

10340
Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643
Tuesday, February 28, 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. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for Mike Vacula, former school board member, and three students from Chardon High School in Ohio who passed away. Dr. Frank Casarella, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

- Dr. Frank Casarella, 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.**

Absent: **Dr. Estelle Campenni, Vice President**

Also present were: Raymond J. Bernardi, Superintendent, Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Tom Melone, Business Consultant, 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, Jason Jones, Network Engineer, Emily Shemanski, Student Representative.

At this time Tom Rainey reported on the Auditor Report. Brian Koscelansky of Stevens and Lee and Mary Ellen Kohler of PNC Bank reported on the General Obligation Bonds. Mr. Bernardi, Superintendent, gave a power point presentation regarding Elementary School Realignment. Mr. Bernardi informed the audience there will be a public meeting on March 19th. The regular meeting started at 7:50 p.m.

Communications Report

Mrs. Gober-Mangan read the communications report.

1. Correspondence letter dated January 25, 2012 to Borough of West Pittston from Charles Shaffer of Pugliese, Finnegan, Shaffer & Ferentino, LLC, stating The West Pittston Little League is an organization under the Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from taxes.
2. Correspondence letter dated January 30, 2012, to the Superintendent from Joseph F. Calabro, PhD., acknowledging that Aqua Tech Laboratory will provide a certified operator for the water treatment plant at Sarah J. Dymond School at a fixed fee of \$150.00 per month.
3. Corinne Farrell, Owner of Yoga with Corinne, requesting permission to propose a fundraiser for the district.
4. Saundra Colwell requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria to hold a birthday party for the Girl Scout Organization.

5. Jennifer Pennington of the Wyoming Area Drama Parents, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria and kitchen for their annual pasta dinner fundraiser.
6. Ashley Aritz requesting permission to attend Junior Achievement, along with Nick Altavilla, Ryan Hulme, Sheryl Scrobola, Mary Clair Borzell and 8th grade students.
7. Shea Riley, Music Teacher, requesting permission to attend the PMEA Region IV Band Festival with two students at Montrose High School.
8. Shea Riley, Music Teacher, requesting permission to attend the PMEA District Jazz Festival, along with six students at Hazleton High School.
9. Charles M. Barber, President and CEO of The Luzerne Foundation, informing Donald Butz, Music Teacher, that the Board of Directors approved a grant request of \$500.00 from The 1st Lt. Jeffrey F. DePrimo Memorial Fund of The Luzerne Foundation to assist Wyoming Area School District with the purchase of a Roland digital piano for classroom and chorus use.
10. Tom Blaskiewicz of the Federal Emergency Management Agency requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for a public meeting.
11. Betty Green, Foodservice Worker, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
12. Gregory Koons, Director of Special Education, Luzerne Intermediate Unit, requesting permission to use five classrooms at JFK Elementary for the Extended School Year Program.
13. Hal Bloss, Executive Director of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit, notification to elect a board member to serve on the Luzerne Intermediate Board effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.
14. West Pittston Rams requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for a Kick Off Dance.
15. Joanna C. Springer of the American Red Cross thanking Mr. Frank Parra, Athletic Director, for the donation of \$450.00 from the Athletic Department for families affected by the flood.
16. Benjamin T. Hanft, Chief, Division of Subsidy Data & Administration, Bureau of Budget & Fiscal Management, Department of Education, notifying the Superintendent, that one or more of the proposed tax rate increases is greater than Wyoming Area School District's 2012-2013 index of 2.3%. The proposed real estate tax rates for both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties exceed the index.

Summary of Applications Received

Speech and Language – 1

Volunteer Softball Coach – 1

Substitute Cafeteria Worker- 1

Summer clerical aide/cleaning personnel - 1

Math – 1

English – 1

Exeter, PA.

February 28, 2012

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Casarella motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 24, 2012. All board members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Student Representative's Report

Emily Shemanski read her report.

The Drama Club is concluding preparations for their play, Legally Blonde. Spring sports are set to begin this month, including track & field, boys' volleyball, girls' softball and girls' soccer. The senior's Crispy Cream Donut sale was successful, where many donuts mysteriously vanished the day the fundraiser was delivered. The Junior and Senior classes also collected the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser, which was more profitable than the fall one. The Key Club bowled for Ronald McDonald house charities this past Sunday, in order to raise money for their Youth Serving Youth project.

At this time, Dr. Casarella informed the audience the board had a personnel meeting to talk about personnel issues and contractual issues.

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	8,414,186.88
First National Community Bank	Payroll Account	4,520.73
First National Community Bank	Cafeteria Account	192,011.49
First National Community Bank	Student Activities Account	118,484.45
First National Community Bank	Athletic Fund Account	17,828.06
Landmark Bank	Athletic Fund Account	1,937.49
PNC Bank	Energy Performance Proceeds Fund	30,703.71
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Construction Account	11,200.38
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Investment Account	526,354.95
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 (Dec.)</u>	
Earned Income Tax	125,530.81
Local State Tax	3,592.13
Per Capita Tax	866.00
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>264.00</u>
Total:	130,252.94

<u>Delinquent Real Estate Tax</u>	
Wyoming County	2,302.52

<u>In Lieu of Taxes</u>	
Luzerne County Housing Authority	7,242.96

<u>Received Grant</u>	
The Luzerne Foundation – Digital Piano	500.00

<u>Energy Refund</u>	
Comverge Enerwise Global Technologies	2,583.30

<u>State & Federal Subsidy Taxes</u>	
Social Security	48,329.00
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	30,286.27
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	7,220.27
School District Special Education	<u>204,248.00</u>
Total:	290,083.54

<u>Commonwealth of Pennsylvania</u>	
Reimbursement of Medicaid Administration Claims	721.46

2. Approve the February 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 February payment of \$36,505.00 to the West Side Career and Technology Center for the 2011-2012 school year.
4. Approve the step placement for Robert Yatsko, Secondary Guidance Counselor, at Master’s Step 13, \$53,832.00.
5. Approve the ratification of 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.
6. Approve the following bond payments due March 1, 2012 to M&T Investment Group for the following:

General Obligation Note Series 2006A 467,088.75

General Obligation Note Series 2006B 47,916.00
 General Obligation Note Series 2006C 34,052.50

7. Approve the Mediation Conference Settlement Order involving WARP Processing Co., Inc. and the district filed with The Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County on November 1, 2011. The following amounts will be refunded by the District:

Wyoming Area School District	16	2005	26,069.92
Wyoming Area School District	16	2006	29,363.00
Wyoming Area School District	16	2007	34,659.97
Wyoming Area School District	16	2008	40,406.50
Wyoming Area School District	16	2009	15,609.40
Wyoming Area School District	16	2010	<u>16,236.33</u>
Total:			162,345.12

8. Approve the following refunds of paid property taxes for the year 2011 as requested by Wayman Smith, Tax Collector for Exeter Township, Luzerne County:

PIN# 17-A10-00A-14N-000	130.80
PIN# 17-B10-00A-12A-000	74.35
PIN# 17-B10-00a-11G-000	27.03
PIN# 17-C1151-002-001-000	75.95
PIN# 17-C10-00A-21C-000	243.55

9. Approve the following refund of paid property taxes for the year 2010 as requested by Wayman Smith, Tax Collector for Exeter Township, Luzerne County:

PIN# 17-A10-00A-14N-000	51.56
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10. Approve the Landmark Community Bank VISA Credit Card for Local Governments.

11. Approve the Resolution designed to allow the district to become a Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) investor and participate in the PLGIT Act 32 Cash Management Program.

12. Approve the payment in the amount of \$17,472.68 to Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 for Instructional Technology for the district's share of the cost of the Wide Area Network (WAN) for the 2010/2011 year.

13. Approve the Single Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 as prepared by the independent auditing firm of Bonita and Rainey, CPA.

14. Approve the final Tax Collector Report of the tax collectors at Wyoming Area School District for the year ended December 31, 2010 as prepared by the independent auditing firm of Bonita and Rainey, CPA.

15. Approve the renewal of Dehey McAndrew for professional services related to the administration common remitted and compliance aspects of the district's 403(b) Salary Reduction Agreement Plan. These services will help ensure compliance with the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Department of Labor regulation and are for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. The fee for these services are as follows:

Professional Fixed Annual Fee	\$4,175.00
Monthly fee of \$1.59 per contributor per payroll period	

16. Approve the renewal of Dehey McAndrew for professional services related to the administration of IRC 403(b) Post Severance Plan. These services will help ensure compliance with the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Department of Labor regulation and are for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

Professional Fixed Annual Fee \$2,475.00
 Variable fee: \$9.75 per associated retiree per year

17. Approve the list of teacher tuition reimbursements submitted as of January 31, 2012.

EMPLOYEE NAME		TO BE REIMBURSED
ANTHONY	KARA	\$300.00
ARITZ	ALYSSA	\$600.00
ARITZ	ASHLEY	\$600.00
BRZOZOWSKI	KELLY	\$2,100.00
COLETTI	COURTNEY	\$600.00
DAY	LISA	\$600.00
DESSOYE	ELIZABETH	\$300.00
DILEO	DIANE	\$600.00
DRAGWA	KELLY	\$900.00
FANTI	MICHAEL	\$600.00
GALELLA	CHRISTINA	\$900.00
GILLESPIE	ERICA	\$600.00
JUDGE	JENNIFER	\$300.00
LATONA	SARAH	\$600.00
PELLEGRINI	JOANN	\$600.00
POWERS-ORTH	JILL	\$300.00
REINO	MARYANN	\$900.00
SCHULTZ	SUSAN	\$600.00
SPEECE	JASON	\$600.00
STRAZDUS	BRIAN	\$600.00
TOKASH	LINDSAY	\$300.00
YEAGER	STACEY	\$300.00
		\$13,800.00

18. Approve the motion authorizing the adoption by the Board of School Directors of Wyoming Area School District, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania, of a Resolution authorizing certain actions to be taken and approving execution of documentation in connection with the issuance of a series of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012 (the "Bonds") and the incurrence of the debt associated therewith for the purposes of funding a project consisting of the following: (1) currently refunding the School District's outstanding General Obligation Note, Series of 2005; and (2) paying the costs and expenses of issuance of the Bonds, all as more fully described in the complete text of the Resolution.

19. Approve to ratify the authorization for the solicitation of proposals for Banking and Financial Services for Wyoming Area School District.

20. Approve the following refunds of paid property taxes for the year 2011 as requested by George Miller, Tax Collector for West Pittston Borough:

PIN# 65-E11NE-006-012-000 192.28

10346

PIN# 65-E11NE-006-012-000 64.09
PIN# 65-E11NW3-002-013-000 599.06

21. Approve the General Ledger Sheet:

Bill Listing:	2-23-12	702,732.36	
Prepays:	1-31-12	<u>132,226.90</u>	834,959.26
Cafeteria Account:		79,839.03	
Athletic Account:		<u>8,116.10</u>	<u>87,955.13</u>

Total: 922,914.39

22. Motion to send notice of Wyoming Area School District's intention of not renewing the employment agreement for Mrs. Debbie Andiaro, Officer Chris Alberigi, Mr. David Amico and Mr. Jason Jones.

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

On the Question: Mr. Bolin questioned item #19, discussed months ago to add foodservice also. Dr. Casarella responded it was discussed. Mr. Bolin asked if we could put the foodservice on also. Mr. Casarella responded we could request a RFP for that. Mr. Bernardi stated we are preparing a RFP for foodservice, we can put it out and the board can ratify it at the next meeting. Mr. Bolin asked if a date could be included with item #22, so it can be finalized in March. Dr. Casarella responded it will be discussed and brought up at the next board meeting. Dr. Casarella stated he couldn't give an exact date and didn't know if all the parties would be available and if they can come to an agreement. Mr. Bolin stated he would like to get it done in the March meeting. Dr. Casarella responded he would like to get it done in the March meeting and informed Mr. Bolin he could amend it to include the date. Dr. Casarella stated it would be a very uncomfortable position to put a date on this. Dr. Casarella stated he would like to get it done as soon as possible. Mr. Bolin stated he would like to change his motion to get this done quickly as possible. Dr. Casarella stated they were on record to get it done as quickly as possible. Gerald Stofco stated he thought there was no cost on the bond issue. Dr. Casarella stated there were cost involved as stated in PNC's presentation.

Carl Yorina stated in regards to item #22, two of the people on the list have a 120 day notice and two don't. They have to be notified tonight. It does not mean they don't have a job tomorrow, it means it's going to be negotiated. Mr. George Race asked if these people are not notified. Dr. Casarella responded they would automatically be renewed.

Roll Call: Mr. Bolin voted yes, Mrs. Farrell, yes, Mr. Dominick, yes, Mrs. Degnan, yes, Mr. Yorina voted no on items #13 and 14 and no on 22 (Debbie Andiaro and Jason Jones) and voted yes on the remaining report. Mr. Marianacci, yes, Mrs. Gober-Mangan, yes, Dr. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bernardi read the Superintendent's Report.

1. **Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre** : Congratulations to Megan Bonomo, Bartholomew Chupka, John Hizny and Emily Kneeream, who were nominated by the Guidance Department and were selected to Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre Class of 2012.

Goals of the program include enhancing individual's leadership skills and increased participation in Community Service Projects.

2. **West Side Trail**, Exeter, was awarded a PENNDOT and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant to design and construct a 1.42 mile trail that will provide safe access for pedestrians to the Tenth Street Elementary School. The purpose of these grants is to encourage our youth and parents to live active healthy lifestyle by providing safe routes to schools and a walking trail. Improvements will be replacing cracked and crumbling sidewalks and curbs, ensuring all crossings are handicap accessible. This will be done through the grant at no cost to the residents or businesses in the community. The improvements will be on Erie Street and in front of the High School and at the Tenth Street Elementary School. Construction will be expected to begin in 2012.
3. **School Safety Committee**: I am happy to announce that we hosted a County-Wide School Safety Committee on February 23, 2012. The purpose of this County-Wide Committee is to identify Best Practices in School Safety to be shared by all districts in the county. In addition, members of the committee will be trained to do school safety audits to enhance security. I would like to thank Officer Alberigi and Mr. Quaglia for their participation as members of this committee.
4. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**: This past week, the State Board of Education issued proposed changes to the Chapter 4 Regs. as they relate to High School Graduation Requirements. The most significant change is the implementation of Keystone Exams effective with the class of 2017. Students must pass the Keystones in English Language Arts, Algebra 1 and Biology. Also, this proposal eliminates the requirement for students to complete a culminating project in order to graduate. Under this proposal, the Secretary of Education may waive this requirement on a case by case basis for 12th grade students who are not successful.

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 Ashley Aritz, Social Studies Teacher, to attend Junior Leadership, along with teachers, Ryan Hulme, Nick Altivilla, Sheryl Scrobola, Mary Claire Borzell, Teacher Aide, and 8th grade students Monday, April 2nd and Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Cost to the district \$1,075.00 for registration and \$500.00 total for two buses.

Motion by Mrs. Gober-Mangan, second by Mr. Bolin, to accept the education 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. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Activities Report

Mrs. Degnan read the activities report.

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

Boys Varsity Baseball

Bob Duliba	Assistant Varsity	2,163.00
Jim Manganiello	Junior High	1,923.00
Nick Perugini	7 th /8 th Grade	1,923.00

Volunteers

Dean Carey
Randy Colarusso
Joe Bellino
Joe Erzar
Gerard Charney
Timothy Dougherty
Gary Lopatka

Girls Softball

Barry Pryzbyla	Assistant Varsity	2,163.00
Sarah Zielinski	Junior High	1,923.00
Joe Pramick	Junior High Assistant	1,923.00
Ron Wolfgang	Volunteer	

Track & Field

Mike Fanti	Assistant Varsity	2,163.00
Ken Stackhouse	Assistant Varsity	2,163.00
Deedra Porforio	Assistant Varsity	2,163.00
Randy Spencer	Junior High Assistant	1,923.00
Joe DeMark	Junior High Assistant	1,923.00
Lauren Shovlin	Junior High Assistant	1,923.00

Boys Varsity Volleyball

Justin Eimers	Assistant Varsity	1,210.00
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2. Approve the 2012 spring sports schedule submitted by Frank Parra, Athletic Director.
3. Approve the request of Shea Riley, Music Teacher, to attend the PMEA District Jazz Festival, along with six students, at Hazleton Area High School on Friday, March 16th and Saturday, March 17, 2012. Cost to district is \$280.00 for registration and mileage reimbursement.
4. Approve the request of Shea Riley, Music Teacher, to attend the PMEA Region VI Band Festival, along with two students, at Montrose High School on Thursday, February 23rd to Saturday, February 25, 2012. Cost to district is \$531.22 for registration and hotel and mileage reimbursement.

Motion by Mrs. Gober-Mangan, second by Mr. Dominick, to accept the activities report.

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

1. Approve the request of Jennifer Pennington, Wyoming Area Drama Parents, to use the Secondary Center cafeteria and kitchen for a pasta dinner on Sunday, March 4, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and cafeteria manager.
2. Approve the request of Sandra Colwell, to use the Secondary Center cafeteria to hold a birthday party for the Girl Scout Organization on Friday, March 9, 2012, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with set-up starting at 4:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and cafeteria manager.
3. Approve the request of Tom Blaskiewicz of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for a public meeting on Monday, March 5, 2012, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., (includes set up), pending approval by the building principal and cafeteria manager.
4. Accept, with regret, Betty Green's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
5. Approve the request of Gregory Koons, Director of Special Education, Luzerne Intermediate Unit, to use five classrooms at the JFK Elementary School for the Extended School Year Program. The program will run from July 10th through August 16, 2012, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Teacher in-service /set up/breakdown days will be held on July 9th and August 17, 2012.
6. Approve the request of the West Pittston Rams to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for a Kick Off Dance on Friday, May 11, 2012, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and cafeteria manager.
7. Approve the revised Support Personnel Substitute List.

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. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Policy Report

Mrs. Degnan read the policy report.

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

Mrs. Degnan read the changes from the work session. Mr. Bolin asked Mrs. Degnan if she was eliminating both policies. Mrs. Degnan responded yes. Dr. Casarella stated the policies are not being eliminated, they are being sent back to committee for the final process. Mr. Bolin asked when the changes were made. Dr. Casarella responded at the work session. Mr. Bolin asked what was being voted upon. Dr. Casarella responded to have the policies sent back to committee and have another first reading, second reading and a vote for adoption. Mrs. Degnan stated she didn't want to approve it because they weren't finished.

Exeter, PA.
February 28, 2012

Motion by Mrs. Degnan, second by Mrs. Farrell, to accept the policy report.

On the Question: George Race of Exeter commented he was shocked to see a school board taking a stand against nepotism. If this was put in place years ago, he said, it would have saved the district a lot of money. This drew applause from the audience. Mr. Yorina stated the board is not perfect but they do want the public's input on the policies. They are going to change it as best they can. Joe Valenti of West Pittston, asked if there will be changes with the administration also. Mrs. Degnan responded after this is done, they will do all classes of employees. They are not just changing the professional policies. Dr. Casarella stated they have to make sure the hiring procedures are correct. This will be an addendum to the professional policy. Mrs. Gober-Mangan asked Mr. Casarella if what they were voting on was to send the policies back to committee. Dr. Casarella responded yes.

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. Casarella, yes. Motion passed.

Open Discussion: George Race of Exeter asked about employment insurance cost. Mr. Melone responded unemployment cost are paid on a pay as you go basis. Wyoming Area School District utilizes ITS to manage the district's claims. The two hundred and one thousand dollar estimate would represent exposure for fifty two weeks of unemployment benefits based on the salary reductions.

George Race also provided comments on the Fact Finding Report and requested all board members review the report. He also commented that in his opinion it was very unreasonable.

Bob Borzell of Wyoming, questioned the calculations for unemployment cost for both schools. Mr. Melone responded it is based on the number of furloughs and is a very conservative estimate. He also stated the unemployment cost reduced the net savings relative to the furlough. Mr. Melone responded each district was done individually.

Mr. Borzell asked if the teachers get paid if they also coach. If there are any stipulations. Mr. Bernardi responded teachers that are coaches get paid as per contract; they are doing this after school hours. Just like now, they are getting paid during the negotiations.

John Bonin of Harding, asked a question referring to duration of Pace Transportation contract and verifying the terms of the contract. Mr. Melone responded, currently operating under the old contract with the new contract commencing for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Bonin also made an inquiry regarding what rates were utilized for the projected transportation costs in the school closing summaries. Mr. Bonin also inquired as to the \$50,000 transportation savings referred to at the March 29, 2011 school board meeting. Mr. Bonin made an inquiry regarding the \$400,000 transportation cost increase in the 2012-2013 budget, specifically asking to clarify the \$400,000 increase. Mr. Melone responded that this issue was discussed during budget meetings held in January. Mr. Melone explained that in the past both transportation expenditures and transportation subsidy were understated. However, Mr. Melone noted that the District received approximately 70% reimbursement on its costs and that has been somewhat consistent. Mr. Melone stated that it is an attempt to more accurately reflect proper transportation costs and subsidy for the 2012-2013 year. Adjustments to transportation revenue and expense were required. Mr. Bonin asked for additional clarification on the math regarding SJD savings of \$341,000 and JFK savings of \$350,000. Mr. Bonin asked for an explanation regarding reduction of sewer system maintenance at SJD of approximately 64%. Mr. Yorina responded that the District is now maintaining the system in house and that accounts for the majority of the reduction.

Mr. Bonin referenced payments of approximately \$55,000 and \$428,000 to contractors relative to Montgomery Avenue project. He also asked for clarification of a \$600,000 FEMA project discussed during the budget meetings. Mr. Melone clarified that the cost relative to the flood were a potential to the District if FEMA reimbursement was not forthcoming. Mr. Melone also confirmed no insurance proceeds would be utilized for this project; however, FEMA proceeds if approved are intended to cover the costs. Mr. Sam Scarentino from Quad 3 provided a summary of the \$600,000 estimated cost of the project and FEMA participation.

Mr. Bonin questioned which elementary school operates in the red or the black? Mr. Melone responded it is very difficult to do since the accounting system is not designed to compare building to building. Also, difficult to do due to allocation of staffing and occupancy rates within the buildings. Dr. Casarella also stated that the administration is attempting to evaluate specific costs associated with each building in addition to shared costs, but that again it is very difficult to do. Dr. Casarella stated each building has its own challenges. He also discussed vacant rooms within an elementary school which would further make this analysis difficult. Dr. Casarella discussed classroom size relative to the center model and also discussed potential reductions in staff. He stated his concern about the School District as a whole and tried not to view the issue on a building by building basis. Lastly, he discussed what appears to be schools closing buildings all around the area in addition to Wyoming Area School District attempting to battle a \$1.9 million deficit.

Mr. Bonin asked about the number of students moved from SJD over the past years and Dr. Casarella engaged in general discussions over the change in school structure over the past years. Dr. Casarella discussed changes within the District since 1972 keeping in mind again these are District wide issues and his intent is to obtain the best education for money spent. Mr. Bonin asked each Board Member to provide one cost saving decision they have provided over the past twelve months. Mr. Yorina responded personnel costs specifically associated with sewage treatment. Dr. Casarella responded that the public needs to be aware various boards were confronted with this issue over a twelve month period. He currently stated teaching with the current teacher contract is a priority. Dr. Casarella continued and talked about prior school boards approving a \$20 million bond issue and it was recommended 18 mills be assessed for the debt service and appropriate millage was not enforced. He also talked about the next board utilizing some of those capital project monies for general fund revenues rather than the intended capital improvements. Lastly, he discussed some changes to after school programs and summer rec noting he voted against the last budget because he felt there were not enough reductions to cost. Dr. Casarella noted the finance committee met on February 17th and will be rolling out additional cost cutting measures. Mrs. Farrell, Board Member, stated she is very frustrated with the situation, although only being in office for ninety days, no decision should be made without a feasibility study. Deanna Farrell stated she knew the roads well, being she picked up students in Harding when the roads were bad and stated the students shouldn't be on the roads anymore than they have to. We have to think about the kids first. Mr. Bonin asked about reverse busing split. A general discussion followed regarding boundary changes within the District.

Mr. Bonin stated he would like a feasibility study and an independent audit incurred to evaluate transporting children within the proposed changes. Dr. Casarella responded he made this inquiry and thought the cost to do so would approximate \$30,000. He believed the administration and much of this could be done internally, but the board will certainly decide on a feasibility study. Mr. Yorina responded it is a very heart breaking situation and very difficult decisions and he talked about the work ethic of people both in and around SJD. Mr. Yorina warned about the fiscal challenges of the District and his frustration and with the state not providing proper funding specifically relative to natural gas.

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Mr. Bonin then questioned why would you then close SJD (in response to Mr. Yorina's comments.) Mr. Melone responded that the fiscal issues surrounding the District such as the District losing approximately \$1 million in state and federal revenues from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012. He also stated a large amount of fixed costs, eg. Salary benefits & debt costs remain with the District. Mr. Bonin asked if the school board applied for exceptions above the index and wanted to know if they were rejected. Mr. Melone responded they were applied for but exceptions were not rejected and the District is awaiting a state response. Mr. Melone talked about challenges since the number of exceptions have been reduced from approximately ten to now three. Mr. Melone also stated that the index plus the exceptions only would allow the District to increase property taxes to 3.9%. Mr. Bonin asked what impact ERI has on the District. Mr. Melone responded savings relative to an ERI approximate \$30,000 to \$40,000 and Mr. Melone also stated they are factored in the current budget. Dr. Casarella also clarified to Mr. Bonin's question, the District also expects to save \$105,000 from a bond refinance and that can be added to the current board's activities in attempting to save monies. Lastly, Mr. Bonin stated that Jersey Shore originally were looking to close a school location and has since reconsidered and he is hoping Wyoming Area would do the same.

Carol DeSalvo of Wyoming stated at a previous meeting, Mr. Yorina encouraged the audience to get in touch with the government and let them know what we need. Mrs. DeSalvo read an article regarding Natural Gas Severance Tax which benefited Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Alaska, Wyoming and West Virginia and brought 177 million in the first year and 5.8 million in four years. It would benefit Pennsylvania in areas such as health care and education. At this time, Dr. Casarella interrupted Mrs. DeSalvo and stated people were walking out. He wanted to give everyone time to ask their questions. Dr. Casarella informed Mrs. DeSalvo she had three minutes to talk. Mrs. DeSalvo directed her attention to Mr. Bernardi and stated she was told by Mr. Bernardi she would be able to talk about the petition. Mrs. DeSalvo stated she had a petition for the board and taxpayers to sign. Mrs. DeSalvo commented that Dr. Casarella didn't care what she had to say. At this time, Dr. Casarella announced the meeting was adjourned. This brought angry responses from the audience. Mrs. DeSalvo yelled to Mr. Bernardi that he lied. She was told she could speak on this. Mr. Dominick responded you have to have a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Marianacci also stated there was no motion to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Casarella is one person, we are still here. Mrs. DeSalvo informed the audience she had a petition to request funding for public education if anyone wanted to sign it.

At this time, Mr. Bernardi informed everyone that Mrs. DeSalvo asked him if she could explain to the public that the petition was to solicit legislatures for money for the school districts by passing the Natural Gas Severance Tax. It basically says we are underfunded and it is going to have an impact on our community, taxpayers and students. Mr. Bernardi stated he had the petitions if anyone wanted to sign it. Dr. Casarella came back to the table and stated he would sign the petition, he didn't have a problem with it. Mrs. DeSalvo responded she didn't want him to sign it. Dr. Casarella stated that she had a thirty page document and wanted to give other people a chance to speak. All she had to say was she had a petition. Mrs. DeSalvo responded that he adjourned the meeting. Dr. Casarella stated he was still trying to conduct the meeting. It was still in order. Mrs. DeSalvo asked by who because he (Dr. Casarella) stated it was over. Dr. Casarella responded he did say it was over. Mrs. DeSalvo stated Mr. Marianacci stated it wasn't over. Dr. Casarella responded Ok. Mrs. DeSalvo continued to speak and stated if Dr. Casarella didn't want to hear it he could leave. Mrs. DeSalvo addressed the audience and said as far as saving money, all they (board members) pick is retired school teachers. They hired three consultants (whom are retired teachers.) Dr. Casarella responded by saying Mrs. DeSalvo was getting out of line. Dr. Casarella stated her comment had nothing to do with the minutes.

Dr. Casarella did respond that it (consultants) were on the list of the 1.1 million and stated the budget was not being addressed tonight. Mrs. DeSalvo commented that Dr. Casarella doesn't tell the truth. Dr. Casarella responded she could bring the priest and the pope and he would swear to it. Mrs. DeSalvo then commented to Dr. Casarella not to tell her to leave the meeting. Dr. Casarella responded he wouldn't but it won't be long. Mrs. DeSalvo asked why because she is moving. Mrs. DeSalvo then told Dr. Casarella that she can come to any meeting she wanted to, Dr. Casarella can't stop her. Mrs. DeSalvo commented to Dr. Casarella, "There is nepotism and you know it." At this time, Dr. Casarella motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Dominick. Jennifer Mikoliczyk, an audience member, asked a question. Dr. Casarella stated he would stay and informed the other board members they could leave if they wanted to. The board members stayed. Mrs. Janet Serino, addressed questions relating to SJD asked by Jessica Mikoliczyk.

At this time, Dr. Casarella banged his gavel and informed the audience it was getting late and a meeting will be held on March 19th, at 6:00 p.m. and everyone can ask questions. All parents with students in the district and taxpayers will be able to voice their opinion. Dr. Casarella stated there is no cut and dry decision yet but if you look at the numbers, you have to agree that the best opportunity for taxpayers is to listen to what administration has in their studies. Dr. Casarella also stated he would sign Mrs. DeSalvo's petition and if she doesn't want it then that is fine. Dr. Casarella stated at the Public Hearing he will sit quietly and let everyone speak.

Dr. Casarella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Degnan.

Dr. Frank Casarella, President

Elizabeth Gober-Mangan, Secretary