcoran, to adopt Resolution # 2. The vote was as follows:
9 Ayes: Corcoran, Elmy, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Latinski (PROXY), Quinn, Susek, Toole

At this time Attorney Wendolowski asked the Board for a motion approving the filing of a petition for private sale of unused land adjacent to 63 West Carey Street, Plains, PA at a price of \$3,667.00.

Dr. Corcoran motioned, seconded by Dr. Susek, to approve the filing of a petition for a private sale of unused land adjacent to 63 West Carey Street, Plains, PA at a price of \$3,667.00. The vote was as follows:
9 Ayes: Corcoran, Elmy, Evans, Galella, Katsock, Latinski (PROXY), Quinn, Susek, Toole

Board Secretary, Leonard Przywara announced the following meeting schedule.

June - 2012

COMMITTEE MEETING:
MONDAY, June 11, 2012 – 6:00 PM

Followed by Executive Session

REGULAR BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, June 13, 2012 – 6:00 PM

Ms. Evans moved, seconded by Dr. Susek, to adjourn the Meeting.

President Toole adjourned the Meeting at 7:04 PM.