

11934  
Wyoming Area School District  
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education  
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643  
Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held this evening in the Secondary Center library, 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643. Ten people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Ms. Best President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Ms. Lara Best, President
- Mrs. Toni Valenti, Vice President
- Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
- Mr. Joseph Kopko, Treasurer
- Mr. Peter Butera
- Mr. Philip Campenni
- Mr. Leonard Pribula
- Mr. Gerald Stofko
- Mr. Michael Supey

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Tom Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, Cathy Ranieli, Assistant Secondary Center Principal, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, Stephanie Anuzewski, Director of Special Education, Angelo Falzone, Director of Transportation/Attendance, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Michael Bugelholl, Director of Facilities, Daniel Feeney and Mia Altavilla, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting minutes of their regular meeting of August 2, 2023.
2. Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
3. Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, requesting permission to rent the Secondary Center auditorium for their Christmas Program.
4. Mindy Stevens, Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO, requesting permission to hold fundraisers and activities.
5. Ashley Moska, Teacher, requesting permission to extend her maternity leave of absence.
6. Right to Know Request submitted for minutes or agendas where fencing bids/quotes were discussed, accepted and approved.
7. Right to Know Request submitted for the current curriculum for English 10 (honors) and review of textbooks being used.
8. Right to Know Request submitted for a copy of the last property & casualty insurance renewal summary for all lines of insurance and a copy of the last employee benefits insurance renewal summary for health, dental and visions plans.
9. Deb Crossley, Wyoming Area Wrestling Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.

10. Jennifer Bonita, Wyoming Area Field Hockey Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
11. Ashley Evans, Life Skills Teacher, submitting her letter of resignation as Edmentum Cyber Teacher.
12. Danielle LoPresto, Special Education Teacher, requesting permission to take a maternity leave of absence.
13. Joe Pizano, Athletic Director, requesting permission to attend the annual Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association Conference.
14. Lesley Ratchford, Treasurer of Wyoming Area Girls Basketball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold various fundraisers.
15. Sharon Mazzeo, Personal Care Aide, requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
16. Sgt. Len Lombardo, Wyoming Area Regional Police, requesting permission to hold an Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response class (ALERT 1) at the Primary Center.
17. Christine Rutledge submitting her letter of resignation as Builders Club Advisor.

#### Summary of Applications Received

Cafeteria - 2

#### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Best asked for approval of the minutes of September 26, 2023. All board members present voted aye.

#### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. *Our Annual Veterans' Day Program is scheduled for November 9th. If you are a Veteran and would like to attend, please contact the Main Office at 570-655-2836 ext. 2333 or email Mrs. Maureen Pikas ([mpikas@wyomingarea.org](mailto:mpikas@wyomingarea.org)) for more information.*
2. *The Exeter Lions Club will be passing out candy bags for the students during the Halloween Parade.*
3. *I am pleased to report that our Wyoming Area Young Scholars made it to the final round of the academic competition. This is the first time they have made it this far, they came in 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8 teams from Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. Young Scholars is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholastic competition held at Scranton Prep each year. The members of our Young Scholars are Sophia Chickson, Ezra Gorkos, Sophia Tang, and Gianna Whittaker. Michelle Harden is the Advisor. Congratulations!*
4. *The Marching Band attended the Tournament of Bands Region 2 Championship this past Saturday and received a rating of silver with a placement of 1<sup>st</sup> in group 1F. Congratulations!*

Exeter, PA.

October 24, 2023

5. *Congratulations to our undefeated Junior High Co-ed Soccer team!*
6. *Come and see "Murder on the Orient Express" Show times are Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. General admission tickets are \$10.00. In observance of Veteran's Day, Veteran's will receive a \$2 discount.*
7. *Thank you to Corpus Christi Parish for the donation of toiletries and school supplies!*

#### Solicitor's Report

Attorney Ferentino reported an executive session was held on October 17<sup>th</sup> and tonight. We discussed pending approval of the support contract and pending assessment litigation.

#### Student Representative's Report

Daniel Feeney reported that the Senior Class are looking to organize a Powder Puff Football Game as a fundraiser. They are looking at sometime in November, but an exact date has not been decided yet.

Mia Altavilla reported the previous basket fundraiser from homecoming game raised about \$1,100 for the Junior Class. T-shirts were sold for the WA vs PA game, students in all buildings will be able to wear them to school and the game this Friday. The Junior Semi Formal is scheduled for Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at The Banks in Pittston, our theme is Starry Night. They are in the process of planning more fundraisers and beginning to plan Prom.

#### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer's Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	8,521,252.42
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	6,328.13
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	3,068.54
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	152,624.00
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	10,167.31
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	139,205.87
First National Community Bank	Series 2022 GON Account	7,905.37

Finance Report

Mr. Kopko read additions to the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	48,370.60
Local Services Tax	25.94
Per Capita Tax	9,220.00
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>4,636.70</u>
Total:	62,253.24

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Retirement	813,245.62
Title I- Improving Basic Programs	58,061.00
School District Special Education	278,364.00
ARP ESSER III	90,907.04
ARP ESSER 7%	7,065.51
ARP ESSER 2.5%	<u>920.64</u>
Total:	1,248,563.81

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	28,515.13
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2022 Supplementals

Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough	1,218.17
George Miller – West Pittston Borough	<u>452.99</u>
Total:	1,671.16

2023 Real Estate Taxes

Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough	1,469,474.43
George Miller – West Pittston Borough	2,303,543.56
Carol Bardzel – Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	404,164.89
Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough	2,405,371.44
Wayman Smith – Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	1,643,004.79
Robert Connors – West Wyoming Borough	<u>1,656,333.10</u>
Total:	9,881,892.21

2. Approve the October 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 October 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 October payment of \$69,097.00 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approve the November 1, 2023 payments to Wilmington Trust (M&T Bank) for the following debt obligations:

General Obligations Bonds Series 19A Interest	17,256.25
Principal	<u>0.00</u>
Total:	17,256.25

Exeter, PA.  
October 24, 2023

General Obligations Bonds Series 19B Interest	112,978.25
Principal	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total:	117,978.25
General Obligations Bonds Series 21A Interest	116,150.00
Principal	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total:	121,150.00
General Obligations Bonds Series 21B Interest	40,600.00
Principal	<u>1,185,000.00</u>
Total:	1,225,600.00

6. Approve the payment to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for payment for ESL (English as a Second Language) instructional hours for March 2023 through June 2023 in the following amounts:

March 2023 (total of 17 hours @ \$93.00)	\$1,581.00
April 2023 (total of 16.5 hours @ \$93.00)	1,534.50
May/June 2023 (total of 28.5 hours @ \$93.00)	<u>2,650.50</u>
Total:	5,766.00

7. Approve the agreement with Berkheimer One Source to assist in the printing and mailing of the annual Homestead/Farmstead invitation letters to eligible residents that reside within the Luzerne County of the District.

8. Approve the Letter of Agreement between WVIA and Wyoming Area School District for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026 school years for the District’s participation in the WVIA Enhanced Scholar Program at an annual rate of \$2,500 per year.

9. Approve the tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Wyoming Area School Board and the Wyoming Area Education Support Professional Association, ESPA-PSEA-NEA, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, pending final approval by the school solicitor.

10. Approve the payment of \$7,960.00 to Champion Builders, Inc., Invoice App#5, for HVAC equipment at JFK Kindergarten Center.

At this time, Mr. Kopko asked for a motion to table item #11. Mrs. Valenti motioned seconded by Mr. Stofko to table item #11.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed to table item #11.

11. Approve the following change orders:

Vendor	Change Order	Amount	Description/School
JBM Mechanical	#1	\$22,425.00 Increase	HVAC Equipment Replacement at Kindergarten Center
JBM Mechanical	#2	\$15,460.03 Increase	HVAC Equipment Replacement at Kindergarten Center

12. Approve the appointment of Conrad Siegel to provide consulting services for benefit plan entitled IRC Section 125, at a cost of \$2,000 for initial plan document creation, and an additional annual cost of \$750-\$1,000 beginning with July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for annual nondiscrimination testing and ongoing maintenance/amendments.

13. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: October 2023	1,175,962.39	
Prepays: September 2023	<u>115,786.59</u>	1,291,748.98
Cafeteria Account:	58,955.28	
Athletic Account:	<u>9,478.50</u>	<u>68,433.78</u>
	Total:	1,360,182.76

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

On the Question: Mr. Melone was asked to give clarity on item #12. Mr. Melone stated it is a requirement to have our benefit program qualified with a submission to Internal Revenue. It works for people that are contemplating the buyout of medical insurance. We had a vendor that we utilized prior at a cost of \$4,200. This vendor will do it for approximately \$2,000.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Education Report

Ms. Best read the additions to 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 2023-2024 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District’s Business Office.
2. Approve the request of Ashley Moska, Teacher, to extend her maternity leave of absence with a return date of January 3, 2024.
3. Approve the revised Guest Teacher Substitute List.
4. Approve Ashley Evans, Life Skills Teacher, letter of resignation as Edmentum Cyber Teacher effective immediately, October 11, 2023.
5. Approve the request of Danielle Lopresto, Special Education Teacher, to take a maternity leave of absence effective January 3, 2024 with an anticipated return date of May 6, 2024.
6. Approve the appointment of Lauren Wiedl as Edmentum Cyber School Teacher.
7. Approve Kevin Whitman, Guidance Counselor, for tenure having completed three years of satisfactory service as a temporary professional employee.
8. Approve to rescind the appointment of Carmen Latona as English Chairperson for grades 7th through 12<sup>th</sup> effective October 24, 2023.

Exeter, PA.  
October 24, 2023

9. Approve the appointment of Carmen Latona as English Chairperson for grades 9th through 12th effective October 24, 2023.
10. Approve the appointment of Christine Rutledge as English Chairperson for grades 7th and 8th effective October 24, 2023.
11. Accept, with regret, Christine Rutledge's letter of resignation as Builders Club Advisor effective October 24, 2023.
12. Approve to rescind Michelle Harden's appointment as Builders Club Co-Advisor effective October 24, 2023.
13. Approve the appointment of Michelle Harden as Builders Club Advisor effective October 24, 2023
14. Approve the Comprehensive Plan for 2023-2026.

Motion by Ms. Best, second by Mrs. Valenti, to accept the education report.

On the Question: Mr. Supey asked if the Comprehensive Plan will be on the website. Dr. Pollard responded it would be.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

#### Activities Report

Mr. Alberigi read Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Wyoming Area Kindergarten/Primary Center PTO, to hold the following fundraisers and activities:
  - Scholastic Book Fair –April 2024
  - Parent/Teacher conference – November 2023, December 1, 2023 and February 12, 2024
  - Community Nights monthly starting in January (ex. Januzzi's, Texas Roadhouse) January, February and April 2024
  - Spring Flower Sale – March 2024
  - Mad Tee Apparel Holiday Sale – November 2023
  - Penguins Hockey Night – March 2024
  - Railriders Baseball Night – June 2024
2. Approve the request of Deb Crossley, Wyoming Area Wrestling Parents Association, to hold a Wrestling Xmas Bingo fundraiser on December 10, 2023, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Secondary Center Cafeteria/Gym Lawn, pending facilities availability and approval.
3. Approve the request of Jennifer Bonita, Wyoming Area Field Hockey Parents Association, to hold a Lottery Fundraiser at the Southern Columbia and Pittston Area football games on October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 27, 2023.
4. Approve the request of Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, to hold a Dunmore Candy Kitchen fundraiser January 15, 2024.

5. Approve the following assistant coaches and volunteer coaches for the 2023-2024 winter sports season:

Wrestling

Todd Bonning                      JH Volunteer Coach

Elementary Wrestling- Volunteers

Mark Chapman  
Todd Bonning  
Trevor Dennison

Elementary Wrestling Volunteers

Jon Lark  
Stephen Arnold  
Michael Pasquariello

Swimming

Ashley Walker                      Assistant Swimming Coach

6. Approve the request of Joe Pizano, Athletic Director, to attend the annual Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association Conference in Hershey, PA., March 19<sup>th</sup> through March 23, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$800.00. Reimbursement for mileage is also being requested.

7. Approve the request of Lesley Ratchford, Treasurer of Wyoming Area Girls Basketball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:

- Gerrity's bagging - November 19, 2023
- Snapraise - December 1, 2023
- Business Advertising November 6 - November 30, 2023
- Pizza Sale- January 22 - February 1, 2024
- Sabatini's or SBC Night out (21 and over) January 23, 2024
- Lottery - November 17 - November 29, 2023

Motion by Mr. Alberigi, second by Mr. Kopko, to accept the activities report.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Pribula read additions to the Building Report.

1. Approve Debra Hindmarsh from personal care aide to paraprofessional retroactive to September 5, 2023.
2. Approve Kara Kohler from paraprofessional to personal care aide retroactive to September 5, 2023.
3. Approve Amanda Nowak from paraprofessional to personal care aide retroactive to September 18, 2023.

Exeter, PA.  
October 24, 2023



4. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list.
5. Approve the request of Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, to rent the Secondary Center auditorium for their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., pending facilities availability and approval.
6. Approve the request of Sharon Mazzeo, Personal Care Aide, to take a medical leave of absence effective October 23, 2023 through January 2, 2024.
7. Approve the appointment of Frank Rico as Storeroom Coordinator.
8. Approve the request of Sgt. Len Lombardo, Wyoming Area Regional Police, to hold an Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response class (ALERRT 1) at the Primary Center on December 28<sup>th</sup> and December 29, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Pribula, second by Mr. Kopko to accept the building report.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

#### Policy Report

Mrs. Valenti read additions to Policy Report.

1. Approve the second reading (and adoption of new policy) and revised policies of Volume II of 2023:

Policy 800: Records Management

Policy 830: Copy of Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification

Policy 830.1: Data Governance – Storage/Security (New Policy)

2. Approve the second reading (and adoption of new policy) and revised policies of Volume III of 2023:

Policy 006: Meetings

Policy 216.1: Supplemental Discipline Records (New Policy)

Policy 251: Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Stofko, to accept the policy report.

Roll Call: Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Stofko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mr. Pribula, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Ms. Best, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Open Discussion:

Mr. Kopko addressed the audience regarding the recent threats. He thanked Chief Alberigi and the Wyoming Area Police Force, along with the Wyoming Area Regional Police Force from Chief Turner and his officers. He thanked the state police and administration, teachers and the entire staff with the two evacuations. Mr. Kopko also stated that there were 38 calls for the month.

Mr. Pribula stated I would like to make a clarification about a comment at the last meeting, regarding the voting in the backroom about reading the Police Report as part of our meeting. When we talked about it in our executive session the consensus was to post on line. When we voted on the floor at the last meeting, I went along with the recommendation of our administration to post on line in order to streamline the agenda. Not to avoid transparency but to keep transparency. It is posted on line for everyone to see and I believe that to be part of the official record. One of my roles as a school board member is not to grandstand or micro manage our administrators. It's to let them do their jobs and support their decisions. I believe all of our administrators are the best in the area.

Meagan Normand – West Pittston – Questioned the police report not being read at the meetings anymore.

The police report will be on the website to view.

Ms. Best announced that there will be a combined board meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Stofko.

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Laura Best, President

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David Alberigi, Secretary