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Wyoming Area School District  
Special Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education  
20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643  
Tuesday, June 7, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held this evening at the Secondary Center auditorium, 20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643, with approximately fifty people in attendance. A non-public personnel meeting was held followed by a public budget meeting. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. John Bolin, Secretary of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:                   Mr. John Bolin, Secretary  
                                  Mr. Dave Alberigi, Treasurer  
                                  Mr. Samuel Aritz  
                                  Dr. Estelle Campenni  
                                  Dr. Frank Casarella  
                                  Mr. Gilbert Dominick  
                                  Mrs. Toni Valenti

Absent:                     Mr. Nicholas DeAngelo, President, was attending his daughters sports banquet  
                                  Mr. John Marianacci, Vice President, had a medical issue

Also in attendance: Mr. Raymond J. Bernardi, Superintendent, Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, Tom Melone, Business Consultant, Attorney Raymond A. Hassey, Cathy Ranieli, Assistant Principal of the Secondary Center, Robert Kaluzavich, Elementary Principal of Montgomery Ave./SJD, Debbie Popson, Special Education Supervisor, Frank Parra, Athletic Director, Dave Amico, Facilities Manager, Attorney John Dean of Elliot Greenleaf & Dean.

Finance Report

Mr. Bernardi read the finance report.

1. Approve to reject Pennsylvania Labor Relation Board Fact Finders Report.

Motion by Mr. Dominick, second by Mrs. Valenti, to accept the finance report.

On the Question: Dr. Campenni stated that it is important that the board should look at the numbers and see what the numbers say. Dr. Campenni talked about the Fact Finders Report stating next year it will require \$270,000 to cover raises but at the index it will require \$200,000. The following year it will require \$220,000 just to cover salaries. It's a basic mathematical fact. Dr. Casarella thanked everyone for their input as it helps the board make decisions. Dr. Casarella stated with these decisions there are several groups in mind, one, people who are surviving on social security checks which isn't a lot and don't have a retirement plan and they are probably selling their houses, then there are people retired who don't have kids in the district and then we have people who are working. We want to be fair to everybody. Dr. Casarella stated he would like to see a replacement plan in the future for boilers and whatever else that needs to be repaired. There doesn't seem to be money put aside for this.

Lisa Barrett, President of the Wyoming Area Education Association, stated that the board requested the Fact Finders Report. The person appointed to be the Fact Finder is a neutral person appointed by the state. She looks based on all the numbers provided by the Association and provided by the district and all area school districts. "She didn't give anything in that report that would put us above the other districts." "But, we are performing above the other school districts, especially the PSSA scores."

Mrs. Barrett stated that the fact finders report cost money for both parties and stated the board asked for this report, but she didn't see any board members at the bargaining sessions prior to the fact findings, yet they got the fact findings. She stated Mr. Bernardi was there and if he was representing the board, great, but she wanted all the board members to be informed. Mrs. Barrett stated that this is as good as it gets. This is it. She was a neutral person who sat down and said this is what can be compromised by both sides. This is a compromise, believe me. Mrs. Barrett stated that there are things in there the Association didn't want but they accepted it and she hoped the board would too. Mrs. Barrett stated if they come back in August without a contract, at this point, which doesn't look good, this faculty will work to rule and you don't want that. "You don't want us coming in at 7:30 and leaving at 2:30." "You want us doing the things that we do best and we are doing them the best." "We are the best school district and let's keep it that way."

George Race of Exeter asked was there anything else rejected. Attorney Hassey responded to go on the web site where it is published at [www.dli.state.pa.us/plrb](http://www.dli.state.pa.us/plrb) and scroll down to Fact Finding Report bar. Attorney John Dean stated that in the process, there are ten items that cannot be accepted or rejected as a whole. "You can't say I like this section." Mr. Dean stated that one error that she made was she used the wrong base salary of 9.4 million instead of 8.9 million. It was off by \$500,000.00. Mrs. Barrett stated she disagreed with that since it was her job to get the right number and she did. Mr. Dean stated he contacted the Union and they were supposed to clarify that.

Roll Call: All board members present voted yes. Motion passed.

### Education Report

Mr. Bernardi read the education report.

1. Approve the following class changes:

Eliminate

- (1) Kindergarten at SJD
- (1) First Grade at SJD
- (1) Fourth Grade at SJD
- (1) First Grade at 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- (1) Third Grade at 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- (1) Sixth Grade at 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- (1) Reading Supervisor

Eliminate at Secondary Center

- (1) Physical Education K-12
- (1) French

Add

- (1) Fifth Grade at 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- (1) ½ Day French

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Dominick, to accept the education report.

On the Question: Dr. Campenni asked what has changed with this report. Mrs. Valenti responded she tabled it at the last meeting because she didn't review it before the agenda and as education chair she wanted to review it, which she did, with Mr. Bernardi.

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Dr. Campenni commented this is an example of receiving information in a timely manner and she shouldn't have to ask for information, it should be provided to her. Dr. Campenni stated she e-mailed Mr. Bernardi months ago for class sizes by each school and received one piece of paper with information. Dr. Campenni stated the day she was voted to the board she met with Mr. Melone and he said you can't take a million dollars from here and you have to be pro-active. She had many e-mails ignored. Dr. Campenni stated she would abstain because she won't commit to cutting classes but said she will be criticized by someone for being in favor of balancing the budget but not for cutting classrooms. Dr. Campenni also stated she is hearing people's suggestions that she and other board members have made in the last three and a half years she's been on the board. She cannot believe how the district is mismanaged. Mrs. Valenti asked Dr. Campenni if she talked to Mr. Bernardi about this since she had it from last week. Mrs. Valenti stated she talked with Mr. Bernardi. Mr. Bernardi stated Dr. Campenni asked for class sizes, he provided it to her and she never got back to him with any questions. He also gave the board a list of things to save money which was back in March. Mr. Bernardi stated "You have to act on the things that are in front of you." "You cannot come up with something every week." Dr. Campenni never gave him any input. Mr. Bernardi stated he is waiting for her input on many things and then she brings it up at a public meeting.

Amy Kelso, an elementary teacher, asked Mrs. Valenti if she just received the class eliminations. Mrs. Valenti stated she tabled it at the last meeting. Mr. Bernardi stated the Board was fully aware of this. He also sat down with the principals and Mrs. Serino and discussed it. Mrs. Kelso commented that she had a lot of kids in her room, there is no room to move. Mr. Bernardi asked her what she wanted and she responded, "A room to fit the kids." Mr. Bernardi stated that JFK and Montgomery Avenue have more kids. Mrs. Kelso asked Mr. Bernardi we're minimizing first grade, will we minimize my second grade next year. Mr. Bernardi responded he couldn't speak for that. He is collapsing a kindergarten and will run it 26/27 up in Harding. Mr. Bernardi stated this is something he planned for and he just didn't put it together, he spoke to the administrators and had staff meetings. "We will run 26/24 at Montgomery Ave., collapse a class at Harding and first grade." Mr. Bernardi can't say what will happen next year. "The Board knew back in March we would restructure."

Dr. Casarella stated this may not be our final budget. "It could change, we are not done yet." "I'm sure there will be more cuts." Dr. Casarella stated he did have a list from back in March with master plan for facilities, caseloads we got a month ago. Dr. Casarella voted yes on the five year bus contract and has yet to see the contract. Dr. Casarella stated he doesn't have information to make positive good sound decisions.

Mr. Bernardi responded a list of ideas shared with the Board which he had in his financial binder, with a back up sheet and a number of suggestions. Dr. Casarella had the information last year.

Sheila Murtha, an elementary teacher, stated a lot of rumors are going around. Will they take the Schooley Avenue children out of SJD. Mr. Bernardi responded if the board agrees to it. Mrs. Murtha stated they are eliminating a fourth grade at SJD, she is one of two of fifth grades, what will happen to the two fifth grades the following year. Mr. Bernardi responded "We've done this in the past, you know every year we make adjustments, it's hard to say."

John Pegg class projections as of October 2010 "You also have real classes in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade?" Mr. Bernardi responded yes, its real classes. Mr. Pegg asked the number of kindergarten classes. Mr. Bernardi responded there were 2 classes at SJD with 16 students, 3 classes at Tenth Street with 18, 18, and 19 students, 2 classes at Montgomery Ave. with 24 and 22 students and 2 classes at JFK with 26 and 24 students.

Mr. Pegg apologized to Jason Jones and Tony Calliao, the IT people for web site for his rude and insulting comments made by Mr. Pegg. "They are not here to defend themselves."

Amy Kelso questioned taking students at Schooley Avenue, what the numbers will be. Mr. Bernardi responded they are running 18, 18, 19 at Tenth Street, 22 for first grade. They will keep the numbers manageable. Mr. Bernardi stated he would give Mrs. Kelso a list.

Roll Call: Dr. Campenni abstained on the report. All remaining board members voted yes. Motion passed.

### Building Report

Mr. Bernardi read the building report

1. Approve the following eliminations of support personnel positions:
  - (1) Special Education Aide at Secondary Center
  - (1) Special Education Aide at Montgomery Ave.
  - (2) District Custodians
  - (1) Storeroom Coordinator at Secondary Center
2. Approve the appointment of Douglas Piazza as Marching Band Director for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion by Mr. Aritz, second by Mr. Alberigi, to accept the building report.

On the Question: Gerald Stofko of Exeter, commented that the marching band should be in the Memorial Day Parades. It should be a stipulation that if you're in the band you are to be in the parades. He stated it is disgusting our band is not participating and Wyoming/West Wyoming and West Pittston and Exeter are hiring other schools to have their band to participate in our parades. Mr. Stofko questioned the Special Education Aide at Montgomery Avenue. Mrs. Popson, Special Education Supervisor responded they have been realigning and restructuring programs. Mr. Stofco was concerned with his grandson being shifted back and forth since he is shy and has gotten used to the aide. Mr. Bernardi stated all the special education classes will have special education aides.

Mr. Aritz made a motion for the Wyoming Area Marching Band to participate in both Memorial Day parades. Mr. Bernardi stated that he had asked the kids to march in both parades and they didn't want to do both parades. They are either going to the parks or with their parents. It has nothing to do with the Marching Band instructor. Mrs. Valenti stated they did go to the Wyoming/West Wyoming parade.

Cindy Borzelle questioned the Storeroom Coordinator's job. Mr. Bernardi responded they check the inventory. This position will be eliminated and covered by a custodian. Mrs. Borzelle also commented to Mr. Dominick, Board Member, It is not just Harrisburg and the Government, it's the multiple years of over hiring aides upon aides for friends and relatives." "It has finally caught up with us." "We can't keep on blaming Harrisburg, it's also the boards fault." "The teacher's are the ones teaching the kids." "They are important." Mrs. Borzelle stated the board gave the maintenance staff the support staff everything they wanted. Mr. Aritz responded that they deserved it. They also gave the coaches \$3,600.00 over the summer time. Mr. Aritz responded the Alumni Association funded that whole program.

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Mrs. Borzelle commented that Mr. Aritz said the coaches deserved it. Mr. Aritz responded "They did deserve it." Mrs. Borzelle commented that the teachers come along and now there is no money left. "They should have been first." Mr. Dominick commented that when the Casino was up to vote on, the money was supposed to go to education and it didn't.

Sue Alaimo, an aide, commented that the Special Education Aide is being eliminated at Montgomery Avenue and also a Kindergarten Aide. Will she be put in another position. Mr. Bernardi responded she will. Mrs. Alaimo stated in our society and environment we have a lot more children who are autistic and who have learning disabilities. As an employee of the district, Mrs. Alaimo stated she is also a parent of a grandchild who has been in the district for twelve years that is bipolar and has other issues. "Aides are needed when you have children who are in a wheelchair who need the same education as the other children." Mrs. Alaimo stated they give all children the education they need.

Mr. Aritz revised his motion as item #3, to come up with a policy that requires the Marching Band to participate in the parades. Mrs. Valenti responded they could come up with a list of what parades they must be in.

Roll Call: All board members present voted yes to revise the policy. Motion passed.

Roll Call for items 1 and 2. Dr. Campenni abstained on item #1 and voted yes on item #2. All remaining board members voted yes on the entire report. Motion passed.

Open Discussion: Mr. Bolin reported the next budget meeting is June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Valenti.

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Nicholas DeAngelo, President

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John Bolin, Secretary