

10329
Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

The regular 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 eighty + people in attendance. A non-public executive session and budget meeting preceded the regular meeting. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Frank Casarella, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Roll Call:

- Dr. Frank Casarella, President
- Dr. Estelle Campenni, Vice President
- Mrs. Elizabeth Gober-Mangan
- Mr. John Marianacci, Treasurer
- Mr. John Bolin
- Mrs. Mary Louise Degnan
- Mr. Gilbert Dominick
- Mrs. Deanna Farrell
- Mr. Carl Yorina, Jr.

Also present were: Raymond J. Bernardi, Superintendent, Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, Attorney Jarrett F. Ferentino, Tom Melone, Business Consultant, Vito Quaglia, Secondary Center Building Principal, Robert Kaluzavich, Elementary Principal of Montgomery Ave./SJD, Jon Pollard, Elementary Principal of Tenth St./JFK, Angelo Falzone, Director of Transportation/Attendance, Deb Popson, Director of Special Education, Camilla Granteed, School Psychologist, Janet Whipple, Foodservice Manager, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Dave Amico, Facilities Manager, Morgan Bilbow and Emily Shemanski, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mrs. Gober-Mangan read the report.

1. West Pittston Rams 2011 Board thanking the Wyoming Area School District for providing use of facilities for their football and cheerleading program.
2. Rita Mauriello requesting permission to attend the Title I Improving School Performance Conference, along with Janet Serino, Carolyn Flickinger, Carol Tabit and Linda McDermott in Pittsburgh.
3. Deborah Poremba, Fortis Institute, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center auditorium for their graduation.
4. Christine Rutledge, English Teacher, requesting permission to attend the Keystone Exams: Alignment Study for Literature Conference in Harrisburg.
5. Melissa Burdett, Kindergarten Teacher, requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence until further notice.
6. Wyoming Area Diamond Club Parents Association requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for "Meet the Warriors".
7. Wyoming Area Diamond Club Parents Association requesting permission for the Diamond Club baseball team and coaches to travel to Martinsburg, Va., for an exhibition tournament weekend.

8. Lisa Barrett and Juel Anne Klepadlo requesting permission to attend the FBLA State Conference, along with fifteen students in Hershey, PA.
9. Barbara Anzalone, Northeast Academy of Dancing, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center auditorium for a dance recital.
10. Ron Gitkos, American Legion Post 542, 1st Lt. Jeffrey F. DePrimo of West Pittston, along with the American Legion, Post 833, Adam Kalmanowicz of Exeter, requesting the participation of the Wyoming Area Marching Band and School Board Members in the Memorial Day Parade.
11. Luzerne Intermediate Unit submitting minutes of their meeting on December 21, 2011.
12. Robert Shlesinger of the Scranton Public Theatre, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center auditorium for two showings of "Snow White" and for the board to waive the rental fee for the show on Saturday.
13. Jack Wagner, Auditor General, Department of Education, reporting a performance audit was conducted for Wyoming Area School District and it was determined that Wyoming Area School District has complied, in all significant respects, with applicable state laws, contracts, grant requirements and administrative procedures for years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009.
14. Frank Parra, Athletic Director, requesting permission to attend the Annual Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association in Hershey.
15. Shea Riley, Music Teacher, notification of her return to work from her family leave effective February 8, 2012.

Summary of Applications Received

English – 2

Elementary – 3

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of December 19, 2011. All board members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bernardi read the Superintendent's Report.

1. *January in Pennsylvania is "SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH". The Board of Education demonstrates a unique commitment to our community's future – our children. At this time, on behalf of the Wyoming Area Staff and Community, I would like to salute them for volunteering their time and talents for the betterment of the Wyoming Area School District.*
2. *Congratulations to the following students who were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 9 Band Festival at Lakeland High School on January 12-14, 2012:*

Exeter, PA.

January 24, 2012

Danielle Conflitti (12th Grade)

Angela Coco (12th Grade)

Jessica Hollister (12th Grade)

Rebecca Colwell (10th Grade)

Congratulations to Band Director Doug Piazza.

- 3. *Congratulations to the following students who qualified to attend the **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** State Conference in Hershey on April 16-18, 2012:*

-Conner Mangan

Drew Osolnick

-Lisa Guido

Kendra Radle

Devaney Wood

Emily Bellanco

Danielle Spagnuolo

-Katherine Sokirka

Cody Colarusso

-Dylan Pegg

Brian Mapes

Sal Polit-Moran

Dave Granteed

Trent Grove

Stephen Barush

Congratulations to Advisors Lisa Barrett and Juel Ann Klepadlo.

- 4. *The **DARE** Graduation program was held at SJD on January 17th. Thanks to the Coolbaugh Foundation, PTO and Exeter Township Policy Department Chief, Nancy Smith for working with our 4th grade students.*

Dr. Casarella acknowledged Stephanie Jallen, a student at Wyoming Area, for competing in the Para Olympics.

Student Representative’s Report

Emily Shemanski read her report.

The Key Club is going to hold a blood drive on January 31st. This is their second blood drive of the year with the Red Cross. The Key Club has been selling Wyoming Area logo flash drives at the lunches. They are \$10 and hold 2 GB worth of storage. The Junior and Senior classes are also having a Gertrude Hawk Easter candy sale for their class fundraiser. This money will go toward the prom. The Seniors were also fitted for their caps and gowns yesterday. The swim team held their annual pasta dinner on January 12th at Cuz’s Catering. The Drama Club and the Scranton Public Theater are collaborating to present an adaption of “Snow White” this Saturday. The tickets are selling for \$2 and the play is to be held in the Secondary Center auditorium at 2 p.m.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Marianacci read the treasurer’s report.

<u>Bank</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Checking Account</u>
First National Community Bank	General Fund	9,086,195.66

First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	4,515.37
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	192,750.07
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	124,848.49
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	18,223.17
Landmark Bank	Athletic Fund Account	1,936.66
PNC Bank	Energy Performance Proceeds Fund	30,701.15
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Construction Account	29,925.28
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Investment Account	577,432.75
First National Community Bank	Purchasing Account	500.00

The treasurer's report will be kept on file for audit.

Finance Report

Mr. Yorina read the finance report.

1. Received the following checks:

<u>Don Wilkinson Agency (Nov.)</u>	
Earned Income Tax	236,323.21
Local State Tax	1,558.08
Current Per Capita	3,520.60
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>626.00</u>
Total:	242,027.89
<u>Local Realty Transfer Tax</u>	
Recorder of Deeds -Luzerne County	13,396.60
<u>Energy Refund</u>	
Comverge Enerwise Global Technologies	990.75
<u>Tuition for 2010-2011</u>	
Wilkes-Barre Area School District	4,808.74
<u>State & Federal Subsidy Taxes</u>	
Social Security	39,105.67
Retirement	128,695.93
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	30,286.27

Exeter, PA.
January 24, 2012

Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	7,220.27
Leader Access	85,000.00
Basic Education Funding	1,014,115.66
School District Transportation	279,779.00
Non Public Transportation	<u>34,073.00</u>
Total:	1,618,275.80

2011 Real Estate Taxes

Carol Bardzel (Nov.)	88,323.27
Carol Bardzel (Dec.)	27,490.74
Exeter Twp., Wyoming County	

George Miller (Supplemental for Dec.)	4,486.85
George Miller (Dec.)	114,666.47
West Pittston Borough	

Thomas Polacheck (Dec.)	234,088.76
Exeter Borough	

Paul Konopka (Dec.)	175,099.99
Wyoming Borough	

Robert Connors (Dec.)	102,855.01
West Wyoming	

Miscellaneous

District Court 11-2-01	90.55
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2. Approve the January payment of \$87,488.87 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract agreement for programs and services for the 2011-2012 school year.
3. Approve the January payment of \$36,505.00 to the West Side Career and Technology Center for the 2011-2012 school year.
4. Approve the February 15, 2012 Note payment to PNC Bank in the amount of \$102,280.22 associated with the Energy Performance contract of the Wyoming Area School District.
5. Approve the following invoices submitted for payment from the Capital Project Account:

TGW Corporation	Secondary Center Roof	50,272.50
LH Reed & Sons, Inc.	HVAC Roof Top Replacement	16,952.40
Pure Green Consultants	Submit ACT 129 Applications	<u>1,500.00</u>
		68,724.90

6. Approve for the Wyoming Area School Board to attend the PSBA Leadership Symposium on Advocacy and Issues at State College, February 25th and Sunday, February 26, 2012, to be paid through district funds.

7. Approve the following refund of paid property taxes for the year 2009 as requested by The Luzerne County Board of Assessment Appeals:

PIN# 16-01151-011-009	354.41
PIN# 35-E9-00A-12B	344.41
PIN# 16-E11NWZ-001-013	199.36

8. Approve the following refund of paid property taxes for the year 2010 as requested by The Luzerne County Board of Assessment Appeals:

PIN# 16-01151-011-009	368.65
PIN# 35-E9-00A-12B	356.12
PIN# E11NW2-001-013	207.39

9. Approve the following refund of paid property taxes for the year 2011 as requested by Robert Connors, Tax Collector for the Borough of West Wyoming:

PIN# 66-E1052-002-04K-000	19.84
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10. Approve to adopt the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2012-2013 school year:

The Preliminary General Fund Budget provides for the expenditures of \$29,983,092.00 and equity and revenues of a like amount and reflects a tax of 13.6024 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 73.8958 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%.

11. Approve the Agreement for Legal Services of Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino as solicitor for the Wyoming Area School District at a rate of \$175.00 per hour for additional services.

12. Approve the payment of \$368.50 to Janet Whipple for hours worked beyond her shift due to the flood.

13. Approve the General Ledger Sheet:

Bill Listing:	1-24-12	531,238.74	
Prepays:	12-31-11	<u>261,480.21</u>	792,718.95
Cafeteria Account:		85,960.04	
Athletic Account:		<u>1,734.00</u>	<u>87,694.04</u>
			Total: 880,412.99

14. Approve contract with Aqua Tech Labs for \$150.00 per month for drinking water testing at SJD School, pending approval of solicitor.

Motion by Mr. Yorina, second by Mrs. Farrell, to accept the finance report.

On the Question: Mr. Joe Valenti and Mr. George Race asked the cost of the conference in item #6. Ms. Holmes, the Board Secretary responded \$279.00 per member for full conference, \$249.00 for newly elected members and a special group pricing up to four members at \$899.00. Rooms are separate at \$107.08 per night. When asked who would be attending, Dr. Casarella, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Gober-Mangan raised their hand and Dr. Campenni stated she was undecided. Dr. Casarella stated they will have a report for the next meeting. Mr. Race questioned item #11. Attorney Ferentino responded that at the last meeting he was hired with a salary and this month is for additional services billed at an hourly rate for services such as research matters, drafting a policy, anything beyond normal services. There will be no postage or copy fees at Attorney Ferentino's office. It will be a justified hourly rate that will be detailed and given to the board.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted no on item #6 and voted yes on the remaining report. Mrs. Farrell, yes, Mr. Dominick, yes, Mrs. Degnan, yes, Mr. Yorina, yes, Mr. Marianacci voted no on item #6 and yes on the remaining report. Mrs. Gober-Mangan, yes, Dr. Campenni, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Education Report

Mrs. Gober-Mangan read the education report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District's Federal Programs, (Title I, Title II, and Drugs and Alcohol) has been planned for the 2011-2012 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve the revised professional substitute list for the 2011-2012 school year.
3. Approve the request of Rita Mauriello to attend the Title I Improving School Performance Conference, along with Janet Serino, Carolyn Flickinger, Carol Tabit and Linda McDermott, in Pittsburgh from Sunday, January 29th to Wednesday, February 1, 2012. Costs to be funded out of Title I and Title II funds.
4. Approve the request of Christine Rutledge, English Teacher, to attend the Keystone Exams: Alignment Study of Literature Conference in Harrisburg from Wednesday, January 25th to Thursday, January 26, 2012 at no cost to the district.
5. Approve the request of Melissa Burdett, Kindergarten Teacher, to take a medical leave of absence until further notice.
6. Approve the request of Lisa Barrett and Juel Anne Klepadlo to attend the FBLA State Conference in Hershey, PA., along with fifteen students, on Monday, April 16th through Wednesday, April 18, 2012, at a cost to the district \$5,924.00 for housing and registration. Transportation will be paid by the club.
7. Approve the appointment of Jean Marie Argenio as a long term substitute special education teacher for Rebecca Jones retroactive to August 23, 2011 and subject to the duration of Mrs. Jones' said leave.

8. Approve to add SAT Prep to the Course of Studies for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Gober-Mangan, second by Dr. Campenni, to accept the education report.

On the Question: Mr. Yorina questioned item #3 (Title I Conference). If all individuals going to this conference are employees of the district. Mr. Bernardi responded all are except Mrs. Mauriello who is a consultant. John Pegg of West Wyoming asked what #8 (SAT Prep Course) will cost. Mr. Bernardi responded this will be during the school days. If it doesn't fit into their schedule they can do it after school.

Roll Call: With all members present at the meeting voting yes, the motion passed.

Activities Report

Dr. Campenni read the activities report.

1. Approve the appointment of the following head coaches for the 2012 spring season at salaries as per the collective bargaining agreement:

Baseball	Charles Andrewscavage	3,965.00
Girls Soccer	Michael Sokolas	3,965.00
Track & Field	Joe Pizano	3,965.00
Boys Tennis	Justin DeSanto	1,340.00
Softball Coach	Stephanie Griffin	3,965.00

2. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Diamond Club to attend an exhibition tournament weekend in Martinsburg, Va., with the baseball team and coaches on Friday, March 16, 2012 to Sunday, March 18, 2012, at no cost to the district.
3. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Diamond Club to hold "Meet the Warriors" baseball team on Sunday, March 25, 2012 in the Secondary Center gym at 11:45 a.m. following a 10:30 a.m. mass at St. Barbara's Church, pending approval by the building principal and cafeteria manager.
4. Approve the request of Ron Gitkos of the American Legion Post 542, 1st Lt. Jeffrey F. DePrimo of West Pittston, along with the American Legion, Post 833, Adam Kalmanowicz of Exeter, for the participation of the Wyoming Area Marching Band and School Board Members in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28, 2012, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in West Pittston.
5. Approve the request of Frank Parra, Athletic Director, to attend the Annual Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association Conference in Hershey from Tuesday, March 20th to Friday, March 23, 2012, at a cost not to exceed \$800.00.

Motion by Dr. Campenni, second by Mrs. Gober-Mangan, to accept the activities report.

On the Question: Mr. Bolin asked if the band is also participating in the Wyoming parade as well. Dr. Casarella responded yes. Ted Kross of Exeter and former softball coach thanked the board of directors past and present, administration and Mr. Parra, Athletic Director, for their support of Mr. Kross as softball coach for the last four years. He also thanked his wife and children for their support. Mr. Kross reported on the softball team and their accomplishments.

Exeter, PA.
January 24, 2012

Mr. Kross then asked the board why all the spring sports positions weren't advertised. Dr. Casarella responded he thought all of them were. Mr. Kross stated only the softball was advertised. Dr. Casarella stated that the Athletic Director and Principals would have gotten together, had the interviews and discussed the pros and cons. That is what the policy is. Dr. Casarella asked Mr. Quaglia if this is done at the end of the season. Mr. Quaglia responded it was informal. Dr. Casarella responded it should have happened and if it didn't then the board has to discuss how to correct it immediately. Dr. Casarella stated they looked at all the candidates interviewed and stated that unfortunately Mr. Kross wasn't selected and commended him for his services to the district and also stated he is a dedicated individual. The candidate chosen for the position showed something in the interview that would be beneficial to our kids and Dr. Casarella stated they felt Mr. Kross was not qualified. Dr. Campenni stated she thought with the new hiring policy all positions were to be open and advertised. Mr. Bernardi responded that all positions were open and anyone can apply for them. No one else applied for the position that is why it was advertised. Dr. Casarella stated they were told the administration was seeking another coach. When someone says that to you, you say ok lets advertise. That is what we did. Carol DeSalvo of Wyoming stated her concern that the coach (referring to Mr. Kross) didn't have an interview. Protocol should be done right. This coach has been working for the district for 2-4 years and didn't get an interview. Mrs. Degnan, Board Member, stated the hiring is not the boards decision. Dr. Casarella didn't make that decision. The decision comes from Mr. Parra, Mr. Bernardi and Administration, not the board. Mrs. DeSalvo stated the man did do a good job, so why wasn't he interviewed. Dr. Campenni stated that the transition with the new board is doing a lot of shifting to get things done. Dr. Campenni talked to the athletic director, along with Mrs. Degnan and went over the policy in general. Dr. Campenni stated they (the board) are not experts and they should talk to some parents, talk to some coaches and talk to some players to get feedback for sports teams and give the feedback to the athletic director. Dr. Campenni stated that the board is currently dealing with the budget. The athletic director, administrators and Mr. Bernardi make those decisions. Tom Cason asked why the athletic director wasn't present at the meeting. Dr. Casarella responded there was a good reason.

Roll Call: With all board members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Yorina read the building report.

1. Approve the request of Deborah Poremba, Fortis Institute, to use the Secondary Center auditorium for their graduation on Friday, June 15, 2012 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.
2. Approve the revised substitute support personnel list for the 2011-2012 school year.
3. Approve the request of Barbara Anzalone, Northeast Academy of Dancing, to use the Secondary Center auditorium for a dance recital on Saturday, June 30, 2012, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., with set up on Friday, June 29th, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.
4. Approve the request of Robert Shlesinger of the Scranton Public Theatre, to use the auditorium to show two productions of "Snow White". One showing for the JFK Elementary Students on Friday, January 27, 2012, 1:30 p.m. and a second showing to benefit the Wyoming Area Drama Club on Saturday, January 28, 2012,

at 2:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principals. The Scranton Public Theatre is requesting for the board to waive the rental fee for the Saturday show.

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

Roll Call: With all board members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mrs. Degan read the policy report.

1. Approve the first reading of revised policy #404 Employment of Professional Employees.
2. Approve the first reading of revised policy #439 Uncompensated Leave for Professional Employees.

Motion by Mrs. Degan, second by Mr. Dominick, to accept the policy report.

On the Question: Mr. Bolin asked if there was a cost to advertise hirings on the Penn Link. Mr. Bernardi responded no, it is a state wide network. Mrs. Degan stated she recommended that the district advertise on the web site to get the best people qualified. Asked if the positions will be advertised in the papers, Mrs. Degan responded if the board wants to but she felt posting it on the website will get more people to respond. Attorney Ferentino stated we do have a 2/3 policy now. Mrs. Farrell questioned the hiring policy stating 2/3 of a majority would vote other than the member related to the applicant. How can that be 2/3. Dr. Casarella responded six out of eight would vote. Joe Valenti commented regarding advertising, the board should create a data base with the LIU and another option was to advertise on facebook.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted no on item #1 and yes on the remaining report. Mrs. Farrell, yes, Mr. Dominick, yes, Mrs. Degan, Yes, Mr. Yorina, yes, Mr. Marianacci voted no on item #1 and yes on the remaining report, Mrs. Gober-Mangan, yes, Dr. Campenni, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Open Discussion: Dr. Campenni stated at the next meeting the board should present each and every model of SJD. Dr. Campenni stated they should look for restructuring on savings and revenue stating they should not put everything on the backs of the teachers.

Rosa Schillaci of West Pittston, addressed the board regarding the hiring process and asked how can she become a full time teacher within our district. Ms. Schillaci stated she graduated from Wyoming Area and within the last seven years has worked at all schools in the district as a substitute teacher and even a daily sub with benefits but was relieved from the position. She was even told she was next in line for a position. Ms. Schillaci stated Mr. Kaluzavich, Elementary Principal, gave her great evaluations. Ms. Schillaci has applied for positions and was passed over by other candidates. Ms. Schillaci asked the board if she should wait her turn and how long will it take. Dr. Casarella responded he would like to look into it and get more information such as if an improvement was needed in an area. Dr. Casarella stated he understood her pain because his son tried to get in at Wyoming Area and ended up leaving the area but did get a job because of his credentials. Dr. Casarella stated there are only so many positions available and there is a lot of competition. Dr. Casarella stated he wasn't at the interviews and encouraged Ms. Schillaci to keep going or make a choice.

Exeter, PA.

January 24, 2012

His son had to make a choice and it worked out for him. Dr. Campenni responded we have a hiring policy and an interview policy. She also stated they give the administration the rubric and they make the decision. Dr. Casarella stated Ms. Schillaci should have some knowledge of how to do a better job.

John Pegg, West Wyoming, questioned the days off from the flood. Mr. Bernardi stated by contract we are to make up all days at the end of the year. The first make up scheduled date will be after Easter. Graduation will stay June 4th. Gerald Stofco questioned FEMA and PEMA regarding the flood coverage. Dr. Casarella responded it is 75% covered and 25%. Mr. Amico stated it will be 100% covered.

Mr. Yorina apologized for his comments at the Work Session that involved Mr. Quaglia, Building Principal. Mr. Yorina stated he met with Mr. Quaglia during the week and discussed it. Mr. Yorina also stated he had the up most respect for Mr. Quaglia and apologized again.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by various board members.

Frank Casarella, President

Elizabeth Gober-Mangan, Secretary