

11363
Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held this evening in the Secondary Center Library, 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643. Approximately thirteen people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Mr. Philip Campenni, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:	Mr. Philip Campenni, President
	Mr. Peter Butera, Vice President
	Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
	Mr. Joseph Kopko, Treasurer
	Mrs. Erica Gazda
	Mr. Michael Kachmarsky
	Mrs. Kirby Kunkle
	Mr. Michael Supey
	Mrs. Mara Valenti

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, District Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Doug Piazza, Principal of Discipline, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Mike Bugelholl, Facilities Director, Denai Dymond and Mia Altavilla, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of February 26, 2025.
2. West Side Career & Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of February 24, 2025.
3. Employee #12950 submitting a letter of intent to retire.
4. Employee #10570 submitting a letter of intent to retire.
5. Wyoming Area Girls Volleyball Parents Association requesting permission to use the Secondary Center gym to hold a volleyball camp fundraiser.
6. Employee #2825 requesting permission to extend a medical leave of absence.
7. Employee #4987 submitting a letter of intent to retire.
8. Sandra Weaver Charney, PA. State Representative Brenda Pugh's Office, requesting permission to rent the Secondary Center auditorium and lobby to hold a Drug & Alcohol Community Program.
9. Ron Gitkos, The American Legions of West Pittston and Exeter, along with the VFW from Exeter and the Wyoming Kiwanis extending an invitation to the school board, the band and any service clubs to participate in the Memorial Day Parade.
10. Employee #20549 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
11. Employee #20535 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.

- 12. Wyoming Area Girls Volleyball Parents Association requesting permission to hold a candy bar fundraiser.
- 13. Employee #20658 submitting a letter of resignation.
- 14. Employee #20496 requesting permission to extend a maternity leave of absence.
- 15. Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Campenni asked for approval of the minutes of February 25, 2025. All board members voted aye.

Mr. Campenni asked for approval of the minutes of March 25, 2025. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. Congratulations to our Administrative Assistants who were honored on “Administrative Assistant’s Day (April 23rd)

Nancy Alberigi	Elizabeth Poor
Debbie Andiaro	Theodora Rabel
Melissa Appel	Jean Marie Radle
Gloria Bovani	Amy Ragantesi
Rebecca Boyle	Lesley Ratchford
Donna Chupka	Holly Rishko
Rachelle Furman	Nicole Skesavage
Michelle Hoeffner	KimberlyThomas
Denise Holmes	Jackie Vasquez
Kelly Kaslavage	Adrienne Wolfe
Mary Kraynak	

- 2. Please come out to see Wyoming Area Drama Club and Thespian Troupe #4795’s presentation of Hadestown (Teen Edition) on May 2 at 7:00 pm, May 3 at 7:00 pm and May 4 at 2:00 pm.
- 3. Wyoming Area Regional Police sponsored a program for the public and our students at the Intermediate Center and the Secondary Center. The program is titled Opioid and Drug Awareness with Motivational Mental Health. The speaker was Nathan Harmon. Nathan Harmen is founder and keynote motivational mental health speaker of Your Life Speaks. He is widely recognized as one of the Top Speakers in the USA from 2017 to current.

Nathan lived a life consumed in drugs, alcohol, and reckless decisions. His life crashed into a dark space - ruined by bad choices... but not anymore, he found a way out. Through those hardships, and challenges, Nathan totally transformed his life from the inside-out. He is now empowering others to do the same.



4. The Wyoming Area Regional Police Department donated four drug identification guides to the Wyoming Area Secondary Center. It is a proactive step towards promoting safety and awareness among students. By providing these kits, law enforcement can equip students with the tools they need to identify potentially dangerous substances. This initiative can foster a sense of responsibility and encourage open conversations about drug use and its risks. Additionally, it can serve as an educational opportunity, where police officers can engage with students, share important information about substance abuse, and provide resources for those who may need help. Overall, this partnership between law enforcement and schools can create a safer environment and empower young people to make informed decisions regarding drug use.



5. Winter Wrap-Up

Marching Band/Indoor Winds

The marching band recently attended the Scranton St. Patrick's Day Parade and was awarded for high scholastic group. (Award can be viewed outside the auditorium in the trophy case).

The marching band will be performing at the West Pittston Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on May 3rd, the NEPA Armed Services Parade in Scranton on May 17th and the Wyoming/West Wyoming & Exeter/West Pittston Memorial Day parades and ceremonies on May 26th.

The indoor winds group has been hard at work preparing for the fall marching band show “Santa the Barbarian”. A preview of the show will be at the annual spring concert on May 7th starting at 7pm in the auditorium.



Boys Basketball

The Boys Basketball team finished the season with 17 wins, capturing its first league championship since 1971 and advancing to the state playoffs for the first time since 2006. For the second year in a row, we qualified for the WVC playoffs which features the top two teams from both Division 1 and Division 2.

Sophomore Luke Kopetchny was voted as the Division 2 league MVP and senior Lukas Burakiewicz earned a spot on the first team all- star roster. Both Lukas and fellow senior Anthony DeLucca were voted to participate in the George P. Moses Senior All Star Game, featuring the top seniors in all of the WVC, as well as the inaugural NEPA Hoops Senior All Star Game which featured the top seniors in both the WVC and the Lackawanna Conference.

Lady Warriors Basketball

- Krea Bonita and Kendall Day--played in the WVC Senior All Star Classic game.
- League record (5-9)—5th place
- 7 seed in district playoffs (overall regular season record 7-15)
- overall record 7-16 (lost in quarterfinals to Valley View)
- started the season with 16 players and ended season with 16 players JV/ Varsity.
- 16 players on JV-Varsity--(3 seniors), (2) juniors, (7) sophomores, (4) 9th grade.

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-Our 9th grade team consisted of (11)-8th grade players and (1) 9th grade player. They had a great year finishing 8-3.

-submitted by Mark Casper, Head Coach, Lady Warriors

Swim

With a roster of 35 swimmers and divers, the Wyoming Area swim and dive team finished with an 8-3 record. Swimmers placed at the district competition in multiple events:

200 medley relay, 6th place medal - Bree Harry, Ella McKernan, Ava Menditto, Ameriana Walker

200 Freestyle relay, 6th place medal - Ava Menditto, Ainsley Flynn, Ella McKernan, Ameriana Walker

400 Freestyle relay, 6th place medal - Ava Menditto, Ainsley Flynn, Emma Kratz, Ameriana Walker

100 Breaststroke, 5th place medal - Ella McKernan

Ella was also voted to the 2A All-Star swim team.

Mrs. Pikas also just finished an intro to competitive swim session, where we had students in grades 5 through 8 come to learn swim skills and stroke technique over the last few weeks. This was a great opportunity to get many students introduced to competitive swimming with over 20 students who signed up.

Wrestling

We finished the season with 18 Varsity Wrestlers 3 seniors, 2 juniors, 12 sophomores, and 1 freshman. Our Dual Meet Record was 2 - 16 with 10 meets going down to the last weight class. We had a Wyoming Valley Conference Champion Connor Novakowski and 2 runner ups Chase Wilhelm & Nate Obrzut. We had a District Champion Nate Obrzut, a runner up Connor Novakowski and a 5th place from Riley Pierce. Our Regional place winner was Connor Novakowski 6th and Nate Obrzut was 1 match away from placing. At the Wyoming Valley Conference Gia Chapman took 3rd in the 170 weight class and Zeta Lord took 4th in the 106 weight class.

Concert Band

The students of the WA Concert Band have participated in a multitude of festivals and events this year, which will continue through the end of the school year.

Highlights include a recruiting performance held at the Intermediate Center, Honor Band First-Chair qualifiers at Marywood Wind Band Celebrations, Senior *Makayla Ross* qualifying for PMEA Region IV Band, and our students performing at the 30th Anniversary of the Luzerne County Band. Additionally, we are proud to report that 9th Grade student *Deidre Laue* was one of two recipients of the Luzerne County Band Scholarship, which will allow her to attend a week-long music camp for free, this summer. Future performances include the annual Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 7th at 7pm in the auditorium, PMEA Band Fest on May 9th at Tunkhannock, and finally our Graduation Ceremony on June 6th.

Special thanks to Dr. Pollard, our WA Board and Administration for your continued support of music in our schools!!

Festivals and Participants:

Marywood Junior Wind Band Celebration

Sophia Chickson - Kamryn McElwee - Deidre Laue **First Chair Honor Band**

Marywood Senior Wind Band Celebration

Makayla Ross & Natalie Race **Honor Band**

Anya Atherton, Lizzie Galindo, Alex Jacobs, Maddie Fronczek, Kelsey Jones

PMEA District 9 & PMEA Region IV Band

Makayla Ross **First Chair District Band**

PMEA District 9 Jazz Fest

Middle School: Deidre Laue, Kamryn McElwee, Ava Colarusso

High School: Gavin Smith Kroznuski, Anya Atherton, Natalie Race

PMEA Band Fest

9th Grade Honor Band: Deidre Laue, Sophia Chickson, Kamryn McElwee, Sophia Stevens

7th/8th Fest Band: Matt Olmstead, Abby Edwards, Ava Colarusso, Emma Chickson

Luzerne County Band

Kamryn McElwee, Emma Chickson, Sophia Chickson, Makayla Ross, Lizzie Galindo, Ava Colarusso, Anya Atherton, Deidre Laue, Maddie Fronczek, Layne Ardoline, Kelsey Jones, Sophia Stevens, Nate Obrzut, Natalie Race.



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Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino read his report: Executive Sessions took place on April 15th, April 22nd and 29th after 5:00 p.m. Discussed were contract negotiations, some personnel matters and some retirements at the administrative level. They met for a negotiation session with the professional union last week. Negotiations are moving forward in a positive direction.

Student Representative’s Report

Denai Dymond, Junior, reported the junior class just finished their prom and there are no other updates. They are not working on anything at the moment.

Mia Altavilla, Senior, reported that the senior class are happy to say the prom was successful. They are moving forward with other senior activities such as the picnic and all-night party.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	5,984,817.65
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	6,918.47
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	69,723.73
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	150,013.07
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	6,414.28
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.23
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	149,733.69
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	889,848.83
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	5,249,046.44

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

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read additions to the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

<u>Berkheimer Income Tax</u>	
Earned Income Tax	64,896.63
Local Services Tax	380.17
Per Capita Tax	359.12
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>2,533.09</u>
Total	68,169.01

<u>State & Federal Subsidy Payments</u>	
Retirement	864,238.34
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	59,507.25
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	6,947.33
Title IV – Student Support & Academic Enrichment	5,028.08
Medical Assistance – Access	300,000.00
Health Services	39,280.37
Medicaid Admin Claims	2,590.13
School District Special Education	314,643.00
School District Transportation	520,127.00
PLCB-Reducing Underage & Dangerous Drinking Grant	12,599.84
Stronger Connections Grant	<u>20,841.16</u>
Total:	2,145,802.50

<u>Local Realty Transfer Tax</u>	
Luzerne County	21,273.10
Wyoming County	<u>784.00</u>
Total:	22,057.10

<u>Delinquent Real Estate Tax</u>	
Wyoming County	4,382.64

2. Approve the April payment of \$82,733.06 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services and other related services for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Approve the April payment of \$4,958.33 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for the Lighthouse Academy Dual Diagnosis Services for 2024-2025 school year.
4. Approve to ratify the April payment of \$69,742.73 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Approve to ratify the following debt service invoice payments to Wilmington Trust Company for May 1, 2025:

Registered Interest Due (19A)	17,256.25
Registered Interest Due (19B)	<u>112,852.75</u>
Total:	130,109.00

Registered Interest Due (21A)	93,650.00
Registered Interest Due (21B)	<u>15,750.00</u>
Total:	109,400.00

6. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Hazel Health pending final approval by the superintendent and district solicitor.
7. Approve to authorize the District Solicitor to provide the NEPA Health Trust Notice of intent to withdraw from the Trust pursuant to Section 5.4 of the Agreement and Declaration of Trust Establishing the NEPA School District Health Trust.
8. Motion to approve the abatement of \$5,662.04 for 2024 Real Estate Taxes of Parcel Numbers 65-E11NE1-023-026-000 & 65-E11NE1-024-021-000 as requested by the West Pittston Library.

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- 9. Approve to ratify the May 1, 2025 payment to Fidelity Bank in the amount of \$42,841.58 for the General Obligation Note, Series of 2022 of the Wyoming Area School District.
- 10. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: April 2025	1,191,008.38	
Prepays: March 2025	<u>185,487.87</u>	1,376,496.25
Cafeteria Account:	107,376.10	
Athletic Account:	<u>1,721.20</u>	<u>109,097.30</u>
	Total:	1,485,593.55

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

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

Motion passed.

Education Report

Mrs. Gazda read additions to 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 2024-2025 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District’s Business Office.
- 2. Accept, with regret, a letter of intent to retire for employee #12950 effective June 30, 2025.
- 3. Accept, with regret, a letter of intent to retire for employee #10570 effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- 4. Approve the request of employee #2825 to extend a medical leave of absence for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
- 5. Accept, with regret, a letter of intent to retire for employee #4987 effective December 2025.
- 6. Approve affiliation agreements with West Chester University regarding their Education Preparation Programs for Wyoming Area students.
- 7. Approve the request of employee #20549 to take a medical leave of absence for remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
- 8. Approve the revised professional substitute list for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 9. Approve the appointment of Kathryn Sciandra as a long term substitute through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- 10. Approve agreement regarding waiver of expulsion hearing and free appropriate public education stipulation for student #3001688, pending approval by the district solicitor.
- 11. Approve the Educator & Clinician Preparation Field Experience Agreement with Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- 12. Approve the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

13. Approve the request of employee #20496 to extend a maternity leave of absence for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Gazda, second by Mr. Kopko, to accept the education report.

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

Motion passed.

Activities Report

Mrs. Valenti read additions to the Activities Report.

1. Approve to vacate all extra-curricular positions at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Approve to ratify the appointment of Vincent Argenio as a volunteer coach for boys tennis.
3. Approve the appointments of the following head coaches for the 2025-2026 Fall sports season:

Cheerleading	Rhonda Pizano
Cross Country	Michael Branley
Field Hockey	Bree Bednarski
Football	Randy Spencer
Golf	Gordon Williams
Boys Soccer	Chris Tomlinson
Girls Soccer	Chad Kranson
Tennis	Bill Roberts
Volleyball	Sara Mazzitelli

4. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Girls Volleyball Parents Association to hold a candy bar fundraiser starting April 15, 2025 through May 23, 2025.
5. Approve the request of Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - “Sponsor the Date” in May Calendar Fundraiser
 - KL Catering
 - Band Night @ Sicilian Bella Festa

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mrs. Kunkle, to accept the activities report.

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

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mrs. Kunkle reported there were no additions to the Building Report.

1. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Girls Volleyball Parents Association to use the Secondary Center gym to hold a volleyball camp fundraiser starting Monday, June 16th to Thursday, June 19, 2025, 8 am to 2 pm, pending approval by the building principal and athletic director.

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2. Approve the request of Sandra Weaver Charney, PA. State Representative Brenda Pugh's Office, to rent the Secondary Center auditorium and lobby on Thursday, September 18, 2025 for a Drug & Alcohol Community Program, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Security and custodian services will also be charged if needed. Pending approval by the building principal.
3. Approve the request of employee #20535 to take a medical leave of absence effective April 17, 2025 through approximately May 23, 2025.
4. Accept, with regret, employee #20658 submitting a letter of resignation effective April 15, 2025.

Motion by Mrs. Kunkle, second by Mrs. Valenti, to accept the building report.

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

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mr. Kachmarsky reported there were no additions to the Policy Report.

1. Approve the first reading of 2025 Volume I policies and attachments:

Policy 103 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
Attachments to 103
Policy 103.1 Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities
Attachments to 103.1
Policy 104 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
Policy 234 Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
Policy 247 Hazing
Policy 252 Dating Violence
Policy 336 Personal Necessity Leave
Policy 339 Uncompensated Leave
Policy 807 Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
Policy 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

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

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

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Kopko read the Police Report.

**Wyoming Area Police Department
Monthly Report for March 2025
Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>		<u>COUNT</u>
0452	Threat Assessment	2
0490	Assault – Reports	1
1440	Criminal Mischief – All Other	1
2400	Disorderly Conduct	3
2450	Harassment	6
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	6
3400	Mental Health	1
3501	Suspicious Persons, Autos, Circumstances	2
3610	Disturbances - Juvenile	3
3900	Traffic & Parking Problems	6
4022	Non-Criminal – Reports	5
7505	Assist Other Agencies – WARP	6
7590	Assisting Other Agencies – Reports	2
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	4
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	8
Total		56

Open Discussion:

- Todd Bonning, Harding, thanked the board for highlighting the female wrestlers and athletes.
- Tiffany Bonning, Harding, discrimination regarding girls wrestling. Dr. Pollard responded that during a phone call with Mrs. Bonning, he told her he would solve the locker room problem and the scale program.
- Joe Pizano, Athletic Director, addressed the Bonnings regarding girls wrestling.
- Brenda Yurchak, Exeter, Her daughter, Rebecca, participated in the Pennsylvania Miss Amazing pageant at Westchester University and won queen title in her age division. She will be attending a national Miss Amazing pageant in Chicago, Illinois in July.
- Renee Pisano, Exeter, asked the board to partner with her and Rhonda Pisano to start dealings to get turf for the school fields.
- Rhonda Pisano, Exeter, Will meet with student athletic parents because if this project were to happen, it would benefit girls and boys soccer, girls and boys lacrosse, field hockey, baseball, softball and any junior high programs as well. They need the turf to practice on.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Campenni, second by Mr. Alberigi.

To listen to the meeting in its entirety, log on to the Youtube channel on the Wyoming Area website.

Philip Campenni, President

David Alberigi, Secretary

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