

11333  
Wyoming Area School District  
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education  
252 Memorial Street, Pennsylvania, 18643  
Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 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. Philip Campenni, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence for Delia Torregiani and John Zwirek, former employees of the district that recently passed away.

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 (Virtual)
Mrs. Kirby Kunkle
Mr. Michael Supey
Mrs. Mara Valenti

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, District Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, William Wright, Principal of Primary Center, Doug Piazza, Principal of Discipline, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Denai Dymond and Mia Altavilla, Student Representatives.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Campenni asked for approval of the combined meeting of January 21, 2025. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

At this time, Dr. Pollard introduced Mr. Kevin Bishop from Scouting America for a short presentation.

1. I would like to introduce Mr. Kevin Bishop from Scouting America.
2. The following students made it to the States FBLA Competition in Hershey! They will participate in a second round of testing in April to earn a spot at the National Competition.

1st place winners:

Leona Broda  
Kendall Day

Renee Haddock  
Sonny Sabatini  
Stephanie Urena

Sophia Wardell

2nd place winners:

Ella Keefer

Anna Kelleher

Aubrey Lewis  
Makayla Ross

Nathan Thomas

Lily Weiskerger

3rd place winners:

Nerissa Hurrey

Jeremy Layland

David Bryk

4th place winner:

Dom Mazza

5th place winner:

Wayne Kennedy

3. When Mrs. Broda's after school book club finished the reading of *The Chocolate Touch*, the students had a chocolate tasting. They sampled five different varieties of milk chocolate from around the world, then ranked them from their favorite to least favorite. It was extremely difficult, but the students managed to get through it.

The results were as follows:

1. Lindt (made in the UK)
2. Hershey
3. Schogetten (Germany)
4. Cadbury (Canada)
5. Favorite Day (Poland)



4. The Intermediate Center kids made a newspaper with our after school Writer's Club.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZZDQhL5f4sfI0JYkVPt1qjRQtU1Cuscq/view?usp=sharing>

5. The Music Collaborative afterschool program was successful. Each student who attended was able to create at least one song and was able to access the platform for creating their compositions independently by the end of the sessions. Students who attended consistently did indicate that they enjoyed the program and were excited to share the pieces of music they created.
6. The Intermediate Center Honors Band After School Program exposed students to basic elementary music theory using worksheets and interactive exercises/videos on the newline panel. Topics covered:
  - a. Naming the music staff.
  - b. Identifying the Treble and Bass Clef and what instruments correspond to each clef.
  - c. Using the musical alphabet for Treble and Bass Clef on the music staff.
  - d. Identifying what a measure is and how notes work within a measure.
  - e. Identifying note types (values). Quarter, Half, Whole, etc. Identifying rest types (values).
  - f. Identifying time signatures (2/4,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 4/4, 5/4, 6/8, etc.) while counting & placing note/rest values for each appropriate time signature.

Students all were on all varied levels of learning music since they were from different grade levels. All had a good foundation of the topics listed. The topics covered solidified or built upon their understanding of reading music and reinforcing math skills. Most topics took the group 45 mins. to achieve. The last 15 mins. were a free jam session with the instruments and personal instruction was provided for those that needed it. By the end of the 6 weeks the students reached an intermediate understanding of time signatures and note placement. Most students in this age group do not accomplish this on that level as it is a middle school/junior high level.

7. Congratulations to Phaedra Erzar and Abby Butler, they were selected to represent Wyoming Area as WVIA Student Artist of the Week!
8. The K-Kids Club at the Intermediate Center completed many community service projects for the first half of the school year:
  - Canned goods collection for the First United Methodist Church Pantry
  - Made Valentine cards for the residents of Highland Manor nursing home
  - Collected pet supplies for NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue

In addition, club members helped organize the Clothes Closet, which is now open for students to use. The Clothes Closet provides clothing and personal care items free of charge for any students in need. K-Kids also volunteered their time with school-related projects as well. K-Kid advisors are Mrs. Angeli, Mrs. DeLucca, Mrs. Dessoye and Mrs. Stevens. Great job everyone!



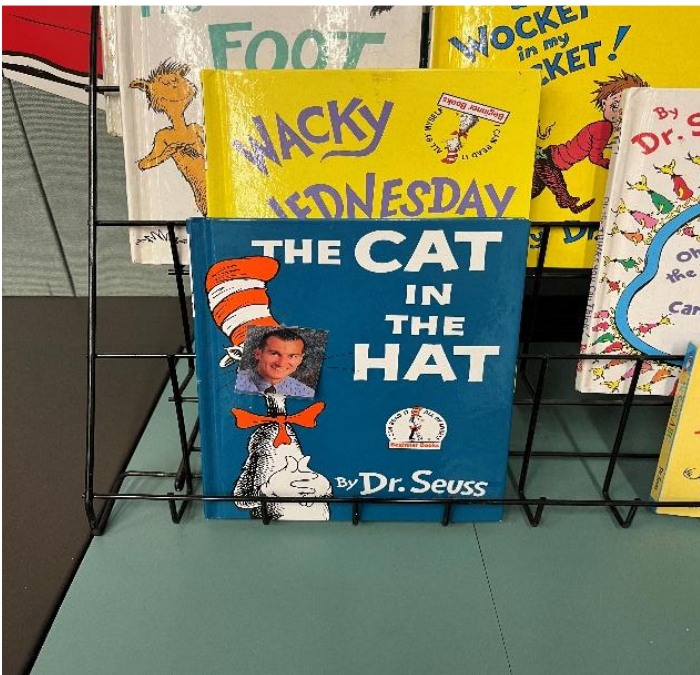
9. Axelrad Screenprinting and Embroidery donated items to the Clothes Closet, including multiple pairs of sweatpants and a couple of book bags. They plan to donate more items in the next couple of weeks. Thank you Axelrad for your generous donation!

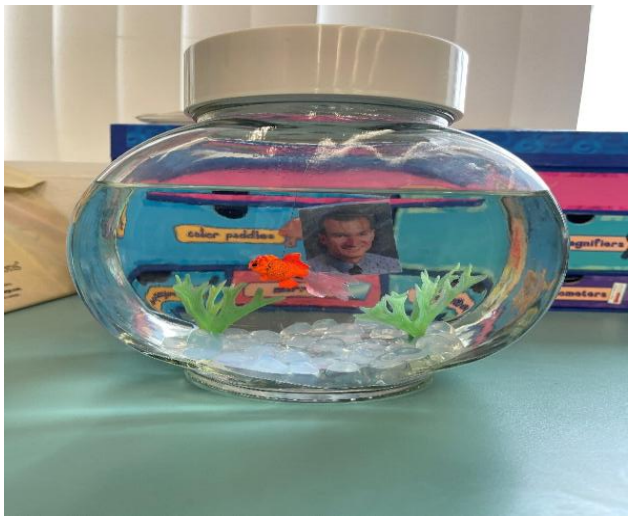


Exeter, PA.  
February 25, 2025



10. The Kindergarten Center participated in '100th Day of School' activities. The students were tasked with finding 100 Mr. Pacchioni's throughout the Kindergarten Center. Students also dressed up for the specific day.





11. The Primary Center held a 'Duct Tape the Principal' event for student growth and achievement on the Dibels and i-Ready Mid-Year Diagnostic assessment. Mr. Wright and Mr. Pacchioni were ducted taped to the wall for the exceptional growth and achievement that all students showed through the diagnostic assessments. Keep up the great work!





12. In January, the Scholastic Team competed in WVIA Scholastic Scimmage. Episodes will air in the spring and winners will be announced at that time. The following students competed at WVIA: Mario Belza, Kayden Dructor, Mario Belza, Jaxon Pollard, Emma Kratz and Dill Maloney.

Members of the team also competed in a quiz bowl tournament, the Bulldog Buzzer Battle at Berwick High School on Feb 1st. They competed against Nationally Ranked teams but still managed to make it to the final bracket. Team Members were Sofia Menta, Jaxon Pollard, Dill Maloney, Brady Kearns, Mario Belza, and Kayden Dructor.

The Science Olympiad Team competed at the North Pocono Invitational Tournament on January 25th. They competed against teams from PA, NY and NJ. They gained experience to prepare them for the Regional Competition in March. Congratulations and Good luck!!!



#### Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of December 18, 2024.
2. West Side Career & Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of December 19, 2024.
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Education notified the Wyoming Area School District that the resolution and proposed tax rates for the 2025-2026 school year submitted by the school district the increase for all proposed tax rates is less than or equal to the school district's index. Wyoming Area School District may not increase any tax rate by more than its index when preparing the final budget required by Section 687 of the School Code.
4. Maria Sabatini, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
5. Carolyn Galenty, Wyoming Area Lady Warriors Softball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.

6. Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
7. Employee #360 submitting a letter of intent to retire.
8. Employee #2825 requesting an extension to a medical leave of absence.
9. Attorney Bill Anzalone requesting permission to hold the UNICO All-Star Charity Football Game at the stadium.
10. Employee #841 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
11. Right to Know Request submitted for feasibility studies performed by Wyoming Area School District during the years January 1, 2022 to February 3, 2025.
12. Employee #1570 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
13. Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors requesting to hold a fundraiser.
14. Employee #8250 submitting a letter of intent to retire.
15. Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area boys Basketball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
16. Employee #20508 requesting permission to take a maternity leave of absence.
17. Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
18. Samantha Keska, MSW, Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18, on behalf of the Wyoming Area Community and School Based Behavioral Health Program, requesting permission to use the Primary Center gym, cafeteria, classrooms and outside playground area to run an in-person mental health summer program.
19. Right to Know Request submitted for a list of schools Wyoming Area School District paid for tuition for private school placement for students pursuant to an IEP for 2023-2024, the number of students attending each school and total amount of tuition paid to each school.
20. Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, requesting permission to rent the Primary Center cafeteria for a Spring show.
21. Employee #20462 requesting permission to extend her maternity leave of absence.

#### Summary of Applications Received

Elementary - 2

#### Solicitor's Report

Attorney Ferentino reported the board met on February 18<sup>th</sup> and this evening to discuss certain requested leaves, upcoming negotiations, special education litigation that is on the agenda and some on-going personnel issues.

Exeter, PA.

February 25, 2025



Student Representative’s Report

Denai Dymond, Junior, reported that a Krispy Cream fundraiser is going on until March 6<sup>th</sup> and the Junior Class is helping the Senior Class with planning the prom.

Mia Altavilla, Senior, reported the senior officers are currently collaborating with Mr. Pacchioni and the kindergarten class with a goal to make a positive connection with the kids so they look up to them and encouragement to stay in school and continue to work hard. The Senior Class is in the process of events to do with the kindergarteners such as Read Across America, participating in their fun days, starting a new tradition closer to graduation and also incorporating them into our third annual teachers vs. seniors game scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Class have also begun to discuss prom scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	2,437,206.09
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	6,840.19
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	30,045.37
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	159,421.89
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	5,363.41
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	498.15
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	148,728.07
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	888,264.77
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	10,215,766.50

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:

<u>Berkheimer Income Tax</u>	
Earned Income Tax	125,928.18
Local Services Tax	1,311.83
Per Capita Tax	712.60
Delinquent Per Capita	- 4,960.36
Total:	132,912.97

<u>State &amp; Federal Subsidy Payments</u>	
School District Special Education	314,643.00
ARP ESSER III	999,977.24
ARP ESSER 7%	56,524.03
Cyber Charter Transition	83,224.00
Stronger Connections Grant	<u>20,841.16</u>
Total:	1,475,209.43
<u>Local Real Estate Transfer Tax</u>	
Luzerne County	54,756.61
Wyoming County	<u>3,887.02</u>
Total:	58,643.63

- 2. Approve the February 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 February 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 February payment of \$69,742.73 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 5. Approve to approve the 2025-2026 Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 General Operating Budget.
- 6. Approve the Agreement between Wyoming Area School District and Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc. effective February 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- 7. Approve the appointment of Bob Dellarte, Golden Photo Studio, as Official Yearbook Photography Studio for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 8. Approve a refund of \$188.99 to Fox Ridge Abstract for realty transfer tax that was mistakenly collected by the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds.
- 9. Approve credit adjustments effective February 1, 2025.

Wyoming Area School District Credit Adjustments Effective February 1, 2025					
Name		From	To	Step	Increase
BALUCHA	KERIANN	M+12	M+18	6	\$ 874.00
HIZYNSKI	CHRISTOPHER	M+54	M+60	10	\$ 1,482.00
KASA	JACQUALYN	B+18	B+24	4	\$ 1,104.00
KRAVITSKY	JANINE	M+24	M+36	8	\$ 2,361.00
SLACK	KAILA	B+24	M	6	\$ 4,274.00
SOLANO-MCGARRY	SARAH	B+24	M	6	\$ 4,274.00
TOTAL					<u>\$ 14,369.00</u>

Exeter, PA.  
February 25, 2025

10. Approve tuition reimbursements for February 2025:

**WYOMING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHEDULE FOR TUITION  
REIMBURSEMENT  
FEBRUARY, 2025**

EMPLOYEE NAME		AMOUNT TO BE REIMBURSED
BALUCHA	KERIANN	\$600.00
BEALLA	AMI	\$900.00
CEFALO	JOSETTE	\$600.00
HIZYNSKI	CHRISTOPHER	\$600.00
HUGHES	ALEXANDRA	\$600.00
JENSEN	MARIAH	\$600.00
KASA	JACQUALYN	\$1,200.00
KRAVITSKY	JANINE	\$1,200.00
MATOSKY	JULIE	\$600.00
ROMAN	NANCY	\$300.00
SELENSKI	JENNIFER	\$300.00
SOLANO-MCGARRY	SARAH	\$300.00
WAGNER	COURTNEY	\$900.00
VIGLIONE	ERIN	\$600.00
WEBER	AMY	\$300.00
		<u>\$9,600.00</u>

11. Approve a proposal from Pennoni to provide AHERA and lead drinking water consulting services for the Wyoming Area School District for the 2024-2025 school year, pending final approval by the Superintendent and District Solicitor.

12. Approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for student #3000122 pending final written approval by the Superintendent and District Solicitor.

13. Approve addendum to the CM3 contract to include the following options pending approval by the Superintendent, Business Manager and District Solicitor:

- Option A: gym/pool window and doors \$84,490.00
- Option B: building & grounds entrance windows and doors \$27,199.00
- Option C: teachers entrance windows and doors \$286,165.00

14. Approve a proposal from Pennoni to provide Asbestos Abatement Project Management services for the Wyoming Area School District for the Summer 2025 Project, pending final approval by the Superintendent and District Solicitor.

15. Approve the general ledger report:

Bill Listing: February 2025	1,266,881.62	
Prepays: January 2025	<u>208,777.92</u>	1,475,659.54
Cafeteria Account:	114,769.46	
Athletic Account:	<u>9,496.63</u>	<u>124,255.09</u>
Total:		1,599,914.63

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



On the Question: Vannessa Smith, Exeter, on #14 where is the asbestos being removed from? Dr. Pollard responded the abatement project is part of the removal of the doors and windows at the three options for the previous contract so there is no asbestos anywhere that's dangerous to anybody in the building but there is in the                      in the windows so as they are removed, there is some abatement that needs to get done.

Joanna Pechal, Exeter, questioned item #11. Dr. Pollard responded we are mandated by government agencies to do certain compliance monitoring for asbestos and lead in drinking water.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, no on option B in item #13 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Campenni, no on option B in item #13 and yes on remaining report. 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 Teacher Induction Plan.
3. Approve to continue the appointment of Christianna Masher as long term substitute retroactive to January 28, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
4. Approve an extension to a medical leave of absence for employee #2825 to April 4, 2025.
5. Approve the request of employee #841 to take a medical leave of absence effective March 10, 2025 to the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Approve the request of employee #1570 to take a medical leave of absence effective March 1, 2025 to the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
7. Approve the revised professional substitute list.
8. Approve contract for Michael Fasciana as a school psychologist to August 1, 2025.
9. Approve the appointment of Robert Lemoncelli as Business Technology Chairperson for the 2024-2025 school year.
10. Approve the step placement of long term substitute, Christine Leandri, at Masters, Step 4, \$52,437.00. (pro-rated according to the duration of assignment).
11. Approve to amend the school calendar as an early dismissal on April 25, 2025.
12. Approve the after school programs for Spring session pending enrollment and approval by the Superintendent.

Exeter, PA.

February 25, 2025

13. Approve the step placement of temporary professional employee, Olivia Gatto, at Masters, Step 4, \$52,437.00. (Pro-rated according to the duration of assignment).
14. Approve the request of employee #20462 to extend her maternity leave of absence through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

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

On the Question: Mr. Supey asked if #9 is a new position. Dr. Pollard responded no, it was Mrs. Bartoli's who left and Mr. Lemoncelli is the most senior person to put in for it.

Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked what #2 was. Dr. Pollard responded it's part of our compliance with the PA. Dept. of Education. There is a strategic planning process that needs to happen and part of that is on a cyclical basis we review and update our induction plan and our induction plan is the series of trainings that we have for teachers coming into the district.

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

Motion passed.

#### Activities Report

Mrs. Valenti read additions to the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Attorney Bill Anzalone to hold the 2025 UNICO All-Star Charity Football Game at the stadium on Friday, May 30, 2025.
2. Approve the request of Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, to hold the following fundraisers:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sweetheart Dance – 2/18/25
  - Community Night at the Penguins – (joint event with WAKPC PTO) 3/22/25
  - Community Night Booyah Bites – 4/6/25
3. Approve the request of Maria Sabatini, Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association, to hold a Memorial Day Raffle fundraiser starting March 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 3, 2025.
4. Approve the request of Carolyn Galenty, Wyoming Area Lady Warriors Softball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
  - Apparel sale in March 2025
  - Pittston Popcorn and Fudge Easter sale in March 2025
  - Booyah Nights – 4/13, 4/14/ and 4/15/25
  - Mother's Day Purse Raffle – April & May 2025
  - Car Wash – A&A Auto, Exeter – 5/3/25
5. Approve the request of Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, to hold a Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser February 1, 2026, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Secondary Center cafeteria, with a snow date of February 15, 2026, pending approval by the building principal and food service director.
6. Approve the request of Nikki Milcavage, Wyoming Area Boys Basketball Parents Association, to sell blocks for the final four & championship games for March madness.

7. Approve the following appointments of assistant coaches and volunteer coach for the 2024-2025 Spring sports season, pending final submission of paperwork:

Track & Field

Lou DeMark	Assistant Coach
Nico Sciandra	Jr. High Coach
Frank Braccini	Jr. High Coach

Softball

Cassidy Graham	Volunteer
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8. Approve the request of Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, to have a Community Night at the Railriders fundraiser on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mrs. Kunkle, to accept the Activities Report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Supey, 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 additions to the Building Report.

1. Accept, with regret, employee #360 submitting a letter of intent to retire as a paraprofessional effective June 6, 2025.
2. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list.
3. Accept, with regret, employee #8250 submitting a letter of intent to retire as clerical aide effective February 28, 2025.
4. Approve the request of employee #20508 to take a maternity leave of absence effective March 17, 2025 with an anticipated return date of May 5, 2025.
5. Approve the request of Samantha Keska, MSW, Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18, on behalf of the Wyoming Area Community and School Based Behavioral Health Program, to use the Primary Center gym, cafeteria, classrooms and outside playground area to run an in-person mental health summer program, Monday through Thursday, June 23, 2025 to August 8, 2025, 9am to 12pm., pending final approval by the building principal.
6. Approve the request of Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, to rent the Primary Center cafeteria for a Spring show on Thursday, April 10, 2025, 3pm to 7:30pm. Organization is responsible for custodian and security fees. Pending final approval by the building principal.

Motion by Mrs. Kunkle, second by Mrs. Valenti, to accept the Building Report.

On the Question: Mr. Supey asked if #5 was an LIU run program. Dr. Pollard responded that it is. We only provide the building space.

Joanna Pechal asked if a summer camp will be held this summer. Dr. Pollard responded he is in the midst of calculating how much money is left from that Title program.

Exeter, PA.

February 25, 2025



Melissa Dolman, Exeter, regarding #5, asked if the district gets a trade-off, anything that we get back from the LIU for giving them the space. Dr. Pollard responded no, this is a program that we contract with the LIU to provide for us and it provides a lot of support for those students in those grades. This is different from the ESY program.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Supey, 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 Policy Report. There are no additions.

1. Approve the following revised policies and attachments to policies:

Policy #237 Electronic Devices. (Second Reading)

Policy #610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation.

Policy #611 Purchases Budgeted.

Attachment: Procurement-Federal Programs to policy #626 Federal Fiscal Compliance.

Attachment: Title I Parent and Family Engagement to policy #918 Title I Parent and Family Engagement.

Motion by Mr. Kachmarsky, second by Mr. Supey, to accept the Policy Report.

Mr. Butera motioned to table policy #237. Second by Mr. Campenni.

Mr. Alberigi asked Dr. Pollard what the administrators and teachers think of the cell phone policy. Dr. Pollard responded administration and teachers support the Yonder bags. The committee was in favor of the policy that does include the Yonder bags. Mr. Campenni asked how are we enforcing the current policy? Dr. Pollard responded the students are directed to put their phone in a designated spot within the classroom. They are not to access it without permission from the teacher for an educational activity and if they violate it then the referrals are sent and there are likely some inconsistencies on how teachers enforce that. Mr. Campenni asked how many referrals there are in a month. Response was 24% for middle school and 11% for high school. Mr. Butera stated it was presented to him that throughout the first marking period there was a little over one referral per day in the Secondary Center.

Melissa Dolman asked Mr. Butera what is an appropriate number to him because she thought it should be zero. Ms. Dolman stated that referrals are not written up because the time it takes to argue with a student, to stop her class to go to her computer to write the referral. Administration is overwhelmed with them so that possibly by the end of the day they get to the student or it's most likely the next day. It's a disservice to the classroom.

Mr. Hizynski, Teacher, stated he agreed with Mrs. Dolman, the ideal number is zero. Mr. Butera stated that in order to get to zero there would need to be a higher number and through enforcement and punishment than that number would eventually get to zero. Mr. Campenni agreed.

Joanna Pechal, Exeter, stated her kids can tell her what teachers allow it and what teachers don't. What teachers will just excuse it and what teachers are like pretty much whatever. They don't enforce it. The money should be going to a security system at the Primary Center.

Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked how much the Yonder bags would cost. Dr. Pollard responded \$37,000.

Mr. Kopko, Board Member, made the comment that in a situation would you want their cell phone ringing when it's on them or trying to call somebody exposing themselves to a shooter?

Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked how many times the cell phone policy could be tabled. Attorney Ferentino responded "a Lot". If it's not tabled then it remains on the agenda like it is.

Mr. Kopko also commented that the positives are increased scores have gone up and the kids are socializing more.

Joanna Pechal, Exeter, stated the phones can be turned on in the Yonder bags and disrupt classes. District's that have used them, 30% of them have wasted the money and they feel that it's a waste because the kids are leaving them on and moms and friends at home are purposely calling to cause disruption in the classrooms.

Mrs. Valenti, Board Member, commented that her biggest concern is that you take away a child's right to help themselves. They cannot call 911 in an emergency. You are taking away their right to save themselves by calling 911. Mrs. Valenti consulted with a retired Corporal of the State Police who specializes in school safety and he advised against it. Mike Turner, Chief of Police, was contacted and he advised against it. Mrs. Valenti also contacted representatives from Lake Lehman, Dallas, Crestwood, Wyoming Valley West and they all say they are enforcing a policy which is very similar to ours and there are no big issues in their schools. Mrs. Valenti stated she is absolutely terrified that we will lose kids to cyber school.

Mr. Melone, Business Consultant, was asked how many kids could we afford to lose to cyber school. He responded probably none at this point.

Mrs. Valenti stated that the district is spending 2.6 million on cyber school.

Mr. Hizynski, Teacher, stated he was on the committee and there's a team of administrators and teachers and with 3 years of educational experience. They looked at different policies and discussed it at length and this was the solution they came up with. How much more expertise do you need? Who presented a counter argument that had more expertise than that? If their (the committees) input is going to be disregarded, then why would I or anyone else want to volunteer for the next time to come on a committee only to have our recommendations pushed aside without really much reason. Mr. Hizynski also commented that he read 70% of Pennsylvania students are reading below grade level and we need to get our kids reading more. You can't read when you are on your phone and the last time I checked we're here to educate kids not to watch them play games.

Mr. Hizynski made a point of clarification that he heard a motion to accept then a second then heard a motion to table so the motion has to be voted on first. Don't we vote on first motion before we can address the table?

Mr. Butera responded he is making a motion to table the vote on the report so that he could then make a motion to table the item on the report.

Dr. Pollard asked for his own knowledge, there's a motion before the board to table the entire policy report?

Mr. Butera responded he is making a motion to table the vote on the policy. Attorney Ferentino stated there was a motion to approve the policy report and then a second, and then there was a motion to table the electronics policy followed by a second.

Exeter, PA.  
February 25, 2025

At this time, Attorney Ferentino stated the board was going into executive session. Mr. Campenni seconded the motion.

The board reconvened the meeting a few minutes later and Attorney Ferentino stated they we're able to vote on a motion to table it. There is a motion to table policy #237.

Mr. Butera stated the reason he disagreed with policy #237 is he has spoken to a lot of people here about it already but didn't see the point in jumping into the Yonder bags when in the last three years he hasn't seen anything else truly enforced. He doesn't feel your making their life (the students) any better by taking a 17 or 18 year old students cell phone from them for 7 hours. Mr. Butera stated this policy doesn't prepare them for the real world.

Ms. Dolman asked Mr. Butera what does he suggest? Mr. Butera responded that the policy needs to be uniform from classroom to classroom. Maybe either a calculator caddy system or just you are not allowed during instructional period to not have it on their person. The punishment should be more severe. You get caught with it, it's automatic suspension.

Joanna Pechal, Exeter, asked how many IEP's are there that say students can use their phone to take pictures of the chalkboard. Many teachers aren't posting in Google Classroom anymore so this is something that also needs to be considered. Dr. Pollard responded he didn't know exactly how many people's IEPs that would affect but to his recollection they were starting to roll that accommodation back and then because it's outside of the policy and in violation we would have to find another alternative, so that is something to be considered.

Joanna Pechal also commented about messages from coaches such as games being canceled. Dr. Pollard responded we make announcements at the end of the day. She responded by saying there is so much talking in these classrooms, they don't hear.

Roll call to table policy #237: Mr. Kachmarsky voted no. We have been talking about it for four to six months for all the reasons we've already mentioned. Over the past year this school had a discipline problem, a bullying problem and a low test problem and all those things are directly or indirectly connected to inappropriate use of cell phones in the classroom. It's disrespectful to the teachers who are teaching these kids to have to tell them to put their phones away. We need a more effective strategy, it's innovative and it's worth a try. Mr. Supey voted no. I think we are missing a huge opportunity to lead the region on this one. I don't understand how having a child miss a day of education because they have a phone is a suitable alternative. I think it short changes our ability to change. Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mrs. Kunkle voted no. Mrs. Kunkle stated she thinks the Yonder bags are a good thing. She agreed with everything Mr. Supey said. When a teacher told us to do something we did it. She also agreed with Mr. Butera that another policy could also be effective. We should at least try the Yonder bags. Mrs. Gazda voted yes. She said there should be another policy. Mr. Kopko, no, Mr. Butera, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Alberigi, no.

Motion did not pass to table Policy #237.

Roll call for the finance report: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Valenti, no on policy #237, yes on remaining report. Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, no on policy #237, yes on remaining report. Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, no on policy #237, yes on remaining report. Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed to accept the policy report.



Police Report

Mr. Kopko read the Police Report.

Wyoming Area Police Department  
Monthly Report for January 2025  
Total Calls for Service

CODE		COUNT
0452	Threat Assessment	1
2400	Disorderly Conduct	1
2450	Harassment	4
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	2
2664	All Other Offenses – All Other (Misc.)	4
3100	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2
3400	Mental Health	2
3610	Disturbances - Juvenile	2
4090	Non-Criminal – Reports	4
7504	Assist Other Agencies – Other Police	1
7506	Assisting Other Agencies – All Others	1
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	6
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	7
Total		37

Open Discussion:

- Mr. Butera, Board Member, stated he hoped the Yonder bags work. Dr. Pollard commented that contrary to popular rumor we don’t have them on site. We were given a sample, we did not order them or pay for them.
- Brenda Jurchak, Exeter, -Mental Health Issues. Daughter cut from the cheerleading team.
- Mrs. Valenti stated she appreciated that Mrs. Jurchak was advocating for her daughter but cannot sit back and let flat out lies be told. Accommodations were definitely put in place. Mrs. Jurchak responded that they weren’t. She had an IEP meeting and was told to leave the building.
- Dr. Pollard responded that was a mischaracterization of what was going on. Dr. Pollard felt that we did our best to provide the accommodations to her. You know that I am upset that I’m hearing about this. I saw the email the other day and my heart goes out to you and your family and to her. I think you’re just characterizing the amount of support that goes to any student that experiences a mental health crisis. Not to be a jerk but how about I start calling you when I’m answering the phone at 1:00 in the morning from the Attorney General’s office asking me to make contact with the local police so I can give them a handoff phone number and an address so that they can go do a wellness check. I said tonight five times about the Children’s Service Center crisis worker. We spent Title I funds over at the Kindergarten Center. There’s a BCBA and a MT over there to address the incoming about the behavior and mental health things that are going on with those folks because we’re dealing with students that are coming in who are in this covid hiccups. I feel for you and am sorry you are going through this but I agree with Mrs. Valenti, I can’t sit back any longer and listen to our district get drug to the ground. I hear about things on Facebook or our test scores. Dr. Pollard also stated that obviously no one was here at a meeting held in the library regarding test scores. Our achievement is going forward, is improving and so is our growth. We are no longer in the bottom 15%. That just doesn’t happen. It’s hard work from teachers and students. Dr. Pollard also stated that he is working with everyone to solve problems we currently have.

Exeter, PA.  
February 25, 2025

- Mia Altavilla, Cheerleading Captain, addressed Mrs. Jurchak that her daughter was not the only person cut from the team and not the only person who did not have a fair advantage. I went in that try-out room with her, she gave it her all, that is just the way it happens. It's not anything with the board, not anything with my coach, nobody on the team. The National Cheer Association comes in and decides. This year, myself and three other captains worked personally with your daughter a month before the try-outs. We taught her the cheers, we taught her the dances, they're on her phone. She took videos. I worked with her personally, I had conversations with her, I talked to her on the way out. I said Rebecca if you need anything please reach out to me. I cannot sit here and listen to you bash my team and the school board and the school I belong to. What you're saying just isn't true and it's not fair.
- Chris Hizynski, Teacher, The start of a ping pong club has been positive with students.
- Vanness Smith, Exeter, With funding and things being cut and education funding delay, will that affect us? Mr. Melone responded right now we are fine for this year. We don't see any immediate danger for 24/25 but it certainly will have a huge impact on 25/26.
- Joanna Pechal, Exeter, How much does it cost to send a student for cyber? Mr. Melone responded \$14,000 per student and special ed approximated at \$30,000.
- Mr. Supey addressed Mrs. Jurchak that if she still feels like what she was told was going to be arranged in terms of accommodations (for her daughter) and it wasn't afforded to her she had every right to pursue it in whatever way she'd like to. He stated that she was heard tonight, it may not be that all of us agree with Mrs. Jurchak or any of us agree with it but it shouldn't be the end of it for Rebecca. Mrs. Jurchak also commented she brought up at a meeting about a JV cheer squad and was told there wasn't any money but there is talk of starting a girls wrestling team.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Campenni and seconded by Mr. Kopko.

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

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Philip Campenni, President

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David Alberigi, Secretary