

11949
Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 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. 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 7:10 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence for Jerry Zezza, former educator and coach and also Shirley Kardos, a former educator, who both passed away.

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
- Mr. Joseph Kopko
- Mrs. Rebecca Rutkoski
- Mrs. Mara Valenti

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, Cathy Ranieli, Secondary Center Assistant Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, Stephanie Anuszewski, Special Education Director, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Michael Bugelholl, Director of Facilities, Mia Altavilla, Student Representative.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their regular meeting of October 25, 2023.
2. Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
3. Wyoming Area Tennis Booster Club requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
4. Wyoming Area Drama Parents Association requesting to hold a fundraiser.
5. Christine Campenni, Wyoming Area Swim Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
6. Employee #14598 submitting resignation as food service employee.
7. Employee #20023 requesting permission to extend medical leave of absence.
8. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of October 23, 2023.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Supey asked for approval of the combined board meeting minutes of November 16, 2023.

All board members present voted aye.

Mr. Supey asked for approval of the reorganization meeting minutes of December 5, 2023.

All board members present vote aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. *On Thursday, November 16, members of the FBLA Club visited Misericordia University for their Business Preview Day. While there, they learned about the different opportunities in the Business Area, participated in a Stem Activity, and toured the campus. It was a positive experience for all those involved. We are thankful to be able to experience these opportunities!*



2. *The Life Skills Class at the Intermediate Center held their very own Thanksgiving Dinner. Students helped to prepare the meal by setting the table, heating the vegetables, measuring ingredients and making the mashed potatoes, as well as putting everything into serving bowls. The students followed directions throughout the preparation, targeted vocabulary, as well as their conversation skills by discussing each of their family's Thanksgiving traditions. Mrs. Supey's class had help from Ms. Jen, Dr. Bugelholl, Miss Angela and classroom aides, Miss Jody and Miss Tia.*





3. *Congratulations to the Christmas Card Contest Winners: Liam Shay, 6th Grade student at the Intermediate Center and Loc Bui Pham, 10th grade student at the Secondary Center.*

4. *We would like to thank the Christian Women of St. Barbara's Parish for collecting personal care items and generously donating them to Rachel's Closet at the Secondary Center. Students at the Secondary Center have access to clothing and other items at Rachel's Closet, and this donation is very much appreciated!*

5. *Professors and student teachers at Tamagawa University and Wilkes University are continuing their partnership with Mrs. Anthony and her fifth grade ELA classroom at the Intermediate Center. An initial meeting was held when the guests virtually joined Mrs. Anthony's classroom and observed an ELA lesson about mythology and prefixes and suffixes. In December, Japanese student teachers taught the fifth graders about Japanese culture and the Chinese zodiac. After the lesson, the students filled out a survey outlining what they enjoyed and what they would like to learn about in the future. The Japanese student teachers will be joining Mrs. Anthony's classroom again to teach another exciting lesson in January.*



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6. *Monday, December 4, 2023, the Wyoming Area Intermediate Center celebrated Rae Day. We had a celebration of Raeann Merlino's life and her positive impact on everyone at the Intermediate Center. There was an assembly in the cafeteria for the presentation for the portrait painted by our high school students and the bench that was donated by "Rae's 12 Days", which was created in honor of Raeann by the Mead and Pagnotti families. Students were able to share memories of Raeann during the presentation and were happy that they were given the opportunity to do so. Mr. Merlino (Raeann's dad), A.J. Merlino (Raeann's brother), and Rosemarie DeLuca (Raeann's grandmother) were in attendance for the event.*

I reached out to Mrs. Jarden, our Art Teacher, asking which high school students were involved in the painting. She said that they have been working on it since last spring so she has students from this year and last year.

Painting Students from this year:

Jake Shepulski, Katie Reedy, Olivia Garbush, Victoria Krupkevich (had Painting 2 last year and volunteered to help this year).

Painters from last year:

Kalista Weed, Kelsey Foy, Marissa Nowak and Jillian Rogish. Great job!



7. *On November 22, 2023, Bill Lewis and David DeCosmo came to the Wyoming Area Intermediate Center to do a presentation on the local history of the Titanic. The fourth grade students read a story called Finding the Titanic in reading class. The students learned about a Wilkes-Barre woman, Mrs. Thomas, her baby boy, and her brother-in-law who were passengers on board of the Titanic. The students listened to many interesting stories about the passengers on the ship.*



8. *Act 80 Day, December 6 – First Annual Soup and Chili Cookoff.* Kim Costlow from Children's Service Center organized the event. Faculty and staff participated with 15 different soup entries and 5 chili entries. No two entries were alike! Other faculty and staff provided desserts, bread, crackers and paper products. Mr. Fanti was the MC and led the judging team. This event was intended to be a fun mixer but also to allow Kim to get to know faculty better and network with them. Kim would like to thank Mr. Speece and myself for allowing her to initiate and organize this event.

9. *Fall Activities Round Up:*

Football:

The 2023 Warrior's played a very competitive regular season schedule, which included two Class AAAAA teams, five District Semifinalists, a District Quarterfinalist, and a perennial state champion. Our Warrior's finished the regular season as Wyoming Valley Conference Division 2 Championship with a record of 9-1, and going undefeated (5-0) in our division. Our team earned the third seed, won a home AAAA District Quarterfinal game against North Pocono, and played in the District Semifinal against Valley View, which we lost to complete our season. Our team featured some outstanding individual/group performers. Again, Aaron Crossley rushed for nearly 2,000 yards, going over 300 yards in several games. Our offensive line excelled as well leading the way to win multiple games with over 400 yards rushing.

Field Hockey:

Wyoming Area Field Hockey ended their season this past fall in the district finals against Lackawanna Trail. This was the end of the 2023 season but it also is the beginning of the 2024 season. The players and coaches learned in that game what is needed for us to excel in the 2024 season.

Overall, the 2023 season was a success. The girls earned their first WVC title in program history along with finding themselves in the district finals game again.

Cheerleading:

The team attended Pine Forest Camp this summer and again came home with a Superior Trophy for performance. Football season was packed with cheering, sign making, bonfires and pep rallies.

They competed at the District 2 competitive Spirit championship on Sunday 12/17 at Wilkes Barre Area Gym. They placed 4th, which qualifies them for states! Congratulations!!!

Golf Team:

The season started with 5-0, beating Dallas and Hazleton. This was a good sign that we could go undefeated. The next match we lost to Pittston Area. Still in the hunt for 1st place, we lost a few more including Pittston Area again. We did beat Crestwood, who was on a 31 match win streak. We beat the top 2 teams in our division, however we had too many losses to make playoffs.

Girls Tennis:

In a rebuilding year we did very well. Girl's tennis was tied for 3rd in the league going 9-3. We played Holy Redeemer in the first round of districts who beat us 5-0 early in the regular season, but in the District match they edged us by 3-2. The team will lose two players but have a lot of talent returning for 2024.

Girls Soccer:

Finished season with 14 -6 -1 record

District Finalist

3rd in WVC Division 2

Citizens Voice All - Stars - Hannah Fairchild, Adison Yankovich

WVC Coaches All Stars:

- *1st Team - Hannah Fairchild, Adison Yankovich, Kendall Day, Brianna Cheskiewicz*
- *2nd Team - Emily Kostik, Ella Shepulski, Abigail Francis, Sarah Mizenko*
- *Honorable Mention - Julianne Potter, Summer Semanek, Sofia Menta, Isabella Costa*
- *PSAC All- State - Hannah Fairchild*

Marching Band:

The Marching Band concluded their fall portion of their season this past Saturday by performing their rendition of Sleigh Ride at the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins Game. This season the band went undefeated in the Tournament of Bands and Cavalcade of Bands circuits in festival and freedom class. The band also performed at several community events and parades including the Veterans Day program at the Exeter Borough building. This season the band also brought back the tradition of Meet the Band which was well attended!

Due to the growth of the marching band program Tournament of Bands has asked that the band move up a classification from Festival class to Open class for next season. Mr. Bufalino has considered the recommendation and accepted. This is a very honorable recommendation for such a young band and the students are excited to put in the extra effort to take their shows to the next level.

Tournament of Bands has currently asked that Wyoming Area host a competition prior to Atlantic Coast Championships in Hershey which would be one of the largest shows in the region encompassing Southern NY; Wilkes-Barre/Scranton; Allentown and Eastern, NJ. TOB has asked Mr. Bufalino to consider the competition due to the band's display of consistent discipline and decorum at TOB appearances and feels that the district would uphold their values by hosting the event.

Solicitors Report

Attorney Ferentino wished everyone a happy holiday. The board met on December 5th after the reorganization meeting regarding personnel matters. They met again on December 12th for informational session and board orientation for the budget process, some legal issues and litigation issues through special ed and personnel matters. They also met tonight to discuss ongoing personnel and administrative issues.

Student Representative’s Report

Mia Altavilla reported the junior semi-formal is January 12th, tickets are due tomorrow. A dress donation dress is being held for girls who can’t afford a dress.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Butera read the Treasurer’s Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	6,914,813.34
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	6,376.03
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	40,897.73
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	170,347.98
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	16,120.70
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	140,411.98
First National Community Bank	Series 2022 GON Account	7,905.37
First National Community Bank	Money Market Account	8,055,668.19

The treasurer’s report will be kept on file for audit.

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	461,500.20
Local Services Tax	5,220.24
Per Capita Tax	3,824.56
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>6,524.35</u>
Total:	477,069.35

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Social Security	155,573.25
Health Services	2,573.90
School District Special Education	278,364.00
ARP ESSER 7%	42,393.06
ARP ESSER 2.5%	<u>920.64</u>
Total:	479,824.85

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Delinquent Real Estate Tax

Wyoming County 88,698.29

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County 16,896.13

2023 Real Estate Taxes

Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough 166,681.96

George Miller – West Pittston Borough 289,356.52

Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough 280,418.48

Wayman Smith – Exeter Twp., Luzerne County 172,886.68

Robert Connors – West Wyoming Borough 158,874.07

Carol Bardzel – Exeter Twp., Wyoming County 141,628.36

Total: 1,237,239.22

2. Approve the December 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 December 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 December payment of \$69,097.00 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approve to ratify the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 and Wyoming Area School District for the 2023-2024 IDEA Allocation.
6. Approve the following refunds for paid property taxes for the year 2023:

65-E11NE4-002-006-000	4,882.35
16-E11SW1-009-014-000	1,365.90
16-E11-00A-010-000	185.99
16-E11SW1-002-008-000	135.62
16-E11NW4-10A-03B-000	410.09
65-D11SE4-001-001-000	301.92
16-E11NW4-10A-03C-000	<u>16.14</u>

Total: 7,298.01

7. Approve to adopt a resolution indicating that the Board of School Directors will not raise the rate of any tax for support of public schools for the fiscal year 2024-2025 by more than its index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
8. Approve the 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.
9. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: November 2023	919,841.25	
Prepays: October 2023	<u>261,431.57</u>	1,181,272.82
Cafeteria Account:	40,897.73	
Athletic Account:	<u>5,381.66</u>	<u>46,279.39</u>

Total: 1,227,552.21

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

On the Question: Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked what the index was in item #7. Mr. Melone responded 7.2%.

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. Kachmarsky 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 2023-2024 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve the revised professional substitute list for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Approve Expulsion Waiver for student #147745 pending approval by the school solicitor.
4. Approve Expulsion Waiver for student #3002416 pending approval by the school solicitor.
5. Approve Settlement Release and Waiver for student #148204. (pending approval by the school solicitor was added.)
6. Whereas the Administration has recommended the termination from employment of Sarah Kester and whereas the Board of School Directors is required by the School Code and applicable court rulings to review charges of dismissal prior to the issuance of those charges, Now therefore, the Board of School Directors finds the charges sufficient to support termination if proven and directs the President to sign those charges and directs the Secretary to serve the charges on Sarah Kester.

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

Dr. Pollard asked if item #5 could be amended to include pending approval by the school solicitor.

Mr. Supey motioned to amend item #5 to include pending approval by the school solicitor. Second by Mrs. Rutkoski.

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.

Mr. Supey motioned to add item #7 to read: Motion to post for the vacant position of assistant principal of discipline. Second by Mr. Campenni. This is a ten month position.

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Roll Call to add item #7: 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.

Mr. Butera motioned to approve the amended education report.

On the Question: Vanessa Smith of Exeter questioned item #6. Was Kester suspended with or without pay. The papers and TV said different things. Attorney Ferentino responded without pay.

Melissa Dolman expressed her thanks to the Board for opening up Mr. Rohland's position.

Roll Call for amended education report: 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.

Activities Report

Mrs. Rutkoski read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Lacrosse Parents Association to hold a Krispy Kreme fundraiser and 50/50 Drawing fundraiser in March/April 2024.
2. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Drama Club Parents to hold a Basket of Cheer Raffle in December 2023 until February 7, 2024.
3. Approve the request of the Tennis Booster Club to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Business Sponsorships – 1/1/24
 - Gerrity's Bagging – 2/11/24
 - Apparel Sales – 3/1/24
 - SBC Night & Cornhole Tournament – 4/27/24
 - Tennis Tournaments & Tennis Camps – 6/17/24
4. Approve the request of Christine Campenni, Wyoming Area Swim Parents Association, for permission to hold an American Red Cross Lifeguarding Class fundraiser starting December 21st to January 13, 2024.
5. Approve Mike Branley as a winter track volunteer coach for the 2023-2024 winter sports season.
6. Approve the appointments of the following assistants/volunteer coaches for the 2023-2024 spring sports season:

Baseball

Sam Parente	Assistant Coach
Dan Wiedl	Jr. High Coach
Geoff Baumes	Jr. Varsity Coach
Logan Dominick	7/8 Coach
Rob Lemoncelli, Sr.	Volunteer
Pat McGinty	Volunteer

Boys Lacrosse

Lindo Sabatini Volunteer

Girls Lacrosse

Rob Switzer Volunteer

Softball

Dean Carey Assistant Coach

Kayla Taddei Assistant Jr. High Coach

Track & Field

Mike Fanti Assistant Coach

Kristen Lombardo Assistant Coach

Ashton Ashby Assistant Coach

Lou DeMark Jr. High Coach

Jason Speece Jr. High Coach

Bree Bednarski Volunteer

Ron D'Eliseo Volunteer

Randy Spencer Volunteer

Drew Bednarski Volunteer

Mark Farrell Volunteer

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

On the Question: Vannessa Smith commented on the sports organizations and their fundraisers. She asked that they be better coordinated. There were 20 fundraisers in November and 29 in December.

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

1. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Accept, with regret, employee #14598 letter of resignation as food service employee effective January 11, 2024.
3. Approve the request of employee #20023 to extend medical leave of absence tentatively to April 1, 2024.

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

On the Question: Brenda Yurchak asked if someone who sit down and speak with food service employee regarding a letter she received and if there were any other solution. Attorney Ferentino responded that she could certainly speak with Dr. Pollard. Dr. Pollard also stated he would follow up with her tomorrow.

At this time, Mr. Campenni tabled item #2. Mr. Supey seconded the motion.

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Roll Call to table item #2: 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.

Roll Call on the building report: 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 read the Policy Report.

1. Approve the second reading of revised policies: Volume IV of 2023:

Policy# 815: Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources

Policy# 819: Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response

Motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mrs. Rutkoski, to accept the policy 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 November 2023
Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>	<u>COUNT</u>
1890 Narcotics – Reports	1
2450 Harassment	5
2460 Disorderly Conduct	2
2601 Use of Tobacco in Schools	2
3900 Traffic & Parking Problems	1
4010 Traffic Offenses	1
4090 Non-Criminal – Reports	2
5004 Lost & Found – Found Articles	1
7501 EMS Assist	1
7502 Assist Other Agencies – Fire Dept.	1
7505 Assist Other Agencies - WARP	1
9997 Child Custody	1
S2S Safe-2-Say Reports	3
TRUA Compulsory School Attendance	3
Total	25

With no questions for open discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Michael Supey, President

David Alberigi, Secretary