

11571
Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

The 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. Approximately ten people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Mrs. Valenti, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mrs. Valenti asked for roll call.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Mara Valenti, President
Mr. Philip Campenni, Vice President (Virtual)
Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
Mr. Joseph Kopko, Treasurer (Virtual)
Mr. Anthony J. Burke
Mr. Peter Butera
Mrs. Erica Gazda
Mrs. Kirby Kunkle

Absent:

Mr. Kachmarsky

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Greg Riley, Building Principal of Secondary Center, Doug Piazza, Principal of Discipline, Brian Strazdus, Building Principal of Intermediate Center, David Pacchioni, Building Principal of Primary Center, Angelo Falzone, Direction of Transportation/Attendance.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of June 17, 2026.
2. West Side Career & Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of June 24, 2026.
3. Employee #20535 submitting a letter of resignation.
4. Employee #20489 submitting a letter of intent to retire.
5. Employee #20205 requesting permission to be transferred from current position to former position.
6. Mary Portelli, West Pittston Historical Society, requesting permission to hold a historical program featuring the lobby mural at the Intermediate Center.
7. Sarah Milewski, Wyoming Area Girls Volleyball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
8. Maria Marranca, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
9. Jill Avery-Stoss, Wyoming Area Cross Country Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
10. Employee #13456 requesting permission to extend a medical leave of absence.

11. Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area Diamond Club, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
12. Right to Know Request submitted for emails or text messages between district officials, school board and athletic department from March 1, 2026 through August 14, 2026.
13. Employee #9800 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
14. Tony Callaio, Wyoming Area Class of 1976, requesting permission to tour the Wyoming Area Secondary Center for their 50th class reunion.
15. Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
16. Adele Barone, Wyoming Area Drama Boosters, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
17. Employee #7125 requesting permission to take a medical sabbatical leave.

Summary of Applications Received

Confidential Level I Administrative Assistant (District Office/Board Secretary) – 4
Storeroom Coordinator - 3

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Valenti asked for approval of the minutes of August 25, 2026. All board members present voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. The Pennsylvania School Boards Association is honoring long-term school directors across the state. School directors are recognized for years of service beginning at 5 years of service and continuing every five years thereafter. I would like to recognize the following school board members. Congratulations to David Alberigi and Joseph Kopko for 5 years of service.
2. Our Get Acquainted Nights will be held on the following days:

Kindergarten Center - September 14 at 6:00 pm
Primary Center – September 15 at 6:00 pm
Intermediate Center – September 16 at 6:00 pm
Secondary Center – September 17 at 6:00 pm
3. Leadership Wilkes-Barre is happy to share the list of the Wyoming Area students for the 2026-2027 Junior Leadership Class:

Nina Belza
Cooper Broda
Ella Campenni
Ezra Gorkos
Sophia Tang
Gianna Whittaker

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4. I would like to thank the members of the Support Staff, Building and Grounds, Professional Staff and the Administrative Staff for their diligent work over the summer in preparation for the 2026-2027 school year.

Solicitors Report

Attorney Ferentino reported the board met in executive session to discuss ongoing support contract negotiations with the support union and is happy to report that significant progress was made. Litigation and personnel matters were discussed as well.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Butera read the Treasurer’s Report for Mr. Kopko.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	2,833,290.98
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	7,546.15
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	12,430.56-
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	153,572.00
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	27,001.86
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	157,493.00
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	308,121.39
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	2,089,244.13
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Facilities Grant Account	751,758.13

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

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

<u>Berkheimer Income Tax</u>	
Earned Income Tax	119,733.39
Local Services Tax	1,365.02
Per Capita Tax	32,955.14
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>1,104.53</u>
Total:	155,158.08

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Title I – Improving Basic Programs	57,262.07
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	7,114.71
Title IV – Student Support & Academic Enrichment	3,864.64
School District Special Education	360,952.00
SHARRS Reimbursement	<u>38,144.89</u>
Total:	467,338.31

2026 Real Estate Taxes

Robert Connors-West Wyoming Borough	101,996.92
Paul Argenio – West Pittston Borough	<u>396,772.16</u>
Total:	498,769.08

Local Realty Transfer Taxes

Luzerne County	36,053.13
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2. Approve the August payment of \$47,409.46 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services for the 2026-2027 school year.
3. Approve to ratify the August payment of \$65,668.09 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2026-2027 school year.
4. Approve the Policy Services Member Agreement with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for the 2026-2027 school year.
5. Approve Appendix II – Authorized Official Resolution for Public School Facility Improvement Grant of \$1,328,107.00 to be used for doors and windows.
6. Approve to authorize the Wyoming Area School District to purchase Chromebook Computers and Components from Bluum in the amount of \$199,875.00, and execute leasing and required documentation through 1st Equipment, pending superintendent and solicitor’s approval.
7. Approve the step placement of the following temporary professional employees for the 2026-2027 school year:

Christianna Masher	Bachelors Step 6 \$46,669.00
Frank Pizano	Bachelors Step 5 \$44,938.00
Mary Siejak	Bachelors Step 5 \$55,537.00

8. Approve the following refunds for paid real estate taxes for the year 2025:

66-E10SE2-004-027-000	74.02
66-E10S1-001-003-000	<u>32.75</u>
Total:	106.77

9. Approve Astound Business Solutions Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year pending final approval by the superintendent, solicitor and business manager.

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10. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing: August 2026	693,437.74	
Prepays: July 2026	<u>622,264.37</u>	1,315,702.11

Athletic Account:	<u>3,950.00</u>
Total:	1,319,652.11

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

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

Motion passed.

Education Report

Mrs. Gazda 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) are currently being planned for the 2026-2027 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District’s Business Office.

2. Approve the 2026-2027 school year building level plans:

Wyoming Area High School: A-TSI Non-Title I School Plan
Wyoming Area Primary Center: TSI Title I School-Wide Plan
Wyoming Area Kindergarten Center: Title I School-Wide Plan

3. Approve extra-curricular positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

Leo Lulewicz	Senior Class Co-Advisor
Paula Cecil	Senior Class Co-Advisor
Kristina Anderson	Junior Class Co-Advisor
Ashley Dunn	Junior Class Co-Advisor
Maureen Pikas	Sophomore Class Advisor
Maureen Pikas	Freshman Class Advisor
Leo Lulewicz	High School Student Council Advisor
Josette Cefalo	Middle School Student Council Advisor
Carmen Latona	Class Day Advisor
Damien Rutkoski	Key Club Advisor
Maureen Pikas	National History Day Advisor
Mike Fanti	Director of Intramurals
Christine Rutledge	National Honor Society Advisor
Michelle Harden	Builders Club Advisor
Chuck Yarmey	Drama Advisor
Kate Mangan	Asst. Drama Advisor
Kaila Slack	Yearbook Advisor
Jackie Kasa	FBLA Co-Advisor
Chris Hyzinski	FBLA Co-Advisor
Ryan Charnitski	Ski/Snowboarding
Matt Finn	eSports
Kevin Whitman	eSports

Ashley Dunn
Brianna Littzi

Friends of Rachel (HS)
Friends of Rachel (MS)

4. Approve the request of employee #9800 to take a medical leave of absence effective August 17, 2026 through December 4, 2026.
5. Approve denied grievances:

26-27: 01
26-27: 02
26-27: 03
26-27: 04
26-27: 05
6. Approve the request of employee #7125 to take a medical sabbatical leave for the 2026-2027 school year.
7. Approve the appointment of Gabrielle Furner as a long term substitute teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

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

Motion passed.

Activities Report

Mrs. Kunkle read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Sarah Milewski, Wyoming Area Girls Volleyball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - On-Line Apparel Sale –Retroactive to 7/27/26 through 8/21/26
 - Fill My Volleyball – Retroactive to 8/18/26 through 9/30/26
2. Approve the request of Maria Marranca, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Gerrity's Bagging – 11/21/26 and 2/13/27
 - Skills Clinic – November/December 2026
 - Memorial Day Basket Raffle - 4/2027 through 5/2027
 - Sabatini Social Night – 5/11/27
 - Blast or Blast Type Fundraiser – 3/2027 through 5/2027
 - Banner Sale – 1/2027 through 5/2027 (selling advertising banners to hang on fence of Primary Center Field)
3. Approve the request of Jill Avery-Stoss, Wyoming Area Cross Country Parents Association, to hold a Krispy Kreme Donut fundraiser starting September 4, 2026 through Friday, October 23, 2026.

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4. Approve the appointments of the following marching band staff for the 2026-2027 school year pending all clearances:

Kristen Santey	Assistant Director
Cassidy Heid	Color Guard
Zachary Houston	Percussion

5. Approve the request of Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area Diamond Club, to hold a “Gettin Piggy With It” pig raffle from March 1, 2027 through May 31, 2027.
6. Approve the request of Adele Barone, Wyoming Area Drama Boosters, to hold an on-line Apparel Sale fundraiser from October 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026.
7. Approve the request of Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Designer Purse Bingo -2/1/27- Secondary Center cafeteria
 - Apparel Sale – Month of February

8. Approve the appointments for the 2026-2027 Fall sports season, pending all clearances:

Morgan Benton	JH Assistant Field Hockey Coach
Kurt Bloxham	Volunteer for Girls Tennis
Melania Mazzeo	Volunteer for Volleyball

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

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

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Campenni read the Building Report.

1. Accept, with regret, employee #20489 submitting a letter of intent to retire effective September 11, 2026.
2. Accept, with regret, employee #20535 submitting a letter of resignation retroactive to August 10, 2026.
3. Approve the request of employee #20205 to resign from current position and return to their prior position.
4. Approve the request of Mary Portelli, West Pittston Historical Society, to hold a historical program in the Intermediate Center lobby on Saturday, September 26, 2026, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The program will feature the lobby mural, pending approval by the building principal. The organization will be responsible for custodian services.
5. Approve the request of employee #13456 to extend a medical leave of absence through September 4, 2026 with a return date of September 8, 2026.
6. Approve the support personnel substitute list for the 2026-2027 school year.

7. Approve the appointment of Lesley Ratchford as Confidential Level I Administrative Assistant (District Office/Board Secretary).
8. Approve the appointment of Dennis Geiger as Storeroom Coordinator.
9. Approve the request of Tony Callaio, Wyoming Area Class of 1976, for the graduates to tour the Secondary Center for their class reunion on Saturday, September 5, 2026, 1:00 p.m. for one hour. Fees for a custodian's services will be charged.

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

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

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mr. Burke read the policy report in the absence of Mr. Kachmarsky.

1. Approve the second reading of revised policy #707 Use of Facilities and attachment of rates.

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

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

Motion passed.

Bids Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Bids Report.

Request for Proposals for Emergency Snow Removal Services, Athletic Field Fertilizer and Weed Control Services and Trash & Refuse Collection were advertised on the dates listed:

Times Leader

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Citizens Voice

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Also advertised on the Wyoming Area website

The proposals were due on August 20, 2026, 10:30 a.m. at which time they were opened.

Approve the appointment of Casella for refuse collection starting November 1, 2026 through October 31, 2028.

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Motion by Mr. Alberigi, second by Mrs. Kunkle, to accept the bids report.

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

Motion passed.

Mrs. Valenti thanked members of the support staff, buildings and grounds, the professional staff and administrative staff for all of their hard work over the summer. All the buildings looked well manicured and prepared for today. Mrs. Valenti wished the teachers and administration for a successful year coming up. A special thank you to Joe Kopko and Dave Alberigi for 5 years of service on the board.

With no questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 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’s website.

Mara Valenti, President

David Alberigi, Secretary