

Mrs. Valenti asked for approval of the reorganization meeting minutes of December 3, 2025. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. Congratulations to Ezra Gorkos, who was chosen to be in the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the Luzerne Foundation.
2. Congratulations to Jaxon Pollard. Jaxon was one of 2,550 nationwide finalists to be awarded a QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship and will be attending the University of Pennsylvania on a full four year scholarship.
3. Congratulations to our Marching Band who received a letter from Senator Dave McCormick regarding their talents at the National Veterans parade. The letter states "The Wyoming Area Marching Warriors represent true dedication, talent, and patriotism. You lead the way in celebrating the service and sacrifices of our service men and women. I am proud to be the senator of a state that is home to such talented, dedicated, and patriotic young people. May you continue to use your gifts to serve others all your lives."
4. Congratulations to the Drama Club and Thespian Society on a successful run of "Agatha Christie's – And Then There Were None". Congratulations to the cast and crew and to Advisors Chuck Yarmey and Kate Mangan!
5. Congratulations to our Christmas Card winners: Julianna Potter, 11th grade student at the Secondary Center and Ariel Pollock, 6th grade student at the Intermediate Center.
6. Congratulations to Madison Pencek! Madison was selected to represent our school for Senator Marty Flynn's 2025 Student Ambassador Program. This program is an initiative for high school seniors to learn about the Pennsylvania government.
7. There are approximately 295 active FBLA chapters in Pennsylvania, organized into 29 different regions. Wyoming Area is located in Region 16, which has 12 chapters. Wyoming Area was the only chapter to achieve Champion Chapter Bronze status at the 2025 Fall State Leadership workshop. Seven students attended the conference this year: Leah Haddock, Stephanie Urena, Nerissa Hurrey, Wayne Kennedy, Jason Wang, Gabe Keezer, and Kurt Capie. Congratulations! Advisors are Jackie Kasa and Chris Hizysnki.



- On November 21st, five students from the STEM Club attended the Tecbridge Conference at King's College. During the event, they learned about Tecbridge as an organization, explored opportunities in youth entrepreneurship, and gained insight into the Tecbridge business plan competition. The STEM club is co-chaired by Christine Leandri and Kayla Whitman.



- On November 20th the Primary Center evacuated. Students, faculty, and staff did a great job throughout the entire process. Thank you to our Administration, Faculty, Staff, Maintenance Staff, Wyoming Area School Police, the Wyoming Regional Police Department, and Pace Transportation for your assistance in ensuring the safety of everyone.
- Prior to Thanksgiving break, Mrs. Klapproth's students completed a STEM project, "Catch a Turkey Challenge." Students worked in groups creating turkey traps. Students followed the ask-imagine-plan-create-improve model. All students were engaged. Great job everyone!





11. On December 3rd and 4th the KPCPTO hosted Holiday shopping for our students. All students were able to purchase items. Parents and students from the high school volunteered to assist our students in shopping. Thank you to our PTO and volunteers for making this an enjoyable experience for students.
12. On January 28, 2026, Wyoming Area Middle School students will be participating in the Your Economic Success (YES) event. We are looking for volunteers to help make our YES Day possible! Our 7th- and 8th-grade students will take part in several hands-on, interactive learning experiences focused on career readiness and financial literacy. To ensure a successful event, we are seeking volunteers who can assist with activities and share their work and life experiences with students. We need 20 volunteers to make this event happen.

If you are interested in volunteering for the YES event, please review the attached flyer and use the QR code to sign up. Thank you for your support!

Make a difference at
**WYOMING AREA
 SECONDARY
 CENTER**
 Grades 7, 8
JANUARY 28, 2026
 7:45 AM - 11:00AM

**CLICK HERE TO
 VIEW A YES!
 DAY IN ACTION!**

OR VISIT
<https://bit.ly/JA-YESDay-Preview>

YES!

YOUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

What is a YES! Day?

A hands-on, interactive learning experience that introduces middle school students to career readiness and financial literacy. This morning program is facilitated by corporate and community volunteers who also share their work and life experiences with the students.

ENGAGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- ▶ Empower students to own their own economic success.
- ▶ Facilitate engaging career readiness and personal finance activities.
- ▶ Receive both virtual training & on-site support.
- ▶ Have fun while impacting our future generations!

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER

1. <https://bit.ly/JA-YESDay-Preview>
2. <https://bit.ly/YESDaySignUp>
3. Sue Feeney - sue.feeney@ja.org

Junior Achievement of Northeastern PA
 600 Baltimore Drive | Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

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13. Members of the National Art Honor Society partnered with city council members and Exeter Borough Town Hall to create a *Peanuts*-themed winter painting for the community. Participating students included Gabriela Bly, Cece Coolbaugh, Mia Santarelli, Helena Seamans, Katrina Elkin, Gia Chapman, Ariana Francois, Jenna Ragantesi, Chloe Smith, Justine Spess and Americana Walker. Students worked collaboratively from planning and layout to final painting and detailing, demonstrating creativity, teamwork, and community service while enhancing the Avenue for the winter season. Thank you to Councilman John Morgan who provided lunch for our students.



Fall Wrap Up

The Varsity Girls Cross-Country team raced its way to a Wyoming Valley Conference Division 2 Regular Season Championship, finishing ahead of perennial powers Lake Lehman and Holy Redeemer, among others. Overall, the team posted a 10-6 record, but it lost straight-up only to four Division 1 programs, and were it not for a mid-race injury/DNF to our #1 runner, our girls would have swept the Division 2 schools. The Girls' success was built on hard work and trust in one another, which over time manifested with our #2 through #5 runners consistently racing as a pack and finishing together within the same minute—an elusive goal for most teams. Coupled with the top running of our #1 runner, junior Bella Costa, who medaled at both the conference and district meet and qualified for the state championships, the Girls put together a very rewarding season for themselves and their school.

Varsity Boys Cross-Country - With the graduation of many seniors, including a conference and district medalist from last year's team, the Varsity Boys Cross-Country team did what every team rebuilding itself does, worked hard in the preseason to build a foundation of camaraderie and find its team identity. This young team ended their regular season at 3-13, but what the record does not tell is the positive commitment the Boys maintained throughout the season and the progress they made with their competitive running, both individually and as a team. They represented their school well and were a pleasure to coach.

Field Hockey had another successful season this year. We played in the WVC championship game and made it to the district finals game again. All of the players made great progress this season individually and as a team.

Cheerleaders attended Pine Forest UCA camp this past summer and were awarded the Team Tradition Award along with earning the 2025 Camp Champion Trophy.

We just finished up football season and are currently preparing for our district cheer competition in December, along with basketball and wrestling seasons.

Football - The 2025 Warriors played a highly competitive regular season schedule finishing 9-1, Wyoming Valley Conference Division 2 Runner up, and earning the 2nd seed and a home playoff game in the Class AAA District 2 Semifinal against District 2 3A Champion, Scranton Prep, which we lost finishing with a record of 9-2. This year's team showed great resilience and competitive character, battling back from early two score deficits in three high level games to win.

Girls volleyball finished with their best season in recent years at 5-11, narrowly missing a spot in the district playoffs.

Girls tennis had another successful season by finishing 12-1 in the regular season losing only to Wyoming Seminary. We lost in the Quarterfinals of districts by a 3-2 count to Berwick. Ending the year at 12-2.

Wyoming Area Boys Soccer program finished the season 4-14 in a very competitive division for the 2025 season. The team was led by a squad of underclassman. With only 1 senior on the team this young squad played with a ton of heart and competitiveness throughout the entire season. This led to the team receiving praise by opposing coaches and 4 All-Star nominations.

Girls soccer team had a very successful season -

- 10th consecutive year with winning record
- WVC Champions
- District II 2A Champions
- #1 Seed in Districts
- Advanced to PA State Tournament

The team worked extremely hard during the off season and proved that hard work pays off. I was extremely happy with the girls as they continue to play together which has been our team motto for years.

Golf was one win short of playoffs. Sophomore Aiden August qualified for states. 1st player in 16 years to do so

JH Field Hockey - Our junior high field hockey team ended with a record of 4-4-7.

They all showed great improvements this season.

JH Co-ed Soccer

The 2025 Junior High soccer team had a great season finishing at 15-1. The Junior High soccer team obtained the Co-ed Wyoming Valley conference championship for the third year in a row. The effort, support, and energy the players and coaching staff brought every day made this team such a success.

The Wyoming Area Marching 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 placed 2nd and 1st throughout the season; qualifying them for the Atlantic Coast Championship held at Hershey Park Stadium.

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The band ended their competitive season at championships placing 17 out of 47 bands spanning over 9 states in their division.

- The band also performed the National Anthem and God Bless America in August at the W-B/Scranton Rail Riders game.
- The National Veterans Day Parade in Washington, D.C.
- The West Pittston Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting

The band's next performance will be in March at the Scranton St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Scranton.

While in Washington, D.C. due to the shutdown the group was not able to secure any tours at the time; however, the kids had a free day to see many of the monuments throughout the area. The band was live streamed the day of the parade on the National Veterans Day Facebook page and was also live on Fox News and Fox Sports nationally. The band was given an open invitation to come back and perform again. Congressman Rob Bresnahan contacted Mr. Bufalino and invited the band to come back to Washington, D.C. for a personal tour of the White House, Supreme Court and Capitol Building in the spring.

Dr. Pollard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Ferentino reported they met in executive session this evening and engaged in collective bargaining with our police. Also, they discussed ongoing personnel matters. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Student Representative's Report

Ella Keefer, Jr. Class, was present but did not have a report for this evening.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer's Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	14,976,391.95
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	7,246.12
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	8,784.38
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	157,545.77
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	16,976.22
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	153,852.22
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	184,357.16

Peoples Security Money Market Account 2,062,137.70
Bank & Trust

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

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	507,930.43
Local Services Tax	5,289.96
Per Capita Tax	2,758.61
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>4,985.43</u>
Total:	518,264.43

2025 Real Estate Taxes

Thomas Pizano, Exeter Borough	338,606.75
George Miller, West Pittston Borough	335,050.27
Robert Connors, West Wyoming Borough	187,309.12
Paul Konopka, Wyoming Borough	144,774.97
Wayman Smith, Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	239,915.45
Carol Bardzel, Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	<u>78,866.42</u>
Total:	1,324,522.98

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Social Security	386,600.20
Retirement	883,584.92
Title I- Improving Bond Projects	367,826.50
Title II- Improving Teacher Quality	7,414.00
Title IV- Student Support & Academic Enrichment	20,112.36
Medicaid Admin Claims	1,666.11
Basic Education Funding	2,820,068.00
Bond Intercept 24-25	509,836.00)
School District Special Education	1,016,958.00
School District Transportation	748,556.00
DCNR-PILOT 98 Acres	294.00
PCCD School Mental Health & Safety Grant 24-25	56,079.03
PCCD Safety Meritorious	16,377.59
Stronger Connections Grant	<u>187,570.48</u>
Total:	6,003,271.19

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	26,685.93
Wyoming County	<u>2,989.59</u>
Total:	29,675.52

2. Approve the December payment of \$89,723.85 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services and other related services for the 2025-2026 school year.

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3. Approve to ratify the December payment of \$68,161.62 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Approve to ratify the contract between the Wyoming Area School District and UGI Energy Services, LLC (UGIES) for a 6 month period, January 1, 2026 for securing the purchase of natural gas.
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 2026-2027 by more than its index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
6. Approve notification to the Northeast Pennsylvania School District Health Trust that the Wyoming Area School District reserves its right to withdraw participation from the Trust in accordance with section 5.4 of the Trust Agreement.
7. Approve the establishment of a line of credit with First Equipment Finance in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (350,000) for the purpose of purchasing approved goods and services, with all expenditures subject to review and ratification by the Board of Directors subject to review and approval of the Superintendent, Business Manager, and Solicitor.
8. Approve the purchase of the following vehicles for District use: one (1) 2025 Chevrolet 2500 Dump Truck, one (1) 2025 Chevrolet 3500 Cargo Van, and one (1) 2025 Ford All-Wheel Drive twelve (12) passenger van not to exceed \$_____. Subject to final approval of the Superintendent, Business Manager, and Solicitor. Approval shall also authorize the execution of any and all required documentation.
9. Approve the purchase and implementation of the Infinite Campus Student Information System, including all associated costs. Subject to final approval of Superintendent, Business Manager and Solicitor.
10. Approve the Settlement for Grievance #25-26:01 pending approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor.
11. Approve the payment of invoice #1297260 for \$936.50 to Pennoni Associates, Inc., for project IAQ Intermediate Center Basement.
12. Approve the agreement with Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 for Para/Teacher Pathway to Tuition Scholarship Program pending approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor.
13. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing:	December 2025	572,489.48	
Prepays:	November 2025	<u>142,016.58</u>	714,506.06
Cafeteria Account:		55,760.43	
Athletic Account:		<u>5,281.45</u>	<u>61,041.88</u>
		Total: 775,547.94	

At this time, Mrs. Valenti made a motion to amend #8 on the finance report. It will read to approve the purchase of the following vehicles for district use, which would be one 2025 Chevy 3500 Dump Truck and one 2025 Ford All-Wheel Drive twelve (12) passenger van not to exceed \$135,000. Subject to final approval of the Superintendent, Business Manager, and Solicitor. Approval shall also authorize the execution of any and all required documentation.

Motion to amend by Mrs. Valenti. Mrs. Kunkle seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, no, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed to amend #8.

Motion by Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Kachmarsky to accept the Finance Report.

On the Question: Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked what the tax index was for 25-26, in item #5. Mr. Melone responded, 4.8%. How much is the gas in item #4. Mr. Melone responded it went up. We were paying \$3.89 and now we extended it for 6 months because it elevated to \$4.75. Item #9, Mrs. Smith asked if this is a new phone system. Dr. Pollard responded, no, this is a new student information system but it is collapsing several other things into one program. And for item #10, Mrs. Smith asked if this grievance was already discussed in November. Response was it is a different grievance.

Roll call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera voted no on item #7 and #8 and yes on remaining report. 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) have been planned for the 2025-2026 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Accept, with regret, employee #20469 submitting a letter of resignation effective January 16, 2025.
3. Approve the request of employee #20307 to take a maternity leave effective March 2, 2026 with an intent to return to work on June 1, 2026.
4. Approve the request of employee #7125 to take a medical leave of absence retroactive to October 14, 2025 through December 23, 2025 with a tentative return date of January 5, 2026.
5. Approve the appointment of Doug Piazza as 12 month Assistant Principal of Discipline at \$80,000 pro-rated to July 1, 2025.
6. Approve expulsion waiver for student #3000521 pending approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor.
7. Approve expulsion waiver for student #3000772 pending approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor.

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

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Roll call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, 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 the Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association to hold a Gerrity’s bagging fundraiser on February 8, 2026.
2. Approve the request of Lesley Ratchford, Wyoming Area Girls Basketball Parents Association, to hold a Gerrity’s bagging fundraiser on Saturday, January 17, 2026.
3. Approve the appointments of the following assistant and volunteer coaches for the 2025-2026 spring sports season:

Baseball

Sam Parente	Assistant Coach
Pat McGinty	Junior Varsity Coach
Geoff Baumes	Volunteer Coach
Robert Lemoncelli	Volunteer Coach
Colton Krogulski	Volunteer Coach
Francis DeAngelo	Volunteer Coach
Caden Strobel	Volunteer Coach
Dan Wiedl	Volunteer Coach

Softball

Julia Kopetchny	Assistant Varsity Coach
Cassidy Graham	Volunteer Varsity Coach

Track & Field

Mike Fanti	Assistant Coach
Kristen Lombardo	Assistant Coach
Lou DeMark	Assistant Coach
Jason Speece	Junior High Coach
Nico Sciandra	Junior High Coach
Randy Spencer	Volunteer Coach
Mark Farrell	Volunteer Coach

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

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

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mrs. Kunkle read the Building Report in the absence of Mr. Campenni.

1. Approve the request of employee #20044 to extend a personal leave of absence through December 23, 2025, with intent to return on January 5, 2026.
2. Approve the appointment of Jessica Bonomo for 3 hour food service position.

3. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Approve the appointment of Valerio Zurla as a cleaner.

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

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

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mr. Kachmarsky read the Policy Report.

1. Approve the first reading of Volume V revised policies:

Policy #105.2 Exemption from Instruction

Policy #122.1 Noncurriculum-Related, Nonschool-Sponsored, Student-Initiated Groups

Policy #816 District Social Media

2. Approve the second reading of the following policies:

Policy #913.1 Advertising in Schools (new policy)

Policy #122 Extracurricular Activities

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

On the Question: Vannessa Smith, Exeter, questioned Policy 913.1 Advertising in Schools. Does this account for scouting groups, boy scouts, cub scouts and elementary sports. To hand out flyers. Attorney Ferentino responded that this policy really is like in a business pursuit to advertise here on site. It's a little different. Mrs. Smith questioned policy 122.1, does this policy cover elementary sports for a student initiated group or would that be still considered a parents association. Dr. Pollard responded no, that's more and it's actually the result of some court cases. It would be more directed towards a high school where kids want to gather together and kind of create their own subject matter group.

Virtual Question from Jennifer Ciampi regarding the Extracurricular Activities policy asked if there will be an exemption for students with chronic health conditions, will it be written into the policy. What will the parameters be. Dr. Pollard responded there's always room for students who have documented difficulties or medical concerns that we can find a way to work through this policy.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, voted no on item #2 and yes on remaining report, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Kopko read the Police Report.

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

<u>CODE</u>		<u>COUNT</u>
0294	Childline Investigation	1
0452	Threat Assessment	3
2400	Disorderly Conduct	3
2450	Harassment	4
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	1
3100	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
3400	Mental Health	1
3501	Suspicious Persons, Autos, Circumstances	1
3840	Fire Alarm/ Unfounded	1
4090	Non-Criminal – Reports	6
7016	Follow Up Information	3
7505	Assist Other Agencies – WARP	2
7590	Assisting Other Agencies – Reports	1
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	4
Total		32

Open Discussion:

- Walter Stevens, West Wyoming – Have teachers received unlocking mechanisms for the Yondr bags. He addressed students bussing in who were standing out in the cold when it was way below freezing. Dr. Pollard explained that the security staff doesn't come on duty until 7:15. If they are getting here before that time they need to wait on the bus. Last question, since being involved in various sporting events throughout the fall, Mr. Stevens has heard about a considerable number of bullying incidents at the high school from random students. He asked if there was an anonymous way for students to report it. Dr. Pollard responded that they can use the Safe to Say system which is common across the state. It's an anonymous way to report bullying and it doesn't tie back to the student.

Mrs. Valenti stated that a combined meeting for January will be held on Wednesday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Valenti also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Mara Valenti, President

David Alberigi, Secretary