

11987
Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

The 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. Michael Supey, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Mr. Michael Supey, President
- Mrs. Kirby Kunkle, Vice President
- Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
- Mr. Peter Butera, Treasurer
- Mr. Philip Campenni
- Mr. Michael Kachmarsky
- Mrs. Kirby Kunkle
- Mrs. Rebecca Rutkoski - (Virtual)
- Mrs. Mara Valenti

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, Cathy Ranieli, Secondary Center Assistant Principal, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Douglas Piazza, Assistant Principal of Discipline, Michael Bugelholl, Director of Facilities, Mia Altavilla and Daniel Feeney, Student Representatives.

Communications

Mr. Alberigi reported that there were no additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their regular meeting minutes of January 24, 2024.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of January 22, 2024.
3. Sheri Slusser, Wyoming Area Girls Softball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
4. Karen Donati, Wyoming Area Baseball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
5. Sharon Yates, Senior Project Manager of A.D. Marble, on behalf of PennDOT, requesting permission to rent the Secondary Center auditorium for a public open house to discuss the Pittston/West Pittston bridge.
6. Employee #20567, Cleaner, submitting their letter of resignation.
7. Employee #20228, Teacher, submitting their letter of resignation.
8. Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

Summary of Applications Received

School Psychologist – 2
Cafeteria – 6 Teacher of Visually Impaired – 4

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Supey asked for approval of the regular meeting minutes of February 27, 2024. All board members present voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. Thank you to our Wyoming Area Baseball Team who read to our kindergarten students for Read Across America week.



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- 2. The Primary Center celebrated Read Across America in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Classrooms were visited by the baseball team and the Drama Club. Community members such as firefighters, police officers, business owners, doctors, lawyers, and politicians visited. Our guests read stories to students and discussed their careers. Throughout the week students showed their Spirit by dressing up each day reflecting stories from Dr. Seuss, such as wear your favorite hat/headband (Cat in the Hat) and crazy socks (Fox in Socks). Students ended the week by eating cake during lunch. Happy birthday Dr. Seuss.**



- 3. The Science Olympiad team competed in the Regional Science Olympiad Competition at Penn State Wilkes Barre on Wednesday, March 6th. Congratulations to the following students who earned medals in their events:**

Astronomy - Loc Bui-Pham and Bella Vogel

Chemistry Lab - Drew Dixon and Cadance Cable

Codebusters - Kayden Druator, Chris Fath, Justin Zhou

Detector Building - Drew Dixon and Mario Belza

Forensics - Cadance Cable and Hannah Stoss

Forestry - Hannah Stoss and Brady Kearns

Optics - Justin Zhou and Drew Dixon

The team also competed in an invitational competition at North Pocono High School in January. Head Coach is Molly Kearns

Assistant Coaches are Nancy Roman and Gordon Williams

Teachers Clarise Bandru, Damien Rutkoski, and Alan Hanczyk also assisted in preparing students.

4. March marks the one year anniversary of our Satellite Children's Produce Market at the Exeter Township Borough Building. During that year, the Satellite site has served 1728 people by providing access to groceries. I would like to thank the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors, the Harding Recreation Committee and the Becker Family for their dedication and support of this endeavor. The Children's Produce Market is held monthly and serves any school age child and their family that resides in the district.
5. The Wyoming Area Intermediate Center physical education classes recently participated in a March Madness Free Throw competition. During the week of March 11th-15th, students from Mr. Argo and Mrs. Lombardo's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes had the opportunity to shoot 10 free throws during their PE class to determine the top girl and boy shooters for each class. On March 20th, the top shooters from each homeroom competed for the overall winner of each grade. The winners are as follows:

Girl winners: Payson Galvin (4th grade), Ella Tigue (5th grade), and Janessa Barber (6th grade).

Boy winners: Tyler Lucas (4th grade), Austin Mucha (5th grade), and Kashius Warren (6th grade)



6. Our annual Climate Survey is posted on our website. Parents and community members are encouraged to submit responses. Students will be taking the survey over the next several weeks.

7. WINTER SPORTS - END OF YEAR SUMMARY

- a. **Wrestling** - our team record was 5-13 with 7 losses by 6 points or less. We finished with 2 District Champs - Connor Novakowski at 121# and Nate Obrzut at HWT. 1 -5th place finisher Michael Appel at 114#. Nate Obrzut finished 5th and Connor Novakowski finished 6th at Regionals. Nate's record was 33-9 and Connors was 28-14. Chase Wilhelm was 12-10, Ben Gravine at 16-17, Michael Appel at 14-17, Shane Emsley at 7-13, Johnny Stone at 5-4 and Caden Reynolds at 9-10.
- b. **Swimming** - The Wyoming Area Swim Team more than doubled the size of its team from the previous season. The girls' team had a winning record of 6-5 with Ameriana Walker and Ava Menditto leading the Warriors in points. Ameriana placed 7th in 100 backstroke, and Ava 12th in the 100 butterfly at districts. Macy Waters, a senior, placed 6th in the district diving competition. The girls 400 free relay team of Bree Harry, Emma Kratz, Walker, and Menditto finished 7th. The boy's team was led by Jonathan Cortez and Sonny Sabatini. Cortez, Sabatini, along with John Getzie and William Vanauken finished 8th in the 400 free relay at the district meet. The Warrior captains were seniors Samara Campenni, Macy Waters, Karamia Marranca, and John Getzie.
- c. **Boys Basketball** - The boy's basketball team had a very successful season. The team finished with an overall record of 17-9, defeating Berwick in the first round of district playoffs before ending its season with a loss to Scranton Prep in the District 2 AAAA Semifinals. This season, our team became the first team from WVC Division 2 to defeat Holy Redeemer, beating them 74-68 in triple overtime. The team eventually finished tied with Redeemer, losing to them in a WVC league championship playoff game. Many players from the boy's basketball team received well-deserving accolades upon completion of the regular season.

Dane Schutter became the 11th player in school history to achieve the 1,000 point milestone, finishing his career with over 1,300 total points. He was named WVC Division 2 Most Valuable Player.

Brady Noone was selected to the WVC Division 2 Second Team All Stars.

Tyler Sciandra and Matt Rusinchak were both voted to represent Wyoming Area in the George Moses Senior All Star Game on April 5.

Coach Macario was voted WVC Division 2 Coach of the Year, and he will also be coaching our seniors in their senior all- star game.

- d. **The Lady Warriors Basketball** team embarked on a rebuilding season during the 2023-2024 season. The younger players gained a tremendous amount of experience this season. Players at the Varsity, JV and Junior High levels all had the opportunities to show their tenacious play. Our future looks very bright. Highlights of this season include: Morgan Slusser was invited to play in the Dr. George Moses Senior All Star Game; Addison Gaylor (9th) finished in Top Ten WVC Division 2 for 3 Pointers with 17; Anny Sterba (9th) finished in Top Ten WVC Division 2 in Free Throw Percentage with 52.3%. The team did make the playoffs but lost in the quarterfinals round to Berwick.

- e. **Winter Track** - The team mostly focused on getting in quality conditioning and mileage as a group to prepare for the outdoor season. We traveled to Susquehanna University and Clarks Summit University for two indoor meets to assess training progress, where the kids turned in some solid performances in the 800m and mile.

Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino reported that an executive session took place on March 19th and tonight to discuss Special Education litigation matters, Act 93 discussion and personnel matters with the district and security.

Student Representative’s Report

Daniel Feeney reported the senior class distributed cheesecakes from Icecreamers today as a part of our Easter Cheesecake fundraiser. They also have organized the Prom which will be held on May 10th at the Mohegan Sun Casino from 5 to 9 p.m. and tickets will go on sale April 4th.

Mia Altavilla reported that the junior calendar fundraiser was a huge success and they made just under \$5,000. They are also planning the prom with the seniors on May 10th. The officers are planning a year end trip. Mia thanked everyone who donated children’s books over the last three weeks and also thanked the elementary principals.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Butera reported there are no additions to Treasurer’s Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	5,590,366.24
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	6,485.32
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	170,316.68
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	152,242.20
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	16,104.01

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First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	142,222.23
First National Community Bank	Series 2022 GON Account	7,905.37
First National Community Bank	Money Market Account	6,148,983.90

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

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read additions to the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	469,165.50
Local Services Tax	4,376.27
Per Capita Tax	604.00
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>1,654.02</u>
Total:	475,799.79

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Social Security	182,247.12
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	30,135.00
PCCD Safety & Mental Health Grant	12,740.34
Basic Education Funding	1,361,886.00
ARP ESSER III	181,814.08
ARP ESSER 7%	<u>7,065.51</u>
Total:	1,775,888.05

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	17,444.12
Wyoming County	<u>288.69</u>
Total:	17,732.81

2. Approve the March 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 March 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 March payment of \$69,097.00 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approve engineering services and environmental consultation services pending approval by the school solicitor and business manager.

- 6. Approve the Settlement Agreement for student #3002923 pending approval by the school solicitor.
- 7. Approve Resolution____ - 2024 granting the request of Wyoming Avenue Development Group, LLC for the LERTA tax abatement on the subject properties identified as approximately 16 acres, along Wyoming Avenue, Exeter Borough identified by Luzerne County Parcel Id Numbers 16-E11SW1-002-01A-000; 16-E11-00A-21A-000; 16-E10-00A-12A-000; 16-E10-A-12B-000. (See proposed resolution on the Wyoming Area website)
- 8. Approve motion to authorize the development of a strategic planning services agreement between the Wyoming Area School District and CM3 Business Solutions, Inc., subject to final approval of the Board and School Solicitor.
- 9. Approve Appendix II – Authorized Official Resolution for a Public School Facility Improvement Grant.
- 10. Approve the appointment of Bob Dellarte of Golden Photo Studio to be named the Official Yearbook Photography Studio for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 11. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: March 2024	1,067,814.47		
Prepays: February 2024	<u>221,231.25</u>		1,289,045.72
 Cafeteria Account:	 109,153.68		
Athletic Account:	<u>5,781.00</u>	<u>114,934.68</u>	
	Total:		1,403,980.40

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

On the Question: Vanessa Smith, Exeter, questioned item #10, is that for senior photos or can seniors go where ever they like. Dr. Pollard responded they can go where they want for yearbook photos. It’s mostly for the team photos, club photos, National Honor Society, and graduation ceremonies that Mr. Dellarte photographs.

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

Motion passed.

Education Report

Mr. Supey asked that before Mr. Kachmarsky reads the Education Report he would like to table Item #7. Second by Mrs. Kunkle.

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

Motion passed to table item #7.

Mr. Kachmarsky read the additions to the Education Report.

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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 agreement regarding waiver of expulsion hearing and free appropriate public education stipulation for student #148310 pending approval by the school solicitor.
3. Approve the step placement of the following temporary professional employees:

Kayla Taddei	Bachelors	Step 4	\$41,483.00
Holly McBroom	Bachelors	Step 4	\$41,483.00
4. Approve the revised professional substitute list for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Accept, with regret, employee #20228, Teacher, submitting their letter of resignation.
6. Approve the appointment of Arly Flores-Cantorán as School Psychologist.
7. Approve the appointment of _____ as Teacher for the Visually Impaired. (This item was tabled)

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

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

Motion passed to accept the Finance Report.

Activities Report

Mrs. Rutkoski read additions to Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Sheri Slusser, Wyoming Area Girls Softball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Gerrity’s Bagging – 4/1/24
 - American Grille Night Out – 4/17/24 & 4/18/24
 - Mother’s Day Purse Raffle – 4/22/24
2. Approve the request of Karen Donati, Wyoming Area Baseball Parents Association, to hold an American Grille fundraiser on May 1, 2024.
3. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO to hold a Community Dine Out Night fundraiser at Booyah and Donato’s Pizza on April 14th, April 15th and April 16, 2024.
4. Approve the appointment of Nicholas Sciandra as Assistant Jr. High Trach & Field Coach for the 2023-2024 spring sports season.
5. Approve the appointment of Jason Gaylord as a volunteer coach for Varsity Softball for the 2023-2024 spring sports season.

Motion by Mrs. Rutkoski, second by Mr. Supey to accept the activities report.

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

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Campenni read additions to the Building Report.

1. Approve the request of Sharon Yates, Senior Project Manager, A.D. Marble, on behalf of PennDOT to rent the Secondary Center auditorium for a public open house regarding the Pittston/West Pittston bridge on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal. PennDOT may also be charged for security and custodian.
2. Accept, with regret, employee #20567, Cleaner, submitting their letter of resignation retroactive to March 1, 2024.
3. Approve the appointment of James Stoss as 5.75 hour cafeteria employee.
4. Approve the appointment of Lisa Colarusso as 4 hour cafeteria employee.
5. Approve the appointment of Danielle Moran as 4 hour cafeteria employee.
6. Approve the agreement between Wyoming Area Education Support Professionals and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the support staff to voluntarily donate one sick leave day during the 2023-2024 school year to employee #20377.

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

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

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mr. Supey reported there were no additions to Policy Report.

1. Approve the first reading of revised policies:

Policy #626.1: Travel Reimbursement – Federal Programs

Policy #903: Public Comment in Board Meetings

Policy #254 Attachment- Compact Rules

Motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the policy report.

On the Question: Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked about the time cut for public comments at the meetings. Attorney Ferentino said if there is a meeting where there is a large number of people then the public will be limited in speaking in order for the board to hear from everyone.

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

Motion passed.

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Bids Report

Mr. Supey read the Bids Report.

The bids for purchase and removal of certain pieces of district property were advertised on the following dates:

Citizen’s Voice/Times Leader/Website

Sunday, March 3, 2024
 Sunday, March 10, 2024
 Sunday, March 17, 2024

The bids were received and opened on Friday, March 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

The following items were put out for bid:

- 28 Epson Projectors
- 1 Cross Country 18 Ft. Trailer
- 1 12 Ft. Trailer
- 1 Snow Plow (Plow Only)
- 4 Snow Blowers (Troy Bilt – Parts Only)

(Successful Bidder)

Dave Veneziano	Yellow Cross Country MFG Trailer	\$607.00
Bellefonte, PA.	Small Black Trailer	<u>207.00</u>
	Total:	814.00

Motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi, to ratify the bids report.

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

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Supey read the Police Report.

**Wyoming Area Police Department
 Monthly Report for February 2024
 Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>		<u>COUNT</u>
1430	Criminal Mischief – Public Buildings	1
1532	Weapons – Possession – Knife	1
1810	Drug Violations	1
2400	Disorderly Conduct	2
2450	Harassment	3
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	2
2690	All Other Offenses - Reports	2
3840	Fire Alarm	1
3900	Traffic & Parking Problems	1
4020	Suspicious Vehicle	1
4028	Non-Criminal – Other Investigations	1
5004	Lost & Found – Found Articles	1
7504	Assist Other Agencies – Other Police	2
9997	Child Custody	1
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	8

TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	16
	Total	44

Open Discussion:

- Phil Campenni thanked Attorney Ray Hassey and his group for his effort in improving locations within the district and to decrease taxes.

The following topics were discussed:

- Carmen Latona, Dallas – A Right to Know Request that he submitted.
- Nick Giambra – Mental health concerns and KOOTH.
- Joe Price, Falls – Wanted to tour the Kindergarten Center for their child.
- Vanessa Smith, Exeter – Fundraisers.
- Brenda Jurchak, Exeter – A nice note from Mrs. Sperrazza acknowledging Mrs. Jurchak’s daughter, KOOTH program and grant money the district received.
- Adrienne Panuski, West Pittston – PSSA scores, asked for calendar that shows all events.
- Carl Yorina, West Wyoming – Opportunity Tax Credit, Tuition Vouchers, STEM.
- Mike Supey, Board Member, asked Dr. Pollard if possibly putting a future ready index night on the books.

To listen to all comments, questions and responses log on to YouTube on the Wyoming Area Website www.wyomingarea.org.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Michael Supey, President

David Alberigi, Secretary