

11273
Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 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. Twelve 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 7:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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. 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, Douglas Piazza, Assistant Principal of Discipline, William Wright, Principal of Primary Center, Stephanie Anuszewski, Director of Special Education, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Michael Bugelholl, Facilities Director, Mia Altavilla, Student Representative.

Communications

Mr. Alberigi read additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #19 submitting their meeting minutes of August 7, 2024.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of August 26, 2024.
3. Lesley Ratchford and Jennifer Bonita, Wyoming Area Girls Basketball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
4. Chuck Yarmey, Drama Club Advisor, requesting that the district cover the cost of transportation and driver housing for the Pennsylvania State Thespian Conference at West Chester University.
5. Employee #20615 requesting permission to take a maternity leave of absence.
6. Employee #20173 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
7. Rebecca Rutkoski, School Board Member, submitting her letter of resignation.
8. Employee #20500 requesting permission to extend her maternity leave.
9. Joe Pizano, Athletic Director, requesting permission to attend the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association conference.
10. Employee #13529 requesting permission to extend a medical leave of absence.
11. Employee #13250 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.

12. Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermedite Center PTO, requesting to hold a fundraiser.
13. Right to Know Request submitted for policies.
14. Right to Know Request submitted for bids, invoices and documentation regarding the timing and the removal of trees in the faculty parking lot.
15. Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, requesting permission to rent the auditorium, lobby, chorus room and band room for their Christmas Program.

Summary of Applications Received

School Nurse – 1

Title I Classroom Aide - 1

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Supey asked for approval of regular meeting minutes of September 24, 2024. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his Superintendent's Report.

1. **Our Annual Veterans' Day Program is scheduled for November 6th. If you are a Veteran and would like to attend, please contact the Main Office at 570-655-2836 ext. 2333 or email Mrs. Maureen Pikas (mpikas@wyomingarea.org) for more information.**
2. **The Exeter Lions Club will be passing out candy bags for the Kindergarten students during the Halloween Parade.**
3. **Stephanie Jallen, a Wyoming Area Alumni, will be inducted into the PA Sports Hall of Fame this November. Congratulations Stephanie! We are so proud of you!!!**
4. **The Kindergarten Center participated in Fire Prevention Week. Thank you to the Exeter and West Pittston Fire Departments for discussing fire and Halloween safety, and for allowing the students to view the fire trucks and safety equipment.**



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5. The Kindergarten Center recently participated in the district-wide PINK OUT. Part of the events of that day was the Paint the Principal's Hair Pink Event. Several students got to paint Mr. Pachioni's hair Pink.



6. The Kindergarten Center would like to thank Mr. Wolfe and the Home Depot Pittston DRC 5089 for their donation of pumpkins for each one of our students, faculty and staff. Each student will be able to decorate and take home their individual pumpkin.



7. The Wyoming Area Drama Club and Thespian Society #4795 will be presenting "The Play That Goes Wrong". Show times are Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23 at 7:00 PM, Sunday November 24 at 2:00 PM. General Admission is \$10.00
8. We are excited to announce a new curriculum for our Primary Center students. The Let Grow Experience is a homework assignment that has kids go out and do something new, on their own. Make breakfast, climb a tree, run an errand. The point is to stretch the boundaries of childhood a little bit to develop confidence and resiliency. When kids do something on their own, big things happen. It can be hard to let go, so The Let Grow Experience provides this little push. And of course, you and your child will discuss together what their projects will be.

9. As an incentive during lunch to earn "The Silver Spoon" (classes with best manners and behaviors), Chick-Fil-A will be providing a classroom lunch each month for this school year. One class will win monthly. September's winning class was Mrs. Bolus and October's winning class is Mrs. DeMichele.
10. Students from the life skills room at the Intermediate Center went on a field trip to Dymond's farm. Students took a hayride, picked a pumpkin, and made smores by the campfire. They also took a walk around the pond and collected leaves.



11. The Wyoming Area School Police recently participated in the Harding Recreation Committee's 3rd Annual Touch a Truck and Craft Fair.



Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Ferentino reported that the board met for executive sessions on October 15th and tonight October 22nd to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters.

Student Representative’s Report

Mia Altavilla, Senior Rep, reported a bonfire is scheduled for tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the high school. Elementary pep rallies are Thursday and Friday. The Pittston pep rally is Friday. The Halloween parade for seniors is October 31st and things are getting started for the Winter Formal scheduled for December 20th.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Butera read the Treasurer’s Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	5,497,117.17
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	6,640.94
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	14,621.11
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	159,168.59

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First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	7,578.00
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	146,506.89
First National Community Bank	Series 2022 GON Account	797,924.33
First National Community Bank	Money Market Account	4,582,405.52

The treasurer’s report will be kept on file for audit. On the Question: Vanessa Smith, Exeter, commented that FNCB Bank merged with People’s Security and will it be updated next month. The reply was yes.

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read additions to the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

Berkheimer Income Tax

Earned Income Tax	43,789.52
Local Services Tax	68.75
Per Capita Tax	4,068.47
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>3,658.94</u>
Total:	51,585.68

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Retirement	838,377.46
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	61,810.23
School District Special Education	314,643.00
School District Transportation	416,102.00
ARP ESSER III	90,907.04
ARP ESSER 7%	<u>7,065.51</u>
Total:	1,728,905.24

2024 Real Estate Taxes

George Miller – West Pittston Borough	2,696,763.22
George Miller – West Pittston Borough	28,931.29
Carol Bardzel – Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	325,506.70
Thomas Pizano – Exeter Borough	2,822,633.97
Paul Konopka – Wyoming Borough	1,461,513.85
Robert Connors – West Wyoming Borough	1,896,372.26
Wayman Smith – Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	1,235,126.83
Carol Bardzel – Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	<u>208,396.70</u>
Total:	10,675,244.82

Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Wyoming County	23,650.05
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Local Real Estate Transfer Taxes

Luzerne County	20,207.00
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2. Approve the October 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 October 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 October payment of \$69,742.73 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Approve the payment of \$253.43 to #16-E11SW1-002-008-000 for paid property taxes for the year 2024.

6. Approve the November 1, 2024 payments to Wilmington Trust (M&T Bank) for the following debt obligations:

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

General Obligations Bonds Series 19B	Interest	112,915.50	
	Principal	<u>5,000.00</u>	
	Total:	117,915.50	

General Obligations Bonds Series 21A	Interest	116,050.00	
	Principal	<u>1,120,000.00</u>	
	Total:	1,236,050.00	

General Obligations Bonds Series 21B	Interest	16,900.00	
	Principal	<u>115,000.00</u>	
	Total:	131,900.00	

7. Approve the Resolution of the Board of School Directors of the Wyoming Area School District and the Redevelopment Authority of Luzerne County authorizing the sale of 2025 tax claims and anticipated 2026 tax claims.
8. Approve the November 1, 2024 payment to Fidelity Bank in the amount of \$47,947.49 for the General Obligation Note, Series of 2022 of the Wyoming Area School District.
9. Approve the following payment to CM3 Building Solutions, Inc., invoice app#8, in the amount of \$425,863.35 for the HVAC at Secondary Center.
10. Approve the general ledger account:

Bill Listing: October 2024	1,650,415.41	
Prepays: September 2024	<u>135,470.94</u>	1,785,886.35
Cafeteria Account:	84,794.82	
Athletic Account:	<u>13,528.00</u>	<u>98,322.82</u>
		Total: 1,884,209.17

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

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

Motion passed.

Education Report

Mr. Kachmarsky read additions to the Education Report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District's Federal Programs (Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV) have been planned for the 2024-2025 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve an Educational Affiliation Agreement between Wyoming Area School District and King's College for clinical placement of students enrolled in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program for supervised clinical practice within the district, pending necessary clearances prior to placement.
3. Approve the request of employee #20615 to take a maternity leave of absence tentatively on or about December 23, 2024 with an anticipated return date of March 31, 2025.
4. Accept, with regret, the resignation letter of Rebecca Rutkoski as a Wyoming Area School Board Member retroactive to October 6, 2024.
5. Approve the revised professional substitute list.
6. Approve the request of employee #13529 to extend a medical leave of absence through January 6, 2025.
7. Approve the appointment of the following Scholarship Committee Members:

Doug Womelsdorf	\$2,000.00
Ann Giglio	\$1,000.00
8. Approve a grievance resolution and settlement related to classroom preparation and compensatory time subject to final written settlement agreement and approval by the District Solicitor.
9. Approve the request of employee #13250 to take a medical leave of absence retroactive to October 11, 2024 through November 11, 2024.
10. Approve an MOU between the Wyoming Area School District and Wyoming Area Education Association regarding cyber professional staff and coordinator of guidance subject to final written approval by the District Solicitor and Union.

Motion by Mr. Kachmarsky, second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the Education Report.

On the Question:

Mr. Campenni questioned item #7. Is this \$3,000 more going to scholarship program? The answer was yes.

Vannessa Smith, Exeter, asked if the \$3,000 was additional money or being split. Dr. Pollard responded based on last year's budget we should be at relatively the same amount of money, it's just split out.

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

Motion passed.

At this time, Attorney Ferentino, informed everyone that due to Rebecca Rutkoski's resignation, anyone can send a letter of intent providing they are 18 or older, a registered voter and a resident of the school district. The appointment will be at a combined board meeting on November 19th.

Activities Report

Mr. Supey read additions to Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Lesley Ratchford and Jennifer Bonita, Wyoming Area Girls Basketball Parents Association to hold the following fundraisers:
 - Lottery calendar (month of January)
 - 50/50 at home games for Little Eric Foundation game (1/2 to Foundation)
 - Pizza sale for Super Bowl (end of January)
 - Snapraise – Team fundraiser (November)
 - SBC – Parent fundraiser (March)
 - Gerrity's Bagging (March)
2. Approve the request of Chuck Yarmey, Drama Club Advisor, for the district to cover the cost of transportation and driver housing for the Pennsylvania State Thespian Conference at West Chester University from January 2nd through January 4, 2025. The total cost for transportation and driver housing is \$5,804.60.
3. Approve the request of Joe Pizano, Athletic Director, to attend the Pennsylvania Athletic Directors Association Conference at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center in Hershey March 18th through March 21, 2025, at a cost not to exceed \$800.00. Mileage reimbursement is also requested.
4. Approve the request of Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, to hold a Yankee Candle fundraiser for the month of November.

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

On the Question:

Mr. Campenni stated that a new chairperson will be needed for the activities report.

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

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Campenni read additions to the Building Report.

1. Approve the request of employee #20173 to take a medical leave of absence effective November 26, 2024 through January 3, 2025.

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2. Approve the Wyoming Area School District authorizing the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Wyoming, pending final written approval by the District Solicitor.
3. Approve the request of employee #20500 to extend her maternity leave of absence through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
4. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list.
5. Approve the appointment of Lori Petrillo as Title I Classroom Aide.
6. Approve the request of Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, to rent the Secondary auditorium, lobby, chorus room and band room for their Christmas Program on Thursday, December 19, 2024. Show starts at 6:30 p.m. Set up is requested in the afternoon. Organization is responsible for security and custodian costs, if needed, pending approval by the building principal.

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

On the Question: Carmen Latona, Dallas, addressed the Board on tree removal by the faculty parking lot and the environmental benefits of having the trees. Mr. Latona asked that the board see the beauty of the trees.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, 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 September 2024
Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>		<u>COUNT</u>
0690	Theft – Reports	1
1410	Criminal Mischief to Automobiles	1
1890	Narcotics - Reports	2
2400	Disorderly Conduct	5
2430	Fighting (Affray)	2
2450	Harassment	7
2480	Disorderly Conduct – All Others	2
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	1
3100	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3
3400	Mental Health	2
3610	Disturbances – Juvenile	2
3870	Medical Emergency	3
3900	Traffic & Parking Problems	7
4022	Non-Criminal – Suspicious Person	1
4090	Non-Criminal - Reports	3
5004	Lost & Found – Found Articles	1
7016	Follow Up Information	3
7504	Assist Other Agencies – Other Police	5
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	4
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	1
Total		56

Open Discussion:

- Phil Campenni, Board Member- Forming a Jr. ROTC program.
- Joanna Pechal, Exeter - Would like a meeting regarding her son's academics.
- Jerry Makowski, West Pittston – IX Lawsuits
- Vanessa Smith, Exeter - Finalized report on school climate survey.
- John Disanferdinand, West Pittston – Great job Football Team is doing, do we have any businesses to help with the auditorium chairs, taxes not being lowered in Wyoming Area.
- Phil Campenni, Board Member – Our Field Hockey Team is undefeated and going into the playoffs. The soccer team is also going to the playoffs. The band just competed and the drama club also has a play coming up.
- Christine Rutledge, Teacher - Invited anyone to attend the Wyoming Area Foundation Meeting on November 21st. Any ideas are welcomed regarding changing the setup of the auditorium.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Kopko.

Michael Supey, President

David Alberigi, Secretary