

11416
Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

A 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 twenty five 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 7:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Campenni welcomed Grey Riley, new building principal of the Secondary Center.

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, Doug Piazza, Principal of Discipline, Dave Pacchioni, Primary Center Building Principal, Greg Riley, Secondary Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Building Principal, Angelo Falzone, Director of Attendance/Transportation, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Mike Bugelholl, Director of Facilities.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of June 18, 2025.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center minutes of Joint Operating Committee of May 27, 2025.
3. Jill Avery-Stoss, Wyoming Area Cross Country Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
4. Tiffani Little, Wyoming Area Boys Soccer Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
5. Employee #3570 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
6. Employee #9800 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
7. Employee #20636 submitting a letter of resignation.
8. Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
9. Rachael Card, Wyoming Area Drama Booster Club, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
10. Melissa Pealer, Wyoming Area Volleyball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.

11. Employee #20388 submitting a letter of retirement.
12. Right to Know Request submitted for salary of former principal and newly hired principal.
13. Anthony Macario requesting permission to hold a Wyoming Area Boys Basketball Fall Skills Camp fundraiser.
14. Melisa Rushton, Wyoming Area Football Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a Sportsman Raffle fundraiser.

Summary of Applications Received

Math – 4
Custodian – 3
Lacrosse – 1
Softball - 2

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Campenni asked for approval of the minutes of July 22, 2025. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. The 2025-2026 school calendar, bus schedule, secondary and elementary handbooks are on our website under District Links.
2. We would like to welcome Metz Culinary Management as our Food Service Management Company. We look forward to this new partnership with them. Please be aware that due to the RFP requirements menu items for the first several weeks are dictated by that process. Further information about food service can be found on our website by clicking the food service tab.
3. Leadership Wilkes-Barre is happy to share the list of the Wyoming Area students for the 2025-2026 Junior Leadership Class:
Sara Golden
Leah Haddock
Anna Kelleher
Benjamin Rogish
4. Our Get Acquainted Nights will be held on the following days:
Kindergarten -September 15 @ 6:00 pm
Primary Center – September 16 @ 6:00 pm
Intermediate Center – September 17 @ 6:00 pm
Secondary Center – September 18 @ 6:00 pm
5. Kiwanis Club of Wyoming Area is doing a back-to-school project to benefit all students in our district. Stuff the Bus will be held on Sunday, September 7 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm at the Midway Shopping Center. Special thanks to PACE Transportation for donating the school bus.

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Please help the Kiwanis Club collect school supplies for local students in need. Bring items like: Backpacks, notebooks and folders, pen and pencils, crayons and markers, hygiene products and clothing.

- 6. A Parent Webinar regarding Yondr will be held Wednesday, August 20th at 6:30pm. It will be led by Wyoming Area and joined by Yondr Staff. A link will be posted on our website and also through a text message from the school.
- 7. I would like to thank the members of the Support Staff, Professional Staff and the Administrative Staff for their diligent work over the summer in preparation for the 2025-2026 school year.

Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino reported the board met tonight in executive session at 5:30 p.m. and was pleased to report that our CBA and negotiations with our teachers has made progress. Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday. They also discussed ongoing litigation matters in the district and some personnel matters.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	1,153,219.41
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	7,117.07
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	55,481.90
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	143,799.24
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	22,489.24
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	151,818.96
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	645,108.87
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	3,046,554.76

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

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

<u>Berkheimer Income Tax</u>		
Earned Income Tax	132,287.69	
Local Services Tax	1,170.86	
Per Capita Tax	32,253.60	
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>4,649.71</u>	
Total:	170,361.86	

<u>Local Realty Transfer Tax</u>		
Luzerne County	27,266.16	
Wyoming County	<u>1,291.15</u>	
Total:	28,557.31	

<u>2024 Real Estate Taxes</u>		
George Miller, West Pittston Borough	112,751.55	
Robert Connors, West Wyoming Borough	73,599.79	
Carol Bardzel, Exeter Twp., Wyo. County	<u>143,789.34</u>	
Total:	330,140.68	

2. Approve the August payment of \$50,860.94 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services and other related services for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Approve to ratify the August payment of \$68,161.62 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Approve the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 Partial Agreement for Partial Hospitalization Therapeutic services for the 2025-2026 school year.
5. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for a grant of \$2,500.00 in support of the United Way of Wyoming Valley’s Nurse’s Pantry initiative and See to Succeed Program.
6. Approve amendment to #5 of CM3 contract pending approval by the Superintendent, Business Manager and Solicitor.
7. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing: August 2025	506,522.28	
Prepays: July 2025	<u>384,333.02</u>	890,855.30
Cafeteria Account:	0.00	
Athletic Account:	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total: 890,855.30		

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

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Education Report

Mrs. Gazda read the Education Report.

Mrs. Gazda motioned to table item #16, second by Mrs. Valenti.

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 to table item #16.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District's Federal Programs (Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV) are currently being planned for the 2025-2026 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve the transfer of Ira Barth from Special Education Teacher to fifth grade teacher effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Approve to rescind the appointment of Samantha Keska as a Social Worker.
4. Approve to rescind the appointment of Christa Richards as a Social Worker.
5. Approve the following appointments for the Scholarship Committee for the 2025-2026 school year:

Doug Womelsdorf	\$2,000
Ann Giglio	\$1,000
6. Approve the request of #3570 to take a medical leave of absence effective August 25, 2025 through September 5, 2025.
7. Approve the professional substitute list for the 2025-2026 school year.
8. Approve a medical leave of absence for employee #9800 for the 2025-2026 school year.
9. Accept, with regret, employee #20636 submitting a letter of resignation retroactive to August 7, 2025.
10. Approve the appointment of Christine Leandri as long term substitute, gifted, for the 2025-2026 school year.
11. Approve the step placement of temporary professional employee, Emily Howells, at Bachelors, Step 4, \$41,838.00.
12. Approve the step placement of temporary professional employee, Jeanette Elbattah, at Masters +18, Step 4, \$55,061.00.
13. Approve the step placement of temporary professional employee, Julia Staudenmeier, at Masters, Step 4, \$52,437.00.
14. Approve the carry-over of any remaining donated sick bank days for employee #2825 to the 2025-2026 school year.
15. Approve the appointment of Robert Vanness as Special Education Teacher.

16. Approve the appointment of _____ as Math Teacher. (TABLED)

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

ON the Question: Mr. Supey asked what we are doing regarding the social workers. Dr. Pollard responded we have reposted the positions. One social worker we have will cover and we will have a substitute.

Walter Stevens, West Wyoming – Are we paying \$3,000 for people to award scholarships or are they being awarded \$3,000 in scholarships. Mr. Campenni responded that they help Mrs. Rutledge process all the applications.

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 to accept the finance report.

Activities Report

Mrs. Valenti read the Activities Report.

1. Approve to authorize for the Superintendent and Athletic Director to post for an Assistant Coach for girl's wrestling program.
2. Approve the request of Jill Avery-Stoss, Wyoming Area Cross Country Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Apparel Sale – starting 9/1/25
 - Cross Country Banquet - 11/6/25 with a basket raffle and 50/50 at this event.
3. Approve the request of Tiffani Little, Wyoming Area Boys Soccer Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Apparel Sale – 8/1/25 and 9/1/25
 - Snack Stand at Soccer games – Starting 8/16/25
 - Gerrity's Fundraiser – 8/17/25
 - BlackStone Fundraiser – 8/19/25
4. Approve the request of Sharon Hollister, Wyoming Area Music Sponsors, to hold the following fundraisers:
 - KI Catering Fundraiser – 9/8/25 through 11/13/25
 - Band Night at Sicilian Bella Festa – 9/11/25
 - "Sponsor the Date" Calendar – Month of October
5. Approve the request of Rachael Card, Wyoming Area Drama Booster Club to hold hair and face painting stand fundraiser at the stadium on 10/24/25.
6. Approve the request of Melissa Pealer, Wyoming Area Volleyball Parents Association, to a Krispy Kreme fundraiser starting August 20, 2025.

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7. Approve the appointment of Kayla Taddei as Head Girls Softball Coach.
8. Approve the appointment of Ava Ward as Head Girls Lacrosse Coach.
9. Approve the request of Anthony Macario to hold a Boys Basketball Fall Skills Camp fundraiser in the multipurpose room for four Saturdays starting October 4, 2025.
10. Approve the appointment of Hannah Fairchild as a volunteer coach for girls soccer (pending clearance form) for the 2025-2026 Fall sports season.
11. Approve the request of Melisa Rushton, Wyoming Area Football Parents Association, to hold a Sportsman Raffle fundraiser drawing on November 8, 2025 at Third Street Hose Company, subject to final approval of the solicitor and superintendent.

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

On the Question: Mr. Supey asked if posting for a coach in any way adequately addresses the concerns we've been hearing for months for starting up a girls wrestling program. Dr. Pollard responded that the first step in making decisions would be to have a coach in place to how this program would be directed for final decision about creation of a team or operating more as an independent where they would travel to tournaments and those kind of things.

Todd Bonning, Harding – Asked if they would have a full 22 points just like the boys. Dr. Pollard responded that the first step would be to establish a coach and ensure we have sufficient members of the group to operate the program and have administration, the board and the athletic director in the decision making process.

Keri K, Wyoming – How do you propose that we start getting girls interested. How are we going to poach potential people to play if there's no space or time for them to come and do it. Dr. Pollard responded that's the part of the direction of creation of a program. You get a coach in place and then that coach can kind of help dictate the vision and framework of the 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.

Building Report

Mrs. Kunkle read the Building Report.

1. Approve to deny Grievance #2025-01.
2. Approve the appointment of Danny Reyes as a (10 month) cleaner.
3. Approve the appointment of Laura Godlewski as a (10 month) cleaner.
4. Approve the transportation drivers for the 2025-2026 school year.
5. Approve the support personnel substitute list for the 2025-2026 school year.
6. Approve the transfer of Nichole Orwan from 4 hour food service employee to 4.5 hour food service employee.

7. Approve to rescind the appointment of Jennifer Coyne as a personal care aide.
8. Accept, with regret, employee #20388 submitting a letter of retirement retroactive to August 8, 2025.
9. Approve an RFP for naming rights pending approval by the Superintendent, Business Manager and Solicitor.

Motion by Mrs. Kunkle, second by Mrs. Valenti, to accept the building 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.

Open Discussion:

- Jim Chickson, West Pittston – The Band Trailer in need of repairs, needs to go to shop.
- Laura Chickson, West Pittston – Excellent representation of the lights, Volunteers to drive trailer, extenders need to be put on for safety.
- Andrew Pechal, Exeter – Forced to take a credit course that he is not interested in.
- Walter Stevens, West Wyoming – Policy #237 Electronics Policy needs to be revised. Theft of yondr bag by another student.
- Joanna Pechal, Exeter – Med Sheets sent out late, why can't 18 year olds who get their prescriptions from the pharmacy be allowed to bring them into school? Regarding Yondr Bags, was told by new principal they would not accept a neurologist letter for her child. Was told by new principal to put her kids in CCA. ISS, gambling, play fighting and how are kids getting breakfast with little time was also addressed.
- Mike Miller, Exeter – GWA requesting to have their game at the stadium this year.
- Brenda Yurchak, Exeter – Daughter was invited by Representatives Pugh's Office to go down to Harrisburg where they want to give Rebecca a plaque for her accomplishments in representing herself and our local district in Chicago.

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

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Campenni, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Philip Campenni, President

David Alberigi, Secretary

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