

**Wyoming Area School District
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education
20 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**

Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Communications Report

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 23, 2010

Superintendent's Report

Student Representative's Report

Treasurer's Report

New Business

Finance Report

Education Report

Activities Report

Building Report

Policy Report

Police Report

Open Discussion

Adjournment

Wyoming Area School District
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Communications Report

1. Linda McGeehan, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
2. Celestine Calpin, Physical Education Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
3. Anne Wasko, Elementary Music Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
4. Susan Schneider, Speech and Language Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
5. Mary Ann Tencza, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
6. Mariel Bufano, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.
7. Kate Menta, Secondary English Teacher, requesting permission to take a child bearing/child rearing leave.
8. Rosella Fedor, Special Project Advisor, requesting permission to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for the Community Outreach and Scholarship Celebration.
9. Ron Musto, General Manager of the Greater Pittston Senior American Legion Baseball Team requesting permission to use the Atlas Baseball Field.
10. Damien Rutkoski, Secondary Science Teacher, requesting permission to attend the American Brain Bee Competition, along with a student, to Baltimore, MD.
11. Deanna Mennig, Secondary Math Teacher, requesting permission to attend the Wilkes University Math Contest.
12. Correspondence from Todd Thorne of Parents Advocating For Safe Schools, thanking Officer Chris Alberigi for cooperating to the fullest extent with their investigation regarding a bullying incident. A certificate was issued to the Wyoming Area Police Department.
13. Right to Know form from Mary Louise Degnan, for documents stating the process for hiring coaches and assistant coaches.
- (14.) *Deborah Chikowski, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.*

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Communications Report

- (15.) *Notification from Josette Cefalo thanking the Board, Superintendent, Mr. Quaglia and Mr. Parra for allowing her to be the cheerleading advisor for the past four years and stating she will not return as cheerleading advisor for the 2010-2011 school year.***
- (16.) *Andrew Rabel, Guidance Counselor, submitting his letter of intent to retire.***
- (17.) *James Dessoie, Speech and Language Teacher, submitting his letter of resignation.***
- (18.) *Marie Zdanowicz, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.***
- (19.) *Michelle Troutman, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Food Distribution, notifying the Superintendent the Single Audit report for the year ending June 30, 2008 has been approved.***
- (20.) *Judy Stevenson, Elementary Teacher, submitting her letter of intent to retire.***

Summary of Applications Received

Elementary – 5
Teacher Aide –10
Personal Care Aide –3
Learning Support – 13
Business - 5
Summer Recreation Program - 2



**WYOMING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010, 7:00 P.M.
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade students of the month for February:

**Mariah Bronsburg
Ray Hopkins
Morgan McCloskey
Taylor Schechter
Kyle Borton
Amanda Gallagher
Katelyn Norton
Kat Sokirka**

**Conrad Chapple
Amber Kuharchik
Alexa Rash
Lucy Williams
Matt Dimick
Nicholas Liguori
NyKia Pugh
Elyssa Yanik**

2. Fifteen members of the [Wyoming Area Key Club](#) attended the 64th Annual Pennsylvania District Key Club Convention in Hershey the week-end of March 5th. Once again this year, our club received numerous awards. Congratulations to the following members:

Sophomore **Angela Coco** – Distinguished Editor & Honorable Mention in the District's Oratorical Contest

Angela Coco – Distinguished Club Webmaster, PA. District Key Club Convention

Junior **Ronald Klepadlo** – Distinguished Treasurer & first place award for performing the most service hours in the State

Senior **Alexandra Ferrett** – Distinguished Secretary

Junior **Linnae Homza** – Distinguished Vice-President

Senior **Samantha Coco** – Distinguished President

Junior **Alecia Panuski** – new Lt. Governor

Senior **Ray DeArmitt** – Bob Bagans Unsung Hero Award for dedicated service

Senior **Nicole Wiesner** was awarded the prestigious Sandy Nininger Award as the most outstanding Key Clubber in the State

CLUB AWARDS

Diamond Level Distinguished Club – scored 194 out of 200 points earning the Club a ranking of **FIRST** in the PA District of Key Club International

First Place: Single Service Award – Gold Division for the Club's Dr. Seuss Night; this report will now compete at International Convention in July in Memphis, TN

Second Place – Major Emphasis Program for the club's Dr. Seuss Night

Honorable Mention – Scrapbook Contest

Honorable Mention – Club Video Contest

First Place Service Hours of any Club in PA District with 14,168.5 hours of service

First Place Highest Club Average Service Hours with 214.37 hours per member per year

Caitlin Smiles Award – Honorable Mention for performing 5,014 hours of service for this year's Youth Service Project

Congratulations to all members and Christine Rutledge, Advisor.

3. Wyoming Area High School's **Science Olympiad Team** recently participated in regional competition at Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus. The team finished in second place overall out of a field of 33 teams. Team members were awarded a total of five gold medals, four silver medals, and two bronze medals. The middle school team also finished in second place overall out of a field of 21 teams. Team members were awarded a total of three gold medals, four silver medals and one bronze medal. Both teams will advance to the state competition to be held at Juniata College on April 30, 2010.

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM MEMBERS

GOLD MEDAL – Anatomy and Physiology – Samantha Scott, Alyssa Cajka

GOLD MEDAL – Cell Biology – Eric Werbin, Jillian Balberchak

GOLD MEDAL – Egg O Naut – Matt Pizano, David Dorbad

GOLD MEDAL – It's About Time – Cody Poder, Mat Pizano

GOLD MEDAL – Trajectory – Jillian Balberchak, David Dorbad

SILVER MEDAL – Elevated Bridge – Jillian Balberchak, David Dorbad

SILVER MEDAL – *Picture This* – *Samantha Scott, Debbie Gross & Tia Spagnuola*

SILVER MEDAL – *Mission Possible* – *Jillian Balberchak, David Dorbad & Tia Spagnuola*

SILVER MEDAL – *Physics Lab* – *Mathew Pizano, Trevor Alder*

BRONZE MEDAL – *Forensics* – *Samantha Scott, Tia Spagnuola*

BRONZE MEDAL – *Fossils* - *Rachel Gross, Debbie Gross*

The following High School 2nd place team members include:

Trevor Alder

Daive Fanelli

Andrew Ambruso

Jillian Balberchak

Alyssa Cajka

David Dorbad

Debbie Gross

Samantha Scott

Tia Spagnuolo

Eric Werbin

Corey Furman

Rachel Gross

Matthew Pizano

Cody Poder

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM MEMBERS

GOLD MEDAL – *Compute This* – Leslie Shumlas, Maria Marianacci

GOLD MEDAL – *Meteorology* – Gared Zeboski, John Marianacci

GOLD MEDAL – *Wright Stuff* – Gabrielle Spagnuolo and Danielle Spagnuolo

SILVER MEDAL – *Bio Process* – Leslie Shumlas, Julia Banas

SILVER MEDAL – *Disease Detectives* – Greg Cajka, Alex Crispin

SILVER MEDAL – *Road Scholar* – Leslie Shumlas, Julia Banas

SILVER MEDAL – *Anatomy* – Andrew Coco, Maria Marianacci

BRONZE MEDAL – *Dynamic Planet* – Audrey Heidacavage, Emily Bellanco

The following **Middle School 2nd place team members include:**

7th Grade:

Julia Banas

Madeline Ambruso

John Marianacci

Anthony Lenkaitis

Nikolas Gushka

8th Grade

Gabrielle Spagnuolo

Danielle Spagnuolo

Gared Zaboski

Audrey Heidacavage

Emily Bellanco

9th Grade

Andrew Coco

Leslie Shumlas

Maria Marianacci

Alex Krispin

Greg Cjaka

Congratulations to all participants, Middle School Advisor, Rosemary Litwin and High School Advisor, Dave Pizano.

- 4. Congratulations to *Samantha Scott* who took FIRST PLACE at the University of Scranton 11th Annual Brain Bee and competed in the U.S. Brain Bee at the University of Maryland in Baltimore this past week-end.**
- 5. Breakfast With Your Child: March 29th for Grades K, 1 & 2 and March 30th for Grades 3rd, 4th & 5th at Montgomery Avenue. 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.**
- 6. 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 were distributed to the students and members of the Board. I encourage parents with questions to contact our School Guidance Office or Administration for assistance.**
- 7. *I'm proud to announce the district has received a grant for Science It's Elementary. This is a state initiative for districts to implement systemic science education reform. It's an inquiry centered science program aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic and National Science Standards. Through this grant, the state will provide us with hands on instructional modules, science equipment, technical support and professional development to assure the implementation and sustainability of a research based science program. The pilot will begin for K -5 teachers at Montgomery Avenue. Congratulations to Mrs. Serino and Mr. Kaluzavich.***

**Wyoming Area School District
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 Treasurer's Report**

<u>Bank</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Checking Account</u>	<u>Money Market Account</u>
Landmark Bank	General Fund	5,210,573.31	
First National Community Bank	General Fund	100,535.36	
Fidelity Bank	General Fund		275,465.73
Wachovia Bank	General Fund	28,796.57	
Landmark Bank	Delinquent Tax Fund	109,893.41	
PNC Bank	Payroll Acct.	2,655.13	
Fidelity Bank	Payroll Acct.	265.37	
Landmark Bank	Cafeteria Acct.	229,187.77	
Landmark Bank	Student Activities Acct.	98,521.91	
Landmark Bank	Athletic Fund Acct.	12,224.86	
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Investment Acct.	1,091,133.61	
PNC Bank	Capital Projects Fund Bank Construction Acct.	142,796.40	
PNC Bank	Energy Performance Proceeds Fund	30,615.55	

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Finance Report

1. Received the following checks:

Don Wilkinson Agency (Feb.)

Earned Income Tax	243,327.39
Local State Tax	1,255.88
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>394.00</u>
Total:	244,977.27

Tuition Reimbursement

Shamokin Area School District	1,111.25
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State & Federal Subsidy Payments

Social Security	45,621.00
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	32,162.27
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	25,869.39
Drug Free Schools	1,789.92
Basic Education Funding	938,539.00
Reimbursement of Charter Schools	<u>6,353.00</u>
Total:	1,050,334.58

- 2. Approve the March payment of \$72,362.69 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract agreement for programs and services for the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 3. Approve the March payment of \$40,906.00 to the West Side Career and Technology Center for the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 4. Approve the Single Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 as prepared by the independent auditing firm of Bonita and Rainey, CPA.**
- 5. Approve the final Tax Collector Report of the tax collectors at Wyoming Area School District for the year ended December 31, 2008 as prepared by the independent auditing firm of Bonita and Rainey, CPA.**

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Finance Report

(6.) Motion to adopt the attached Resolution urging legislative action on school employee pension reform.

(7.) *Approve the General Ledger Sheet:*

<i>Bill Listing:</i>	<i>3-22-10</i>	<i>501,320.94</i>	
<i>Prepays:</i>	<i>2-3-10</i>	<u><i>249,896.93</i></u>	<i>751,217.87</i>

<i>Cafeteria Account:</i>	<i>73,834.50</i>		
<i>Athletic Account:</i>	<u><i>7,541.48</i></u>	<u><i>81,375.98</i></u>	

Total: 832,593.85

Motion by _____, second by _____, to accept the finance report.

Roll Call:

**A Resolution urging legislative action on school employee pension reform
By the Board of Directors of the
Wyoming Area School District**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) has voted to increase the employer contribution to the system for the 2010-2011 school year to 8.22%, a 72% increase over the 2009-2010 rate; and

WHEREAS, the employer contribution rate is projected to increase sharply in the next four years, reaching a peak of 33.60% in the 2014-2015 school year; and

WHEREAS, the employer contribution rate is projected to remain over 30% until the year 2020; over 25% until the year 2027 and over 20% until the year 2032; and

WHEREAS, the projected increases in employer contribution would cost the Wyoming Area School District and its taxpayers an additional \$6,104,989.00 (net at 50% reimbursement) between the 2010-2011 school year and the 2014-2015 school year, and

WHEREAS, these projections present critical problems that effectively force the addition of significantly higher financial burdens on taxpayers, school districts and the commonwealth and consequently demand both a short-term and a long-term solution; and

WHEREAS, a meaningful solution to these problems must involve the identification of another funding source for PSERS, decreasing or cutting the costs/liabilities of the system, including benefit levels, and deferring the system's liabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of school directors of the Wyoming Area School District calls upon the General Assembly to begin immediate consideration of school employee pension reform with the dual purpose of reducing projected employer contribution rate increases over the next four years and reducing projected costs to school districts, taxpayers and the commonwealth over the next two decades, while maintaining an appropriate pension benefit school employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly approve HB 2135 or SB 1185, both of which would make PSERS a hybrid defined benefits/defined contribution system for future school employees, as a potential solution to the long-term cost issues presented by projections in the employer contribution rate.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Signed,

School Board President

Board Secretary

(seal)

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Education Report

- 1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirements that the District's Federal Programs, (Title I, Title II and Drugs and Alcohol) have been planned for the 2009-2010 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Janet Serino, District Principal of Curriculum, at the District's Business Office.**
- 2. Approve the Memo of Understanding between Wyoming Area Education Association and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the professional staff to voluntarily donate one sick leave day during the 2009-2010 school year to professional employee Amy Kosco.**
- 3. Approve the request of Kate Menta, Secondary Teacher, to take a child bearing/child rearing leave starting Tuesday, April 6, 2010 and will return Tuesday, June 1, 2010.**
- 4. Accept, with regret, Linda McGeehan's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 5. Accept, with regret, Celestine Calpin's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 6. Accept, with regret, Anne Wasko's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 7. Accept, with regret, Susan Schneider's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 8. Accept, with regret, Mary Ann Tencza's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 9. Accept, with regret, Mariel Bufano's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.**
- 10. Approve the revised teacher substitute list.**

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Education Report

11. Discuss to approve the revised school calendar.

Make up snow day: Monday, March 15, 2010

Make up snow day: Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Graduation day: Friday, June 11, 2010

Last Student Day: Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Last Teacher Day: Wednesday, June 16, 2010

12. Discuss to ratify the request of Mary Pat Augello and Maryann Reino to attend "Science It's Elementary (SIE) Wednesday, March 3rd and Thursday, March 4, 2010 at Penn State University Great Valley. Reimbursement to be funded by ASSET (Achieving Student Success Through Excellence in Teaching).

13. Discuss to ratify the request of Raymond J. Bernardi, Superintendent, to attend the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) "16th Annual PASA Education Congress" on Wednesday, March 17th and Thursday, March 18, 2010 at an approximate cost of \$375.00 to be funded by Title II Funds.

(14.) Accept, with regret, Deborah Chikowski's letter of intent to retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

(15.) Approve the Memo of Understanding between Wyoming Area Education Association and Wyoming Area School District to allow any member of the professional staff to voluntarily donate one sick leave day during the 2009-2010 school year to professional employee Melissa Burdett.

(16.) Accept, with regret, Andy Rabel's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

(17.) Accept, with regret, James Dessoie's letter of resignation effective April 5, 2010.

(18.) Approve the appointment of Sara Mazzitelli as Learning Support Teacher at Secondary Center.

(19.) Approve the appointment of Patti Baltusavich as Autistic Support Teacher at Montgomery Avenue Elementary School.

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Education Report

- (20.) *Accept, with regret, Marie Zdanowicz's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.***

- (21.) *Accept, with regret, Judy Stevenson's letter of intent to retire effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.***

Motion by _____, second by _____, to accept the education report.

Roll Call:

Wyoming Area School District
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Activities Report

(1.) Approve the appointment of the following assistant girls softball coaches for the 2010 spring season:

<i>Sarah Zielinski</i>	<i>Head Asst. Coach</i>	<i>2,163.00</i>
Barry Przybyla	Head Junior High Coach	1,923.00
Joe Pramick	Asst. Junior High Coach	1,923.00

2. Approve to ratify the following requests:

- **Christine Rutledge to chaperone thirteen students to the PA. District Key Club Convention in Hershey, Friday, March 5th to Sunday, March 7, 2010.**
- **Joe Pizano to attend the Indoor State Championship for Track and Field, along with one student at State College, Friday, March 5th and Saturday, March 6, 2010.**

3. Approve the request of Deanna Mennig, Secondary Math Teacher, to attend a Math Contest at Wilkes University on Saturday, April 10, 2010. Registration of \$80.00 to be funded by the general fund.

4. Approve the request of Ron Musto, General Manager of the Greater Pittston Senior American Legion Baseball Team, to use the Atlas Baseball Field for their upcoming season and also use of the field for a Developmental Legion Team (13 and 14 year olds), pending approval by the athletic director.

5. Approve the request of Damien Rutkoski, Secondary Science Teacher, to attend the American Brain Bee, along with a student, in Baltimore, MD., on Thursday, March 18th, Friday, March 19th and Saturday, March 20, 2010 with the use of the school van. Cost is \$878.52 for lodging. Meal and fuel reimbursement requested.

(6.) Approve to ratify the appointment of Michael Judge as 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach at a salary of \$723.00 (1/2 of 1,446.00).

(7.) Accept, with regret, Josette Cefalo's letter of resignation as Cheerleading Advisor.

Motion by _____, second by _____, to accept the activities report.

Roll Call:

**Wyoming Area School District
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Building Report**

- 1. Approve the request of Rosella Fedor, Special Project Advisor, to use the Secondary Center cafeteria for the Wyoming Area Community Outreach and Scholarship Celebration on Thursday, May 27, 2010, 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., pending approval by the building principal and foodservice manager.**

Motion by _____, second by _____, to accept the building report.

Roll Call:

**Wyoming Area School District
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Policy Report**

- 1. Approve the adoption of Policy #718 Service Animals in Schools.**

**Motion by _____, second by _____, to accept
the policy report.**

Roll Call:

Wyoming Area School District
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Police Report

Police Report for the Month of February 2010

From this meeting forward, the monthly Police activity report will be on file for review in the business office during regular business hours.

Other Information:

The D.A.R.E. graduation was held at the Tenth Street Elementary School on Thursday, March 4th at 9:30AM. We would like to thank Richard Belza for volunteering his time for teaching the class and making the graduation a success.

On March 17, 2010, a K-9 narcotics sweep of the Wyoming Area Secondary Center was performed. Luzerne County Prison Warden Joseph Piazza authorized a training exercise in which several of his K-9 Officers took part. Through the combined efforts of Luzerne County Prison K-9, Lancaster County Prison K-9, Hanover Township Police K-9 and Wilkes-Barre City Police K-9, this exercise was conducted efficiently and in a professional manner. I am pleased to report that no narcotics were found and would like to express my thanks to all those who participated in this exercise.

Motion by _____, second by _____, to accept the police report.

Roll Call: