

11974
Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held this evening in the Secondary Center auditorium, 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643. Thirty people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Mr. Michael Supey, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Mr. Michael Supey, President
- Mrs. Kirby Kunkle, Vice President
- Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
- Mr. Peter Butera, Treasurer
- Mr. Philip Campenni
- Mr. Michael Kachmarsky
- Mrs. Kirby Kunkle
- Mrs. Rebecca Rutkoski
- Mrs. Mara Valenti

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, Cathy Ranieli, Secondary Center Assistant Principal, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Stephanie Anuszewski, Special Education Director, Angelo Falzone, Director of Transportation/Attendance, Michael Bugelholl, Director of Facilities, Mia Altavilla, Student Representative.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their regular meeting minutes of December 20, 2023.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center submitting their minutes of Joint Operating Committee meeting of December 18, 2023.
3. Maria Sabatini, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
4. Ballots from the Luzerne Intermediate Board to elect one director to fulfill the unexpired term of their district appointed and elected representative to the LIU Board.
5. Right to Know Request requesting copies of Wyoming Area Primary Center's policies and procedures related to the acquisition of goods & services from all vendors. Annual budget & expense details for 2021-2024. A list of all paid vendors, partners, contractors (including solicitors), itemize goods/services they provide & pricing and total amount paid to each vendor during timeframe requested & quantity of each item/service per year.
6. Brenda Bitters, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
7. Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
8. Karen Donati, Wyoming Area Baseball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraiser.

9. Employee #20408, Professional Teacher, requesting permission to take a maternity leave of absence.
10. Michael Crane, Wyoming Area Football Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
11. Right to Know request submitted for cost of Act 93 salaries/benefits, cost of potential fill of assistant to vice principal, AKA assistant principal of discipline and job descriptions and duties of all Act 93 positions.
12. Right to Know Request submitted for itemized list of goods/services procured regarding capital projects, competitive food or beverage contracts, pupil transportation, for fiscal years 2021-2024, policies to sell goods/services to Wyoming Area, all vendor names, phone numbers and email and annual budget & expense category breakdown/details for fiscal year 2021-2024.
13. Mindy Stevens, Wyoming Area Kindergarten Primary Center PTO, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
14. Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, requesting permission to rent the Primary Center auditorium/cafeteria and music room to hold their Spring show.

Summary of Applications Received

Special Education – 9

Cafeteria – 2

School Psychologist - 1

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. **Mrs. Pellegrini's kindergarten class enjoyed a dental program presented by Benco Dental. Ariel Baker did the program. She is a mom of a student in Mrs. Pellegrini's classroom. She taught the students how to correctly brush their teeth, how many teeth they have and how many times a year to see the dentist. She gave them all a goody bag with a toothbrush and stickers.**



Exeter, PA.

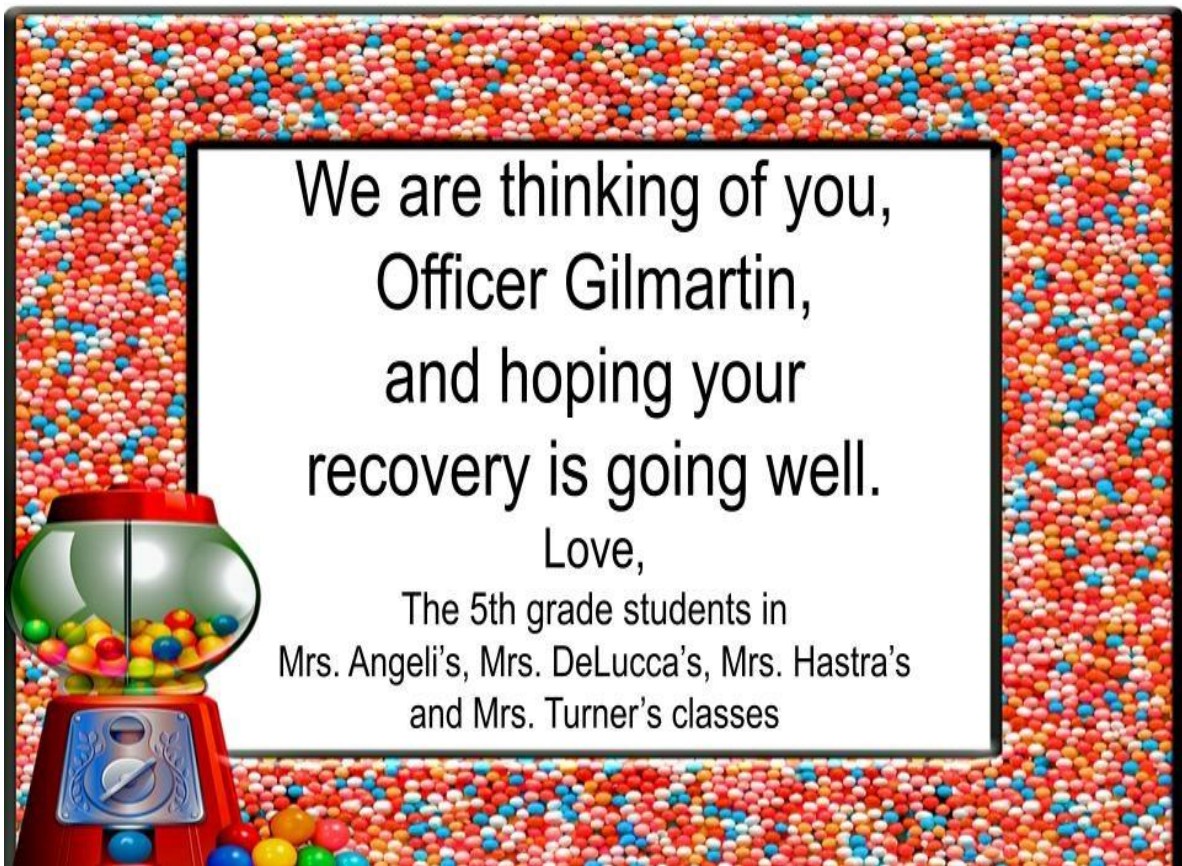
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2. The Intermediate Center started a K-Kids Club. This club is a precursor to the Builders and Key Clubs that students can participate in at the Secondary Center. Students will be participating in service projects both in school and in the community. Service projects for February include Valentines for Highland Manor residents and a Lollipop for Luci fundraiser.

Pictured are the 5th and 6th grade student members. Advisors are Kory Angeli, Erica Bartoli, Elizabeth Dessoie, and Alexandra Hughes.



3. Some of the Fifth Grade Classes at the Intermediate Center raised money for Officer Gilmartin by celebrating National Chew Gum in Class day. The students raised \$125 by bringing in a 50 cent donations to chew gum.



Feb. 2

National Bubble Gum Day



Children's book author Ruth Spiro came up with the idea of National Bubble Gum Day as a way for kids to raise money for school activities without having to sell anything. On February 2, kids can "buy" the usually forbidden privilege of chewing gum in class if they make a donation of 50 cents. While there might be some distractions in class — like smacking and bubble-blowing — kids learn about the value of charity and schools make a little money for the causes they support. Oh, and kids also get one day to break the classic "no-gum" rule.

4. *Congratulations to Emma Stevens who will join outstanding students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic and career-orientated development experience. Envision’s National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM, taking place this summer on the campus of Villanova University. Emma is a 5th grade student at the Intermediate Center. She was nominated to attend the forum by her Reading and Social Studies teachers.*

5. *Congratulations to Keimya Brown, an 11th grade student and a nominee for United Way of Wyoming Valley’s Vision of the Valley series.*

Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino reported that the board met for executive session a week ago and tonight to discuss Act 93 Compensation Plan, Special Education and personnel matters that are on the agenda.

Student Representative’s Report

Mia Altavilla reported the Junior Class is holding a calendar fundraiser to raise money for prom in the month of March. They are beginning to work with the Senior Class officers to organize prom scheduled for May 10th.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Butera read the Treasurer’s Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	5,558,239.13
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	447,031.40
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	82,110.25
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	145,115.87
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	16,063.20
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	141,646.77
First National Community Bank	Series 2022 GON Account	7,905.37
First National Community Bank	Money Market Account	7,123,454.34

The Treasurer’s Report will be kept on file for audit.

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read additions to the Finance Report.

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	131,386.29
Local Services Tax	1,329.45
Per Capita Tax	1,399.32
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>2,634.36</u>
Total:	136,749.42

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Title I – Improving Basic Programs	61,810.23
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	6,017.00
Title IV – Student Support & Academic Enrichment	4,939.92
School District Special Education	278,364.00
ARP ESSER III	90,907.04
ARP ESSER 7%	7,065.51
ARP ESSER 2.5%	920.64
ARP ESSER Homeless Children & Youth	<u>356.33</u>
Total:	450,390.67

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	12,705.59
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In lieu of Taxes

Housing Authority of the County of Luzerne	4,069.93
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Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Wyoming County	6,903.68
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2. Approve the February payment of \$94,926.95 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services and other related services for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Approve the February payment of \$4,958.33 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for the Lighthouse Academy Dual Diagnosis Services for 2023-2024 school year.
4. Approve to ratify the February payment of \$69,097.00 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approve the 2024-2025 Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 budget.
6. Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Wyoming Area School District and Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 for the 2023-2024 school year.
7. Approve the ratification of the increase of professional substitute pay from \$120.00 to \$130.00 per day until the end of the school year.

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8. Approve the credit adjustments effective for February 1, 2024.

Wyoming Area School District Credit Adjustments Effective February 1, 2024					
Name		From	To	Step	Increase
BALUCHA	KERIANN	M	M+06	5	\$ 874.00
BUGELHOLL	TERRI	M+30	M+42	8	\$ 3,580.00
DILEO	NICOLE	B	B+06	5	\$ 1,582.00
DOUGLAS	CATHERINE	M	M+12	8	\$ 1,750.00
FASCIANA	AMANDA	B+24	M	5	\$ 4,751.00
GLATZ	MARJORIE	M+54	M+60	8	\$ 1,482.00
HANCZYC	ALAN	M+54	M+60	8	\$ 1,482.00
HINES	JENNIFER	M+42	M+48	8	\$ 2,093.00
HIZYNSKI	CHRISTOPHER	M+48	M+54	9	\$ 1,481.00
LEMONCELLI	ROBERT	M+42	M+48	8	\$ 2,093.00
LOPRESTO	DANIELLE	M+36	M+42	8	\$ 2,093.00
MARTINO	SARAH	B+06	B+12	6	\$ 1,732.00
ROMAN	NANCY	B+24	M	8	\$ 4,274.00
SPEECE	JASON	M+42	M+48	18	\$ 2,093.00
STEVENS	MARIAH	M+12	M+18	8	\$ 874.00
WARNEK	JOHN	M+12	M+18	6	\$ 874.00
WOMELSDORF	DOUGLAS	M+54	M+60	5	\$ 1,482.00
TOTAL					\$ 34,590.00

9. Approve the tuition reimbursements for February 2024.

**WYOMING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE FOR TUITION
REIMBURSEMENT
FEBRUARY, 2024**

EMPLOYEE NAME	AMOUNT TO BE REIMBURSED
BALUCHA KERIANN	\$600.00
BUGELHOLL TERRI	\$900.00
DILEO NICOLE	\$600.00
DOUGLAS CATHERINE	\$1,200.00
GLATZ MARJORIE	\$600.00
HANCZYC ALAN	\$300.00
HINES JENNIFER	\$300.00
HIZYNSKI CHRISTOPHER	\$600.00
HUGHES ALEXANDRA	\$600.00
KLAPROTH MICHELLE	\$300.00
LEMONCELLI ROBERT	\$600.00
LOPRESTO DANIELLE	\$300.00
MACDOUGALL MARGUERITE	\$600.00
MARTINO SARAH	\$600.00
MOSCATELLI CARLA	\$300.00
ROMAN NANCY	\$300.00
SELENSKI JENNIFER	\$1,500.00
SPEECE JASON	\$600.00
STEVENS MARIAH	\$600.00
VIGLIONE ERIN	\$300.00
WARNEK JOHN	\$600.00
WOMELSDORF DOUGLAS	\$600.00
WYSOCKI LAUREN	\$300.00
\$13,200.00	

10. Approve Attorney Thomas Campenni, Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald LLP, to provide services to Wyoming Area School District regarding intellectual property matters, pending approval by the school solicitor.
11. Approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for student #3002737, pending approval by the school solicitor.
12. Approve revised contract with HUDL for services, pending approval by the school solicitor and business manager.
13. Approve the following payments:

Vendor	Invoice	Amount	Location	Description
Mark Whitehead Electrical Contractor	App#5	\$4,057.38	JFK	Electrical Const.
CM3 Building Solutions	App#3	<u>83,497.50</u>	WASD	HVAC "non ESSER"
		Total: 87,554.88		

14. Approve to ratify the agreement between Wyoming Area School District and Summit Fire & Security (formally Triguard) for cellular/network monitoring services for fire alarm systems for Secondary Center, Kindergarten Center and Primary Center. (The Intermediate Center is already covered).
15. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: February 2024	1,048,440.19	
Prepays: January 2024	<u>109,981.82</u>	1,158,422.01
Cafeteria Account:	83,686.03	
Athletic Account:	<u>5,570.27</u>	<u>89,256.30</u>
	Total:	1,247,678.31

Motion by Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the finance report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Education Report

Mr. Kachmarsky read the Education Report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District's Federal Programs (Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV) have been planned for the 2023-2024 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve the Agreement Regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Free Appropriate Public Education Stipulation for student #3000287, pending approval by the school solicitor.

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3. Accept, with regret, Brenda Bitters letter of intent to retire as an elementary teacher effective on or about March 1, 2024.
4. Approve the request of employee #20408, Professional Teacher, to take a maternity leave of absence effective on or about April 19, 2024 with an anticipated return date of August 21, 2024 or the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Approve to continue the appointment of Alexandra Arndt as a long term substitute teacher, 3rd grade, through the 2nd semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
6. Approve the appointment of Megan Guarilia as a long term substitute special education teacher, retroactive to September 9, 2023 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year, at the step placement Bachelors +6, Step 4, \$43,065.00 (pro-rated according to the duration of assignment).
7. Approve the appointment of Doug Piazza as Assistant Principal of Discipline.
8. Approve the appointment of Kayla Taddai as Special Education Teacher.
9. Approve the appointment of Holly McBroom as Special Education Teacher.

Motion by Mr. Kachmarsky, second by Mr. Campenni to accept the education report.

At this time, Phil Campenni made a motion to table item #7. Second by Peter Butera.

Roll call to table item #7: Mr. Kopko, no, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, no, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, no, Mrs. Rutkoski, no, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, no, Mr. Alberigi, no.

Motion failed.

Mrs. Rutkoski, Mr. Campenni, Mrs. Valenti, Mr. Butera and Mr. Supey expressed their concerns regarding the hiring of an Assistant Principal of Discipline.

On the question: Michelle McHale (virtual question) why one individual is holding two positions but cannot have the same asked of the second highest paid employee.

Carmen Latona, Teacher at the Secondary Center, made comments regarding the Assistant Principal of Discipline and how Mr. Campenni stated in November what a great job the Assistant Principal of Discipline did in this role curbing the discipline problems. He asked what changed.

Roll Call for finance report: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni voted no on item #7 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed to approve finance report.

Activities Report

Mrs. Rutkoski read additions to the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Maria Sabatini, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Movie Night - 2/25/24
 - Boden Sale – 3/30/24

2. Approve the request of Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Pizza Certificate Sale with Booyah Burgers – 3/6/24 through 4/3/24
 - Apparel Sale – Moved from March. Sale will begin 4/3/24 through 5/5/24
3. Approve the request of Karen Donati, Wyoming Area Baseball Parents Association, to hold a Gettin' Piggy with it Meat Raffle fundraiser starting March 12, 2024 through May 28, 2024.
4. Approve the request of Michael Crane, Wyoming Area Football Parents Association, to hold a Night at the Races fundraiser on Saturday, April 6, 2024. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish hall.
5. Approve the request of Mindy Stevens, Wyoming Area Kindergarten Primary Center PTO, to hold a VIP and Me dance fundraiser for K-3 at the Primary Center cafeteria, Thursday, April 25, 2024, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and food service director.

Motion by Mrs. Rutkoski, second by Mr. Kachmarsky, to accept the activities report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Campenni read the additions to the Building Report.

1. Approve to rescind the appointment of Donna Ragle as a 4 hour cafeteria employee.
2. Approve the appointment of Kimberly Reiners as a 7 hour cafeteria employee.
3. Approve the request of Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, to rent the Primary Center auditorium/cafeteria and music room to hold their Spring show on Saturday, April 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and food service director. The organization may also be responsible for a custodian and security fees.

Motion by Mr. Campenni, second by Mr. Kopko, to accept the building report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mr. Supey stated there were no additions to the Policy Report.

1. Approve the second reading and adoption of revised and new policies of volume V of 2023:

Policy 200: Enrollment of Students

Policy 202: Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Policy 217: Graduation

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Policy 254: Educational Opportunity for Military Children (new policy)
 Policy 626: Attachments
 Policy 810: Transportation

Motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi, to accept the policy report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Bids Report

Mr. Supey read the Bids Report.

1. Approve to authorize the secretary to advertise for bids for the purchase and removal of certain pieces of district property including, but not limited to:

- 28 Epson Projectors
- 1 Cross Country 18 Ft. Trailer
- 1 12 Ft. Trailer
- 1 Snow Plow (Plow Only)
- 4 Snow Blowers (Troy Bilt – Parts Only)

Motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mrs. Rutkoski, to accept the bids report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Supey read the Police Report.

**Wyoming Area Police Department
 Monthly Report for January 2024
 Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>	<u>COUNT</u>
0690 Theft – Reports	1
2400 Disorderly Conduct	7
2450 Harassment	7
2601 Use of Tobacco in Schools	2
2690 All Other Offenses - Reports	2
2910 Lost/Missing Property	2
3400 Mental Health	1
3870 Medical Emergency	1
3900 Traffic & Parking Problems	2
4090 Non-Criminal - Reports	7
4091 Custody Dispute	1
5004 Lost & Found – Found Articles	1
7001 911 Hangup	1
7016 Follow Up Information	3
7504 Assist Other Agencies – Other Police	2

S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	2
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	5
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Total		47

Open Discussion:

- Sarah Latona, Teacher, Dallas - Recycling
- Dave Chaump, West Pittston – Increase of Taxes
- Jerry M., West Pittston, Ben Herring, Duryea, Nick Giambra, Exeter, J. Walsh, Pittston Twp., Meagan Normand, West Pittston, Pat Gavin, Exeter, Mary Ann Potsko all had questions and comments regarding KOOH
- Brittany Noss and Aitor Delapera, Representatives- answered questions regarding KOOH
- Brenda Jurchak, Exeter – Inclusion in Sports for students with disabilities
- Len Pribula, West Pittston – Explained the term “Bank Workers”
- Jay Notartomaso, West Wyoming, asked why all of his comments regarding KOOH that were emailed to the board secretary were not read at the regular meeting. His comments are listed below:

My name is Jay Notartomaso and I am a parent who lives, pay taxes and votes in West Wyoming.

I want you to know I support your board’s efforts to bring comprehensive and varied mental health support systems to the students of WASD.

Those who are against using tools like Kooth do not represent the overwhelming majority of parents who voted for you to serve and care about and stand up for the well-being of young people.

It is no secret that the few speaking against Kooth are primarily upset that LGBTQ+ students will have a safe resource to go to when they feel they have nowhere else to go. Their oppressive opinions and judgements about queer students should not be used to restrict young people from having full access to the support they don't regularly get.

It is not easy for some students to come out and openly get support, especially if they come from homes where they are told they are immoral, sinners, or if they are bullied by other students and ignored by the staff. Just this week, as you all know, a trans student Nex Benedict, who was bullied for over a year at their school was killed after an altercation with bullies in the school bathroom. This student was quoted as saying they didn't feel safe and that they felt the school never really showed support for queer students.

The voices against Kooth almost always exclusively talk about queer and trans young people, and the support they may receive. They want gay people to go back in the closet. You never hear them complain about the majority of support students get from these programs concerning other issues for which they are used. They are just laser focused on LGBTQ kids. These parents who are complaining about Kooth also never show support to make sure the bullying policies are stronger, or that teachers are paid well, or that the school is properly and fully funded. They claim they care about kids but really they are just stuck in the past and have no idea how hard it is for queer kids.

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Homophobia has no place in our society, and especially in our schools. All students regardless of their sexuality or gender identity deserve to be proud of who they are, and fully supported in a safe and supported environment. Kooth is needed because it fills a gap for those who don't feel safe to talk to anyone else. Also I know for a fact that Kooth does direct troubled students to talk to therapists, guidance counselors, parents if they are lucky to have parents who aren't homophobes) and other adults who can help them. It is documented that this program has saved the lives of some who were contemplating suicide.

Again, I want you to know that the overwhelming majority of parents are not represented by the misinformed fringe who go around from school to school pushing their hateful agenda on hard working school boards. These are troubled times, and I support your actions to model standing up as allies for young people facing prejudice, oppression and hate.

To listen to all comments, questions and responses log on to YouTube on the Wyoming Area Website www.wyomingarea.org.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Michael Supey, President

David Alberigi, Secretary