

**10025**  
**Wyoming Area School District**  
**Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education**  
**20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania**  
**Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 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, with approximately fifty people in attendance. A non-public personnel meeting preceded the regular meeting. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. John Bolin called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: Raymond J. Bernardi, Superintendent, Tom Melone, Business Consultant, Attorney Raymond A. Hassey, Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, Cathy Ranieli, Assistant Secondary Principal, Robert Kaluzavich, Elementary Principal of Montgomery Ave./SJD, Margaret Grimes, Elementary Principal of Tenth St./JFK, Deb Popson, Special Education Supervisor, Camilla Granteed, School Psychologist, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Dave Amico, Supervisor of Building and Grounds, Officer Chris Alberigi, Janet Boyer, Foodservice Manager, Jonathan Schall and Jillian Balberchak, Student Representatives.

**Communications Report**

Mrs. Valenti read the communications report.

- 1. Regina Manganiello, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.**
- 2. Donald Flickinger, Math Teacher, submitting his letter of intent to retire.**
- 3. Nancy Montville, Special Education Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.**
- 4. Rose Ann Stull, Reading Specialist, submitting her letter of intent to retire.**
- 5. Judy Stevenson, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.**
- 6. Joseph Bartell, Elementary Guidance Counselor, submitting her letter of intent to retire.**
- 7. Janet Serino and Cathy Ranieli requesting permission to attend the 2010 Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Conference in Hershey.**
- 8. Shea Riley, Music Teacher, requesting permission to attend the PMEA State Conference in Pittsburgh, along with two students.**
- 9. Joanne Giovannini, Fortis Institute (formerly Allied Medical and Technical Institute), requesting permission to use the auditorium for a graduation ceremony.**
- 10. Gina Steve, Clerical Aide, requesting permission to take a medical leave.**

11. Deborah Chikowski, Elementary Teacher, requesting permission to take a medical leave.
12. Right to Know Request from Patrick Pribula regarding clarification of his first Right to Know Request submitted February 12, 2010.
13. Karim Medico Letwinsky, Math Teacher, submitting her letter of resignation.
14. Correspondence from Carmen F. Ambrosino, CEO of Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, regarding September 30, 2010 phase out of Safe and Drug Free School monies to schools for drug/alcohol prevention and education services.
15. Dean Carey and Joe Bellino, Coaches for the Greater Pittston Junior Legion baseball team requesting permission to use the Atlas Field for their upcoming 2010 season.
16. Richard Murawski, Exeter Borough Council, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center auditorium to conduct a special meeting.

#### Summary of Applications Received

Special Education – 6  
Elementary – 18  
Math – 4  
Social Studies – 10  
Health/Physical Education – 4  
Science/Biology - 4

#### Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Valenti, second by Mr. Dominick to approve the minutes of regular meeting March 23, 2010. All board members present voted aye. Motion passed.

#### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bernardi read the superintendent's report.

1. *Congratulations to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** for **March**:*

*Ian Brace*

*Emily Endres*

*Robby Foss*

*Nicole Kolessar*

*Alyssa Nappa*

*Julie Price*

*Katlyn Scoble*

*David Vincent*

*Amber Billotti*

*Sarah Campbell*

*Hayden Gfeller*

*Sara Justave*

*Tiffany Lombardi*

*Brianna Shinko*

*Julie Stella*

*Marissa Urban*

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2. Congratulations to **Eric Werbin** and **Josh Carey**, who participated in the **62<sup>nd</sup>** annual Wilkes University **Math Contest** on April 10, 2010. Out of 118 students from 16 area schools, **Eric Werbin** placed **SECOND** and **Josh Carey** placed **THIRD**. Congratulations also to **Deanna Mennig**.
3. Congratulations to Mrs. Fedor, Mrs. Klepadlo, Mr. Jones, Guidance Department and the Scholarship Committee, for all their efforts in making us one of the first school districts in the county to offer a Comprehensive Online Scholarship Application Process for our students. Also, I am happy to announce that we have 3 new Scholarships this year: the **Angelo J. Schifano Scholarship**, the **Thomas and Patricia Kearns Scholarship** and the **Lt. Jeffery DePrimo Scholarship**. I would like to thank these families and all the other members of our community who have graciously sponsored scholarships for the District. On **May 27<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold our first **Annual Scholarship Program** to honor these individuals.
4. Thanks to **The Luzerne Foundation** who informed the Wyoming Area School District that their Board of Directors recently approved a grant request of \$500.00 from the **First Lt. Jeffrey F. DePrimo Memorial Fund** of **The Luzerne Foundation** to assist Wyoming Area High School with the purchase of a portable keyboard. This gift is given in memory of **First Lt. Jeffrey F. DePrimo** who laid down his life for all of us on May 20, 2008 while serving in Afghanistan.
5. Congratulations to the **SECRETARIES** of our District who will be honored on "**Secretaries**" Day (April 21st):

<b>Ann Agolino</b>	<b>Debbie Andiaro</b>	<b>Gloria Bovani</b>
<b>Donna Chupka</b>	<b>Donna Collins</b>	<b>Paula Denisco</b>
<b>Annette Falzone</b>	<b>Kathy Hague</b>	<b>Denise Holmes</b>
<b>Gladys Lincoln</b>	<b>Mary Machey</b>	<b>Doreen Marianacci</b>
<b>Betty Mazzitelli</b>	<b>Anne More</b>	<b>Rachelle More</b>
<b>Lori Napkora</b>	<b>Patricia Pace</b>	<b>Ann Marie Parente</b>
<b>Theodora Rabel</b>	<b>Jean Marie Radle</b>	<b>Becky Rogan</b>
<b>Toni Scalzo</b>	<b>Rosalie Schultz</b>	<b>Gina Steve</b>
<b>Kimberly Thomas</b>	<b>Roberta Petrucci</b>	<b>Jackie Vasquez</b>
<b>Deborah Wharton</b>	<b>Kathy Youells</b>	
6. **The Twenty-First Century Classrooms**. Daneen Kearns gave a brief presentation on **Prometheium**. Mr. Bernardi stated that these tools engage the students and when children are engaged, they learn better, there are few discipline problems and better attendance.

### Student Representative's Report

Jonathan Schall read the report: The Key Club raised \$125 for Big Brothers/Big Sister's Bowl for Kids Sake, Daffodils were sold to benefit the American Cancer Society, parks in Exeter and West Wyoming were spruced up on Kiwanis One Day, members attended the "Passionate for Pink" semi-formal benefitting Candy's Place. Upcoming projects include selling bracelets for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, selling geraniums to benefit Victims Resource Center, helping with the American Girl Tea at the West Pittston Library, collecting snack items to send to sailors aboard the USS Eisenhower. In addition, WA's Got Talent will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>, Builders Club recently conducted its annual Pennies for Patients to benefit Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Since the club raised over \$500, a pasta party, sponsored by the The Olive Garden will be awarded to 7-07 for raising the most. Wyoming Area's save is conducting a fundraiser for juniors. T-shirts with the Statue of Liberty on them are being offered to all juniors for \$10. These shirts will be worn on the class trip to Ellis Island on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds will go to an organization that trains rats in Africa to sniff out tuberculosis and land mines. The Scholastic Scrimmage Team of Samantha Scott, Eric Werbin, Davide Fanelli and Trevor Alder will be participating in the Pennsylvania Academic Competition on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The middle school and high school Science Olympiad are attending the state competition at Juniata College. This is after both teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the regional competition. States is being held on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Physics and AP Physics classes are attending physics day at Six Flags in New Jersey. They will compete in labs after getting numbers and data from riding roller coasters. The Wyoming Area Envirothon Team attended a practice day for their competition in early March. The students become acquainted with information on five different areas such as aquatics, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife and current issues. The competition will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> in Berwick. PSSAs have been going on all through the month of April.

### Treasurer's Report

Dr. Casarella read the treasurer's report.

<u>Bank</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Checking Account</u>	<u>Money Market Account</u>
Landmark Bank	General Fund	3,692,810.73	
First National Community Bank	General Fund	105,163.40	
Fidelity Bank	General Fund		275,582.47
Wachovia Bank	General Fund	60,370.79	
Landmark Bank	Delinquent Tax Fund	109,940.08	
PNC Bank	Payroll Acct.	203,666.76	
Fidelity Bank	Payroll Acct.	131,866.32	
Landmark Bank	Cafeteria Acct.	248,556.08	
Landmark Bank	Student Activities Acct.	108,423.64	
Landmark Bank	Athletic Fund Acct.	11,304.13	
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Investment Acct.	1,091,153.70	
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Construction Acct.	142,796.40	
PNC Bank	Energy Performance Proceeds Fund	30,622.24	

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

**Finance Report**

Mr. DeAngelo read the finance report.

1. Received the following checks:

**Don Wilkinson Agency (March)**

Earned Income Tax	209,542.15
Local State Tax	3,313.70
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>198.00</u>
Total:	213,053.85

**Greater Nanticoke School District**

Title I Non-Public Funds	3,809.38
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**Local Realty Transfer Tax**

James Red O'Brien – Luzerne County	6,699.28
James Red O'Brien – Luzerne County	<u>7,776.84</u>
Total:	14,476.12

**Luzerne Intermediate Unit**

ACCESS Reimbursement	16,474.27
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**Pennsylvania Board of Finance & Revenue**

Liquid Fuels Tax Refund	1,260.91
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**Miscellaneous**

District Court 11-2-01	79.10
District Court 11-2-01	<u>575.58</u>
Total:	654.68

**Luzerne Intermediate Unit**

Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant (EETT)	25,000.00
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**Ohio Casualty**

Joseph J. Joyce Associates	8,801.96
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**State & Federal Subsidy Payments**

Social Security	46,173.04
Retirement	96,861.20
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	32,162.27
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	8,623.13
Drug Free Schools	596.64
Dual Enrollment	2,484.00
ARRA- Fiscal Stabilization- Basic Ed	361,719.60
School District Special Education	202,756.00
School District Transportation	<u>230,671.00</u>
Total:	982,046.88

One Communications

E-Rate Reimbursement 9,444.03

The Luzerne Foundation

First Lt. Jeffery F. DePrimo Memorial Fund Grant (for a portable keyboard) 500.00

2. Approve the April payment of \$72,362.69 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract agreement for programs and services for the 2009-2010 school year.
3. Approve the April payment of \$40,906.00 to the West Side Career and Technology Center for the 2009-2010 school year.
4. Approve the agreement between WVIA TV for Video Streaming and Wyoming Area School District at a cost of \$1,500.00 for 2,481 students for the 2010-2011 school year.
5. Approve a refund in the amount of \$218.85 due to Wayman Smith, Sr., Tax Collector, Exeter Township (Luzerne County). Refund is due to tax collector remitting monies based on pre-abatement value.
6. Approve a refund of paid property taxes for the year 2009 as requested by Luzerne County Board of Assessment Appeals for PIN #67-F10NE1-004-008 in the amount of \$169.05.
7. Approve payment to Bridon American Corp. located in Luzerne County in connection with a tax appeal for real estate property taxes from the years 2004 through 2009:

Parcel #16D11-00A-024

Tax Refund Authorized per Court Order	\$33,229.92
Payment Received	<u>24,496.86</u>

Refund still due & owing for Parcel #16D11-00A-024 \$ 8,733.06

Parcel #16D11-00A-024A

Tax Refund Authorized per Court Order	\$13,775.74
Payment Received	<u>10,659.08</u>

\$ 3,116.66

Total refund due by client for Parcels #16D11-00A-024 & 16D11-00A-024 =\$11,849.72

8. Approve invoice from the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 regarding English as a Second Language instructional hours from November 2009 to February 2010 in the amount of \$35,273.30 (total of 820.5 hours at \$42.99).

**9. Approve the General Ledger Sheet:**

Bill Listing: 4-19-10	500,775.97	
Prepays: 3-3-10	<u>165,867.39</u>	666,643.36
Cafeteria Account	86,325.85	
Athletic Fund	<u>2,766.82</u>	<u>89,092.67</u>

**Total: 755,736.03**

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

On the Question: George Race of Exeter questioned item #7, Bridon American Corp. Mr. Melone responded that the District was responding to a court order regarding property tax refunds.

Roll Call: All board members present voted yes. The motion passed.

**Education Report**

Dr. Campenni read the education report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirements that the District's Federal Programs, (Title I, Title II and Drugs and Alcohol) have been planned for the 2009-2010 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, at the District's Business Office.
2. Approve the request of Janet Serino and Cathy Ranieli to attend the 2010 Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Conference in Hershey, Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 7, 2010 at a total cost not to exceed \$850.00 each, to be funded by Title II funds.
3. Approve the tentative school calendar for the 2010-2011 school year.
4. Accept, with regret, Regina Manganiello's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
5. Accept, with regret, Donald Flickinger's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
6. Accept, with regret, Nancy Montville's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
7. Accept, with regret, Rose Ann Stull's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
8. Accept, with regret, Judy Stevenson's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
9. Accept, with regret, Joseph Bartell's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
10. Approve the request of Deborah Chikowski, Elementary Teacher, to take a medical leave effective Friday, April 16, 2010 until further notice.

11. Discuss to ratify the approval of Michelle Klaproth as a long term substitute effective November 17, 2009 through April 30, 2010.

12. Accept, with regret, Karim Medico Letwinsky's letter of resignation.

13. Approve the following class changes for 2010-2011 school year:

Eliminate

5<sup>th</sup> grade @ Tenth Street

Career Technology at Secondary Center

Life Skills @ Montgomery Ave.

Create

4<sup>th</sup> grade @ Tenth Street

Learning Support @ Montgomery Ave.

½ Day Art @ Secondary Center

14. Approve to accept the recession of Celeste Calpin's letter of intent to retire.

15. Approve the appointment of Susan Bartoli as first grade teacher at Montgomery Avenue elementary school for the 2010-2011 school year.

16. Approve the appointment of Kimberly D'Aiello as second grade teacher at JFK Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year.

17. Approve the appointment of Christa Coolbaugh as second grade teacher at SJD Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year.

18. Approve the appointment of Katie Vannes as third grade teacher at Montgomery Avenue Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year.

19. Approve the appointment of Sara Mazzitelli as sixth grade teacher at Tenth Street Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year.

20. Approve the appointment of Jill Powers as sixth grade teacher at Tenth Street Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year.

21. Approve the appointment of Carol Tabit as Reading Specialist at Montgomery Avenue Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year.

22. Approve the appointment of Christina Galella as Learning Support Teacher at Montgomery Avenue Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year.

23. Approve the appointment of Shea Riley as Elementary Music Teacher for the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion by Dr. Campenni, second by Dr. Casarella, to accept the education report.

On the Question: Mrs. Valenti asked Mr. Bernardi if the teachers in items #15 through 23 moved into openings left by the retirees. Mr. Bernardi responded yes, they bid on the positions.

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Dr. Casarella asked Mr. Bernardi, “The Career Technology at the Secondary Center what position was that?” Mr. Bernardi responded it was Mr. Len Coleman’s position. Dr. Casarella asked if this position will be eliminated. Mr. Bernardi responded yes. George Race from Exeter asked Mr. Bernardi if these teachers are all new. Mr. Bernardi responded these people transferred into positions. They’re not all new. Rhonda Lambert of Harding questioned the elimination of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Tenth Street. Mr. Bernardi responded last year we had three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, this year we only need two.

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

Activities Report

Mr. Alberigi read the activities report.

1. Approve to vacate all extra-curricular positions at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Positions will be posted as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
2. Approve the request of Shea Riley, Music Teacher, to attend the PMEA State Conference, along with two students, in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday, April 24, 2010. Cost is \$700.00 for registration and \$543.78 for lodging plus mileage reimbursement.
3. Approve the appointments of the following fall head coaches for 2010-2011:

Paul Leonard	Boys/Girls Cross Country	2,210.00
Randy Spencer	Football	6,727.00
Gordon Williams	Golf	1,682.00
Sam Fuller	Boys Soccer	3,965.00
Lisa Day	Girls Volleyball	1,815.00
Tony Callaio	Girls Tennis	1,340.00
Maribeth Brozena	Girls Field Hockey	3,965.00

4. Approve the appointment of Joseph Pizano as Summer Recreation Director.
5. Approve the request of Dean Carey and Joe Bellino, Coaches for the Greater Pittston Junior Legion baseball team to use the Atlas Field for their upcoming 2010 season, pending approval by the athletic director.

Motion by Mr. Alberigi, second by Mr. DeAngelo, to accept the activities report.

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

Building Report

Mr. Dominick read the building report.

1. Approve the request of Joanne Giovannini, Fortis Institute (formerly Allied Medical and Technical Institute), to use the auditorium for graduation on Friday, June 25, 2010, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.
2. Approve the request of Gina Steve, Clerical Aide, to take a medical leave from Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> to approximately Monday, May 10, 2010.
3. Approve to ratify the appointment of Carolyn Carlson as a Personal Care Aide at SJD Elementary School to the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

4. Approve the request of Richard Murawski, Exeter Borough Council, to use the Secondary Center auditorium to conduct a special meeting on Friday, April 30, 2010, 7:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.

Motion by Mr. Dominick, second by Mr. Marianacci, to accept the building report.

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

Open Discussion: George Race of Exeter, expressed his concern regarding the paperless meeting. Mr. Race stated if people take the time to come to the meetings, they should have an agenda. People may forget questions with this system. They should have an agenda in hand. Mr. Race asked if we have to go back to court (referring to a recent lawsuit) does the district have to pay again. Attorney Hassey responded the Insurance Company provided the defense so it didn't cost the District Attorney, that he is aware of. The federal judge who issued the order and presided over the trial considered the briefs of the defense and the plaintiff and decided he made an error of law in allowing it to go to jury. The instructions read to the jury may have gave an impression that they should have made a decision that they shouldn't have. The judge took it into consideration that he may have made a mistake and is asking that a new trial be granted. Mr. Race asked if this trial will take just as long. Attorney Hassey responded it may take just as long. An audience member questioned the renovations at Montgomery Avenue Elementary School. She expressed her concern regarding the heat at Montgomery Avenue stating the cafeteria is stifling. Mr. Bernardi responded the board will make a decision next week. Bob Truscavage of West Pittston, questioned the board regarding the healthcare policy. His question was: if the husband and wife work for the school district does the policy cover the whole family. Attorney Hassey responded they have that option. Mr. Truscavage asked if the husband is a teacher and the wife a secretary can she be reimbursed if she is covered by the husband. Attorney Hassey responded people in this situation may opt out. This gives people the option to be paid a portion of what the cost would be to cover them. Mr. Bernardi stated they may receive \$1,500. Mr. Truscavage asked the Board "Isn't this a waste of money?" Mr. Bernardi responded that it is in the bargaining unit. Mr. Truscavage asked the salary paid to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for services rendered to teach English to students (English as a Second Language). Mr. Bernardi responded the LIU charges an hourly rate of approximately \$43.00 per hour. We currently have fifteen students. Mr. Bernardi stated that some students come in with no English. Mr. Truscavage asked what we paid them last year. Mr. Bernardi responded it may have been between \$90,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Truscavage asked Mr. Bernardi about hiring a substitute teacher. Mr. Bernardi responded the teacher has to teach the student English, the teacher doesn't have to learn their language. You have to be certified in ESL. Mr. Truscavage then asked Mr. Bernardi if the maintenance staff all have cell phones. Mr. Bernardi responded administrators, custodial staff and maintenance staff, even a physical education teacher. This is all on one bill and it is an expensive addition. This all happened because of Columbine. Asked if they take them home, Mr. Bernardi responded that they do take them home.

George Race commented that the children that do not speak English must have a hard time in math and science, etc. Mr. Race questioned the status of the resolution approved last month. The board secretary responded the resolution was sent to legislators. Jennifer Pennington, President of the Drama Parents asked Mr. Bernardi if he received a letter and invoice faxed to him regarding the lighting expense for the Sound of Music. Mr. Bernardi apologized he didn't see it and informed her he will look at it. Mary Louise Degnan of Wyoming stated at the last board meeting the process of the Right to Know Request was explained. Mrs. Degnan informed Mr. Bernardi she would also like a copy of the agenda when attending the meetings. Mrs. Degnan then asked why her name was in last month's agenda but not in this month's agenda.

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Attorney Hassey responded that generally the communications report is an assembly of correspondence that comes to the district and it lists who sent the communication. Attorney Hassey stated as far as he knows, the correspondence comes in and is placed on the communications report. Mrs. Degan stated she filled out a right to know request last month and her name was listed but was not listed this month after filling out another request. The Board Secretary stated she had Mrs. Degan's Right to Know Request. Mrs. Degan asked for a copy of her Right to Know Request after the meeting. Attorney Hassey stated it will be on next month's meeting. Sometimes he stated, the communications come in after the meeting. An audience member questioned item #14 under communications. Mr. Bernardi responded the state sent the correspondence to inform us of the phase out of Safe and Drug Free School monies. Mr. Melone responded the State is no longer funding revenue under the Safe and Drug Free Programs and the district will need to look for an alternative revenue source for the program.

Bob Belza commended Mr. Bernardi stating he liked the set up of the meetings and that the audience can print their own agendas before they come to the board meetings. He stated it was a good thing.

With no further questions the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. DeAngelo.

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John Bolin, President

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Toni Valenti, Secretary