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Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, May 21, 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. 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 7:28 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
- Mrs. Kirby Kunkle
- Mrs. Rebecca Rutkoski (virtual)
- 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, David Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Douglas Piazza, Assistant Principal of Discipline, Mia Altavilla and Daniel Feeney, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their regular meeting minutes of March 27, 2024.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their minutes of March 25, 2024.
3. Employee #20640 submitting a letter of resignation as a cleaner.
4. Nicole Biago, School Nurse, requesting summer hours.
5. Employee #7540 requesting for a leave without pay, if needed, for the remainder of the school year.
6. Molly Kearns, Wyoming Area Boys Soccer Parents Association, requesting permission to hold a Junior Warrior Soccer Camp fundraiser.
7. Employee #20607 submitting a letter of resignation as a cleaner.
8. Employee #1570, Elementary Teacher, requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.

Summary of Applications Received

Secretary – 9
Paraprofessional/PCA – 5
Cleaners – 3
Math (4 - 8) - 3
Special Education – 4

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Supey asked for approval of the minutes of regular meeting April 23, 2024. All board members present voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

- 1. The Kindergarten and Primary Center participated in the Annual Community Reading Day on Thursday, April 25th. The Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce finds business volunteers to read to classes and discuss their employment. We would like to thank them for their partnership over the past three years!!!**



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2. King's College offered a Computer Science Information Day on April 24th, 2024. Many of our students attended the day to gain information about the college's program. In addition to a campus tour, the students participated in an escape room, a career scavenger hunt, and heard presentations from both current students and admission counselors. One student even took advantage of the instant acceptance option! This was a great day offered to our students and we are thrilled that many took advantage of the opportunity to attend.



3. Congratulations to the following 6th grade students who represented Wyoming Area at PMEA District 9 Band fest that was held on Friday, May 3, 2024 at the Tunkhannock Area School District. They practiced with students from other schools from PMEA District 9 and performed that evening for the parents. Thank you to the Wyoming Area School Board and Administration for allowing the students to participate in this wonderful festival.

Jordan Paris- trumpet

Ava Colarusso-trumpet

Emma Chickson-trombone

Aleara Rose- flute

Braeden Suchocki-trumpet

Cassandra Laue- mallets



4. Congratulations to our STEM Team, they placed second in the state at the Governor's STEM competition. STEM team members are Petra Pribula, Justin Zhou, Natalie Liebman, Lily Kasa and Hollis June.



5. Thank you to Mr. John Bonin and the Burpee Corporation for assistance and support of our Children's Produce Market and the Gardening Club.

6. The STEM team, led by Mrs. McAndrew, held a Remake Learning day event at the Secondary Center for elementary students ages 5 - 10. Students participated in hands-on-activities related to building a robot, making an art project, and learning about coding.



7. **The Intermediate Center’s K-Kids Club cleaned up the park on Exeter Avenue in West Pittston. The students cleaned up the leaves, sticks and trash throughout the park as an Earth Day project.**



8. **Congratulations to Caitlyn Babuscak for winning the Compelling Concept Award in the middle school division of the Dream-Learn-Pitch Program! Caitlyn was introduced to the Dream-Learn-Pitch program in her Career Writing 8 Course with Mrs. Seiger. The program aims to introduce young students to entrepreneurship and the importance of problem solving. Caitlyn completed an innovative Interior Design company called Bright Decor, and pitched this business to a panel of professionals at Penn State, State College. Great job, Caitlyn! Also, many thanks to Mr. Pacchioni for introducing the dream-learn-pitch program to the Career Writing 8 Class!**



9. **Students from the Life Skills room at the Intermediate Center participated at the LIU Field day at the Wilkes-Barre Area High School Sports Complex. Students competed in events like kickball, long jump, 50 meter run, and other various activities. They even had time to snack on some cotton candy. It was a super fun day!**

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10. In honor of Law Day, the students in Mrs. Broda's, Mrs. Campenni's, and Mrs. Conflitti's classes participated in a virtual program offered by the Rendell Center. They listened to a reading of the book *Carl the Complainer*. This book is about a young boy who figures out how he can turn his complaints into something positive to make a change in his community.



11. Wyoming Area's Scholastic Team competed in WVIA's Scholastic Scrimmage, a question and answer competition among local high schools. Our students were in the final round in the LIU bracket.

Team Members are: Seniors and Co-captains: Gianna Pellegrino and Bella Vogel

Juniors: Brady Kearns, Kayden Dructor, Rebecca Gula, and Mario Belza. Molly Kearns is their advisor.

Episodes aired on 5/7 and 5/14 but can be streamed from WVIA





12. I would like to acknowledge Junior, Mia Altavilla and Senior, Daniel Feeny for their outstanding service in representing the student body on the Wyoming Area School Board for the 2023-2024 school year. Congratulations Mia and Daniel!

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Ferentino stated that a brief executive session was held on May 13th regarding personnel matters. They met on May 14th before the work session to discuss special education pupil issues and Act 93 updates and the board also met on May 21st regarding Act 93, pending personnel related to budgetary issues.

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Student Representative’s Report

Daniel Feeney reported National Honor Society will be held on May 28th in auditorium, Class Day is on June 4th in auditorium, June 5th is Awards Day, June 6th is Scholarship Dinner in gym, June 12th is the Senior Parade and June 14th is graduation.

Mia Altavilla reported the Jr. Class Field Trip is on June 5th. They are looking for Jr. Class Officers for next year and elections will be held on June 3, 2024.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Butera stated there are no additions to the Treasurer’s Report.

First National Community Bank	General Fund	3,284,572.02
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	6,527.08
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	75,602.55
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	170,388.41
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	9,305.00
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	143,437.89
First National Community Bank	Series 2022 GON Account	1,767,032.62
First National Community Bank	Money Market Account	5,697,396.51

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	135,775.31
Local Services Tax	547.33
Per Capita Tax	396.20
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>1,676.28</u>
Total:	138,395.12

<u>State & Federal Subsidy Payments</u>	
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	61,810.23
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	6,017.00
Title IV – Student Support & Academic Enrichment	4,939.92
Basic Education Funding	1,361,886.00

School District Transportation	13,155.49
ARP ESSER III	90,907.04
ARP ESSER 7%	<u>7,065.51</u>
Total:	1,545,791.19

<u>Local Realty Transfer Tax</u>	
Luzerne County	25,036.11
Wyoming County	<u>857.50</u>
Total:	25,893.61

2. Approve the May 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 May 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 May payment of \$69,097.00 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approve the budgeted library contribution for the 2023-2024 fiscal year: \$2,000.00 each to the Wyoming Free Library and West Pittston Library.
6. Approve the budgeted ambulance contribution of \$300.00 to Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
7. Approve the appointments of Dr. Steven Bonomo, Dr. Erani Pagliarini, Dr. Ann McDonough and Dr. Ryan McDonnell as school dentists, to do examinations as state mandated for grades K, 3 and 7 for the 2024-2025 school year.
8. Approve to authorize the Secretary, in consultation with the Superintendent, Solicitor and Business Manager to solicit bids, as needed, for items in excess of the final adjusted base amount issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry for the 2024-2025 school year.
9. Approve to authorize Albert B. Melone Company, Business Consultant, to solicit quotes, if necessary, for securing a 2024-2025 Tax Anticipation Note.
10. Approve a letter of notice to the Northeast Health Care Trust that the Wyoming Area School District is reserving its right to withdraw participation in the Trust (12) twelve months from this date. This is in accordance with section 5.4 of the Trust Agreement.
11. Approve 100 summer hours to Nicole Biago, School Nurse, for the 2024-2025 school year.
12. Approve the West Side Career & Technology Center Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
13. Approve the following refunds for paid property taxes for year 2023:

16-E11NW1-004-002-000	\$191.16
66-E10NE4-004-006-000	<u>268.58</u>
Total:	459.74

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14. Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Wyoming Area School District and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 for the 2024-2025 school year.
15. Approve the payment of \$57,210.70 to CM3 Building Solutions for Invoice App#5 for the district’s HVAC.
16. Approve the Proposed Final General Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 school year and authorize the Secretary of the Board to advertise the budget notice of the adoption of the Proposed Final General Fund Budget according to law.

The Proposed Final General Fund Budget provides for the expenditures of \$46,202,031 and equity and revenues of a like amount and reflects a tax of 21.1172 mills for the Boroughs of Exeter, Exeter Township, Luzerne County, West Pittston, West Wyoming and Wyoming per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation on real estate, and a tax of 105.8054 mills for Exeter Township, Wyoming County per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation on real estate.

The budget also maintains the following: a per capita tax of \$5.00 on all persons over twenty-one (21) years of age who are residents or inhabitants of the school district under the authority of the Act of March 10, 1949, P.L. 30, Article VI, Section 679 and its amendments an additional per capita tax of \$5.00 per person an all persons over twenty-one (21) years of age who are residents or inhabitants of Exeter, Exeter Township, Luzerne County, Exeter Township, Wyoming County, West Pittston, West Wyoming, and Wyoming under the authority of Act 511 and its amendments, the forgoing being applicable to taxpayers less than sixty-five (65) years of age, and a Local Services Tax for individuals (formerly the occupational privilege tax) within the Wyoming Area school boundaries, real estate transfer tax 1% and wage or earned income tax of 1%.

17. Approve the Subordination of Rights Reverter Agreement and Estoppel Certificate between Wyoming Area School District and Ecumenical Housing Limited Partnership subject to final approval of the school solicitor.
18. Approve the 2024-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services between Wyoming Area School District and Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19.
19. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing: May 2024	1,115,838.35	
Prepays: April 2024	<u>185,524.07</u>	1,301,362.42
Cafeteria Account:	96,870.93	
Athletic Account:	<u>9,504.50</u>	<u>106,375.43</u>
		Total: 1,407,737.85

20. Approve to authorize the Business Consultant to solicit a term sheet from FNCB for a General Obligation Note not to exceed \$650,000 to ensure local match funding for public school facility improvement program.

Attorney Ferentino stated item #20 arose this evening so a majority of the board must vote to amend the report to add this item.

Mr. Butera made a motion to add item #20. 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.

Mr. Butera motioned to accept the Finance Report. Second by Mr. Supey.

At this time, Mr. Tom Melone reported on the proposed final budget. Mr. Melone answered questions from the public.

Malinda Knipfer, Drums, questioned items #14, 17 and 18 regarding special education.

Phil Campenni commented on a Crown Vic car that was donated to the district for the police department.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni voted no on item #16 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, no on item #16 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, 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 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 guest teacher substitute list for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Approve the revised professional substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Approve the request of employee #7540 to take a leave without pay, if needed, for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Approve the agreement regarding waiver of expulsion hearing and free appropriate public education stipulation for student #148606, pending approval by the school solicitor.
6. Approve the transfer of Danielle Lopresto from special education teacher to third grade teacher.
7. Approve the appointment of Veronica Marth as math teacher.
8. Approve to collapse a section of 6th grade.
9. Approve the Board Affirmation Statement for Flexible Instructional Day Program as required by the PA. Department of Education.
10. Approve the request of employee #1570, Elementary Teacher, to take a medical leave of absence retroactive to April 22, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
11. Approve the appointments of the following department chairperson and advisor positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

Lauren Wiedl
Maureen Pikas

Special Education Chairperson
Social Studies Chairperson

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Joe Pizano	Physical Education Chairperson
Erica Bartoli	Career Technology Chairperson
Lorraine Jarden	Art Chairperson
Carmen Latona	English Chairperson
Christine Marianacci	World Language Chairperson
Shea Riley	Music Chairperson
Brian Butler	Guidance Chairperson
Damien Rutkoski	Science Chairperson
Nicole Biago	Nurse Chairperson
Antoinette Jones	Family & Consumer Science Chairperson
Leo Lulewicz	Math Chairperson

Leo Lulewicz	Senior Class Co-Advisor
Paula Cecil	Senior Class Co-Advisor
Kristina Anderson	Junior Class Co-Advisor
Ashley Dunn	Junior Class Co-Advisor
Carmella Magyar	Sophomore Class Advisor
Maureen Pikas	Freshman Class Advisor
Leo Lulewicz	Student Council Advisor
Josette Cefalo	Asst. Student Council Advisor
Carmen Latona	Class Day Advisor
Damien Rutkoski	Key Club Advisor
Bobbie Tondora	FBLA Co-Advisor
Riane Hulme	FBLA Co-Advisor
Maureen Pikas	National History Day Advisor
Mike Fantl	Director of Intramurals
Joe Pizano	Athletic Director
Chuck Yarmey	Drama Advisor
Kate Mangan	Asst. Drama Advisor
Angelo Bufalino	Marching Band Director
Angelo Bufalino	Indoor Winds Director
Dennis Hando	Garden Club Co-Advisor
Antoinette Jones	Garden Club Co-Advisor
Christine Rutledge	National Honor Society Advisor
Michelle Harden	Builders Club Advisor
Kayla Slack	Yearbook Advisor

12. Approve the Dual Credit Affiliation Agreement between Wyoming Area School District and The Pennsylvania State University.

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

Mr. Campenni wanted to table item #8 because the math scores are declining. They are in bottom 15%. Mr. Campenni wanted to discuss it more.

Mr. Campenni motioned to table item #8.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, no, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera, no, Mr. Kachmarsky, no, Mr. Alberigi, no.

Motion passed to table item #8.

Mr. Butera stated that he voted no because taxes have been raised for 13 years in a row, were raising it to the index this year, were only adding one to two students per classroom. It makes sense.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko voted no on item#4 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Campenni voted no on item #4 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Kunkle voted no on item #4 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Valenti voted no on item #4 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Supey, yes, Mrs. Rutkoski, yes, Mr. Butera voted no on item #4 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Kachmarsky voted no on item #4 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Alberigi voted no on item #4 and yes on remaining report.

Item #4 failed. The remaining report passed.

Activities Report

Mr. Supey stated there were no additions to the Activities Report.

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

CHEERLEADING

Roslyn Leo-Asst. Coach
Abigail Barhight-Volunteer Coach

FIELD HOCKEY

Christina Granteed-Asst. Coach
Joe Bednarski-Volunteer Coach
Lexi Crossley-Volunteer Coach

GOLF

Robert Yatsko-Asst. Coach

SOCCER, BOYS

Brian Shandra-Asst. Coach

SOCCER, GIRLS

Ashley Dunn-Asst. Coach
Aleah Kranson-Volunteer Coach
Eric Fairchild-Volunteer Coach
Nicholas Evans-Volunteer Coach

VOLLEYBALL

Lacy Gashi-Asst. Coach
Jean Marie Argenio-Volunteer Coach

FOOTBALL

Michael Fanti-Asst. Coach
Rich Musinski-Asst. Coach
Ken Kopetchny-Asst. Coach
Jason Speece-Asst. Coach
Tom Loftus-Asst. Coach
Don Hindmarsh-Asst. Coach
Corey Popovich-Asst. Coach
Bryce Hinkle-Asst. Coach
Jim Pizano-Volunteer Coach
Kim Pace-Volunteer Coach
Tom Campenni-Volunteer Coach
Paul Angeli-Volunteer Coach
Farrad Condry-Volunteer Coach
John Hindmarsh-Camera/Volunteer Coach
Pat Gilligan-Volunteer Coach
Paul J. Angeli-Volunteer Coach
Rocco Pizano-Volunteer Coach
Pat Nelson-Volunteer Coach
Joe Karcutskie-Volunteer Coach
Eric Speece-Volunteer Coach
Mike Laffey-Volunteer Strength Coach
Dave Pacchioni-Volunteer Strength Coach
Charles Medico-Statistician

2. Approve the request of Molly Kearns, Wyoming Area Boys Soccer Parents Association, to hold a Junior Warrior Soccer Camp fundraiser at the Primary Center field or gym in case of inclement weather, Monday, June 10th to Wednesday, June 12, 2024, pending approval by the athletic director and building principal.

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

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

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Campenni read additions to the Building Report.

1. Accept, with regret, the resignation letter of employee #20640 as a cleaner retroactive to April 12, 2024.
2. Accept, with regret, the resignation letter of employee #20607 as a cleaner retroactive to May 10, 2024.
3. Approve contract with CM3 Building Solutions for feasibility study.
4. Approve Devopar Consulting for Scope of Consultative Work for Wyoming Area School District.
5. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list.
6. Approve to donate the Primary Center scoreboard to Greater Wyoming Area Jr. Warriors pending final approval of the Superintendent and School Solicitor.
7. Approve the appointment of Carolyn Baloga as foodservice employee for 5.25 hours.
8. Approve the appointment of the following summer cleaners:

Michael Steinberger
Sheri Bestider
Cheryl Patrick
John Gigorio
Linda DeArmitt
Sharon Graboski
Anna Carannante
Ally Murphy
Carla DePrimo
Judy Henson
9. Approve for the Wyoming Area Education Support Professionals (WAESPA) and Wyoming Area School District (WASD) mutually agree to allow any member of the support staff to voluntarily donate one (1) sick leave day during the 2023-2024 school year to be used at the discretion of Rosemarie Hines.

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

Mr. Campenni asked for clarification by Dr. Pollard regarding Items #3 and #4.

Roll Call: Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Campenni voted no on item# 3 and #4 and yes on the remaining report. Mr. 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 April 2024
Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>		<u>COUNT</u>
1532	Weapons – Possession - Knife	1
1890	Narcotics – Reports	2
2450	Harassment	6
2601	Use of Tobacco in Schools	3
2690	All Other Offenses - Reports	2
3400	Mental Health	3
3870	Medical Emergency	2
3900	Traffic & Parking Problems	1
4090	Non-Criminal - Reports	4
5008	Lost & Found – Lost Articles	2
7016	Follow Up Information	3
S2S	Safe-2-Say Reports	7
TRUA	Compulsory School Attendance	5
Total		41

Open Discussion from Board:

At this time, Mr. Supey stated that we revised our policy on public comment to three minutes.

Mr. Butera once again commented on the budget and collapse of a sixth grade. Five of the board members are new so they haven't had much to do with the budget. The board needs to make decisions financially that are going to put us on solid ground going forward. He couldn't understand why we wouldn't collapse a grade if we are only adding one or two students.

Mrs. Rutkoski did comment that just because we are tabling the item tonight doesn't mean they can't vote on it again. There needs to be more clarification.

Open Discussion from Public:

- Steve Homza, Exeter – Use of the Atlas Field
- Sara Mazzitelli, Forty Fort – Collapsing of sixth grade
- Bill Norton, Wyoming – Special needs son not being able to attend WA next year
- Malinda Knipfer, Drums – Students with disabilities/age cut off to attend school
- Lindsay Dragon – Students with special needs
- Brenda Jurchak, Exeter, Special needs students in sports

To listen to the entire meeting, log on to Wyoming Area website's YouTubeChannel.

With no further questions the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Supey, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Michael Supey, President

David Alberigi, Secretary

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