

11301
Wyoming Area School District
Combined Work Session/Regular Meeting
Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

The 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. 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 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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
- Mrs. Kirby Kunkle
- Mr. Michael Supey
- Mrs. Mara Valenti

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Eric Speece, Secondary Center Building Principal, Cathy Ranieli, Assistant Secondary Center Building Principal, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, William Wright, Principal of Primary Center, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Michael Bugelhoff, Facilities Director, Angelo Falzone, Attendance/Transportation Director, Denai Dymond and Mia Altavilla, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of October 23, 2024.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of October 28, 2024.
3. Employee #20495 requesting permission to take a maternity leave of absence.
4. Employee #20243 requesting permission for an extension to a maternity leave of absence.
5. Employee #20329 submitting a letter of resignation.
6. Employee #7002 submitting a letter of resignation.
7. Vannessa Smith, Wyoming Area Wrestling Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
8. Employee #4350 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
9. Employee #20435 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
10. Employee #2825 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
11. Right to Know Request submitted for the support contract.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Campenni asked for approval of the combined board meeting minutes of November 21, 2024. All board members present voted aye.

Mr. Campenni asked for approval of the reorganization meeting minutes of December 3, 2024. All board members present voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. **Congratulations to the Drama Club and Thespian Society on a successful run of "The Play That Goes Wrong". Congratulations to the cast and crew and to Advisors Chuck Yarmey and Kate Mangan.**
2. **Congratulations to our Christmas Card contest winners: Edie Appel, 6th Grade student at the Intermediate Center and Chloe Smith, 11th Grade student at the Secondary Center.**
3. **Here is a picture of LEGO mazes from week 1 of STEAM. STEAM is one of our after school programs.**



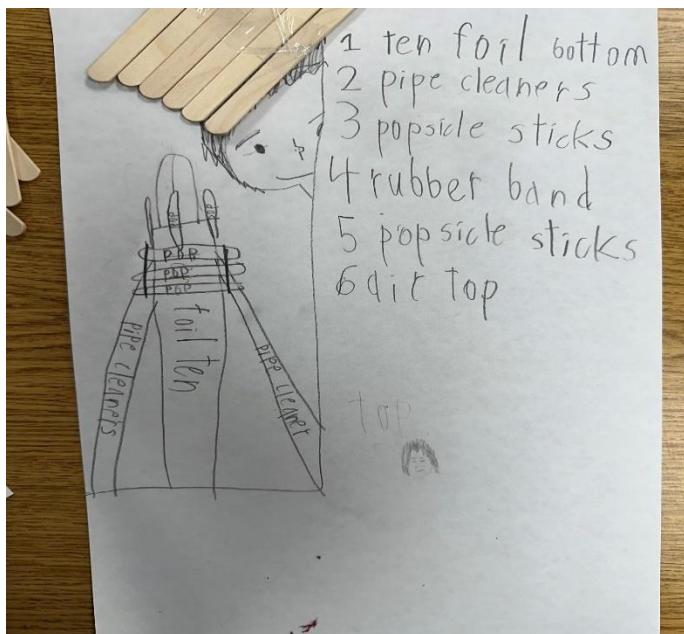
4. **Week 2 of STEAM - slime**



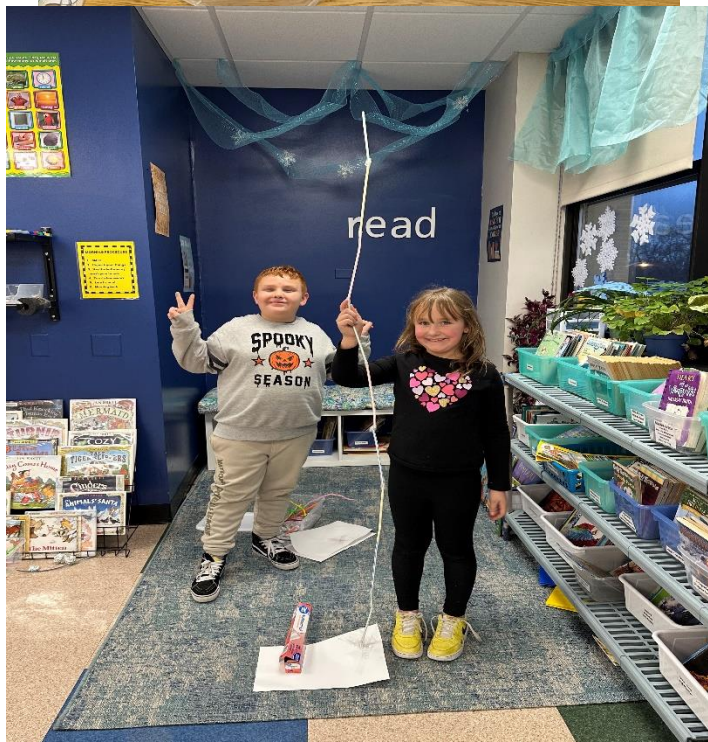
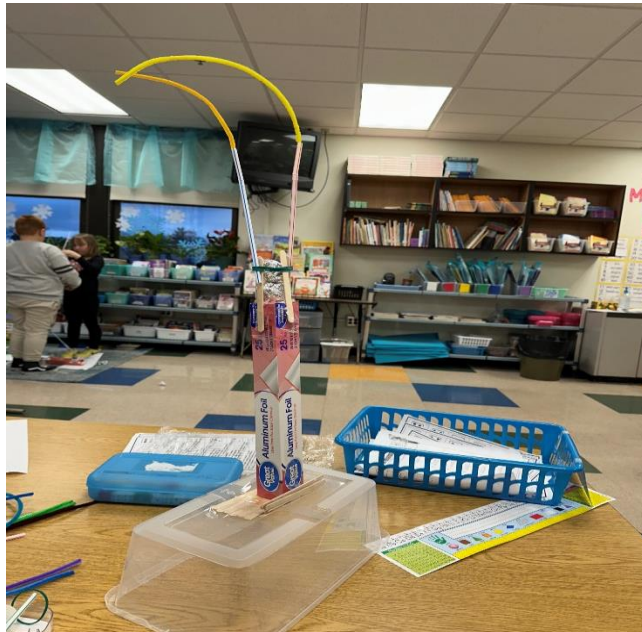
5. Week 4 -Experiments in density! Sink or float?



6. STEAM Week 5 - How Tall Can You Build it with STEAM bins of everyday items.



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7. Students in Mrs. Supey's Life Skills room at the Intermediate Center had a Thanksgiving celebration. Students helped to set the table, make mashed potatoes and heat up the corn and gravy. Students tried foods like turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, and we can't forget the pumpkin pie. They even had special guests come to dinner, Mr. Strazdus and Mrs. Anuszewski! A special thanks to Miss Jenn (speech) Miss Amy (social worker) Dr. B (OT), Miss Angie (PT) and life skills aides for helping to make this dinner possible.



8. Students from the Secondary Center Key Club visited the life skills room at the Intermediate Center. Lily Kasa, Natalie Liebman, Arianna Gaylord, Christopher Viadock, and Camilla Ruiz completed turkey art activity with the students. Each student decorated their very own turkey with colorful tissue paper. It was a great way to start the holiday season!



9. The Secondary Center Life Skills students went to pick out a real Christmas Tree for their classroom. They went to Malacari's and walked through many trees to pick out the perfect tree! After, they came back to decorate the tree with all of the lights, garland, and ornaments that they bought last year all while enjoying pizza and snacks. All of these experiences wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the faculty and staff and the Secondary Center. They support the students each week by purchasing drinks and baked goods from the Coffee Cart!



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10. Before the Thanksgiving break the Kindergarten Center students participated in Friendsgiving, Balloons over Broadway, and the SWPB Pie the Principal event. Students shared what they were thankful for while enjoying pancakes, created their own mini balloons in recognition of the Macy's Day Parade, and a few lucky students were able to enjoy pieing Mr. Pacchioni in the face.





11. Mrs. Kearns' and Mrs. Merkel's classrooms participated in creating gingerbread houses out of cardboard and a milk carton. Key club members and high school seniors and juniors assisted the students in creating these works of art.

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Dr. Pollard wished everyone a wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and for everyone to have a peaceful winter break.

Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino reported that the board met in executive session at 5:15 p.m. and discussed security issues, some ongoing special education litigation as well as up-coming professional collective bargaining agreement negotiations. An Act 88 compliance meeting with Reps from the professional union was held last week. Attorney Ferentino wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Student Representative’s Report

Mia Altavilla reported they are in final stages of getting everything done for the winter formal that will be held this Friday from 5 to 9.

Denai Dymond reported they are looking for donations for the 2025 calendar.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	4,619,813.39
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	6,711.21
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	67,433.66
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	167,222.51
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	9,893.69
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.07
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	147,645.06
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	799,477.43
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	10,147,829.93

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

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Finance Report

Mr. Butera read the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	468,735.33
Local Services Tax	4,666.15
Per Capita Tax	2,558.88
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>3,230.62</u>
Total:	479,190.98

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Social Security	185,635.21
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	60,650.23
Medical Assistance – Access	102,954.09
Ready to Learn Block Grant	627,728.87
School District Special Education	314,643.00
Stronger Connections Grant	<u>20,841.16</u>
Total:	1,312,452.56

2023 Supplemental Real Estate Taxes

Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough	55.54
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2024 Real Estate Taxes

George Miller – West Pittston Borough	253,352.40
Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough	335,554.25
Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough	190,934.48
Robert Connors – West Wyoming Borough	173,464.17
Wayman Smith – Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	147,243.98
Carol Bardzel – Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	<u>71,000.85</u>
Total:	1,171,550.13

Local Real Estate Transfer Tax

Luzerne County	19,530.41
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2. Approve the December 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 December 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 December payment of \$69,742.73 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Approve the payment of \$724.89 to #16-E11NW3-004-003-001 for paid property taxes for the year 2024.
6. Approve the amended agreement with CM3 regarding the Secondary Center rooftop unit not to exceed \$305,000.00 pending final written approval by the District Solicitor.
7. Approve notification to the Northeast Pennsylvania School District Health Trust that the Wyoming Area School District reserves its right to withdraw participation from the Trust in accordance with section 5.4 of the Trust Agreement.
8. Approve request for proposal for food service management pending final review by the Business Manager, Superintendent and District Solicitor.

9. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing: December 2024	1,203,352.61	
Prepays: November 2024	<u>130,016.50</u>	1,333,369.11
Cafeteria Account:	91,856.53	
Athletic Account:	<u>4,942.00</u>	<u>96,798.53</u>
		Total: 1,430,157.64

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.

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 extension of the existing Affiliation Agreement between Scranton University and Wyoming Area School District for an additional 3 years until October 18, 2027.
3. Approve the request of employee #20495 to take a maternity leave of absence effective on or about March 30, 2025 with an anticipated return date of the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Approve the request of employee #20243 to extend her maternity leave of absence until January 28, 2025.
5. Accept, with regret, employee #20329 submitting a letter of resignation as a Social Worker effective February 4, 2025.
6. Accept, with regret, employee #7002 submitting a letter of resignation as Career Technology Teacher effective February 15, 2025.
7. Approve the appointment of Judy Cefalo from third grade teacher to Title I Reading Specialist.
8. Approve the step placement of temporary professional employee, Christine Wagner, at Bachelors, Step 6, \$45,069.00.
9. Approve the request of employee #2825 to take a medical leave of absence effective January 6, 2025 through February 28, 2025. Return date is March 3, 2025.

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10. Approve the agreement between Wyoming Area Education Association and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the professional staff to voluntarily donate sick leave to employee #2825 for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Activities Report

Mrs. Valenti read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the appointments of the following assistant and volunteer coaches for the 2024-2025 spring sports season:

Baseball

Sam Parente	Assistant Coach
Dan Wiedl	Jr. High Coach
Riley Knaub	7/8 Coach
Pat McGinty	Jr. Varsity Coach
Geoff Baumes	Volunteer Coach
Colton Krogulski	Volunteer Coach
Robert Lemoncelli, Sr.	Volunteer Coach

Boys Lacrosse

Lindo Sabatini	Volunteer Coach
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Girls Lacrosse

Rob Switzer	Volunteer Coach
Lindo Sabatini	Volunteer Coach

Track & Field

Mike Fanti	Assistant Coach
Kristen Lombardo	Assistant Coach
Lou DeMark	Jr. High Coach
Jason Speece	Jr. High Coach
Ashton Ashby	Volunteer Coach
Frank Braccini	Volunteer Coach
Ron D'Eliseo	Volunteer Coach
Bree Bednarski	Volunteer Coach
Drew Bednarski	Volunteer Coach
Randy Spencer	Volunteer Coach
Mark Farrell	Volunteer Coach

2. Approve the request of Vanessa Smith, Wyoming Area Wrestling Parents Association, to sell tickets for a Basket of Cheer raffle fundraiser during the Candy Cane Crunch tournament on December 22, 2024 in the gym.
3. Motion to approve John McNeil as head girls softball coach for 2024-2025 spring sports season and accept John McNeil's resignation/retirement as head girls softball coach at the end of the 2024-2025 spring season.

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Kopko, 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 the Building Report.

1. Approve to rescind the appointment of Tykia Welkey as a personal care aide.
2. Approve to rescind the appointment of Sarah Zambito as a paraprofessional.
3. Approve the request of employee #4350 to take a medical leave of absence effective February 2, 2025 with an estimated date of return on April 15, 2025.
4. Approve the request of employee #20435 to take a medical leave of absence effective December 16, 2024 through March 7, 2025.
5. Approve the appointment of Brenda Jurchak as food service employee from 4 hours to 5.25 hours.
6. Approve the appointment of Mary Ann Wheeler as a personal care aide.
7. Approve the appointment of Caitlyn Locasio as a paraprofessional.
8. Approve the agreement between the Wyoming Area Education Support Professionals and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the support staff to voluntarily donate one sick leave day during the 2024-2025 school year to be used at the discretion of employee #20435.

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.

Policy Report

Mr. Kachmarsky read the Policy Report.

1. Approve the first reading of revised policies Volume V of 2024:

Policy #113.1 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Policy #113.2 - Behavior Support

Policy #202 - Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Policy #236.1 - Threat Assessment

Policy #254 - Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Policy #607 - Tuition Income

Policy #805.2- School Security Personnel

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2. Approve the first reading of revised policies Volume VI of 2024:

- Policy #005- Organization
- Policy #308- Employment Contract/Board Resolution
- Policy #823- Opioid Antagonist

3. Approve the first reading of revised Policy #237 Electronic Devices.

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

ON the question: Mr. Butera asked what were the revisions to the electronic devices policy.

Dr. Pollard explained there will be fabric bags that will lock student cell phones and other electronics. They will have the ability to hold on to them during the day but they won't have access to them. The phones will be locked in the bags throughout the entire school day. Mr. Butera stated he was not for the revision to the policy because he didn't agree with barring 17 and 18 year olds from using their phones for 7 hours everyday and being on the board for at least two years, cell phones have been an issue and Mr. Butera stated he doesn't feel like anything's been done to address the issue and would like to try alternate solutions first.

Mindy Stevens virtually asked if the policy will be adopted at all schools. Dr. Pollard responded the policy right now is directed toward the Secondary Center.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Valenti voted no on item #3 and yes on the remaining report. Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda voted no on item #3 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera voted no on item #3 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Campenni, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Kopko read the Police Report.

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

<u>CODE</u>	<u>COUNT</u>
0690 Theft – Reports	1
1440 Criminal Mischief – All Other	2
2400 Disorderly Conduct	7
2450 Harassment	5
2690 All Other Offenses – Reports	1
3400 Mental Health	1
3501 Suspicious Persons, Autos, Circumstances	2
3620 Juvenile Disturbance	3
3870 Medical Emergency	1
3900 Traffic & Parking Problems	1
4028 Non-Criminal – Other Investigations	2
4090 Non-Criminal - Reports	6
7016 Follow Up Information	4
7505 Assist Other Agencies – WARP	2
7506 Assisting Other Agencies – All Others	2
9999 Welfare Check	1
S2S Safe-2-Say Reports	2
TRUA Compulsory School Attendance	8

Total	51
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Open Discussion:

- Mr. Supey, Board Member- Mr. McNeil and the many years he has been a coach for the district.
- Brenda Jurchak, Exeter, no cut policy for disabled kids in sports.
- Vanessa Smith, Exeter, Pouches purchased for cell phones.

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 approximately 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Campenni, seconded by Mr. Alberigi.

Philip Campenni, President

David Alberigi, Secretary