

10354
Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, March 27, 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 100 + people in attendance. Dr. Casarella stated there were two non-public executive sessions held last week and one tonight, due to trying to work on the budget. Dr. Casarella informed the audience that a decision to close either SJD or JFK would not be made tonight. Extensive research must take place. Dr. Casarella stated a decision probably won't be made before June. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Frank Casarella, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

- Dr. Frank Casarella, President
- Dr. Estelle Campenni, Vice President
- Mrs. Elizabeth Gober-Mangan, Secretary
- 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, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Tom Melone, Business Consultant, Vito Quaglia, Secondary Center Principal, Cathy Ranieli, Assistant Secondary Center Principal, Robert Kaluzavich, Elementary Building Principal of Montgomery Ave./SJD, Jon Pollard, Elementary Building Principal of Tenth Street/JFK, Angelo Falzone, Director of Transportation/Attendance, Deb Popson, Director of Special Education, Camilla Granteed, School Psychologist, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Emily Shemanski and Morgan Bilbow, Student Representatives, Sam Scarantino, Project Manager, Quad Three Group, Inc.

Communications Report

Mrs. Gober-Mangan read the communications report.

1. Caroline Buford, Cleaning Personnel, requesting permission to take an unpaid leave of absence.
2. Kathryn Gigliotti, President of the Stoners Youth Soccer, requesting permission to use various facilities for practice and games.
3. Robert Shlesinger, Scranton Public Theatre, extending his gratitude for the opportunity to work with the Wyoming Area students for the production of "Snow White." The play was held Friday, January 27th (for all the JFK students) and Saturday, January 28, 2012. A check in the amount of \$600 was presented to the Wyoming Area Drama Club.
4. Deborah Przybyla of the Wyoming Area Softball Parents Association, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for "Meet the Warriors" on Wednesday, March 21, 2012.
5. Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, and Rita Mauriello, Reading Consultant, requesting permission to attend the 43rd Pennsylvania Federal Program Coordinators (PAFPC) Annual Conference in Hershey.

6. Loreann Napkora submitting her name for a position as a clerical aide and cleaning person for the upcoming summer.
7. Ballots from the Luzerne Intermediate Unit to Wyoming Area School Board to approve to appoint board members from area schools for a three year term on the LIU board from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.
8. Ballots from the Luzerne Intermediate Unit to Wyoming Area School Board to approve the 2012-2013 LIU General Operating Budget.
9. John Roberts, Director, Wyoming Free Library inviting the school board members to the grand opening of the Wyoming Free Library Book Shop on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a ribbon cutting, photos, refreshments and a tour of the library.
10. The Luzerne Intermediate Unit submitting their minutes from regular meeting dated January 25, 2012.
11. Correspondence from John J. Holland, Region Field Director, Pennsylvania State Education Association, to the Superintendent regarding Test Security Certification.
12. Correspondence from John Kaschak, CPA, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Budget, notifying the Superintendent, the single audit report for the year ended June 30, 2010 contains no findings related to federal awards passed through the commonwealth funding agencies.
13. Correspondence from Nichole F. Duffy, Director of Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management, notifying the Superintendent, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has reviewed the referendum exceptions submitted by Wyoming Area School District pursuant to section 333(f) of Special Session Act 1 of 2006. Referendum exceptions totaling \$174,429.00 meet the requirements of section 333(f)(2).
14. Correspondence from Joseph J. Earyes, CPA, First Senior Vice President of FNCB, to the Superintendent regarding publics deposits collateral report.
15. Chris Hizynski and Juel Anne Klepadlo, Key Club Advisors, requesting a refund of \$690.00 for lodging expenses paid at the Key Club Convention.
16. The Cherry Blossom Committee requesting the Wyoming Area Marching Band to participate in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on May 5, 2012 at 12:00 noon.
17. Mary Ann Skok, President of the Tenth Street PTO, requesting permission to hold a Talent Show in the auditorium at the Secondary Center.
18. Shawn Fernandes, Vice President of the West Pittston Rams Organization, requesting permission to use the side fields for football practice and field by cafeteria, multi-purpose room, gym, or football field for cheerleading practice. Also requesting use of the Key Club Stand.
19. Christina Koons, Spotlight Dance Studio, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center auditorium for a Spring Dance Recital.

20. Glen Galante and Rosemary Boland, on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Education Association Northeastern Region and the Scranton, Dunmore, Pittston and Career Technology Federation of Teachers/American Federation of Teachers, inviting the Superintendent and School Board Members to the “Kids, Cuts & Consequences” Rally on Saturday, April 14, 2012, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lackawanna County Courthouse Square. The rally will focus on the reality of the unprecedented basic education school funding cuts, larger class sizes and a growing number of public schools that are being pushed to the financial brink. This rally is also open to the public.

Summary of Applications Received

Math – 2
 English – 1
 Earth & Space Science
 Elementary – 2
 Special Education – 3
 Social Studies – 1
 Library – 1

Approval of Minutes

All board members present voted aye to approve the minutes of February 28, 2012. Motion passed.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Bernardi read the Superintendent’s Report.

1. *Fourteen students, John Bankus, Victoria Brown, Gregory Cajka, Hope Crawn, Kiersten Gregorio, Alexandra Fitzgerald, Lauren Frisbie, Katelyn Higgins, Amanda Ostrowski, Sal Polit-Moran, Leo Skoronski, Stephanie Spudis, Julianna Stella and Brian Wisowaty and 2 advisors, Chris Hizynski and Juel Ann Klepadlo, attended the [Key Club District Convention/Leadership Conference](#) from March 16 to 18 at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College. Congratulations to the following members who were recognized as Distinguished Officers:*

- *Rachael Stark, President*
- *Stephanie Spudis, Vice President*
- *Stormy Ruiz, Secretary*
- *Brian Wisowaty, Treasurer*
- *Sal Polit-Moran, Webmaster*

Other Awards:

- *The Williams S. Brandamore Outstanding Kiwanis Family Relations Award.*
 - *2nd place in the Single Service Gold Award for the FloodFest Project which raised \$10,000.00 for the West Pittston Library in the Fall.*
 - *Award for donating \$1,000.00 to the Youth Serving Youth Project – Ronald McDonald House Charities.*
- *[Wyoming Area Builder’s Club](#) was 1 of 4 Builders Clubs in the State to be recognized at the Key Club Convention for their accomplishments.*

Congratulations to Advisors, Juel Ann Klapadlo and Chris Hizynski and all members of the Key Club and Builder’s Club.

2. **Breakfast With Your Child**: Will be held at the District's four elementary schools from April 26 to May 4 as follows:

Montgomery Avenue:	<u>April 30</u> and <u>May 1</u>
SJD:	<u>April 26</u> and <u>April 27</u>
JFK:	<u>May 1</u> and <u>May 2</u>
Tenth Street:	<u>May 3</u> and <u>May 4</u>

This Program is designed to inform parents of the school breakfast program as well as help them encourage their children to be aware of the importance of a good breakfast to begin a successful school/work day. Thanks to Janet Whipple and her Cafeteria Staff.

3. Parents of high school students are reminded that 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grade students are currently enrolling for courses for next year. Copies of the **Program of Studies** can be viewed on the Wyoming Area Website and were distributed to students and members of the Board. I encourage parents with questions to contact our School Guidance Office or Administration for assistance.
4. **Kindergarten Registration** for students who will be attending Kindergarten in the Wyoming Area School District for the 2012-2013 school year will take place April 16th, April 17th, April 18th and April 19th, 2012:

SJD	April 16, 2012	9:00 – 11:00 A.M. 1:00 – 3:00 P. M.
Montgomery Ave.	April 17, 2012	9:00 – 11:00 A.M. 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.
JFK	April 18, 2012	9:00 – 11:00 A.M. 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.
10 th Street	April 19, 2012	9:00 – 11:00 A.M. 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

5. The sixth and seventh grade gifted students are enrolled in an on-line **Mandarin Program** provided by the **Blended Schools Network**. They take these classes three times per week and are instructed by Limei Shan, a Mandarin Professor at Lehigh University and Sou Zhou, a volunteer teacher from Wu Han University in China.

Tonight students would like to give you a Demonstration sampling of what they have learned.

6th Grade:

Justine Byuczynski

Alex Ambruso

7th Grade:

Leah Moore

Albert Sciandra

*Megan Dillon**Peter Butera**Ben Klaproth**Felicia Deininger**Congratulations to Gifted Teacher, Mrs. Boshka and all the Mandarin Program students.***Student Representative's Report**

Morgan Bilbow read the report: Spring is in full swing at the high school with spring sports beginning recently. The Drama Club recently performed their rendition of Legally Blonde, the musical, making for a great show along with a great audience turnout. The Student Council recently conducted their annual cookie dough fundraiser to benefit the club and their trip at the end of the year. The seniors and juniors will be attending their Prom on June 1st at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, and the sophomores and freshman have their Semi quickly approaching. The History Bowl will be competing soon against other schools for the title of Bowl Champs in all categories of history.

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	6,469,271.24
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	307,887.39
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	208,609.76
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	120,017.71
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	17,088.91
Landmark Bank	Athletic Fund Account	1,938.26
PNC Bank	Energy Performance Proceeds Fund	30,705.60
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Construction Account	11,200.38
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Investment Account	526,359.76
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:

Don Wilkinson Agency (Jan.)

Earned Income Tax	27,418.70
Local State Tax	709.12
Per Capita Tax	731.50
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>400.50</u>
Total:	29,259.82

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Luzerne County (Jan.)	7,271.94
Luzerne County (Feb.)	<u>6,051.89</u>
Total:	13,323.83

Refund

Board of Finance & Revenue	1,407.67
Refund for Liquid Fuels Tax	

E-Power Rebate Program

Act 129 Application	18,460.20
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State & Subsidy Payments

Social Security	48,329.00
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	30,286.27
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	28,881.08
Basic Education Funding	<u>1,059,720.00</u>
Total:	1,167,216.35

Miscellaneous

Fortis Institute (Use of auditorium)	500.00
District Court 11-2-01	<u>136.33</u>
Total:	636.33

Luzerne Intermediate Unit

ACCESS Reimbursement	9,420.78
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2. Approve the March 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 March payment of \$36,505.00 to the West Side Career and Technology Center for the 2011-2012 school year.
4. Approve authorization of Albert B. Melone Company, Business Consultant, to solicit quotes for securing a 2012-2013 Tax Anticipation Note.
5. Approve the Luzerne Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget for 2012-2013.

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6. Approve the agreement between the District and Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit for Subscription to Hosted Software Services for the web-based Student Information System (SIS) at a midyear cost of approximately \$17,275.00. This service was previously provided by The West Side Career and Technology Center.
7. Approve the Department of Agriculture loan in the amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 at 3.75% over forty years for the renovation of Montgomery Avenue Elementary School, subject to the review of the District Solicitor.
8. Approve the following invoices submitted for payment from the Capital Project and General Fund Account:

Panzitta Enterprises	Montgomery Avenue School	114,885.00	General Fund
L.H. Reed & Sons	Secondary Center	6,441.75	Capital Fund
Pure Green Consultants	Secondary Center	<u>1,615.05</u>	Capital Fund
		122,941.80	

9. Approve the General Ledger Sheet:

Bill Listing: 3-27-12	465,518.67	
Prepays: 2-29-12	<u>112,717.03</u>	578,235.70
Cafeteria Account:	84,392.57	
Athletic Account:	<u>6,778.02</u>	<u>91,170.59</u>
	Total:	669,406.29

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

On the Question: Gerald Stofco of Exeter, stated, regarding the Capital Improvement Fund Balance, with paying off the building we're getting down there. Mr. Stofco asked if the district will have enough money for the Montgomery Avenue School. Mr. Melone responded it will come out of the general fund. We will also get money from FEMA that will be utilized for Montgomery Avenue. Mr. Stofco asked how long will it take. Sam Scarantino of Quad Three Group, responded after it is signed off, it should come within forty five days. So for now it will be taken from the general fund. Mr. Stofco asked how much further are we going with this project at Montgomery. Mr. Stofco asked wasn't it \$600,000.00? Mr. Scarantino responded that everything submitted to FEMA is approximately \$700,000.00. Mr. Melone responded that it is their intention to fund it through the general fund and then replace the money back into the general fund from the reimbursement.

George Race, Exeter, asked Mr. Melone why the capital project fund was divided into two accounts. Mr. Melone responded its simply it takes less time to equate what we'll use in bill paying versus what is invested a tad longer. The larger one is the larger investment. They're both at PNC Bank. Mr. Race asked we're looking to borrow another \$3 million for renovations and do you expect any of this capital project fund to be there to help with that. Mr. Melone responded we started with \$1 million, with contracts awarded, we have \$300,000.00 less. Dr. Campenni asked Mr. Melone to go over item #7 that supports the \$3 million. Mr. Melone responded the wording for up to 3 million is a lee way for the board to determine what actually needs to be done at Montgomery Ave. We didn't commit to ascertain amount yet which the board is working towards that. We have reached out to PNC Capital Advisors and some local financial institutions in order to get a barometer for the interest rate for the potential payback of that money. Some board members issued some concerns for a 40 year payout.

Some institutions were unable to match 3.75 at a fixed rate and some institutions were attractive that the district could pay it off at a quicker rate. We won't know until we know what we need to borrow.

Bob Trusavage of West Pittston, stated over the \$3 million, this school is broke. Mr. Trusavage went over to Montgomery Avenue and stated the rugs are shot. Mr. Trusavage stated he would like to see where this is being spent, a breakdown, and bids going out and who is bidding on it. The public is entitled to see every bit of information and let people have a say in this. We have to see where this is being spent. Maybe if the teacher's contract is settled then we can see about this loan. We have to be very careful and shouldn't approve anything now. Dr. Casarella commented on the roof and the carpeting that needed to be done. Mr. Scarantino stated it may be \$1 million or it could be \$2 million. For the roofing project we should go with alternates. Everything going out on bid will be advertised, opened, presented to the board and hopefully they can make a decision. The public will be informed of all of this. Dr. Campenni stated that the board is only going to do what needs to be done. The government may fund some of that so it won't be excessive. Mr. Trusavage felt the board was being pushed by the bank. Mr. Dominick stated that the rugs have to be done because of mold and the roof is creating problems. Mr. Trusavage asked how old the rugs were and is there a guarantee. Response was twenty years old. Mrs. Farrell stated that a school in Tunkhannock has been shut down because of a leaky roof. Dr. Casarella stated the board has to make decisions and they are not going to be popular with everyone. Dr. Casarella stated the board will investigate everything and will work with the architects. Dr. Casarella stated the board has to vote tonight since there is a timeline. And as Dr. Campenni said earlier it doesn't necessarily mean it will be \$3 million. We can't take it out of the budget or raise the index, the money has to come from somewhere. Mr. Trusavage asked if they could lower it to \$500,000.00. Dr. Casarella responded we might. Dr. Campenni stated that we're just voting to take the loan, we don't know how much yet.

Bob Borzell of Wyoming, stated he agreed with Mr. Trusavage but people have to know where the money is going. Mr. Scarantino stated they have to sit down with the building and grounds committee and determine the list of things to be done. Mr. Borzell asked if the roof, carpeting and mechanical were the three big things. Response was yes. Mr. Scarantino stated the roof will be the biggest. Dr. Casarella stated we can be approved for the \$3 million but we don't have to go that high. Mr. Borzell commented we are now over 3/4 of a million dollars in the gymnasium how much more money before that is fixed. Mr. Scarantino responded the gym at Montgomery Avenue is nearly done. Mr. Borzell stated a roof is going to cost more than the 3/4 of a million dollars. Mr. Scarantino stated maybe 4 or 5 hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Borzell asked then the heating will cost the most? Mr. Scarantino responded the heating could cost more. Mr. Borzell asked who will do the work. Mr. Scarantino responded it has to be bid out.

Carl Yorina commented that the biggest lies come from our government. Mr. Yorina stated he has a problem with the time constraints coming from the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Melone gave the board information before the meeting such as if they borrowed within a smaller time frame it would be a higher interest rate. Mr. Yorina quoted his dad by saying, "The only interest you get is the interest you get from the bank." Mr. Yorina stated he mentioned this at the Work Session stating the money we borrow we probably won't get reimbursed for unless there is a complete change of heart in Harrisburg. If we borrow up to 3 million, we will end up paying the 3 million back. We won't get reimbursement on it and also if we borrow 3 million, in forty years, Mr. Yorina said he will be 88 years old when the loan is paid off and his daughter will be 50 years old. Mr. Yorina stated he will be voting no on this.

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Mrs. Degnan asked why do we have to vote on this tonight. Mr. Bernardi responded they have been speaking of this since January. Last March of 2011 the board approved the submission of this plan. They met with the architects over the summer, they did the scope of work and have been doing this since January. Mrs. Degnan asked for a year. Mr. Bernardi responded yes, a year. Mrs. Degnan stated she didn't know how much we actually need. Without a set goal of when the project is going to begin and what they will actually cost or when a decision will be made on this why do they have to vote on it tonight. Mr. Dominick responded the board has to make a decision tonight because they have to get it done. It has to start in the summer.

Chris Kiwak from Harding stated he knows this has to be done but obviously these repairs didn't just happen last year. It had to have accumulated through the years and overlooked. Why did we fall asleep now and now we are saying this has to be done this year. Mr. Dominick responded some board members have been there five years and other board members have been there two years. Now we're looking for the money. Dr. Casarella stated the board has to make a decision. There has to be a good environment for these kids. Dr. Casarella stated he was in the school and saw the carpeting, it's rippled and damaged with dirt so it has to come out. This can't wait another year. Dr. Casarella stated if we plan we may be able to pay the loan off sooner than forty years. Dr. Casarella commented this situation was due to former board members. He didn't know why. He couldn't answer for them. There was 5 million dollars and year after year it went from the construction fund into the budget. Mrs. Farrell asked Mr. Casarella what is the point going back and talking about prior boards. The hurricane and the flood, that is what happened to the roof. Mr. Kiwak responded he understood about the roof but the rugs are twenty two years old. Why wasn't this looked into prior before mold started growing on it. Everyone knows in business there is also maintenance to be done. Mr. Yorina responded that there is no mold in the school. The air quality test are still being done. Mr. Yorina stated he would put his daughter in the school but wouldn't be happy about it. The argument here is paying the loan off in forty years. Mr. Yorina stated \$3 million at 3.5% interest the payments would be almost double at forty years. It would be about 12,000.00 per month. Mr. Yorina asked about \$2 million over a 20 year time period and the payment is about approximately the same thing. If the reimbursements come back in twenty years we can remodel the school. Mr. Yorina stated he was not comfortable with the Department of Agriculture saying we better hurry up. Mr. Kiwak asked why wasn't this taken care of years ago. Mr. Dominick stated there was 10 million dollars we had that was used up in other areas. Dr. Casarella stated that when you are running an organization you should have plans in place for the renewal of certain things and replacement of certain things and the revitalization of buildings.

Joe Valenti of West Pittston commented that they spoke of a long range plan and asked do we have a five year budget so we're not in this situation every single year so the public can see what we're looking at five years down the line. Mr. Melone responded they do try to look at cost and healthcare, etc. but it is very difficult to do that. Mr. Melone stated we don't have a five year projection. They go through the board and talk about it. Mr. Valenti stated maybe we can get something and put it up on the website.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted yes, Mrs. Farrell voted yes, Mr. Dominick voted yes, Mrs. Degnan voted no on item #7 and yes on the remaining report, Mr. Yorina voted no on item #7 and yes on the remaining report, Mr. Marianacci voted yes, Mrs. Gober-Mangan voted no on item #7 and yes on the remaining report, Dr. Campenni voted no on item #7 and yes on the remaining report, Dr. Casarella voted 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 request of Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, and Rita Mauriello, Reading and Title I Consultant, to attend the Pennsylvania Federal Program Coordinators Annual Conference in Hershey on Monday, March 26th to Wednesday, March 28, 2012. Costs to come out of Title I and Title II funds.
3. Approve the letter of agreement between Wyoming Area School District and Wilkes-Barre Area School District for Title I services commencing September 2, 2011 and ending June 15, 2012.
4. Approve the revision to the school calendar for the 2011-2012 school year:

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 Flood Make-Up Day (full day of school)

The last student/teacher day is Monday, June 11, 2012.
5. Approve the school calendar for the 2012-2013 school year.
6. Accept and approve Cathy Ranieli's, Assistant Secondary Principal, request to rescind her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year.

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

On the Question: Dr. Campenni asked Mr. Bernardi if he received any feedback for the new calendar. Mr. Bernardi responded yes. Mrs. Degnan stated she didn't know what the adjustments were. Mr. Bernardi explained November 13th will be a full day of parent conferences. November 12th is Veteran's day, the students will be off. August 27th is the first day of school. Tuesday after Easter, April 2 will be the first snow make-up day. June 10th will be the last student/teacher day and June 14th will be graduation. The snow days will be made up at the end of the school year. John Pegg of West Wyoming asked how many flood days have to be made up. Mr. Bernardi responded seven flood days. Mr. Bernardi explained to Mr. Pegg we have seven flood days, we didn't come back on January 2nd because it is a legal holiday and we made that up in September some time. Mr. Pegg asked if the calendar can be posted on the web site. Mr. Bernardi responded yes, after the board approves it.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted yes, Mrs. Farrell, yes, Mr. Dominick, yes, Mrs. Degnan, yes, Mr. Yorina, yes, Mr. Marianacci, yes, Mrs. Gober-Mangan, yes, Dr. Campenni, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Activities Report

Dr. Campenni read the activities report.

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1. Approve to rescind the appointment of Deedra Porfirio as Assistant Varsity Track & Field Coach for the 2012 spring season.
2. Approve the appointment of Mike Stefanik as Assistant Varsity Track & Field Coach at a salary of \$2,163.00 for the 2012 spring season.
3. Approve the appointment of Jamie Williams as Assistant Girls Soccer Coach at a salary of \$2,163.00 for the 2012 spring season.
4. Approve the request of Kathryn Gigliotti, President of the Greater Pittston Youth Soccer, Inc., to use the Tenth Street field or any other facilities for the Stoner's practice for the fall season beginning August through November 30, 2012, pending approval by the building principal and athletic director.
5. Approve a refund in the amount of \$690.00 to Chris Hizynski and Juel Anne Klepadlo, Key Club Advisors, for lodging at the Key Club Convention held in March.
6. Approve to ratify Noah Pickett as Head Boys Volleyball Coach at a salary of \$1,815.00 for the 2012 spring season.
7. Approve the appointment of Dean Carey as Junior Varsity Baseball Coach at a salary of \$1,923.00 for the 2012 spring season.
8. Approve the request of Shawn Fernandes, Vice President of the West Pittston Rams Organization, to use the side fields for football practices starting on July 16th from Monday through Friday, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. until the end of October and use of the field by the cafeteria, multi-purpose room, gym or football field for cheerleading practice starting July 1st, Monday through Friday, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Also requested is use of the Key Club Stand, pending approval by the athletic director and building principal.

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

ON the Question: Mr. Yorina asked if all the recommendations were by the Athletic Director. Dr. Campenni responded the recommendations for #7 is by Mr. Andrewsavage and the rest are by Mr. Pizano. Mr. Yorina asked Mr. Quaglia if Key Club was ok with the Rams using the Key Club stand. Mr. Quaglia responded before he would approve it he would look into it.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted yes, Mrs. Farrell, yes, Mr. Dominick, yes, Mrs. Degnan voted no on Items #2,3,4,6,7 and yes on the remaining report. Mr. Yorina voted yes, Mr. Marianacci, yes, Mrs. Gober-Mangan, yes, Dr. Campenni, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes.

Dr. Campenni commented that for the item with volleyball, there will be no volleyball because of only twelve kids on the roster and only two or three children were showing up. Coach Carey has been practicing for two to three weeks so his salary will be pro-rated. Mr. Quaglia stated they will try again next year for the volleyball.

Attorney Ferentino suggested to amend the motion to pro-rate his salary.

Motion by Dr. Campenni, second by Mr. Bolin to amend item #6, to hire and pro-rate the salary of Noah Pickett.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted yes, Mrs. Farrell, yes, Mr. Dominick, yes, Mrs. Degnan, no, Mr. Yorina, yes, Mr. Marianacci, yes, Mrs. Gober-Mangan, yes, Dr. Campenni, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes.

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Yorina read the building report.

- 1. Approve the request of Deborah Przybyla, Wyoming Area Softball Parents Association, to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for "Meet the Warriors" on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and cafeteria manager.**
- 2. Approve the request of Caroline Bulford, Cleaning Personnel, to take an unpaid leave of absence until April 11, 2012.**
- 3. Approve the request of Mary Ann Skok, President of the Tenth Street PTO, to use the Secondary Center auditorium for a Talent Show on Friday, April 13, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., a dress rehearsal is requested on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.**
- 4. Approve the request of Christina Koons, Spotlight Dance Studio, to use the Secondary Center auditorium and light & sound system for a Spring Dance Recital on Saturday, June 16, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Rehearsal will be at 12:00 p.m. and the show at 6:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.**

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

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted yes, Mrs. Farrell, yes, Mr. Dominick yes, Mrs. Degnan, yes, Mr. Yorina, yes, Mr. Marianacci, yes, Mrs. Gober-Mangan, yes, Dr. Campenni, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes.

Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mrs. Degnan 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.**

Attorney Ferrentino commented that a grandfather clause was added to the employment of professional employees: "This policy will not apply to those professionals employees already employed by the district."

Motion by Mrs. Degnan, Second by Dr. Campenni, to accept the policy report.

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On the Question: Jami Brown of Harding asked if a policy will be in place for long term substitutes. Dr. Casarella responded they didn't get there yet. Mrs. Brown asked if they were a part of the professional staff.

Dr. Casarella responded they are not a part of the professional staff. Mr. Bernardi stated they are not a part of the professional staff. Dr. Casarella stated they have to come up with a policy. Mrs. Degnan stated they will gather all the other policies and make changes.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted no on both, Mrs. Farrell voted no on 1 because it is not effective and some candidates may get passed over even though they are qualified. Mrs. Farrell voted yes on #2. Mr. Dominick, yes, Mrs. Degnan, yes, Mr. Yorina, yes, Mr. Marianacci voted no on 1 and yes on 2. Mrs. Gober-Mangan voted yes, Dr. Campenni, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Open Discussion:

Dr. Casarella asked for someone to give him an up-date on the tennis courts. Mr. Bernardi explained that the tennis courts were lifting up because of the weather, but they are useable. But to be sure, they scheduled all the tennis matches away. Mr. Bernardi stated they could be resurfaced.

Mr. Yorina commented to Mr. Bernardi, that there was some discussion at the meeting on shutting down one of the schools, and regarding the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) report and that there were 16 teachers listed as NOT highly qualified and stated he knew that Mr. Bernardi got back to Ms. Mangan in one day time with an answer. Mr. Yorina asked Mr. Bernardi if he could expound on how all that went down.

Mr. Bernardi responded, the AYP is proficiency level in reading and math PSSA scores and there is certain criteria school districts have to meet per No Child Left Behind. The high school missed the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). What they do is take sub groups, if the sub group does not make it, the building in its entirety does not make it. Sub groups consist of ESL, disadvantaged, IEP, etc. Since we have 7th, 8th and 11th grades in Secondary Center, we exceed the magic number of 40. If you are under 40, they don't consider it a sub group, but if over 40 it is considered a sub group. We have about 70 students that did not meet reading and math proficiency level as per NCLB and it keeps the Secondary Center building off the AYP and the remaining 1150 students made the AYP but that is the way the law is written. In the state of Pennsylvania, we are still under the AYP. Some states have opted out of the AYP...President Obama allowed states to opt out of the AYP...about 20 states did so to go into a different way. Pennsylvania stayed in.....that is the short version of the AYP.

Mr. Yorina asked, *so* this school district makes an effort to keep students with IEPs within the school and we have full inclusion. Mr. Bernardi responded, absolutely. We integrate all special needs students. Mr. Yorina stated I know that first hand from all the wonderful people at Tenth Street he and thanked Mrs. Popson for all she does. Mrs. Popson spoke about students out of our district and that their scores come back to us, etc. Mr. Yorina asked, so the government mandates how a kid learns and it goes on a spreadsheet. Mrs. Popson responded that the mandate states that these students have disabilities and are not proficient. If they were proficient they wouldn't need an IEP. It is a catch 22. Mr. Yorina informed Mrs. Popson to keep doing what she is doing with my daughter. I'll keep the colorful adjectives to myself, he stated. Just keep doing what you are doing. Mr. Yorina stated, I deeply appreciate it, this district makes great efforts and I see people like Glenna over there.

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Mr. Yorina stated that as his daughter went through the system there were people calling him at his house in an effort to help keep him calmed down. Mrs. Serino told him as his daughter went to kindergarten, and was crying, and he asked what he was supposed to do. Mrs. Serino told him to calm down and stated we have done this before. She told him to keep doing what he was doing and the heck with AYP. Mr. Yorina stated he couldn't care less about some mandate. All he cared about is that his daughter is included and all the kids with IEPs are included and stated this isn't just about his daughter, it is about everybody. Mr. Yorina informed them to keep doing what they are doing.

Mr. Bernardi commented on the annual yearly progress. When NCLB came out in 2001, Mr. Bernardi stated the goal was that by 20-14 all students would be proficient in reading and math and stated, well guess what, we are almost there. Will 100% of all students in public /private schools/charter schools be proficient in reading and math? Mr. Bernardi also commented on the other issue: highly qualified teachers and this has nothing to do with certification or qualifications – it has to do with NCLB. Mr. Bernardi stated that he needed to inform everyone that on the website it says that there are 16 course areas where teachers are not qualified – NOT 16 teachers – there were 5 different teachers listed multiple times and when he did the research, after Mr. Bernardi went on the site. He asked Mrs. Popson to explain the short version and stated the subjects they taught are incorrectly coded. It was a clerical error. Mr. Bernardi stated that Mr. Falzone is our PIMS Director and Ms. Popson is our Special Education Director, and they can explain that further to you – that is the short version. I give it to them, Mr. Bernardi stated.

Mrs. Popson stated that when PIMS came about several years ago, every single one of the courses that are offered in the District have to be attached to a course code that PIMS puts out. They put out a Manual with thousands...probably 5,000 minimum course codes and you have to figure out which course matches up and that is not easily done....there are a “1 click” drop down boxes for each one of them. So what happened for these 5 teachers is the courses they teach...which are anywhere between 3 and 5 courses at the Secondary Center. These were all Secondary Special Education Teachers that were teaching courses they were Highly qualified and certified to teach. The drop down box when it was put in was coded as elementary special education course(s) instead of Secondary Special Education Courses. So because they are Secondary certified, they were kicked out as being not highly qualified. Mrs. Popson stated it was coding of courses that was wrong so we went in today to make sure all other courses were coded correctly but in coding all of the courses ...you are coding every single course in the District...it was a “1 click box”...drop down box for each one of them. Mrs. Popson stated that all of our teachers in Special Education are highly qualified in the areas that they teach and also certified as well. Mrs. Popson stated that they have realigned all of our Special Education Courses not only to make sure they are highly qualified and certified but they are teaching in the best expertise – someone certified in English must teach Special Ed. English. We realigned all of our programs to match that as well. Mrs. Popson stated it was a clerical error and we hope it won't happen in the future. We think we have caught them all...we actually run the report with thousands of courses.

Mr. Borzell asked if we had a teacher nominated for a free car for a month. Mr. Bernardi responded yes, Mrs. Przybyla, a teacher at 10th Street Elementary. Ertley provides the car. Mr. Bernardi stated it was not done intentionally that this was not mentioned. Mr. Bernardi stated that he relies on Principals to tell him about happenings in their buildings. Mr. Borzell commented that she's a very good teacher and he thought it should be mentioned.....it's a big deal.

Mr. Trusavage commented with the \$3million dollar loan, to spend that money wisely for once. Let's not be a follower like all these other stinking school districts.
Dr. Casarella responded that he will see where every nickel goes.

Jami Brown of Harding, stated that with respect to AYP Reports and what was discussed on that, whose job is it to read the Report Card when it comes in every year? Dr. Casarella responded he didn't know where it goes from here. Mr. Bernardi responded that it is posted on the PDE Website. Mrs. Brown asked, whose job is it at the school, is it the Superintendent? Is it the Board? Whose job is it to read that report card every year? Mr. Bernardi asked, now you are asking whose job is it to read the report card? Mrs. Brown responded, yes, that the State gives out. Mr. Bernardi responded that it is on the website. Mr. Bernardi asked if Mrs. Brown was asking the question whose job it is to pick up the non highly qualified... that's on there...you are asking that question. Mr. Bernardi responded that is Mr. Falzone, he is the PIMS coordinator but he doesn't put all the information in, it is dated input by secretaries and different professionals in the District. Mrs. Brown asked: Isn't it true that the State sends out a Report to Districts telling them how they did in AYP...how their AYP was. It's not just on the website. The State actually sends something to the school, correct? Mr. Bernardi responded yes, we get that. Mrs. Brown asked who gets that? Mr. Bernardi responded it comes to the Central Office...the Principals have it. The Administration gets it. Mrs. Brown asked Mr. Bernardi if he looked at it. Mr. Bernardi responded that if you are saying AYP....Yes, I did look at it. Yes..the answer is yes. Are you talking AYP or non HIGHLY QUALIFIED.....that I did not.....Mrs. Brown responded that she was talking the entire AYP report...it is a part of the whole report. Mr. Bernardi responded that the report card and the report on the website he did not see that. No. On the AYP report he did know we did not meet AYP at the Secondary Center. Mrs. Brown asked: Are you putting out there that the other districts like Dallas and Crestwood have met AYP that they don't integrate all of their students...they don't work with IEPs? Mr. Bernardi responded, I don't think I said that. Mrs. Brown stated, No, you said that is why we didn't meet AYP but they did meet it. Mr. Bernardi responded, No, I said for example we have 7th, 8th and 11th grades combined – those 3 classes and we have 72 students in those 3 classes that have IEPs. Now the State under 40, they don't consider a sub-group.....if you have 39 students, they don't consider it a sub group so no matter if they met proficiency or not, that sub group, English as a Second Language, disadvantaged, IEP students.....it doesn't count. Mrs. Brown asked, are you saying Dallas and Crestwood have under 40? Mr. Bernardi responded he didn't know. He didn't look at Dallas and he stated that telling you it is a consideration when you have those 3 grade levels together. Mrs. Brown asked with respect to the annual report that you received..is that something different then that is what is on the website? Mr. Bernardi responded that the annual report just appeared one day... he happened to be on the PDE website one day and it appeared. He stated he didn't think that has been going on for too long. How is your school district doing? That was something new – the State gets information....like PIMS which means information system...they get information and then they broadcast it. They don't tell Superintendents it is there. Mr. Bernardi stated he didn't know if he even got a hard copy of that. Mrs. Brown stated this was her concern. If the State is just getting this information, they are not just getting it.....it is not like random strangers are giving them that information.....they are getting the information from here. Mr. Bernardi responded that it is input from test scores, it is input from PIMS data, it is input from professionals that put it in. Mrs. Brown stated and it is input from this District. The Dept. Of Education is not making up numbers...they are getting information from this District. Mr. Bernardi responded that PSSA – they get it from that. Mrs. Brown asked, so the school, as I said before, whose job is it to make sure the input is correct? Mr. Bernardi responded that it is our responsibility. Mrs. Brown asked, so if it is wrong on the website why is it being pointed out at public meetings...why has it not been corrected by someone in the school district? Mr. Bernardi responded, because what happened was that it was an oversight...before the state goes public with it, they give the District the opportunity to look at it. Mr. Bernardi asked Mr. Falzone, if he wanted to answer that question. He said NO. We look at it and may have the opportunity to make corrections – that was a mistake a clerical error.

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Mrs. Brown asked, if it was a mistake on the part of the school though. Correct? Dr. Casarella responded we have to admit that. Mrs. Brown stated that is all I am asking....that you admit it. Don't say the website is wrong...admit it is an error on part of the school. Mr. Bernardi asked did we say the website was wrong? Did I say that? If I said that, I apologize..I never said the website was wrong. We made a mistake...it was a clerical error. Dr. Campenni stated, I guess what you are saying is why didn't we address it...why did the public have to bring it to our attention. Mrs. Brown stated, yes, this is something the school should be concerned about. Mr. Bernardi asked, didn't I just explain that to you? Dr. Casarella responded well....Dr. Campenni responded, If she didn't bring it up. Mrs. Brown commented you still wouldn't be talking about it today. Dr. Campenni asked, how long did you have that report? Did you get the report in January....when..in November? If we didn't hear it from the public, would we have picked that up? The point is that we must pay more attention to these things. We can agree on that. Mrs. Brown asked, another thing...does everyone on this board understand that Federal Funding hinges on these AYP reports? Does everyone understand that if we are not making progress, we are losing funding? Does everyone understand that these are huge errors in a District that is already strapped? Dr. Casarella responded, Yes, we understand. Now we are aware of it and I am sure that the administration is going to develop something – some sort of check and balance to make sure these errors don't occur in the future.

Mr. Quaqlia stated, AYP is something that we look at with a find tooth comb....we do it because it is right to do – to address our curriculum. As a state mandate, we have to. Once you don't make AYP, our teachers sit on a committee to address our strengths and weaknesses and develop a curriculum for that. AYP is something that every district struggles with since 2001. Highly Qualified teachers....and AYP ...are 2 different issues. That was a mistake...There is no mistake in the progress of students.

Mrs. Brown stated, the other thing I want to point out is that there is Title 1 and Title 2 funding for teachers salaries and some of that hinges on whether or not they are Highly Qualified. Dr. Casarella responded they are. Mrs. Brown asked so, if that is an error, that is a huge error when you are sitting here as a board discussing possibly shutting down a school. We may have lost lots of funding because of that. We have no idea how much funding we lost. Mr. Bernardi responded that we lost no funding. Dr. Casarella responded that there was no funding attached to it at this point. Mr. Bernardi responded, you lose Federal funding if you don't make AYP as a district. You get an opportunity to do a Corrective Action Plan. Before you lose funding, the State will come in – I mean a clerical error, the State doesn't make a District lose funding. We did not lose any funding. Mrs. Brown stated with respect to the presentation presented to the public from the other day, is it the position of the Board at this point that the information was accurate? Dr. Casarella responded that we are right now going to go over the minutes. Mrs. Brown stated, I am talking about the information that Mr. Bernardi put up. His presentation of the 5 Options. Is it the Board's position that the information is accurate?

Dr. Casarella responded we haven't even discussed it yet as a Board. The Sunshine permits only certain things. I talked to 1 or 2 people.

Attorney Ferentino stated that discussion continued because of the error, everyone is questioning the authenticity of the numbers, etc. Everything will have to be considered over the next 90 days. This is a process that you don't take everything the administration presents as accurate. Nobody can say a number on that presentation can't be off. Those things will be reviewed extensively, etc. Mrs. Brown stated, why I don't think it is premature...part of the purpose of that meeting was to inform the public. And part of informing the public was to accurately inform them so if you are not sure that those numbers are right and you are not sure you accurately informed the public...what was the purpose of the meeting?

Attorney Ferentino stated that no one is saying the numbers were inaccurate. Nothing is written in stone...to the best of everybody's ability, the numbers were accurate. Mrs. Brown asked, does anyone actually know? Was there one estimate done to produce those numbers? Were there any estimates done to produce those numbers? When you put it up and you said the cost of SJD...the roof is going to cost this. Dr. Casarella responded that we have to go back over everything...we have to look. Mrs. Brown asked if there was one estimate taken? Dr. Casarella asked where did the numbers come from. Dr. Casarella stated the estimates on the replacement of the roof and whatever...we did not make those estimates. Did we? No, we have to go back over everything. We have to review every piece of work. Mrs. Brown asked if there should be another public hearing. Mr. Bernardi asked regarding the operational costs Mrs. Brown was talking about. Mrs. Brown replied, yes. Mr. Bernardi stated for SJD...we got them from Accounts Payable. We got that right from Accounts Payable. Mrs. Brown asked, so they are coming right from our heating bills...so with the Right to Know Request they will match? Mr. Bernardi responded, to the best of my knowledge, the heating bill was \$26,000.00. Right from Accounts Payable. Mrs. Brown asked, the estimates you project on future costs? Just made up? Mr. Bernardi responded that they were estimates given to us.

Mr. Yorina explained if you get a price.....o.k. Mr. Bernardi...go ahead.

Mr. Bernardi responded, you did a Right to Know....the Facilities Mgr. gave estimates to the best of his knowledge. You have the Right To Know.....you saw that document.

Mr. Yorina stated, If something like the roof...if somebody says a budgetary cost for a rubber roof is \$10.00, somebody can go out and get a quote for \$6.50, which is exactly what you guys did. I spoke with 3 architects and engineers and it is a little on the high side...let me explain....why it is on the high side....the last thing you want to do as a School Board is prepare a budget and then come back and ask for a change order – that is like the “kiss of death” ..because the board didn't account for that money. Say Mr. Scarantino gave me a price of \$7.00 per sq. foot and we go out and bid that job to fix the roof – he comes back and says we have to replace extra insulation...that drives the cost of that up. He comes back with a change order and says it went up to \$9.50 per sq. foot or \$10.00 per sq. foot. The Board is going to jump down his throat and say why you didn't give us the worst case scenario. So when you are building budget numbers – the worst case scenario numbers. I did it when I worked here – they do it here now and they do it in Hazleton – always worst case scenario.

Mrs. Brown asked, when we are considering shutting a school down, don't you think they should be a little close to accurate?

Mr. Yorina responded, I didn't even consider the capitol project costs. I considered the operational costs of the building and in fact, I sent a report to all 9 Board Members that it really isn't \$91,000.00 because there are operational costs incurred with operating the school even if it is empty. That number I came up with. I was specific in my report to all 9 Board Members that that was my number. I didn't call anyone and ask them what to do. O.K. Basically, it ended up being \$35,000.00 – Now it turns into an ethical dilemma...for that price, we have to decide if it is worth shutting it down and hauling little kids around on busses if it is not totally necessary. OR do we leave it open...that is the dilemma we have to face right now. Believe me, this is keeping me up at night. I want to say 2 things...I am not trying to throw you under the bus. I reached out to you to come up to your house to talk to you, against the advice of the Solicitor, and I was going to do it anyway. I am still waiting for Mr. Bonin and his Power Point. I haven't seen it yet – I haven't seen your numbers. I haven't yet. I want to see how you came up with your numbers too. Maybe we can reach something in the middle.

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Mrs. Brown responded, I can't answer for Mr. Bonin but the only thing I can respond to is that some of that obviously – we have actual numbers. It is our understanding that a lot of your numbers were estimates...a lot of it was not. As your solicitor is well aware – you cannot hold a Public Hearing where you present “pretend” facts and say we are closing a school based on this. So you are held to your facts and they were not accurate facts. As far as meeting with me personally...calling me out...I didn't want to do that to you – I didn't think it was fair to do it to you as a Board Member where you would say things or do things based on a friendship since that would be unfair and I didn't think it was fair for us, as a group, to meet. Why are we having one meeting with one board member? We'll meet with some of you...we'll meet with you. As far as a personal friendship, I didn't want to put you in that position.

Mrs. Brown stated the right to know request that could be handled in 5 days are reviewed by the solicitor and are extended for 30 days. It's ridiculous.

Attorney Farrentino responded the right to know request are extensive and require legal review. Attorney Ferrentino stated he communicated with everyone who called his office. Sometimes they need review by himself and Mr. Melone. We try to get them out as quickly as we can.

Mrs. Brown stated she doesn't think the board has the answers.

Dr. Casarella responded the board is going to investigate everything.

Mrs. Brown asked if JFK was ever on the table.

Mr. Stofco applauded the school board members whom are reps on the West Side Career and Technology Center Board. Mr. Pegg stated that his son belongs to the school math club and since the classes are no longer being offered as a result of the contractual issues with the teachers, Mr. Pegg is donating his reimbursement check back to the school district. Mr. Pegg stated that he would liketo have this letter's contents disseminated to all Union Representatives at the next contract meeting so everyone can recognize that these prolonged negotiations are doing more harm than good, especially to the students whom are advised, instructed and mentored by the Wyoming Area teaching staff.

Motion by Mr. Bolin, Seconded by Mr. Marianacci, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Dr. Frank Casarella, President

Mrs. Elizabeth Gober-Mangan, Secretary