

11944
Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Thursday, November 16, 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 library, 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643. Ten people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Ms. Best President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Shaun Rohland, Assistant Principal of Discipline, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Michael Bugelholl, Director of Facilities, Daniel Feeney and Mia Altavilla, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their regular meeting minutes of September 27, 2023.
2. West Side Career & Technology Center minutes of Joint Operating Committee September 25, 2023.
3. Carmen Latona, Secondary Teacher, requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
4. Lori DeAngelo requesting permission to use the Secondary Center student parking lot and Memorial Street parking lot for the Exeter Borough Turkey Trot.
5. Tracy Petrosky, Health Care Technician, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
6. Audra Ciampi, Special Education Teacher, requesting permission to extend her maternity leave.
7. Christine Campenni, Wyoming Area Swim Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
8. Mindy Stevens, Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO, requesting permission to hold a Visa gift card bingo fundraiser.
9. Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

10. Shaun Rohland submitting his letter of resignation as Assistant Principal of Discipline and Coordinator of ESL Services.

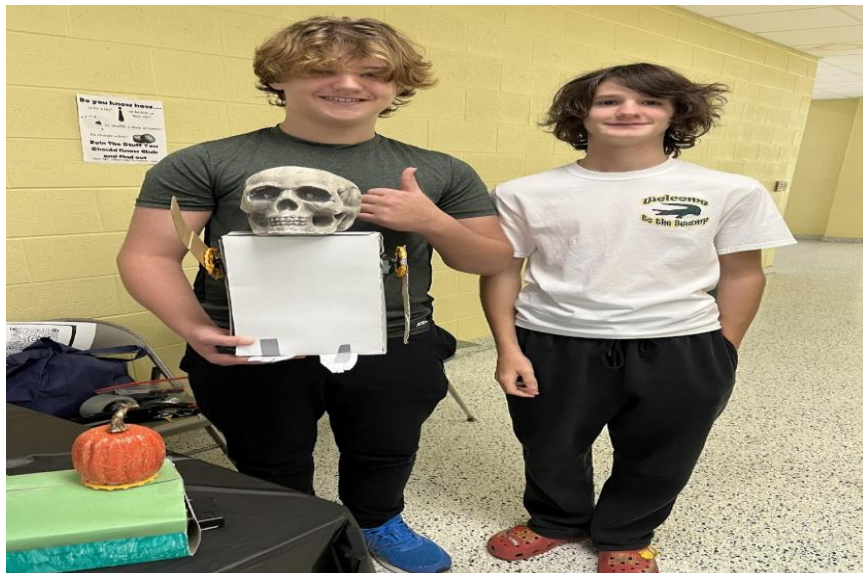
Approval of Minutes

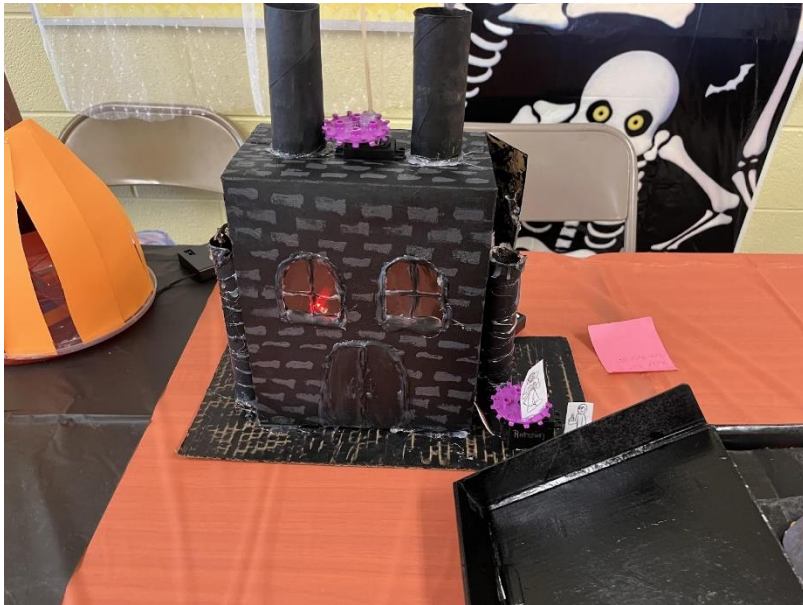
Ms. Best asked for approval of the combined board meeting minutes of October 24, 2023. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. *On Saturday, October 28th, the WA FBLA Club participated in a local Trunk or Treat at Driscoll's Home Center. Many members participated by both donating candy and handing out candy to community members*
2. *Congratulations to the Drama Club and Thespian Society on a successful run of "Murder on the Orient Express". Congratulations to the cast and crew and to Advisors, Chuck Yarmey and Kate Mangan.*
3. *Mrs. McAndrew's 8-03 STEM Rotation provided some Spooky Halloween Spirit with their Robotic designs on October 31st prior to the Senior Halloween Parade. Students worked in pairs to code, design and construct their Halloween Spectacular. Spinning Jack O'Lanterns, Haunted Hayrides, Dancing Skeletons, Flying Ghosts and more.*





3. *Chief Science Officers are a group of students from each district that cooperate with one another to improve and develop STEM curriculum and opportunities at their school. There will be multiple 1-hour events with STEM activities designed specifically for grades 1 -3 to be held at the Primary Center. The first Halloween STEM night was a huge success with a 143 students from grades 1 -3 attending the event which offered Ghostly Graph Paper Coding, Haystack "Blind" Maze, Pumpkin Tower Challenge and Make your own Edible Monster. Attached are some fun photos of the event. Due to the enormous interest, the next event will be designed specifically for our 2nd grade students to be held on January 18th. The WA CSO advisor is Mrs. McAndrew.*





Exeter, PA.
November 16, 2023

4. *The Wyoming Area Intermediate PTO hosted their annual Trunk or Treat. The students paraded around in areas by the school and eventually entered the playground to participate in Trunk or Treat. The students, faculty and staff enjoyed seeing all of the decorated cars at the event. They would like to thank everyone who participated.*



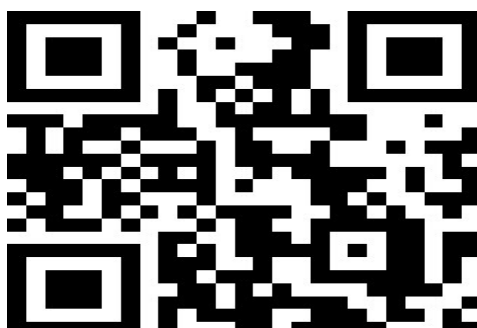


5. *The Wyoming Area Intermediate PTO hosted “A Walk Through Museum: The Natural History Adventure Museum” The Museum featured a 10 foot erupting volcano with a T-Rex and T-Rex skeleton. The museum had lifelike scenes with plants and water that showcased dinosaur relics, a fossilized dinosaur egg, tooth, stomach stone, coprolite, and bones. The museum ended with ancient fossils, rocks, minerals, and the new entomology exhibit, along with the Ocean Life Exhibit. The students enjoyed seeing and hearing about all of these topics during the presentation.*





6. *We held our annual Veteran's Day program last Thursday November 9th. We had an excellent turnout. I would like to thank Staff Sergeant Art Kohler for sharing his experiences as our primary speaker. Thank you to Mrs. Pikas and Mrs. Magyar along with the students of the history and journalism clubs for their organization and participation and finally thank you to Betsy O'Malley and the Food Service staff for the wonderful meal.*
7. *The district held a luncheon for our First Responders today at the Secondary Center. We hope to make this an annual event as a token of our appreciation of their service to our community.*
8. *The 2nd Annual Career Fair and Community Shout Out will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2024 from 8 - 11 AM at the Secondary Center Gymnasium. We encourage Wyoming Area alumni, those needing to fill immediate job openings, and local industry and government leaders to attend. If you would like to reserve a table or need more information, please contact Christine Rutledge at crutledge@wyomingarea.org or (570) 655-2836, ext. 2203. Reservations are due by March 4, 2024.*
9. *I am happy to report that we had a very successful first renewal meeting of the Wyoming Area Foundation. We discussed some short term and long term objects, finances, and fundraising. One of the first projects as we begin our new journey is to gather information from the graduates of Wyoming Area and our local town schools. So if you are a Wyoming Area Alumni or graduated from one of the local town schools, please take the 2 minutes to send us your contact information so that we can keep you informed of upcoming events. You can scan the QR code or there will be a link posted to the WA Website on Friday.*



At this time, Dr. Pollard thanked the outgoing members of the board and presented them with plaques: Lara Best, Len Pribula, Jerry Stofko and Toni Valenti.

Mr. Campenni congratulated all the membes of the drama club and their advisors for the fabulous performance they did.

Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino congratulated the board members exiting the board and wished them well. They discussed personnel appointments, a pending assessment matter and the support contract was approved. They are in the process of getting the document together by writing and sharing it with the other parties.

Student Representatives Report

Daniel Feeney reported that the senior class has the upcoming Winter Formal which will take place December 22nd at Fox Hill Country Club. An upcoming fundraiser will be held during the month of December selling cheesecakes made by Ice Screammers which is located in Moosic.

Mia Altavilla reported the first junior class meeting is tomorrow. They are in the process of planning their semi formal with a date set for January 12th.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	7,058,145.81
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	6,350.02
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	28,750.92
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	154,422.93
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	21,230.16
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	139,816.45
First National Community Bank	Series 2022 GON Account	7,905.37
First National Community Bank	Money Market Account	8,022,794.52

The treasurer’s report will be kept on file for audit.

Exeter, PA.
November 16, 2023

Finance Report

Mr. Kopko read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	115,363.23
Local Services Tax	489.11
Per Capita Tax	4,033.12
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>3,048.97</u>
Total:	122,934.43

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Basic Education Funding	1,361,886.00
Ready to Learn Block Grant	357,527.00
School District Transportation	376,755.00
ARP ESSER III	90,907.04
ARP ESSER 7%	7,065.51
ARP ESSER 2.5%	920.64
Property Tax Relief Payment	<u>295,512.28</u>
Total:	2,490,573.47

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	20,597.88
Wyoming County	<u>5,898.62</u>
Total:	26,496.50

2023 Real Estate Taxes

Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough	395,590.95
George Miller – West Pittston Borough	262,244.32
Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough	585,059.59
Wayman Smith – Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	98,729.99
Robert Connors – West Wyoming Borough	<u>123,915.41</u>
Total:	1,465,540.16

2. Approve the November 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 November 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 November payment of \$69,097.00 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approve to ratify the November 1, 2023 payment to Fidelity Bank in the amount of \$11,213.96 for the General Obligation Note, Series of 2022 of the Wyoming Area School District.
6. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area School District Tax Collectors to receive compensation regarding collection of installment payments for 2023 for real estate taxes in the amount of \$1,965.00.

7. Approve the following change orders:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Invoice#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
JBM Mechanical	CO#1	22,425.00	JFK	HVAC General Construction
JBM Mechanical	CO#2	<u>3,060.98</u>	JFK	HVAC Mechanical Construction
Total:		25,485.98		

8. Approve contract between Wyoming Area School District and EduConsult.

9. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: November 2023	772,851.76	
Prepays: October 2023	<u>817,093.03</u>	1,589,944.79
Cafeteria Account:	97,190.69	
Athletic Account:	<u>21,230.16</u>	<u>118,420.85</u>
Total:		1,708,365.64

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

On the Question: Mr. Supey questioned item #8. Dr. Pollard responded it provides for grant writing services at \$2,000 per month. It's \$48,000 for a contract for two years. They (EduConsult) contract out with DT firm to do the lobbying.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni voted no on item #8 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Supey voted no on item #8 and yes on remaining report. 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, 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 request of Carmen Latona, Secondary Teacher, to take a medical leave of absence effective November 16, 2023 through January 2, 2024.
3. Approve the revised Guest Teacher substitute list.
4. Approve the request of Audra Ciampi, Special Education Teacher, to extend her maternity leave until August 2024.
5. Accept, with regret, Shaun Rohland's letter of resignation as Assistant Principal of Discipline and Coordinator of ESL Services.
6. Approve the appointment of Christine Rutledge as Scholarship Committee Chairperson/Consultant at a stipend of \$2,000.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and a stipend of \$5,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year through the 2026-2027 school year.

Exeter, PA.

November 16, 2023

7. Approve the 2024-2025 school calendar.

Motion by Ms. Best, second by Mr. Pribula, to accept the education report.

At this time, Mr. Campenni thanked Shaun Rohland for his service and commented that he did a great job and wished him the best of luck. Ms. Best also stated that Mr. Rohland really came around in the last few years and got the department working very well. Mr. Butera commented on item #6 that he disagreed; they should make the two candidates Co-Chairs since they are the only two that cared enough to apply. And, he had no problem with Mrs. Rutledge if they go with one. Mr. Butera stated he had faith in her to run the Scholarship Program. Mr. Stofko also wanted to appoint both candidates because they are both good. It's not fair to pick one over the other.

Vanessa Smith of Exeter asked if there is a preview for the 2024-2025 calendar for the public. Dr. Pollard responded that it is tentative until the board gives final approval. The first day of school is August 26th and last day is June 6th. Mrs. Smith also congratulated Mr. Rohland. Talk of replacing Mr. Rohland will take place in December with the new board.

Rosella Fedor of West Pittston commented that the person hired for the Scholarship Chair had no experience compared to the person they didn't hire. It has to be taken over by someone who knows the program. It doesn't make any sense she said.

At this time, Mr. Supey motioned to table item #6 until next month. Mr. Butera seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, no, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, no, Mr. Kopko, no, Mrs. Valenti, no, Ms. Best, No, Mr. Alberigi, no.

Motion failed.

John Disinferdinand, West Pittston, commented that throwing anyone into a new spot is taking a risk. Do you want to take that risk, that is the question.

Roll Call for Education Report: Mr. Butera voted no on item #6 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Stofko voted no on Item #6 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Campenni abstained on item #6 and voted yes on remaining report. Mr. Supey voted no on item #6 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Aberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Activities Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Christine Campenni, Wyoming Area Swim Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Car Wash Voucher Sale – Starting November 22nd
 - Lottery Ticket Sale – Starting November 20th
 - Booyah Benefit Nights – December 3rd, 4th and 5th
 - Super Bowl Block Pool – Starting December 1st
2. Approve the request of Mindy Stevens, Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO, to hold a Visa gift card bingo on Sunday, April 7, 2024, in the Secondary Center cafeteria, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and food service director.

3. Approve the request of Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association to hold the following fundraisers:
- Got Sneakers fundraiser – November 26, 2023 and March 18, 2024
 - Blast-Online/email fundraising – January 1st to June 30, 2024
4. Approve the appointment of the following volunteer coaches for the 2023-2024 winter sports season:
- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| Jeff Pepe | Wrestling |
| Lou DeMark | Elementary Wrestling |
5. Approve the following head coaches for the 2023-2024 Spring sports season:
- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Baseball | Robert Lemoncelli |
| Boys Lacrosse | Mason Byers |
| Girls Lacrosse | Carl DeLuca |
| Softball | John McNeil |
| Boys Tennis | Bill Roberts |
| Track & Field | Joe Pizano |

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

On the question: Vanessa Smith asked about the salaries of coaches. Dr. Pollard responded it is in the contract through the CBA and is budgeted.

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

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Pribula read the Building Report.

1. Approve the request of Lori DeAngelo to use the student parking lot and Memorial Street parking lot for the Exeter Borough Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., pending approval by the Building Principal.
2. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list.
3. Accept, with regret, Tracy Petrosky’s letter of intent to retire as a Health Care Tech effective January 4, 2024.

Mr. Pribula stated it was truly an honor serving our district and tax payers the last four years.

Motion by Mr. Pribula, second by Ms. Best to accept the building report.

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

Motion passed.

Exeter, PA.
November 16, 2023

Policy Report

Mrs. Valenti read the Policy Report.

1. Approve the first reading of revised policies: Volume IV of 2023:

Policy# 815: Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources

Policy#819: Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response.

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Stofko, to accept the policy report.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, 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.

At this time, Mr. Kopko thanked the outgoing board members and wished them luck. Mr. Kopko reported that the number of calls for October was 51 compared to 63 for last month.

Mrs. Valenti stated this was her last meeting and it was a great 30 years on the board. It was a bittersweet decision but it was time to let the younger group take over. She thanked our great business manager, Tom Melone, Denise Holmes, Board Secretary, who have worked together since 1996, Attorney Ferentino for always protecting our backs, to our fellow board members who Mrs. Valenti has worked with and she wished the remaining board members the best of luck. Mrs. Valenti hoped the new board members will work with administration and keep the district going in the direction that it is going. And, thanked Dr. Pollard and administration, they are doing a great job in keeping Wyoming Area going in the direction it should be going. Also, the maintenance staff, the teachers, cleaners and custodians for all they do. One good thing is there will be another Valenti on the board. Thank you for your services and good luck to everyone.

Mr. Stofko stood up and acknowledged Maureen Pikas and her crew for the fantastic job they did with the Veteran's Program. Mr. Stofko thanked Mike Bugelholl, all the cafeteria staff and cleaning staff, everybody. Mr. Stofko asked to keep it up for the veterans. Mr. Stofko stated it is bittersweet leaving the board, 10 years, going on 11. Mr. Stofko said out of 500 votes he made two mistakes. Mr. Stofko at this time acknowledged Mike Bugelholl stating he's doing a fantastic job. Mr. Stofko also thanked Dr. Pollard. He didn't vote for him but stated Dr. Pollard has accomplished so much. He is so proud of him. And said he was sorry he didn't vote for him (Dr. Pollard).

Mr. Campenni wished all outgoing members luck and thanked them for their service. He also wished luck to the new comers coming in. Mr. Campenni acknowledged the Wyoming Area Junior Warriors the B, C and D teams that won the Superbowl.

Mr. Alberigi stated it was an honor and a privilege to serve with the outgoing board members. He stated it's not always easy being up here. He wished them the best of luck.

Mr. Kopko acknowledged Mr. Rohland by stating he was teaching when Mr. Rohland came here. It was nice working with him. Mr. Rohland did a good job and he wished him luck.

Ms. Best thanked Toni, Jerry and Len. They ran four years ago and stated it was her decision to leave the board since she just didn't have the time. You spend more than two days here. It's multiple days and hours. In four years they hired two principals, a superintendent. Ms. Best thanked the board and said most of the time it was a pleasure and also defeats.

Mr. Butera commented that even though it’s only been four months he thanked the four outgoing members for the work they did and for donating their time. Mr. Butera stated he had good experiences and had nothing but good things to say.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Best, second by Mrs. Valenti.

Lara Best, President

David Alberigi, Secretary