

Superintendent's Report

At this time, Dr. Pollard read Superintendent's Report.

1. Tonight we have members of the Friends of Rachel Club here. We are recognizing their efforts in organizing the Annual Teachers vs. Seniors Basketball Game. This event is a opportunity for the Members of the Senior class to celebrate their comradery and take on the Faculty for a great cause. This year the focus was on Autism Awareness and money raised help support our growing Autism Support program here are Wyoming Area. The Class of 2026 had great time and the Faculty had a great use of Advil and ice packs. Congratulations to the Seniors who managed to eke out a narrow victory. Thank You to the members of the Friends of Rachel Club who were part of the planning and participation in this great event. Emily Griglock, Sofia Menta, Sarah Mizenko, Simon Pollard, Abigail Lachenmayer, Mea Knepper and Valentina Ruiz. The Friends of Rachel Clubs advisors are Brianna Littzi, Ashley Dunn, and Kristina Anderson.

Emily Griglock acknowledged all members and faculty and spoke about the club.

2. We recognized Ms. Sperrazza at the Board Meeting in April for her contributions to Pennsylvania Music Educator Association and Music Education. Tonight, we have a representative from PMEA in attendance to present with the PMEA Citation of Excellence. Mr. Tom Bassett from PMEA acknowledged Ms. Sperrazza and presented her with a plaque.

Finance Report

At this time, Tom Melone, Business Consultant, did a presentation slide on the 2026-2027 proposed final budget.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his remaining report.

3. National Teacher Appreciation, School Nurse Appreciation, Police Officer Appreciation and Principal Appreciation days were celebrated in the month of May and Paraprofessional and Administrative Assistants Appreciation was celebrated in April. I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all of the members of the Wyoming Area Family who take on these roles. They all have difficult, yet rewarding jobs. Thank You for everything you do, seen and unseen, to make our students feel safe and provide them with the supports and vital skills they need to be productive in our communities.
4. A group of talented and driven students from Wyoming Area Secondary Center's STEM team is making the community proud after advancing to the final presentation round of the tecBRIDGE Business Plan Competition.

The tecBRIDGE Business Plan Competition challenges students to develop creative, real-world solutions to pressing problems through research, collaboration, and strategic planning. Reaching the final round places this team among the top student innovators in the region, recognizing months of hard work, critical thinking, and dedication.

In addition to the team’s success, two members, Ezra Gorkos (sophomore) and Sophia Tang (sophomore) have earned individual recognition as finalists in the tecBRIDGE Essay Competition. Their essays, which explore forward-thinking ideas in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, were selected for their originality, depth, and clarity.

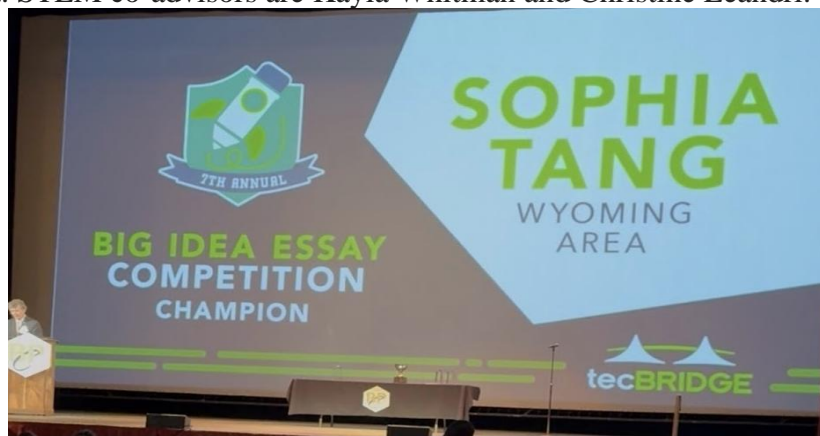
Congratulations to these exceptional students for representing Wyoming Area with pride and demonstrating what is possible through dedication to STEM learning. The team is co-advised by Kayla Whitman and [Christine Leandri](#).



Pictures From left to right:

Front: Kamryn Mcelwee, Sophia Tang, Deidre Laue
 Back: Christine Leandri, Simon Pollard, Ezra Gorkos, Zhiwein Tang and Kayla Whitman.

5. We are so excited to share that Sophia Tang was chosen as the tecBRIDGE big ideas essay champion. A title that comes with a \$1,000 education stipend. Congratulations Sophia. STEM co-advisors are Kayla Whitman and Christine Leandri.



6. 4th Grade Connecting Science with Literature

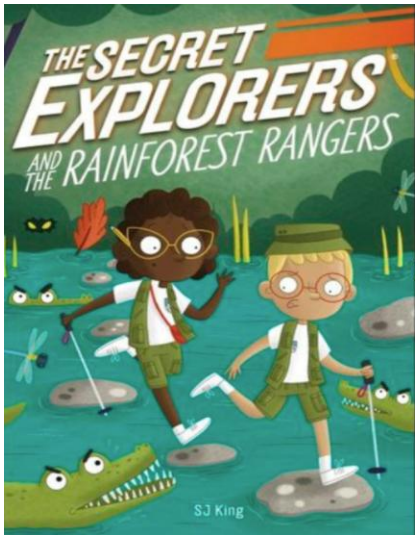
A huge thank you to George Butwin from LIU18 for sharing this grant opportunity with our grades 3-5 teacher network.





Mrs. Campenni from our Science team and Mrs. Broda from our ELA team collaborated to make a proposal and was awarded two class sets of books.

A **huge** thank you to the Keystone State Literacy Association!



Our teachers chose this book because it connects with the 4th grade's second unit of the year.

The unit from Amplify Science is titled Vision and Light. It studies the role animal senses, primarily vision, have in animal survival. This unit takes students to the rainforest of the Philippines. Students are challenged to explain the phenomenon of why the new installation of highway lights is affecting the Tokay Gecko population by acting as conservation biologists.



The kids enjoyed some Drop Everything and Read time during Science class.





Sneaking away from their desks....



and even to the playground!



Fresh air, sunshine
and a book!



The students were given guided questions to keep them engaged in the reading. This novel helped give students more insight to life in the rainforest. This helped guide discussions and peaked their interest and curiosity. We hope to add more ELA lesson connections to this novel and would love to have a novel connected to each of our Science units in the future!

7. The K-Kids club at the Intermediate Center completed many school and community service projects for the second half of the school year.
 - Collected canned goods for the First United Methodist Church Food Pantry
 - Made Valentine cards for the residents of Highland Manor nursing home
 - Made appreciation gifts for WAIC Paraprofessionals, Teachers, and Principals, as well as our bus drivers
 - Collected crayons for recycling
 - Attended some Kiwanis events

- In addition, club members continue to organize the Clothes Closet, which has served over 40 students this year.
8. The WA Intermediate Center collected can tabs to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Danville. Money collected from recycling the tabs is used to support their programs to help families cover additional expenses associated with their child's medical care. Pictured are some K-Kids Executive Board members.



9. I would like to acknowledge Senior, Kennedy Debo and Junior, Ella Keefer for their outstanding service in representing the student body on the Wyoming Area School Board for the 2025-2026 school year.

Congratulations Kennedy and Ella!

10. Dr. Pollard acknowledged Susan Bartoli, first grade teacher at the Primary Center who was nominated by one of the local radio stations. Congratulations!

Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Jarrett Ferentino reported the board met in executive session on May 14th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss on-going personnel and support negotiations. They also met this evening beginning at 5:15 p.m. to discuss support negotiations and personnel matters. The support discussions are progressing in a positive manner. The contract expires May 31st and they are hopeful to have them things done.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Valenti asked for approval of the minutes of April 28, 2026. All board members present voted aye.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer’s Report.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | General Fund | 7,287,072.36 |
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | Payroll Account | 7,431.51 |

Exeter, PA.
May 20, 2026

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | Cafeteria Account | 183,532.47 |
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | Student Activities Account | 162,215.15 |
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | Athletic Fund Account | 3,475.85 |
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | Purchasing Account | 500.00 |
| Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust | General Fund Account | 156,126.34 |
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | Series 2022 GON Account | 323,724.02 |
| Peoples Security Bank & Trust | Money Market Account | 2,078,894.06 |

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 | 171,003.51 |
| Local Services Tax | 1,382.69 |
| Per Capita Tax | 356.47 |
| Delinquent Per Capita | <u>1,484.12</u> |
| Total: | 174,226.79 |

State & Federal Subsidy Payments

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Title I – Improving Basic Programs | 57,262.07 |
| Title II – Improving Teacher Quality | 7,114.71 |
| Title IV – Student Support & Academic Enrichment | 3,864.64 |
| Basic Education Funding | 1,410,034.00 |
| Bond Intercept Act 85 | <u>(254,918.00)</u> |
| Total: | 1,223,357.42 |

Local Realty Transfer Tax

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Luzerne County | 26,651.57 |
|----------------|-----------|

2. Approve the May payment of \$89,723.85 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 May payment of \$68,161.62 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 for Special Education Services for the 2026-2027 School Year.

5. Approve agreement with New Story for the 2026-2027 school year.
6. Approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for student #3002645 pending approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor.
7. Approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for student #3000618 pending approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor.
8. Approve the budgeted library contribution for the 2025-2026 fiscal year: \$2,000.00 each to the Wyoming Free Library and West Pittston Library.
9. Approve the budgeted ambulance contribution of \$300.00 to Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
10. 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 2026-2027 school year.
11. Approve the Proposed Final General Fund Budget for the 2026-2027 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 \$49,679,275 and equity and revenues of a like amount and reflects a tax of 22.6496 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 119.4070 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 on 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%.

12. 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 2026-2027 school year.
13. Approve 100 summer hours for Nicole Biago, School Nurse.
14. Approve Special Education Services Agreement with Graham Academy for the 2026-2027 school year.
15. Approve agreement with Children's Service Center for Partial Hospitalization Program and Therapeutic Educational Program for the 2026-2027 school year.

16. Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 for the 2026-2027 school year.

17. Approve the following payments from capital project account:

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Invoice #</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| PA Paper & Supply | S1613758.001 | \$6,049.20 | Secondary Center | Chairs |
| Lyons Recreation | 1675 | <u>10,470.00</u> | Intermediate Center | Playground |
| | | Total: | 16,519.20 | |

18. Approve the step placement of the following temporary professional employees for the 2026-2027 school year:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Sarah Luvender-Newman | Masters | Step 8 | \$60,037.00 |
| Tessa McDonald | Masters | Step 5 | \$55,537.00 |
| Leah Doknovitch | Masters | Step 8 | \$60,037.00 |

19. Approve the general ledger sheet:

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Bill Listing: | May 2026 | 958,973.67 | |
| Prepays: | April 2026 | <u>250,816.63</u> | 1,209,790.30 |
| Cafeteria Account: | | 64,727.74 | |
| Athletic Account: | | <u>8,370.50</u> | <u>73,098.24</u> |
| | | Total: | 1,282,888.54 |

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

On the Question: Vannessa Smith, Exeter, questioned item #11. The 22.6496 mills, that is a raise of what percentage? Mrs. Valenti responded 0.8. That is the full index amount 4.8 percent proposed. For Wyoming, that would also go to the index. On item #17, Mrs. Smtih asked what the Secondary Center chairs were for. Dr. Pollard responded that the chairs are for classrooms. Mostly for replacement. Christine Rutledge, Falls, virtually asked if the board will be reaching out to elected officials in Wyoming County to combat the issues addressed tonight? Dr. Pollard responded he can certainly reach out to Mr. McGovern (Lake Lehman) and Mr. Dougherty (Tunkhannock).

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera voted no on item #11 and yes on remaining report. Mrs. Valenti, 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) will be planned for the 2026-2027 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve the request of employee #20120 to take a maternity leave of absence effective for the first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year.

3. Approve the appointment of Patrick Dougherty as a School Psychologist.

11540

4. Approve the agreement between Wyoming Area Education Association and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the professional staff to voluntarily donate one sick day during the 2025-2026 school year to be used at the discretion of employee #7125.

Motion by Mrs. Gazda, second by Mr. Burke, to accept the Education Report.

On the Question: Vanessa Smith, Exeter, asked if item #3 is a replacement. Dr. Pollard responded we haven't had a full time school psychologist for a couple weeks. Mr. Dougherty currently works for the IU 18 and we've been contracting with them for his services and then we have another former full time person we contract to do work as we need it. Mrs. Smith asked if Title IV will be deleted since we're no longer funding Title IV. Dr. Pollard responded that there are two Title IVs. One is for STEAM and professional development and some other things and federal funding work, that continues. And the other what Mr. Melone was discussing was a meritorious separate grant for building stronger communities, that is the grant that is expiring.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Activities Report

Mrs. Kunkle read the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Alyssa Kelley, President of the The West Pittston Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board, with the assistance of Gina Malsky, to hold a "Young Run for Fun" at the stadium (including rest rooms and parking lot) for children 14 years old and younger on Saturday, July 4, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (for set up and clean up) The run will begin at 9:00 a.m., pending approval.
2. Approve the request of Nikki, Milcavage, Senior Parents for Class of 2027, to have a stand to sell various items during the graduation ceremony.
3. Approve the appointment of Matt Finn as Head Golf Coach for the 2026-2027 Fall sports season.

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

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Butera read the Building Report in the absence of Mr. Campenni.

1. Approve the agreement between Wyoming Area Education Support Professionals and Wyoming Area School District mutually agree to allow any member of the support staff to voluntarily donate one sick leave day during the 2025-2026 school year to be used at the discretion of employee #20426.

Exeter, PA.

May 20, 2026

2. Approve the following summer cleaners:

- Nick Bogdon
- Linda DeArmitt
- John Gigorio
- Judy Henson
- Tammy Leibman
- Jody Locascio
- Anna Newton
- Louise Tracy
- Mike Yakobitis
- Jim Zarachack

3. Accept, with regret, employee #20595 submitting a letter of resignation effective June 5, 2026.

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

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mr. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Kopko read the Police Report.

**Wyoming Area Police Department
Monthly Report for April 2026
Total Calls for Service**

| <u>CODE</u> | | <u>COUNT</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|
| 0452 | Threat Assessment | 2 |
| 1440 | Criminal Mischief – All Other | 1 |
| 2400 | Disorderly Conduct | 3 |
| 2450 | Harassment | 7 |
| 2601 | Use of Tobacco in Schools | 1 |
| 3100 | Motor Vehicle Accidents | 1 |
| 3501 | Suspicious Persons, Autos, Circumstances | 2 |
| 3900 | Traffic & Parking Problems | 1 |
| 4022 | Non-Criminal – Reports | 2 |
| 7016 | Follow Up Information | 1 |
| 7505 | Assist Other Agencies – WARP | 2 |
| JUV | Juvenile Petition Filed | 1 |
| S2S | Safe-2-Say Reports | 9 |
| TRUA | Compulsory School Attendance | 16 |
| Total | | 49 |

In regards to Police Week, Mr. Kopko acknowledged the great job our school police department has done in the past and for the job they are currently doing. We’ve come a long way he said and is proud of the department that we do have. They do a very good job at all our schools.

Open Discussion

- Vanessa Smith, Exeter – The Right to Know regarding Ramadan accommodations. Dr. Pollard responded they are doing a survey of districts to see what various people are doing. It’s not about the numbers of students.

- Mrs. Smith asked about the summer program – Dr. Pollard responded there will be no summer program this year. The track will be open and when asked about the date of graduation, Dr. Pollard responded Friday, June 5th. Next year it will be on a Wednesday with a rain date on Thursday.

Mrs. Valenti thanked Mrs. Gittens and the Intermediate Center PTO for providing pizza for the board's executive session.

With no further questions the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Alberigi.

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

Mrs. Mara Valenti, President

Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary

