

11317  
Wyoming Area School District  
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting  
Wyoming Area Board of Education  
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643  
Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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. Fifteen 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 7:22 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  
Mrs. Mara Valenti

Absent: Mr. Michael Supey

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, William Wright, Principal of Primary Center, Doug Piazza, Principal of Discipline, Stephanie Anuszewski, Special Education Director, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Michael Bugelholl, Facilities Director, Denai Dymond, Student Representative and Gage Speece, 2025 Secretary who filled in for Mia Altavilla who was absent.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of November 20, 2024.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of November 25, 2024.
3. Ballots received from West Side Career & Technology Center for board members to elect officers to the WSC&TC Joint Operating Committee.
4. Ballots received from LIU #18 for board members to elect officers to the LIU Board.
5. Employee #12270 submitting a letter of intent to retire.
6. Rachel Leandri, Broadway on the Boulevard, requesting permission to rent the Secondary Auditorium, Lobby, Band Room and Chorus Room for their Spring Recital.
7. Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, requesting permission to hold a Lucky Draw Calendar fundraiser.
8. Employee #1135 requesting permission to take a sabbatical leave of absence.
9. April Houman, Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

10. Employee #20421 submitting a letter of intent to retire.

Applications Received

Social Worker – 3

School Psychologist - 1

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Campenni asked for approval of the combined meeting of December 17, 2024. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

**1. January is School Director Recognition Month honoring those who volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community. Ms. Holmes has placed certificates in their binders recognizing our board members for their commitment in education.**

**2. The last week of STEAM - Tinkering Day with STEAM toys:**



3. The Intermediate Chorus, along with Third Grade Students from Mrs. Vanness and Miss Evans (the sub for Mrs. Molino) sang at the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey game on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024. The students performed the Star-Spangled Banner, under the direction of Miss Sperrazza, before the game began. The students sang beautifully and received many compliments from audience members. Every year the third grade students have a competition in October to learn to sing the Star-Spangled Banner. All seven homerooms memorize and rehearse the song and then sing for Mr. Wright and Miss Sperrazza. The classes who receive the highest scores for singing are invited to attend the hockey game and perform with the chorus. This year the winners were Mrs. Vanness' and Miss Evans' classes.



4. Students in the life skills room at the Intermediate Center made gingerbread houses as part of their OT sessions with Dr. Bugelholll. Students used a variety of candy to decorate and create beautiful gingerbread houses. Students talked about the sequencing of steps to build and decorate a gingerbread house. Students also discussed their favorite candy they used to decorate while presenting their finished house to the class.





5. Below are some pictures of Santa at the Kindergarten Center last month.



6. Updates on 2024-2025 Fall sports season:  
Cross Country

The fall 2024 campaigns for both the girls' and boys' cross-country teams were defined by senior camaraderie and leadership, with five seniors – Arianna Gaylord, Hannah Stoss, Owen Klapproth, Shane Emsley, and Colby Walsh. The girls team returned all runners from last year's 10-6 squad and were ready to improve on that mark before untimely injuries to Addi Gaylord and Sophia Tang left them short-handed for team scoring. Nevertheless, led by this year's "Heart of the Team" Arianna Gaylord, the girls retained a strong team bond that inspired great individual results from Kierstyn Orlandini, who secured a trophy at the highly competitive Lackawanna Commissioners' Invitational, and from team MVP Hannah Stoss, who medaled at the prestigious Cliff Robbins meet, the Commissioners' Invitational, and the Wyoming Valley Conference Championships. For her outstanding running, Stoss was named a conference all-star by both the WVC coaches and the media for the third consecutive season. The boys' team was led by team MVP

Colby Walsh, whose work ethic at practices and tenacity on race days set an example for our underclassmen to follow in the years to come. Walsh enjoyed a fitting end to his career by medaling at both the WVC Championships and the District II Championships. In winning five meets this season, the team received valuable contributions not only from its seniors but also from junior Chris Viadock and sophomores Ben Start and Elliott Stoss.

Program Note: WAXC has now won at least one WVC Championship individual medal for the 7th consecutive year and one District II individual medal for the 6th consecutive year.

### **Field Hockey**

The Wyoming Area field hockey team had another great season this year. The team had their first undefeated regular season in school program history (16-0) and also won the Wyoming Valley Conference title this year as well. The team had an unbelievable comeback game over Lake Lehman to win the District title for the second time in school program history. Lastly, they made their way to the State Semi-Finals this season. Overall, it was another great season filled with fun, learning and competition.

### **Football**

Our Warriors finished the regular season as Wyoming Valley Conference Division 2 Champions with a record of 9-1, going undefeated (5-0) in our division for the 2nd consecutive year. In the playoffs, we advanced to the championship finishing with a record of 11-2 as District 2 Class AAA Silver Medalists.

### **Golf**

Made playoffs for the first time in 15 years. Freshman Aiden August came in second at pre-districts (the state champ of the last 2 years was 1st). Pre-districts is the best golfers from 17 schools.

### **Boys Soccer**

The Boys Soccer Team had 7 wins and 11 losses overall.

This years' all stars were: Wyoming Valley Conference Division 2 First Team: Aaron Loughney, Hayden Laughman, Collin Skilonger

2nd Team: Benjamin Nichol, Agustin Price, Benjamin Rogish

### **Girls Soccer**

- Finished season with 15-3-2 record
- District Semi-Finalist

- 3<sup>rd</sup> in WVC Division 2
- 1<sup>st</sup> seed in Districts for Class 2A
- Citizens Voice All-Stars => Kendall Day, Ella Shepulski, Ava Musinski
- WVC Coaches All-Stars:
- 1<sup>st</sup> Team => Kendall Day, Ella Shepulski, Abigail Francis, Ava Musinski
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Team => Emily Kostik, Sofia Menta, Alana Zdaniewicz, Isabella Costa
- Honorable Mention => Sarah Mizenko, Julianne Potter, Francesca Pizano, Jaiylnn Park

### **Tennis**

It was a successful season. Ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> in conference play, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in AA district 2 points behind Wyoming Sem and Scranton Prep. 10-2 season and losing in the District Semi-final to the State Runner up Scranton Prep. Our #1 made 1st team all- star in the Citizens Voice and our #3 singles had a 14-2 season, Losing only to Wyoming Sem and Scranton Prep. All three singles players return next year.

### **Volleyball**

The girls' volleyball team finished the season 4-11, but our record doesn't reflect the talent on our team. Many girls stepped into new positions and excelled. The girls supported each other and pushed themselves to improve throughout the season. We sadly said goodbye to 7 seniors, but we're looking forward to next season.

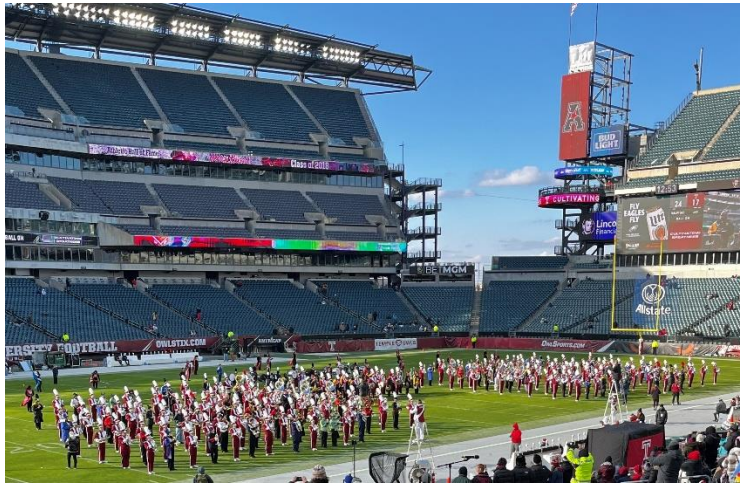
### **Marching Band**

Recently the Wyoming Area Marching Band closed out their fall portion of their season. In addition to supporting the football team at all games the band, at the recommendation of Tournament of Bands, entered class Group 1A for a scored competition. Previously the band was entered in a non-scored Festival Class division. The band traveled in their home region 2 (Northeast, PA) and region 4 (Susquehanna Valley, PA) to participate in 3 regular season contests and 1 regional championship. The band exceeded the judge's expectations and passed seasoned groups by placing 2<sup>nd</sup> at all the previously mentioned competitions; qualifying them for the Atlantic Coast Championship held at Hersheypark Stadium. The band ended their competitive season at Championships placing 13 out of 43 bands spanning over 9 states in their division.

- The band also performed the National Anthem and God Bless America at the home closer of the W-B/Scranton Rail-Riders game.
- The Exeter Veterans Day Ceremony
- Temple University High School Band Day at Lincoln Financial Field
- The West Pittston Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting

- W-B/Scranton Penguins game intermission performance of Sleigh Ride

The bands next performance will be in March at the Scranton St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Scranton. Looking Into next season the band has been invited to the National Veterans Parade & Festival in Washington, DC from Nov. 8-9 taking place at the National Mall, Washington Monument, Capital Building and Constitution Avenue.



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7. The Wyoming Area Drama Club/Thespian Troupe #4795 attended the Pennsylvania State Thespian Conference on January 2nd through the 4th at West Chester University. The Drama Club joined 30 other schools throughout Pennsylvania with over 900 students attending. The students watched performances from other schools, attended workshops, visited with college representatives as well as presented a One Act play. Five students are also competing in the Individual Performance Thespys, where they will be adjudicated for a chance to attend the International Thespian Conference this June in Indiana. Pictured is the entire group of 32 students with the advisors.



Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino reported that an executive session was held at 5:15 p.m. The board discussed two special education matters on the agenda, upcoming professional collective bargaining agreement negotiations as well as a matter before the Labor Relations Board that impacts the district here.

Student Representative’s Report

Gage Speece, 2025 Class Secretary, in the absence of Mia Altavilla, reported that deadlines to submit their scholarship essay is January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Denai Dymond, Junior Class, reported their junior class semi was held this past Friday at The Banks with a theme of “New York City” and it was an excellent time. They are now planning future fundraisers.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	3,474,778.98
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	468,992.63
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	59,107.27
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	168,197.70
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	9,456.92
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	148,195.08
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	800,224.49
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	10,180,699.48

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	46,348.75
Local Services Tax	305.43
Per Capita Tax	1,801.78
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>3,128.72</u>

Total: 51,584.68

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State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Retirement	869,036.59
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	7,473.00
PlanCon Bond Projects	137,923.31
Medicaid Admin Claims	11,149.05
Basic Education Funding	1,403,354.00
IU Contributions 24-25	(13,375.81)
PRRI 21-22	(95.33)
School District Transportation	520,128.00
DCNR-PILOT 98 Acres	98.00
Stronger Connections Grant	20,841.16
Non-Public Transportation	<u>37,345.00</u>
Total:	2,993,876.97

2024 Real Estate Taxes

George Miller – West Pittston Borough	131,727.67
Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough	148,864.29
Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough	104,345.75
Robert Connors – West Wyoming Borough	65,451.71
Wayman Smith – Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	67,498.57
Carol Bardzel – Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	<u>37,703.78</u>
Total:	555,591.77

Local Real Estate Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	32,626.30
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In Lieu of Taxes

Redevelopment & Housing Authorities of the County of Wyoming	700.00
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2. Approve the January 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 January 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 January payment of \$69,742.73 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Approve to adopt a resolution indicating that the Board of School Directors will not raise the rate of any tax for support of public schools for the fiscal year 2025-2026 by more than its index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
6. Approve Settlement Agreement and Release for student #3000482 pending approval by the District’s Solicitor.
7. Approve Settlement Agreement and Release for student #30002459 pending approval by the district’s solicitor.
8. Approve a Contractor Agreement with Elite Educational and Therapeutic Services for a School Psychologist, pending final approval of the district’s solicitor.

9. Approve the General Ledger Sheet:

Bill Listing: January 2025	1,163,087.48	
Prepays: December 2024	<u>185,851.62</u>	1,348,939.10
Cafeteria Account:	98,758.10	
Athletic Account:	<u>3,863.00</u>	<u>102,621.10</u>
		Total: 1,451,560.20

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

On the Question: Vanessa Smith, Exeter, questioned item #8 on hiring a school psychologist service and on the education report hiring a school psychologist. Dr. Pollard responded right now we are considering doing both so we can get caught up with some backlog for the remainder of the year. Hiring a school psychologist would be a more permanent solution but are tough to come by. The service would be on an as needed basis.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, 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 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. Approve the appointment of Olivia Gatto as a social worker.
3. Approve the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as a school psychologist. (THIS ITEM WAS TABLED).
4. Approve the transfer of Janine Kravitsky from first grade teacher to Business, Computer and Information Technology teacher at the Intermediate Center.
5. Accept, with regret, employee #12270 submitting a letter of intent to retire as science teacher effective June 6, 2025.
6. Approve the Program of Studies for Secondary and Middle School students for the 2025-2026 school year.
7. Approve the Resolution for Principles for Governance and Leadership.
8. Approve the revised guest teacher substitute list.
9. Approve the agreement between Wyoming Area Education Association and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the professional staff to voluntarily donate sick leave to employee #1135 for the 2024-2025 school year.

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10. Approve the request of employee #1135 to take a sabbatical leave of absence for the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year beginning January 24, 2025 through the end of the school year.
11. Approve the revised professional substitute List.
12. Approve the appointment of Christina Masher as long term substitute retroactive to August 21, 2024 through January 24, 2025, at the step placement of Bachelors, Step 4 \$41,838.00.
13. Approve the appointment of Kathryn Sciandra as long term substitute retroactive to August 21, 2024 through April 17, 2025 at the step placement of Bachelors, Step 4 \$41,838.00 (pro-rated according to the duration of assignment).
14. Approve the appointment of Julia Evans as long term substitute effective January 23, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at the step placement of Bachelors, Step 4 \$41,838.00 (pro-rated according to the duration of assignment).
15. Approve the collapse of one kindergarten classroom section effective January 28, 2025 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Gazda, second by Mr. Kopko to accept the Education Report.

Mr. Campenni motioned to table Item #3, second by Mrs. Gazda.

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

Motion passed to table Item #3.

On the Question: Joanna Pechal, Exeter, questioned why collapse a kindergarten classroom. Dr. Pollard responded that one of the teachers is taking a sabbatical for remainder of the year. It gives us an opportunity to close that classroom and redistribute those kids within how many kids are in that classroom. It would not exceed twenty to a classroom. Mrs. Pechal stated this can cause major issues for special needs students and she also asked if a mental health worker was brought in, and if not, should be brought in.

Vanessa Smith of Exeter asked how are the kids being split decided. Dr. Pollard responded they have been split up several other times because of lack of subs so they will follow the same pattern to even everyone out. Parents will be notified. If we get enrollment back to the levels we've experienced it will be automatically reinstated.

Nikki Milcavage, West Pittston, commented that she hoped it would be explained to the kids what is going on so that they do understand especially with new rules and they are at different spots in the curriculum.

Peter Butera, Board Member, stated that he hears their concerns and it matters a lot to him personally and he also stated that if you collapse a position for the rest of the year there's a savings of \$2,000.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky voted no on item #15 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Valenti voted no on item #15 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Kunkle voted no on item #15 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Gazda voted no on item #15 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Kopko voted yes, Mr. Butera voted yes, Mr. Campenni voted no on item #15 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Alberigi voted yes.

Item #15 failed. The remaining report passed.

Activities Report

Mrs. Valenti read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, to hold a Lucky Draw Calendar fundraiser starting January 2025 to March 2025.
2. Approve the request of April Houman, Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO, to hold the following fundraisers:
  - Bookfair the week of 2/10/25
  - Penny Wars week of 2/24/25
  - Snack in the USA, dining out at Booyahs, American Grill & Januzzi's in March
  - VIP & ME dance – April 2025
3. Approve the appointments of the following assistant coaches and volunteer coaches for the 2024-2025 Spring sports season:

Softball

Dean Carey	Assistant Coach
Jason Gaylord	Volunteer Coach
Kayla Taddei	Jr. High Coach
Julia Kopetchny	Assistant Jr. High Coach

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

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, 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 read the Building Report.

1. Approve the request of Rachel Leandri, Broadway on the Boulevard, to rent the Secondary Center auditorium, lobby, Band Room and Chorus Room for their Spring Recital on Saturday, June 14, 2025, with one show at 11:00 a.m. and another show at 4:00 p.m. Also, requesting the facilities for a dress rehearsal on Friday, June 13, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., pending availability and approval by the building principal. The organization is also responsible for the security and custodian fees.
2. Approve the appointment of Carol Serfass as a 4-hour food service employee.
3. Accept, with regret, employee #20421 submitting a letter of intent to retire as a paraprofessional effective June 6, 2025.

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

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Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, 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 read the Police Report.

1. Approve the second reading of revised policies Volume V of 2024:

- Policy #113.1 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- Policy #113.2 - Behavior Support
- Policy #202 - Eligibility of Nonresident Students
- Policy #236.1 - Threat Assessment
- Policy #254 - Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Policy #607 - Tuition Income
- Policy #805.2- School Security Personnel

2. Approve the second reading of revised policies Volume VI of 2024:

- Policy #005- Organization
- Policy #308- Employment Contract/Board Resolution
- Policy #823- Opioid Antagonist

3. Approve the second reading of revised Policy #237 Electronic Devices.

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

Mr. Butera motioned to table item #3. Second by Mr. Campenni.

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

Motion passed to table Item #3.

On the Question: Mrs. Pechal questioned what the second reading for the Electronics Policy and the tabling of that. Mr. Campenni responded it's for further discussion and to look into other possible ways. We are looking into our current policy. Vanessa Smith stated she couldn't find the policy on the website. Mr. Jones, Technology Director, responded that it was on the website. Mrs. Smith asked who is the school's doctor on file regarding the Opioid policy. Dr. Pollard responded our Narcan is supplied through the Emergency Management Association. It's kept secured in the nurse's office and police office.

Roll Call for Finance Report: Mr. Kachmarsky, 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 December 2024  
Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>		<u>COUNT</u>
0690	Theft – Reports	1
2400	Disorderly Conduct	3
2450	Harassment	1
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	1
3610	Disturbances - Juvenile	2
4022	Non-Criminal – Reports	2
7505	Assist Other Agencies – WARP	1
7506	Assisting Other Agencies – All Others	2
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	1
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	<u>8</u>

**Total: 22**

Open Discussion:

- Vanessa Smith, Exeter – Collapsing of the Kindergarten Class.
- Tom Williams, West Pittston – Cell phone lock pouches, taxes, school delays, student scores, Title 9, scholastic achievements.
- Mike Hronick, Harding – Funding to update the auditorium.
- Kathy, Harding – Information information to run for school board.
- Brenda Jurchak – Exeter – Cell Phones.
- Joanne Pechal – Cold classrooms and teachers using their cell phones.

To listen to the meeting in its entirety, log on to YouTube Channel on the Wyoming Area website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Alberigi, second by Mrs. Valenti.

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Philip Campenni, President

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Davie Alberigi, Secretary

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