

10109  
Wyoming Area School District  
Special Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education  
20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643  
Thursday, November 4, 2010, 5:30 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held today at the Secondary Center auditorium, 20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643, with approximately 100+ people in attendance. A non-public personnel meeting preceded the Special Meeting. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. John Bolin, President of the Board called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:                       Mr. John Bolin, President  
                                      Mr. John Marianacci, Vice President  
                                      Mrs. Toni Valenti, Secretary  
                                      Dr. Frank Casarella, Treasurer  
                                      Mr. David Alberigi  
                                      Mr. Samuel Aritz  
                                      Dr. Estelle Campenni  
                                      Mr. Nicholas DeAngelo  
                                      Mr. Gil Dominick

Also in attendance were: Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, Al Melone of Albert B. Melone Company, Attorney Raymond A. Hassey, Vito Quaglia, Secondary Building Principal, Robert Kaluzavich, Elementary Principal of Montgomery Ave./SJD, Jon Pollard, Elementary Principal of Tenth St./JFK, Deb Popson, Special Education Supervisor, Camilla Granteed, School Psychologist, Dave Amico, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Jillian Balberchak and Morgan Bilbow, Student Representatives, WBRE TV.

Finance Report

Mr. DeAngelo read the Finance Report.

1. Motion to approve a new agreement with Raymond Bernardi to serve as Superintendent for a period of three (3) years commencing April 6, 2011, simultaneously with the expiration of the current agreement, in accordance with the terms and conditions contained therein, subject to final review by the Solicitor.
2. Motion to approve Act 93 Administrative Compensation Plan for a period of one (1) year commencing and effective December 1, 2010, in accordance with the terms and conditions contained therein, subject to final review by the Solicitor.

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

On the Question: Dr. Campenni asked the Board if they read the Superintendent's contract. Most of the board members responded they had read it. Mr. Dominick responded he didn't read it but got the information from other board members. Dr. Campenni informed everyone of the terms of the current contract for Mr. Bernardi. Mr. Bernardi's three year contract will increase his \$120,000.00 salary by 2% a year, a life insurance policy of \$350,000.00, he will pay 8% of his health insurance premium in the first year and 10% per year for the remaining two years. He also will receive 25 vacation days, 15 sick days and 4 personal days. Dr. Casarella also stated Mr. Bernardi can request lump sum payments when his contract expires.

Dr. Casarella made an amendment to the motion read by Mr. DeAngelo to table item #1 to table and freeze it and negotiate terms and conditions if there are five votes. Not to take any motion at this time. Dr. Campenni seconded the motion.

Mr. Dominick stated the contract will automatically renew if they freeze it.

Dr. Casarella revised the motion:

Motion for contract to be open and negotiations should take place, if there is no agreement then the position should be advertised. Seconded by Dr. Campenni.

Attorney Hassey asked Dr. Casarella to reread his amendment to the motion of Mr. DeAngelo just to be sure.

Dr. Casarella stated the contract is to be open, accept applications for superintendent and have people apply and negotiate terms. Seconded by Dr. Campenni.

Roll Call: Dr. Campenni voted yes, Dr. Casarella voted yes, Mr. Dominick voted no, Mr. DeAngelo voted no, Mr. Aritz voted no, Mrs. Valenti voted no, Mr. Alberigi voted no, Mr. Marianacci voted no, Mr. Bolin voted no. Motion failed.

Attorney Hassey stated the original motion was back on the floor. Attorney Hassey informed the audience to step up to the podium and sign their name and where they are from.

Bob Trusavage, West Pittston, read a constitution: "We the People of Wyoming Area School District, in order to form a more perfect school board, establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for the common good of our children, promote the general welfare of taxpayers and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our children's posterity, do at this time abolish seven positions of our current board members and rescind their hired employees for the last three years as of April 15, 2011. These seven by their own will have refused the will of the people to sign and abide by an Ethics Pledge Code, have grossly misused taxpayers money at their own discretion, enslaved taxpayers by bankrupting the school fund, abused Oath of Office they have taken when elected and through their own use of blatant nepotism hired relatives and friends against the peoples will no matter their qualifications. So, We the People are asking for the resignation of school board members within ten days or we shall question the chief law enforcement officer of Luzerne County to investigate the board."

Mr. Harry Skene, West Pittston, asked the board who is involved with the negotiations for the contracts. Mr. Bolin responded, "Act 93 is meet and discuss, and negotiations with the liaison of the board to Mr. Bernardi and back and forth." Mr. Skene asked who was the information shared with on the board. Mr. Bolin responded, "All members present on the board." Mr. Skene asked, "When did they receive the information?" Mr. Bolin responded, "Back in August." "Meet and discuss started back in September and the present time and now here at this point." "Now we're within the code, 150 days within the code." Dr. Casarella stated, "At meetings for Mr. Bernardi's contract no discussion lasted more than ten to fifteen minutes." "They were not hours and that is what we need to put into this." Dr. Casarella stated, that there is transparency of what he was trying to get at. Mr. Skene asked if all board members were involved in the decision or were there a couple of board members involved and then it's brought up in a meeting ten minutes later and then everyone gets an opportunity to vote on this. Dr. Campenni stated that in her recollection and asked the board to clarify her if she was wrong, that there was a number of meetings where one individual of the board asked when are we going to talk about this.

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**"There were maybe two individuals who supported it." "No one talked about the terms and no one made an attempt to talk to her about it." Mr. Bolin responded at the August Meeting everyone had a copy of Mr. Bernardi's contract and the Act 93 contract. Dr. Campenni responded that they didn't discuss it. "We didn't discuss terms, nobody said anything, nobody said they were for it or against it." "One or two people did but that was it." "It wasn't a discussion." Mr. Bolin responded "O.K."**

**Mr. Skene stated, "So, I understand the terms of the agreement have been agreed to but Attorney Hassey is going to review the agreement for legal issues." Attorney Hassey responded that there will be a written document for public inspection upon it being signed. It may be before the next meeting. The next public meeting. Mr. Skene stated, "But what I was getting at as of right now, there was an agreement, the parties know what the agreement is." Attorney Hassey responded, "The terms of the agreement." Mr. Skene asked Attorney Hassey if he is going to have it put together. Attorney Hassey responded, "yes." Mr. Skene asked Attorney Hassey, "So, the final agreement should look much like the previous agreement just with new terms?" Attorney Hassey responded, "Right." Mr. Skene stated he was trying to find out what knowledge everyone had on it. "It seems as of the last meeting that there was nobody who knew about it." "As of last week they were getting together, there was no meeting about this except just before this meeting." Attorney Hassey, "I didn't understand that." Mr. Skene asked, "It wasn't a work session before that happened prior to?" Mr. Bolin responded in September and August. Mr. Skene asked, "We asked about it last week, at the last meeting it wasn't worked out." Attorney Hassey, "yeah." Mr. Skene asked, "So, whatever terms were worked out there was no meeting called for the board members except for the one that occurred just before this meeting today?" "Do you know normally there's a work session a week before the regular meeting?" Attorney Hassey replied, "right." Mr. Skene asked Attorney Hassey, "Today you had a meeting before this meeting happened?" Attorney Hassey replied, "There was an executive session personnel meeting." Mr. Skene, "OK, so that was the first time terms were discussed with everyone on the board?" Attorney Hassey replied, "The purpose of that meeting was to discuss the terms that were agreed to with the board to determine whether or not there was a majority." Attorney Hassey stated he was going to give his explanation on how this took place.**

**Attorney Hassey addressed the audience that the executive session is to discuss the terms agreed upon and see whether or not a majority would be willing to come tonight to act on it. The ultimate issue tonight is whether or not the board has confidence in Mr. Bernardi as superintendent and how that will be decided is how the board votes on it tonight. The terms of the agreement is a three year contract, salary increases at 2% as opposed to 4%, the co-pay is 8% for first year and 10% the two remaining years.**

**Attorney Hassey also stated the board does recognize that they are in a very difficult budget year with the teacher's contract and contracts like this that have to be resolved. Mr. Bernardi, Mr. Bolin and board members who participated in the discussion wanted to come up with an agreement that would set an example for the teacher's agreements such as co-pays and pay raises be reduced and items that are going to affect the budget on a large scale be addressed. Two components of this agreement assuming the board passes it is (1) Does the school district and the majority of the board have confidence in Mr. Bernardi to continue as Superintendent and that vote will determine that tonight and (2) Do the terms of the agreement as well as the terms of the administration compensation plan the direction the board wants to go financially. That will be decided tonight.**

"So, depending on the outcome of that vote, the direction of the board and how they feel about things will be established tonight." Mr. Skene responded, "O.K. everything you said there is very nice." Attorney Hassey responded, "It's the truth." Mr. Skene stated, "The explanation was really good but I was looking to find out the process for how we came up with it."

Attorney Hassey then addressed Mr. Skene regarding the process of negotiations. "When negotiating the teacher's contract and unions and unions supported by state unions there is a lot of formality and complexity and certainly what you defined as negotiations are going to take place and committees through repeat sessions through documented negotiation sessions." Mr. Skene, "He's not union." Attorney Hassey responded, "Exactly, he's non-union, he's one person who has a relationship with every member on the board. He works intimately with the board, discussions take place but people in the audience are never going to believe that what happens at the school board level is honest. Sometimes the audience may say what the heck happened here and at times Attorney Hassey stated he wonders what the heck happened here. "When you're talking about negotiations they take place at different levels." When Mr. Bernardi talks to Mr. Bolin and discusses the contract coming up and Mr. Bolin will say, "I'll see if the board has an interest in it" or they will discuss even if they want to continue with the superintendent. Negotiations are a lot less formal according to Attorney Hassey. Mr. Skene stated, "Sure, when you say talk to the board, like is there a meeting, what I'm hearing from the last two people on the board, there isn't one." "The way you just explained it saying, hey, listen people, we got this opportunity we like or dislike depending on what the majority thinks." Mr. Skene, "Mr. Bernardi, let's talk about it." "We also talked about financial issues." "If we're open, I don't know what the going rate is for an administrator, but if it were open then more money could have been saved." "I'm not saying if he is a good superintendent or bad superintendent, but if part of the agreement was to save money, if there was someone else to do the job for \$90,000 and was just as qualified, that would save the district money." "Now it might be he's very good and you want to keep him here." Mrs. Valenti responded, "He is." Mr. DeAngelo responded, "He's fantastic." Ree Ree Deluca stated, "I don't see how." Mr. Bolin then addressed the audience "whoa, whoa, whoa." "Mr. Skene has the floor, I'm not gonna put up with any nonsense." "You'll have your time and place to come up to the podium." Mr. Skene then continued by saying, "But the way you just explained it now is not even good." "I just want to see that the whole board is together and they're talking about this because as a citizen here I assume that it is completely transparent and every person on the board hears about it whether it's an e-mail they get, whether everyone comes in and sits down and says this is what we were able to negotiate." "I think he's a good person, I want him to stay. " "I don't, you know, they don't have to agree whether he's a value to the school district or not but they should be able to agree what the terms are and everybody have fair use and knowledge of what was going on and not just certain people know and then when you count to five you know you got a vote so you're going to vote." "So, that was what I was looking to find out." "Thank you."

Joe McCabe addressed the chairman and the board stating "This is the first school board meeting I made in thirty two years at Wyoming Area." "I grew up in the Pittston Area and I'm ashamed of just about everyone of you." "Tonight is a vote about Ray Bernardi." "There's a lot of school directors here and not to many of you can say you didn't get a job or fill your pockets." "I'm hurting every day." "Everybody in this room is hurting because the condition of this country and everything else and at this time Attorney Skene probably made a good statement." "Why didn't you open it up and put it out to the public and see if you could save ten – twenty thousand dollars instead of filling your own pockets at this time?" "I think you should open it up and see if you could get any savings like Estelle Campenni said, we're two million dollars in the hole, why isn't a couple dollars saved here and put a janitors job out for \$8.00 per hour like you did in the past instead of paying thirty five thousand or something like that?" "I don't know the exact figure but I think at this time everyone of you should consider doing stuff to meet the needs of the people in this area – Wyoming Area School District." "Thank you."

Joe Valenti, West Pittston, asked Dr. Casarella and Dr. Campenni, "Over the last week or month, how many phone calls or e-mails did you receive for negotiations." Dr. Campenni responded, "zero." Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Bolin why the two members were not aware of negotiations taking place. Mr. Bolin responded, "Did they call me?" This drew moans from the audience. Mr. Valenti addressed Mr. Bolin stating, "Last week you were in center of this so called committee." Mr. Bolin responded that the board had meetings in August and September to go over the Act 93 plan and Mr. Bernardi's contract which did happen. Mr. Valenti commented "Last week you said you were the sole person." Mr. Bolin responded, "I'm the liaison for the board." Mr. Valenti stated, "Last week you said, I quote, I'm the sole person to make the decision." Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Bolin why the two minority members weren't aware of this. Mr. Bolin responded, "They were absent from the meeting." Mr. Valenti asked, "What meeting?" Mr. Bolin responded, "The board meeting." Ree Ree DeLuca made a comment from the audience that the board meets at Valenti's. Mrs. Valenti responded, "We don't meet at Valenti's." Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Bolin, "So, you're acting on everything you discussed in the August or September meeting now and not last week?" Mr. Bolin responded, "I don't have an answer Joe." Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Bolin if there were any other meetings beside the last two or three months, at the last meeting or last week. Mr. Bolin responded, "no." Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Bolin if he spoke with Mr. Bernardi. Mr. Bolin responded, "Yes, I talked with Mr. Bernardi, yes." Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Bolin if he communicated any of this conversation with the board. Mr. Bolin asked, "So, your question is did I talk with Mr. Bernardi or did I go back to everybody else on the board?" Mr. Valenti responded, "Did you speak with anybody about the dialogue with Mr. Bernardi about negotiations?" Mr. Valenti stated the 2% on the board were not aware of it. Mr. Bolin responded, "Joe we brought that up back in September ." "Mr. Bolin stated, "They were absent for the meeting." Dr. Campenni stated she wasn't aware of it. Mr. Dominick responded, "I was aware of it, we all were." Mr. Valenti stated there were two board members completely in the dark. Mrs. Valenti stated "I was in the minority and I knew about negotiations." Mr. Valenti stated that it is the responsibility of the board to share communications between all board members, minority and majority.

Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Bolin again if he spoke to any board members from the last board meeting and now. Mr. Bolin responded he did speak with other board members. Mr. Valenti asked, "Did they call you or did you call them?" Mr. Bolin responded, "Oh God, I don't remember." Mr. Valenti stated, "I still want to know why you didn't involve the minority members" "Can I ask you who called?" Mr. Bolin responded, "I talked to Toni, talked to Sam." Mr. Valenti stated, "I'm a minority."

Ree Ree DeLuca, West Pittston, apologized to Mrs. Valenti for her recent outburst. Mrs. DeLuca asked all board members why they wanted to keep Mr. Bernardi as Superintendent. Mr. Bolin responded, "When I ran for school director along with Mr. Marianacci I had, I should say we had a billboard above Discount Warehouse in Exeter." "Do you remember what that said?" Mrs. DeLuca responded, "No, remind me." Mr. Bolin responded, "It said Wyoming Area is one of the best 47 school districts in Luzerne County throughout the State of Pennsylvania." Mrs. DeLuca asked, "And that's because of Mr. Bernardi?" Mr. Bolin responded, "The administration and Mr. Bernardi and teachers." "I take pride, I'm a proud school director of Wyoming Area, I am proud of the kids, I'm proud of the teachers, I'm proud of everything." "Mr. Bernardi is the CEO of the school district and I take pride in that." Mr. DeAngelo responded, "The test scores, he's pro-active, he reacts, our school district, technology he is always five steps ahead of other schools surrounding the county and because of Mr. Bernardi the test scores are unbelievable, math, reading, teachers, all together." Attorney Hassey informed Mrs. DeLuca that it was up to the board members to answer the question. Mr. Marianacci responded, "As a parent, I'm proud that my kids go here." "It's the support staff, teachers." Mrs. DeLuca asked Mr. Marianacci if it was because of Mr. Bernardi particularly. Mr. Marianacci responded, "I'm not singling out Mr. Bernardi particularly, it's the superintendent contract, I support it, I supported the support staff because of the job they're doing." "We're working with people who are negotiating the teacher's contract and instances he brought up at the meeting, discussions we had with him." "We've all had the contract of his for the last five years, I believe." Mrs. DeLuca responded, "O.K., great, I just wanted to know what your reason is." Mrs. Valenti responded, "I've been working with him many years, he's doing a great job." Mr. Alberigi responded, "We have one of the best schools in the area." Mr. Aritz responded, "He's doing a great job." Mr. Dominick responded, "I've worked with him for the past six months and known him for a number of years." "Like anybody else he's probably made mistakes." "The good points out weight the mistakes made in the past." Mr. Dominick asked Mrs. DeLuca what she had against him. Mrs. DeLuca replied she had nothing against him, she just wanted to know why the board wanted him, there are a couple of reasons why she wouldn't. Dr. Casarella responded, "It's not personal but some people were saying it was." This drew laughter from the audience. "It had to do with actual things that happened." Dr. Casarella stood up and addressed the audience stating, "I really believe that the lawsuits that came out the last three years, the two different projects I asked information on, one of them the senior high number of classrooms and number of teachers, things the board, every board member should have in their packet to make decisions on budget, we don't have." "I asked for the guidance department to make a survey and find out how many of our graduates actually finished college."

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"I have a problem when I don't get this information." "So when you ask me could this be about job performance, that can't be, personnel, stay out of it." "I'm more interested in this community and the amount of money that is being spent, money we don't have." "Everybody knows we're two million dollars in debt." "In February I asked why they didn't put solar panels in, why they didn't go ahead and put heating systems in that were more economically efficient to help the taxpayers." "I asked for a number of things." "What we're doing is trying to save money for the taxpayers." "This has nothing to do with test scores, if you want to point to test scores, point to the S.A.T.'s not the PSSA's." This drew applause from the audience.

Dr. Campenni stated, "I actually spoke to Ray and told him I would not be supporting it, that I was ready for a change." "I would like to say that Mr. Hassey made an eloquent speech about how we're trying to save money and he was willing to take a lower pay increase." "But, what about freezing the salary?" "Some schools I talked to, their administration are freezing salaries." How about the life insurance, how about the sick days?" "The sick days accrue unlimitedly ." "Unused sick days and vacation days accrue unlimitedly and are paid \$100 a piece when the contract is done." "If we're really looking to save money and make sacrifices that would have to be addressed, and again, I always talk about the budget and we're in a deep financial crisis." Dr. Campenni stated that what makes the school is 1. the students, 2. the parents and 3. the teachers.

Mrs. Degnan, West Pittston, informed the board, in this valley, students of Wyoming Area School District receive the most psychological counseling in the county.

Joanne Shiner, Wyoming, asked the board, "With this new contract, I guess this is going to the guy in Tom Melone's seat." "How much of a savings is this going to be for the district to decrease the two million dollar deficit that we have?" Mr. Al Melone responded, "The difference between the 2% and 4%?" Mrs. Shiner said, "That's it, right." Mr. Melone responded, "Right." Mrs. Shiner, "And the health cost." Mr. Melone responded, "Then there's the retirement and social security but for all intensive purposes less the increase in the premiums this year." Mrs. Shiner stated, "You kinda have to know how much if we give him 4% around how much, 100,000, 200,000, 500,000 dollars." Mr. Melone asked, "In savings?" Mrs. Shiner responded, "Yes." Mr. Melone stated, "probably 2%, I can do the math in my head, 2% of 120,000, I believe three or four thousand dollars." Mrs. Shiner asked, "That's all?" "What do we do about the rest?" "What do we do about protection from the lawsuits?" "He can't take that out?" Mr. Dominick responded, "Nope." Mrs. Shiner asked "Why not?" Mr. Dominick responded "It's in the contract." Mrs. Shiner, "But that's what we're talking about." Mr. Dominick responded, "The insurance pays for it." Mrs. Shiner, "Yea, but our insurance goes up, he's had two lawsuits." Attorney Hassey responded, "First of all, he hasn't had two lawsuits, two lawsuits were brought against the district, board members and including Mr. Bernardi." Attorney Hassey stated what has circulated around the community is whether or not the school district can negotiate indemnity, which would require any school district employee to indemnify the district in the event they are sued. "The answer to that is no." "The legislators passed the school code which requires that the district indemnify any of its employees in the event of lawsuits, including the superintendent, including the janitors, including the secretaries." "If you're an employee of the school district and the district is sued the employees are protected." Mrs. Shiner asked what did we cut back on.

Mrs. Shiner stated, "They raise the taxes, we have less taxes because most people lost their homes." "People are losing their homes." "We're all hurting." "Start with the Superintendent, even do it for a year." "You have to set an example." "You can't ask teachers to cut back if you haven't asked the head chief to." "That's where it begins." Attorney Hassey responded, "When negotiating contracts with the teachers in particular, the concept of co-pay is important to the district for many reasons so by introducing it with the Superintendent it says this is important to us." "The administrative compensation plan introducing co-pay at this level is a statement that is also being made." "To say it is not setting an example is not accurate." "Mr. Bernardi is one employee." "When you take away payrolls of 4% you're looking at a lot of money." Mrs. Shiner stated that if you take away a little when contracts come up and then a little more you won't have to raise taxes. Mrs. Valenti stated, "Mr. Bernardi is paying 10% of his premium."

Jerry Wall, West Wyoming, who served on the board for four years supported Mr. Bernardi. Mr. Wall stated that with the quality of our district, people who move here want to send their kids to Wyoming Area and Mr. Bernardi and Administration has a lot to do with it. "You can talk all day who is at fault." "We know we have an excellent district." "If you don't know we have an excellent district I don't know what you're comparing it to." "The Administration and Mr. Bernardi has a lot to do with it, I know that because I sat on the Board." "Mr. Bernardi is not the easiest person in the world to get along with, he may rub some people the wrong way but that is no way a reason to say we need to open up and get someone else so we can save \$4,000.00." "I don't believe in that." "Mr. Bernardi's contract is pretty much based on all contracts in the surrounding districts." "His pay, he wasn't paid the most, he wasn't paid the least, he was paid a medium amount even though our district pays a little more than the majority of other districts." "I thought that was a good arrangement." Mr. Wall asked Mr. Bolin when the contract was passed out. Mr. Bolin responded, "In August." Mr. Wall stated that the contract isn't that complicated. Mr. Wall stated, "We have two doctors sitting up at the table saying they didn't know it was going to happen, that this was coming up." Mr. Wall also stated everything is listed in the contract, the date the contract expires, what the terms are, all the information is in there. Mr. Wall stated he couldn't understand, this has happened before, they say nothing, then they bring it up when it's time to vote. Mr. Wall asked Dr. Campenni, "Why didn't you be pro-active and say, hey, how are we going to do this?" Dr. Campenni responded, "Everytime I brought it up no one wanted to discuss it." Mr. Wall responded, "Then you discuss it, you're in personnel." "You're elected to go to the meetings." "You can't say you didn't know."

Dr. Casarella stated, "As a board member I came on in December and in December I tried to fit in with the board." "There were certain things that were not given to me to do my job as an elected official." "You mentioned that I knew in August." "I certainly did, every board member knew in August that Mr. Bernardi's contract, 150 days was needed to notify Mr. Bernardi prior to that date of a contract or not a contract, that's up to the board." "I didn't have a problem with that." "Deliberately everyone knew if it wasn't on the agenda in October, I was told it wasn't on the agenda, so we couldn't vote on it so therefore Mr. Bolin, Mr. Aritz, Mr. Bernardi, every board member knew it was supposed to be on the agenda and it was deliberately left off."

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**"We deceived the public." At this time, Attorney Hassey left the meeting to pick up his daughter per Mr. Bolin.**

**Gerald Stofco, Exeter, commented to Dr. Casarella, "You can say this isn't vindictive but it's vindictive to me in my eyes." Mr. Stofco asked Dr. Casarella "In your contract did you have a buy out, did you have pay raises." Dr. Casarella responded, "Yes, I didn't take a lump sum." Mr. Stofco asked, "Why not?" Dr. Casarella responded, "Because I didn't want to burden the district." Dr. Casarella stated those contracts were drawn up not by himself but a board. Mr. Stofco asked, "But you took it?" Dr. Casarella stated "If you're going to give it to me, I'm going to take it." Mr. Stofco commented to Dr. Casarella that at the last meeting Dr. Casarella said he applied for the position of superintendent but said he didn't want it afterwards. Mr. Stofco stated that it is vindictive. Mr. Stofco also commented that if one more person says something ignorant to him they're going to hear about it. Mr. Stofco stated, "Everyone has a right to their opinion." Mr. Stofco referred to a young lady that made a comment to him after he was walking back from the podium. "Dr. Casarella stated, "Your allowed, you can say it, it's America ."**

**John Disenferdinand, West Pittston, stated that questions regarding Mr. Bernardi should be talked about, however, what Mr. Disenferdinand had been hearing thus far he stated, "this is personal." To say Ray Bernardi has done nothing good for Wyoming Area School District is a flat out lie and is appalling. To watch Mr. Bolin being attacked is insulting. This is about the children of Wyoming Area. This isn't about a certain few and we made it personal. One person here is leading the charge and yet my opinion and the opinion of many that person voted to hire two relatives. Before we bring out change and before we pick our crusaders, let's look at them very, very, very closely.**

**Ree Ree DeLuca, West Pittston, asked, "Is it true, can we go bankrupt with this contract with Mr. Bernardi?" "Is it true it can bankrupt the district, with lump sums and everything?" Mr. Al Melone responded, "That's a very incendiary position." "I actually, I say this respectfully, that's not a term to be thrown around." Mrs. DeLuca asked where Mr. Bernardi was tonight. Mr. DeAngelo responded that Mr. Bernardi sent his apologies to the board and public. He is at a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for his uncle that was planned before the meeting was scheduled.**

**Mr. Trusavage addressed the board and stated the board is to represent us, the taxpayers, and not take care of their friends and relatives. "Why would you hire Mr. Bernardi for \$120,000.00 to run a school district with two million dollars in the hole." "Where in a private industry would you hire a person for \$120,000.00 a year to run a company with two million dollars in the hole?" "And what happened to those companies?" "They fell apart." "Am I correct?" Mr. Trusavage stated we have a great school district but the board should try to work this contract out.**

**Roll Call: Dr. Campenni voted no, Dr. Casarell voted no, Mr. Dominick voted yes on item 1 and no on item 2, Mr. DeAngelo voted yes, Mr. Aritz voted yes, Mrs. Valenti voted yes, Mr. Alberigi voted yes, Mr. Marianacci voted yes, Mr. Bolin voted yes.**

**Motion passed to approve Mr. Bernardi's contract and the Act 92 Administrative contract.**

At this time, Mrs. Valenti directed her attention to WBRE stating she did not appreciate WBRE calling Wyoming Area School District another corrupt school district. "We are not corrupt." "I believe in Wyoming Area school District." "We have a good school."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Valenti.

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John Bolin, President

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Toni Valenti, Secretary