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Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

A combined work session/regular meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held this evening in the Secondary Center auditorium, 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643. Five people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Ms. Best, President of the Board, asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing in memory of Ralph Nardell, a former teacher, who passed away recently. Ms. Best called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ms. Lara Best, President
Mrs. Toni Valenti, Vice President
Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
Mr. Joseph Kopko, Treasurer
Mr. Philip Campenni
Mr. Leonard Pribula
Mr. Gerald Stofko
Mr. Michael Supey

Absent: Mr. Nick DeAngelo

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Shannon Lapsansky who filled in for Attorney Ferentino, School Solicitor, Tom Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, Brian Stradzus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, David Pacchioni, Primary Center Building Principal, Cathy Ranieli, Assistant Secondary Building Principal, Mike Bugelholl, Director of Facilities, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Stephanie Anuszewski, Director of Special Education, Betsy O'Malley, Food Service Director, Dallas Woodruff, Student Representative.

At this time, Stewart Morcom, CPA, from bbd gave a presentation on the single audit report.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their regular meeting minutes of January 25, 2023.
2. West Side Career & Technology Center submitting their minutes of the Joint Operating Committee of January 23, 2023.
3. Barbara Talaska, Art Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
4. Sharon Sorokin, Personal Care Aide, submitting her letter of resignation.
5. Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, requesting permission to rent the Primary Center Cafeteria for the Tiny Learners Spring Show.
6. Wyoming Area Swim Parents Association requesting permission to hold Lifeguard Training Classes fundraiser in the Secondary Center pool.
7. Shea Riley, Band Teacher, requesting permission to attend the PMEA Region IV Band, along with students, at Mid West High School and Susquehanna University.
8. Wyoming Area Baseball Parents Association requesting permission to hold a raffle fundraiser.

9. Jean Marie Argenio and Riane Hulmes, FBLA Advisors, requesting permission to attend the FBLA State Leadership Conference, along with students, in Hershey, PA.
10. Audra Ciampi, Special Education Teacher, requesting permission to take a maternity leave of absence.
11. Nancy Romanowski, Kindergarten Aide, requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
12. Kendra Radle, Assistant Cheerleading Coach, Submitting her letter of resignation
13. John Bonin, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association, requesting permission to have various fundraisers.
14. Sheri Slusser, Wyoming Area Softball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a Yard Sign Sale fundraiser.
15. Mt. Zion Bicentennial Volunteer Fire Company requesting permission to rent the Secondary Center cafeteria for a craft fair.

Summary of Applications Received

Cleaner – 3

Cafeteria – 1

Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Assistant Elementary Principal - 5

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Best asked for approval of the minutes from regular meeting of February 28, 2023. All board members present voted aye.

Mr. Campenni stated that the Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Assistant Elementary Principal applications are due tomorrow at noon.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. **As part of the poetry unit in Mrs. Menta's English 7 class, students created blackout poems. Blackout poems involve taking a page of text and blacking out most of the words, leaving behind selected words which then form a poem. Using pages from old books which were being thrown away, students transformed the pages creating one-of-a-kind poems. They then drew a symbol or visual representation for their poem.**



Exeter, PA.
March 21, 2023

2. **Congratulations to Morgan Janeski who scored her 1000 point in basketball this season!**
3. **Congratulations to Jaden Pepe, 3 time State Wrestling Champ and Anthony Evanitsky – State Wrestling Champ!**
4. **The Primary Center collected over 2,000 items for our four legged friends at the Blue Chip Refuge for our 100th day of school event. Mrs. Bufalino's class collected the most items with 333. We would like to thank all those families who donated. Also, we would like to thank the Maxwell House for donating the funds to purchase popcorn for the entire building.**
5. **The Primary Center participated in a community service project for Valentine's Day. Students' created Valentine's Day cards that were distributed to residents at Tiffany Court Nursing Home. Thank you to Mrs. DeAngelo and Ms. Talaska for assisting in this project.**



6. **Jillian Rogish had been selected to represent Wyoming Area as WVIA Student Artist of the Week. She, along with Caitlyn Maslar for performing artist. Miss Sperrazza and Mrs. Jarden are so proud of these girls and their achievements. Congratulations!**
7. **Kindergarten celebrated Read Across America. Please see pictures of the readers. Thank you for reading to our students!!!**





8. Three ESL students from the high school read to kindergarten classes for Read Across America. The students' read books that were English and translated to their first language, Spanish and Portuguese. Thank you to Mrs. Campenni and the kindergarten teachers for organizing this event. Below are the high school students: Elissa DeLeon Gil, Lucas Cardona, and Kaua Souza. Thank you for reading to our students!



Exeter, PA.
March 21, 2023

9. The Wyoming Area Intermediate Center celebrated Pi Day (3.14) on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. The School Wide Positive Behavior Team provided chances for the students to purchase in the school store to pie teachers and tape Mr. Strazdus to the wall. The PTO also provided duct tape for the students who sold the Lucky Draw March Calendars. Faculty, staff, and students truly enjoyed this event.
10. Parents of students in Mrs. Broda's ELA class were invited to surprise the students by joining our class virtually to read. The students were excited to see which parents would surprise them next with a story to share. Special thanks to the parents for keeping it a surprise and for taking time out of their day to share a story with the class. The high school Drama and Student Council were also guest readers at the Intermediate Center during the week. The pictures below show our sixth grade students reading to the fourth graders. All students enjoyed being read to or reading to other students this week.





11. Mrs. McDermott’s 4th grade class celebrated Dr. Seuss’s Birthday by solving math word problems and coloring cat in the hats, drawing the Cat in the Hat, and enjoying a visit from the WA Drama Club who read to them.

Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Shannon Lapsansky reported, in the absence of Attorney Ferentino, that an executive session took place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. Personnel, litigation as well as collective bargaining negotiations and various miscellaneous personnel issues were discussed.

Student Representative’s Report

Dallas Woodruff reported the junior/senior prom is May 6th and the theme will be casino. They recently completed their cheesecake fundraiser and ordered the yard signs for graduating students. The senior class has also begun planning class day.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	10,396,507.45
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	6,057.23
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	248,316.94
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	112,858.27
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	2,416.57
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00

Exeter, PA.
March 21, 2023

Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	135,292.49
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First National Community Bank	Series 2018 GON Account	226,164.68
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The treasurer's report will be kept on file for audit.

Finance Report

Mr. Kopko read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	411,856.01
Local Services Tax	4,953.81
Per Capita Tax	504.00
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>3,385.78</u>
Total:	420,699.60

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Retirement	169,886.83
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	116,122.00
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	30,928.28
Title IV – Student Support & Academic Enrichment	14,132.52
Basic Education Funding	<u>1,316,067.00</u>
Total:	1,647,136.63

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	14,634.74
Wyoming County	<u>245.00</u>
Total:	14,879.74

2. Approve the March payment of \$136,428.89 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services and other related services for the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Approve the March payment of \$67,705.13 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2022-2023 school year.
4. Approve the March payment of \$4,958.33 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for the Lighthouse Academy Dual Diagnosis Services for the 2022-2023 school year.
5. Approve a refund of \$119.78 to #16-D11S2-002-017 for paid property taxes for the year 2022.
6. Approve the step placement of professional employee, Kristen Santey, at Masters+18, Step 4, \$54,406.00. (Pro-rated according to start date)
7. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing: March 2023	984,844.27	
Prepays: February 2023	<u>197,477.15</u>	1,182,321.42
Cafeteria Account:	130,346.48	
Athletic Account:	<u>7,250.62</u>	<u>137,597.10</u>
Total:		1,319,918.52

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

Roll Call: Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Education Report

Ms. Best read the Education Report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District's Federal Programs (Title I, Title II, and Drugs and Alcohol) have been planned for the 2022-2023 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Accept, with regret, Barbara Talaska, Art Teacher, letter of intent to retire effective on the last scheduled day of the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Approve the request of Audra Ciampi, Special Education Teacher, to take a maternity leave of absence effective on or around May 8, 2023 with an anticipated return date of January 2, 2024.
4. Approve the Agreements Regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearings for the following students:

Student #1000051
Student #3001481
Student #148310
Student #3002138
Student # 148520
5. Approve the revised school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.
6. Approve the agreement between Wyoming Area School District and Active Day. Active Day will provide adult day services to a Wyoming Area School District student, two days per week, beginning April 2, 2023.

Motion by Ms. Best, second by Mrs. Valenti, to accept the education report.

On the Question: Mr. Supey asked what the cost was for item #6. Mrs. Anuszewski, Director of Special Education, responded she didn't have it on hand but it was for a student who is 21 and transitioning out. Mr. Campenni asked what changed in item #5. Dr. Pollard responded we had that one school closure so we move everything over again. The last day will now be June 8th and a ½ day.

Roll Call: Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Exeter, PA.

March 21, 2023

Activities Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Shea Riley, Band Teacher, to attend the PMEA Region IV Band, along with students, at Mid West High School and Susquehanna University, from March 22nd to March 24, 2023. Cost of registration and lodging approximately \$472.72.
2. Approve to ratify the Pittston Popcorn Easter Fundraiser by the Wyoming Area Softball Parents Association held March 13, 2023.
3. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Swim Parents to hold Lifeguard Training Classes fundraiser in the Secondary Center pool on Saturdays and Sundays for the months of March, April and ending on May 7, 2023.
4. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Baseball Parents Association to hold a Blackstone Grill raffle starting April 1, 2023 until April 28, 2023.
5. Approve the request of Jean Marie Argenio and Riane Hulmes, FBLA Advisors, to attend the FBLA State Leadership Conference, along with students, in Hershey, PA., April 17th through April 19, 2023. The cost for registration and lodging is \$11,576.00.
6. Accept, with regret, Kendra Radle's letter of resignation as assistant cheerleading coach effective immediately.
7. Approve the request of John Bonin, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association to have the following fundraisers:
 - To have Valley Laxers Youth League teams run onto the field with the WA boys team on April 28th prior to the scheduled night game at 7:00 p.m.
 - Sell water, Gatorade and pizza during boys and girls lacrosse games as scheduled April 28th and April 29, 2023 at football field.
 - Cornhole board ticket fundraising Spring 2023
 - Wagon of Cheer during summer 2023.
8. Approve the request of Sheri Slusser, Wyoming Area Softball Parents Association, to hold a Yard Sign Sale on March 27, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Alberigi, second by Mr. Kopko, to accept the activities report.

On the Question: Ms. Best asked Dr. Pollard to explain the cost of item #5. Dr. Pollard responded that the number of students have doubled that are qualified. They do plan on fundraising to off-set the cost.

Roll Call: Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Pribula read the Building Report.

1. Accept, with regret, Sharon Sorokin's letter of resignation as a personal care aide with her last day being March 22, 2023.

2. Approve the request of Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, to rent the Primary Center Cafeteria/Auditorium and a classroom for the Tiny Learners Spring Show on Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (show starts at 5:30 p.m.) Costs is approximately \$330.00 plus security, pending approval by the building principal.
3. Approve the request of Nancy Romanowski, Kindergarten Aide, to take a medical leave of absence effective May 1, 2023 through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
4. Approve to ratify the payment of \$34,689.20 to Troy Mechanical, Inc., app#5, for air purification for the district.
5. Approve to ratify the change order in the amount of \$3,550.00 to Richard Mellow Corp., CO#1, for electrical construction at tennis courts.
6. Approve to authorize the advertisement for Request for Proposals for a new phone system for all properties of the Wyoming Area School District. Advertisement will be no later than March 31, 2023, with approval of the school solicitor.
7. Approve the request of the Mt. Zion Bicentennial Volunteer Fire Company to rent the Secondary Center cafeteria for a craft fair on Saturday, November 25th and Sunday, November 26, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (fair hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Also requesting to come in November 24th to prep the cafeteria. Cost is \$100.00 plus custodian fees. Pending approval by the food service director and building principal.
8. Approve the agreement between Wyoming Area Education Support Professionals and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the support staff to voluntarily donate one sick leave day during the 2022-2023 school year to Abigail Smetana.

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

On the Question: Mr. Supey asked if item #5 was an additional \$3,550.00. Dr. Pollard responded that it was.

Roll Call: Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mrs. Valenti read the Policy Report.

1. Approve the first reading of revised and new policies from Volume I policies of February 2023:

Policy# 137 Home Education Programs

Policy# 137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students

Policy# 137.2 Participation in Co-curricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students (new policy)

Policy# 137.3 Participation in Career & Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students (new policy)

Exeter, PA.

March 21, 2023

2. Approve the first reading of revised policies:

- Policy# 709.2 Functions of the Police Officer (will now be listed as Policy# 805.4)
- Policy# 709.3 Use of Force Policy/School Police Officer (will now be listed as Policy# 805.5)

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Pribula, to accept the Policy Report.

Roll Call: Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Police Report

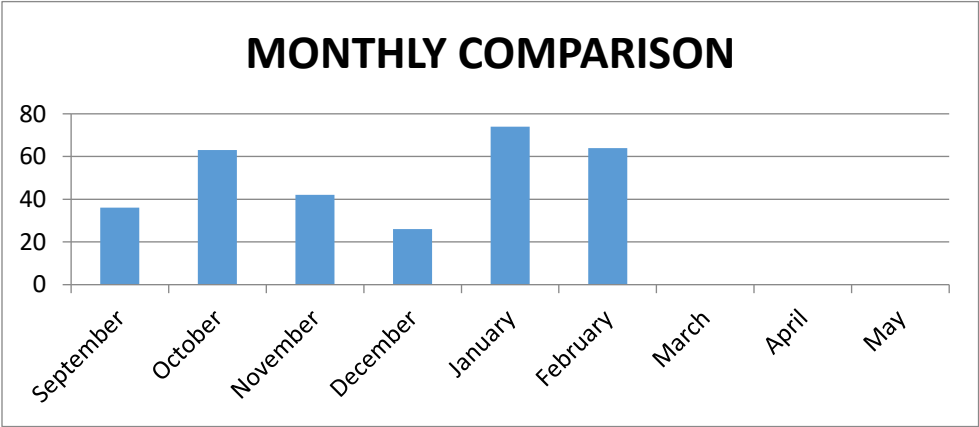
Mr. Kopko read the Police Report.

Wyoming Area Police Department
Monthly Report for February 2023
Total Calls for Service

CODE		COUNT
0002	Transport	1
2232	Liquor Laws – Possession – Juvenile	2
2400	Disorderly Conduct	9
2450	Harassment	12
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	5
2890	Curfew & Loitering (Juvenile) – Reports	1
2910	Lost/ Missing Property	1
3400	Mental Health	1
3900	Traffic & Parking Problems	5
4010	Traffic Offenses	1
4028	Non-Criminal – Other Investigations	6
5004	Lost & Found – Found Articles	1
7016	Follow Up Information	10
7504	Assist Other Agencies – Other Police	1
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	8
Total		64

Monthly Comparison

January Calls for Service	February Calls for Service	Plus/Minus Comparison
74	64	-10



Open Discussion:

- Lisa Woodruff, substitute teacher, explained her concerns that the district is in desperate need of substitute teachers.
- David Chaump, West Pittston, explained his concerns regarding the KOOH Mental Health application that Wyoming Area signed up for as part of a State Wide Pilot Program.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Best, second by Mrs. Valenti.

Lara Best, President

David Alberigi, Secretary