11591
Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area School District
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, October 20, 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 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mrs. Valenti asked everyone to remain standing in memory of Brad Mahalsky and Heather Judge, former teachers whom have passed away. Mrs. Valenti asked for roll call.

Roll Call:	Mrs. Mara Valenti, President
	Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
	Mr. Joseph Kopko, Treasurer
	Mr. Anthony J. Burke
	Mr. Peter Butera
	Mrs. Erica Gazda
	Mrs. Kirby Kunkle
Absent:	Mr. Philip Campenni, Vice President
	Mr. Michael 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, Ella Keefer and Lucy Menta, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. West Side Career & Technology Center Joint Operating Committee meeting was held on Monday, August 24, 2026.

2. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

3. Adele Barone, Wyoming Area Drama Booster Club, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.

4. Sarah Milewski, Wyoming Area Girls Volleyball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.

5. Rachel Leandri, Broadway on the Boulevard, requesting permission to rent facilities to hold their holiday show.

6. April Warke, Wyoming Area Elementary PTO, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

7. Michelle McDermott, Wyoming Area Boys Basketball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

8. Kathleen McCabe, Wyoming Area Girls Basketball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

9. Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area Class of 2027 Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.

10. Employee #6910 requesting permission to take a family leave of absence.

11. Right to Know Request submitted by a parent for information regarding her son.

12. Tyler Samanas, 11th grader at Wyoming Area Secondary Center, requesting permission to make refurbishments to the shed at the Primary Center as an Eagle Scout project.

13. Employee #20538 submitting a letter of resignation.

Summary of Applications received
Level II Administrative Assistant – 7

Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Valenti asked for approval of the minutes of September 22, 2026. All board members present voted aye.

Superintendent's Report
Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. **On Friday September 25, 2026 the 5th grade students from the Wyoming Area Intermediate Center along with their teachers had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Young People's Concert at the F. M. Kirby center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.**
   The students got to hear the orchestra live and were treated to a special event to celebrate the 240th anniversary of Luzerne County. The program featured the music of Aaron Copland with historical narration and media presentation about the history of Luzerne County set to the musical selection Appalachian Spring.

   The students saw images of the battle of Wyoming and saw several images of the Wyoming Monument in the presentation which is part of our school district's seal.

   The students learned about the instruments of the orchestra and had a chance to ask some questions at the conclusion of the performance.

   Mrs. Becker, 5th grade teachers, and the students want to thank you for having this opportunity.



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2. **Primary Center students had the opportunity to learn about fire safety and prevention with the help of the Wyoming Fire Department and the West Side Mutual Aid Smokehouse, sponsored by the Kait Kares organization. This hands-on experience helped reinforce the importance of fire safety and the steps students can take to stay safe in an emergency.**



3. **On October 6, 2026, Exeter Borough and West Pittston fire departments came to help support the kindergarten students for fire awareness month. Thank you to Officer John Bell for helping facilitate this for our students.**



4. **We would like to thank The Exeter, West Pittston, West Wyoming and Wyoming Fire Departments and West Side Mutual Aid Smokehouse for visiting our schools to teach our students about fire safety and provide an exciting tour of the fire trucks.**

5. **Wyoming Area Secondary Center is proud to recognize Zhiwen Tang for being named a Commended Student in the 2027 National Merit® Scholarship Program. Zhiwen is among approximately 34,000 students nationwide being recognized for exceptional academic promise. This distinction places Zhiwen among the top students who entered the 2027 National Merit Scholarship competition through the 2025 PSAT/NMSQT. Your hard work, dedication, and academic achievement are something to celebrate! We are incredibly proud to have your represent Wyoming Area. Congratulations Zhiwen!!**



6. **Our annual Veteran's Day Program is scheduled for November 10th, 2026. If you are a Veteran and would like to attend, please contact the Main Office at 570-655-3733 ext. 2333 or email Mrs. Maureen Pikas (mpikas@wyomingarea.org) for more information.**

7. **The elementary Halloween Parades will be held on October 30th. The Kindergarten Center Parade starts at 9:30am. The Primary Center parade starts at 10:15am and the Intermediate Center parade starts at 11:00am. Exeter Lions will be passing out candy bags for the kindergarten students during the Halloween Parade.**

8. **The Wyoming Area Drama Club and Thespian Society #4795 will be presenting "Alice by Heart". Showtimes are November 20th and 21st at 7:00pm and the 22nd at 2:00pm.**

9. **Instant Decision Day will be held on November 4, 2026 which will give opportunities for members of the Class of 2027 to meet with representatives of at least 10 Colleges/Universities to find out if they would be accepted.**

10. **Trades Day will be held for our 9th – 12th grade students on November 18, 2026. This will be a career exploration experience for our students to meet with representatives from local construction and manufacturing Unions and Corporations.**

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Solicitor's Report

Attorney Ferentino reported the Board met this evening and October 13th in executive session and discussed on-going collective bargaining, security matters, along with some personnel matters as well.

Student Representative's Report

Ella Keefer, Senior representative reported a successful Homecoming and thanked everyone that helped. Looking forward to the Halloween parade that will be held Tuesday, October 27th along with a Winter formal date of December 17th at Fox Hill. Lucy Menta, Junior representative mentioned the Junior class completed two fundraisers, being the basket raffle and t-shirt sale to be worn during spirit week. Next fundraiser will be held November 6th and 7th at American Grille.

Mr. Burke recognized Simon Pollard and Veronica Bogert with Certificates of Appreciation in response to their participation in fire safety and the smokehouse from Westside Mutual Aid.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer's Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	6,709,469.38
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	7,602.88
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	14,311.16
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	145,032.06
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	21,416.77
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.98
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	158,424.09
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	308,689.44
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	2,095,767.08
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Facilities Grant Account	753,144.06

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	40,154.79
Local Services Tax	749.08
Per Capita Tax	.00
Delinquent Per Capita	2 668.26
	Total: $43,572.13

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Retirement	897,261.70
Title I — Improving Basic Programs	218,600.96
Title II — Improving Teacher Quality	7,114.071
Title IIV — Student Support & Academic Enrichment	11,593.96
Medicaid Admin Claims	1,411.24
School District Special Education	360 952.00
	Total: $1,496,934.57

2026 Real Estate Taxes

Paul Konopka-Wyoming Borough	2,185,222.86
Carol Bardzel — Exeter Twp., Wyoming County Robert	579,827.18
Connors — West Wyoming Borough	2,006,000.87
Thomas Pizano — Exeter Borough	3,338,164.78
Paul Argenio — West Pittston Borough	2,573,484.79
Heather Santee — Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	1,917,910.65
2025 Supplemental	187.20
Total:	12,600,798,33

Local Realty Transfer Taxes

Luzerne County	18,608.19
Wyoming County	1 122.82
	Total: $19,731.01

Delinquent Real Estate Tax

Wyoming County	23,965.68

2. Approve the October payment of $83,990.04 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 October payment of $65,668.09 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2026-2027 school year.

4. Approve the final payment to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for Special Education Contracted Professional Services provided to the Wyoming Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of $90,629.00.

5. Approve a credit earned from the Luzerne Intermediate Unit related to the Personalized Academy of Learning (PAL) Programs provided for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of $22,068.00.

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6. Approve the final payment to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit related to the Autism Center Programs for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of $34,602.04.

7. Approve the final payment to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit related to the Partial Hospitalization/Lighthouse Programs for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of $13,860.79.

8. Approve the Agreement for Community and School Based Behavioral Health Teams, IBHS Services: Group and Individual between the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 and Wyoming Area School District for the 2026-2027 school year.

9. Approve the Sales Agreement with SmartestEnergy US LLC., pending approval by the Superintendent, Solicitor and Business Manager.

10. Approve the submission of November 1, 2026 payments to Wilmington Trust (M&T Bank) through the intercept program offered by the Commonwealth of PA for the following debt obligations:

Registered Wyoming Area ASD 19A interest:		17,256.25
	principal:	0.00
		$17,256.25
Registered Wyoming Area ASD 19B interest:		112,777.00
	principal:	5 000.00
		$117,777.00
Registered Wyoming Area ASD 2 IA interest:		69,150.00
	principal:	1 265 000.00
		$1,334,150.00
Registered Wyoming Area ASD 21B interest:		15,150.00
	principal:	651000.00
		$80,150.00

11. Approve the November 1, 2026 payment to Fidelity Bank in the amount of $47,742.50 for the General Obligation Note, Series of 2022 of the Wyoming Area School District.

12. Motion to approve a one-time stipend of $10,000.00 to Greg Riley, Secondary Center Principal, for the 2026-2027 academic year, in recognition of the additional administrative and supervisory responsibilities associated with Director of Secondary Education job responsibilities. The stipend is supplemental compensation for these duties and shall not constitute a permanent increase in base salary or an entitlement to additional compensation in subsequent academic years. Pending approval by the Solicitor and Superintendent.

13. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing:	1,235,715.87
Prepaids: September 2026	541,717.38
Cafeteria Account:	4,237.27
Athletic Account:	10,802.00
	Total: $1,792,472.52

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

Mrs. Valenti spoke about item #12 and why it was proposed.

Mr. Butera spoke on why he was voting no on item #12. It has nothing to do with Mr. Riley, and felt he wasn't comfortable with it being proposed for any individual.

On the Question:

Melissa Dolman, Dupont, Inquired about 3-minute deferment from other teachers at the meeting. Presented curriculum documents for anyone that wanted to see them. Mentioned 5 grievances including unfair labor practices. Teachers were given 5 hours of time at $40 per hour and still felt unprepared at the start of the school year.

Jackie Kasa, Wyoming, Brought up unreliable heat and air conditioning in her room. Would like recognition for faculty, staff and admin that go beyond their assigned duties.

Mrs. Valenti responded she has reached out to HVAC and will reach out to them again.

Daneen Kearns, from the audience, questioned why the minutes couldn't be differed.

Attorney Ferentino responded that it was written in the policy called Public Comment at Board Meetings (Policy 903).

Roll Call: Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera voted no on item #12 and yes on the remaining report, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

<u>Education Report</u>
Mrs. Gazda read the Education Report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District's Federal Programs (Title l, Title Il, Title Ill 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 Agreement regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Free Appropriate Public Education Stipulation for student #3001194 pending final approval of the solicitor and Superintendent.

3. Approve the Agreement regarding Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Free Appropriate Public Education Stipulation for student #3003738 pending final approval of the solicitor and Superintendent.

4. Approve the appointment of Aydan Kirby as Social Studies teacher.

5. Approve the appointment of Jennifer Hines as Builder's Club advisor for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

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

Motion passed.

Online question: John Bonin asked who proposed giving Mr. Riley the stipend?

Mrs. Valenti answered it was the Board of Education.

Activities Report

Mrs. Kunkle read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of April Warke, Wyoming Area Elementary PTO, to hold fundraisers:

- Krispy Kreme — 10/21/2026 through 11/04/2026
- Big 4 Lotto calendar Raffle 11/1/2026 - 11/30/2026
- Online Book Fair 2/8/2027 - 2/12/2027
- Gertrude Hawk 2/10/2027 - 2/24/2027
- VIP Dance 4/14/2027
- coin Wars 3/15/2027 - 3/19/2027

2. Approve the request of Adele Barone, Wyoming area Drama Booster Club, to hold a Poinsettia and Wreath sale fundraiser starting November 7, 2026 through December 13, 2026.

3. Approve the request of Rachel Leandri, Broadway on the Boulevard, to rent the Secondary Center Auditorium, 2 classrooms for their holiday show to be held on Saturday December 12, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Also requesting the auditorium Friday, December 11, 2026 for rehearsal. The organization is responsible for rental fees, custodian fees and security.

4. Approve the request of Michelle McDermott, Wyoming Area Boys Basketball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
    - Bagging at Gerrity's 11/5/2026
    - Super Bowl Block 1/4/2027 through 2/13/2027
    - Daily Number Lottery 2/1/2027 through 2/27/2026

5. Approve the request of Kathleen McCabe, Wyoming Area girls Basketball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
    - Snap Raise - 11/20/2026 through 12/6/2026
    - Wise Crackers Comedy Club — 12/01/2026 through 12/15/2026
    - Luca Pizza — 1/18/2027 through 1/30/2027
    - Pick 3 Lotto - 1/1/2027 through 1/31/2027
    - Bagging at Gerrity’s 2/21/2027

6. Approve the request of Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area Class of 2027 Parents Association to hold a Bingo on 3/21/2027.

7. Approve the appointment of Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Dan Larson for the 2026-2027 winter sports season.

8. Approve the following appointments of assistant and volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 winter sports season:

Basketball, Boys
Ian Gilmartin — Assistant (JV) Coach
Derrick West — 9th Grade Coach
Tim DePriest — 8th Grade Coach Kevin
Vincavage - 7th Grade Coach
Alan Kiesinger — Volunteer Coach

Basketball, Girls
Mary Price — Assistant (JV) Coach
Morgan Slusser — 8th Grade Coach
Maggie Hallman — 7th Grade Coach
Ron Foy — Volunteer Coach
Lily Savoy — Volunteer Coach
Jada Sharp — Volunteer Coach

Swim
Ashley Walker — Assistant Coach Kayla
Taddei — Diving Coach

Winter Track
Michael Fanti — Volunteer Coach
Kristen Lombardo — Volunteer Coach
Lou DeMark — Volunteer Coach

Wrestling
Rocco Pizano —JH Coach
Patrick Heck — Assistant Varsity Coach
Ted Lasher — Elementary Volunteer
Mark Chapman — Elementary Volunteer
Todd Bonning — Elementary Volunteer
Gia Nina Larson — Assistant Wrestling Coach for Girl's Program

9. Approve the request of Chuck Yarmey, Wyoming Area Drama Club Advisor, for the district to cover the cost of transportation and driver housing for the Pennsylvania State Thespian Conference at Altoona High School in Altoona, PA., held December 4th through December 6, 2026. The total cost for transportation and driver housing is $6,494.00.

10. Approve the request of Michelle McDermott, Wyoming Area Boys Basketball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:

- Bagging at Gerrity's 11/15/2026
- super Bowl Block 01/04/2027 through 02/16/2027
- February Daily Number Lottery 02/01/2027 through 02/27/2027

11. Approve the request of Joe Pizano, Athletic Director, to attend the annual Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association Conference in March 2027 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center in Hershey, PA., at a cost not to exceed $800.00.

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12. Approve the request of Tyler Samanas, an 11th grade student at Wyoming Area Secondary Center to refurbish the shed at the Primary Center for his Eagle Scout project.

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

On the Question:

Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked if #4 and #11 were duplicates and how many applicants for head varsity wrestling coach. Response was yes and one application.

Nikki Milcavage, West Pittston, explained reason for moving bingo date.

April Warke, Exeter, Apologized for bingo misunderstanding.

Mrs. Valenti thanked everyone for dedicating their time to the students to make their time here memorable.

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

Motion passed to accept the finance report.

Building Report

Mr. Butera read the Building Report in the absence of Mr. Campenni.

1. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. Approve the appointment of Stacy Michalisin as Level II Administrative Assistant.

3. Approve the request of employee #6910 to take a family leave of absence effective January 4, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

4. Accept with regret the resignation letter of employee #20538 effective October 27, 2026.

5. Approve to rescind the appointment of Jacqueline Bley as Level II Administrative Assistant.

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

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

Motion passed.

Police report
Mr. Kopko read the Police Report

Wyoming Area Police Department
Monthly Report for August/September 2026
Total Calls for Service

CODE		COUNT
0294	Childline 104	2
0452	Threat Assessment	1
1440	Criminal Mischief – All Other	1
1810	Drug Violations	3
2400	Disorderly Conduct	2
2450	Harassment	14
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	2
2664	All Other Offenses – All Other (Misc.)	7
2811	Curfew Law (Juvenile) – Male	2
3870	Medical Emergency	1
4091	Custody Dispute	1
7504	Assist Other Agencies – Other Police	1
9999	Welfare Check	1
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	13
	Total	**51**

Open discussion:

Vannessa Smith, Exeter, Concerned about construction and parade routs for Halloween and the absences of M. Campenni.

Brenda Jurchak, Exeter, thanked our school law enforcement for protecting the students after the most recent school shootings on the news.

Althea Edwards, West Wyoming, Allegations towards son

Vannessa Smith, Exeter, all students should have media passes for sidelines revoked.

Joanna Pechal, Exeter, third party gifted testing for son.

Daneen Kearns, West Pittston, Compensation for teachers and validity of curriculum documents.

Melissa Dolman, Dupont, more concerns about curriculum, compensation and stipend not going to teachers.

Lisa Day, Wilkes-Barre, five hours compensation when also learning a new system.

Sara Mazzitelli, Forty Fort, Concerns for limited time to complete curriculum.

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Jennifer Hines, West Pittston, Lack of resources for new curriculum.

Jennifer Fedor, West Pittston, Fundraising options other than Knoebels that keep the kids together as a group.

Kate Menta, Harding, not enough time for writing curriculum as she had to take her daughter to college. No response to emails or requests for more time.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Alberigi.

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

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Mara Valenti, President

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David Alberigi, Secretary