

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on Tuesday June 17, 2025 at 7:30 PM with Larry Wittig presiding. President Wittig led with the “Pledge of Allegiance.” A moment of silent meditation followed.

PRESENT

Larry Wittig, President  
Nicholas Boyle, Vice President  
Daniel Schoener, Treasurer  
Tom Bartasavage  
Melanie Dillman

Nancy Jones  
Bryan Miller  
Mark Rother

ABSENT

Trina Schellhammer

Administrative Staff in Attendance – Raymond Kinder, Superintendent; Stephen Toth, Assistant Superintendent; Connie Ligenza, Business Manager; Kenny Dunkelberger, Chief Operating Officer

Others in Attendance – member of the press and Erik Helbing, Solicitor

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the minutes from May 13, 2025. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Ligenza indicated that all correspondences and appropriate reports relating to the agenda were available to the members of the board.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Superintendent Report – Kinder indicated that the report in its entirety was attached to the agenda.

Hearings – None

President Wittig called for an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

No meeting held.

Auxiliary Committee – Rother presented the following items as recommendations for the Auxiliary Committee.

Rother made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year: Small Games of Chance License; Pay to Participate Fees; Volunteer Coaches; Coaches; Substitute Custodian; Grounds and Activities Lead; Utility Lead; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Authorize the Tamaqua Area Booster Board to apply for a Small Games of Chance License

Pay to Participate fees:

1st Sport \$40 (\$30, if annual donation received)

2nd Sport \$30 (\$20, if annual donation received)

3rd Sport \$20 (\$10, if annual donation received)

Tyler Steigerwalt, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Volunteer Soccer Coach

Sabrina Pratt, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Tennis Coach

Marie Schock, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as the Head Volleyball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Sophia Boyle, Brockton, PA 17925, as a Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach

Jeffrey Reading, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, as the Head Baseball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Jason Gerber, Ashland, PA 17921, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach

Tony Zancofsky, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the Head Softball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

James Gormley, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Junior Varsity Softball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Jim McCabe, Brockton, PA 17925, as the Head Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Andy Smarr, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Alexa Hauer, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the Head Junior High Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Maria Campomizzi, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Assistant Junior High Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Quinn Coleman, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$12.41 per hour

Raymond Kunkel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Grounds and Activities Lead, at a stipend to be determined

Michael Kunkel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Utility Lead, at a stipend to be determined

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Education Committee – Dillman presented the following items as recommendations for the Education Committee.

Dillman made a motion seconded by Jones to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Early Dismissal; Agreements with Child and Family Support Services Inc.; Revised 2025-2026 Title IIA Non-Public Programs and Services Letter of Agreement; Administrative Reconfiguration; Special Education Teachers; Elementary Teacher; Middle

School English Language Arts Teacher; Mentor; Full-Time Paraprofessional; Part-Time Paraprofessional; Rescind Motions; Department Chairperson; Extended School Year Teacher; Extended School Year Paraprofessional; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Early Dismissal for the West Penn and Tamaqua Elementary Schools, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> for Parent/Teacher Conferences

Agreement with Child and Family Support Services Inc., Reading, PA 19601, for the provision of the Student Assistance Program

Agreement with Child and Family Support Services Inc., Reading, PA 19601, for the provision of the Elementary Student Assistance Program

Agreement with Child and Family Support Services Inc., Reading, PA 19601, to connect with service providers when the psychiatric outpatient clinic serves children

Approve the revised 2025-2026 Title IIA Non-Public Programs and Services Letter of Agreement

Approve the Administrative reconfiguration with associated job descriptions

Ratify Antonia Cirstea, Lehighton, PA 18235, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$48,030

Ratify Lauren Palko, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, Special Education Teacher, Master's Step 1, at a salary of \$56,045

Ratify Megan Taylor, Barnesville, PA 18214, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor's Step 20, at a salary of \$64,995

Ratify Emily Barrett, Hatfield, PA 19440, Middle School English Language Arts Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$48,030

Erin Groody, certified teacher, mentor to Christina Wagner, certified teacher

Nicole Isamoyer, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, Full-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.50 per hour

Christina Modesto, Brockton, PA 17925, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour

Rescind the motion of May 13, 2025, approving Madeline Wittig, as a Paraprofessional for the 2025 Extended School Year

Rescind the motion of May 13, 2025, approving Madison McGlinchey, as a Paraprofessional for the 2025 Extended School Year

Carla Keller, Middle School Language Arts Department Chairperson  
2024-2025 Extended School Year Staff

Amy Heffelfinger, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00

Sarah Hartranft, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted "FOR."

Finance Committee – Schoener presented the following items as recommendations for the Finance Committee.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Rother to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Repository Sales; 2025-2026 Blanket Budget Transfer; 2025-2026 Final Budget; 2025-2026 Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion; 2025-2026 District Insurance Package; Rebate, Face & Penalty Period for 2025-2026; Depositories; 2025-2026 Health and Welfare Trust Rates;

STC Representative; Administrative Assistant; Service Personnel Agreement; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Schuylkill Township 2022, 2023, 2024 - Assessed Occupation  
2024 - Per Capita

Tamaqua Borough 2024 - Assessed Occupation  
2024 - Per Capita

Payment of Bills

Ratify the sale of parcel 25-08-0063.000 located at Claremont Avenue for the purchase price of \$2,425

2025-2026 Blanket Budget Transfer

Approve the following 2025-2026 Final Budget

Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/25:	\$3,837,722
Revenue:	\$41,755,213
Expenses:	\$42,756,201
Ending Fund Balance 6/30/26:	\$2,836,734

Unassigned:

Real Estate Tax Rate	44.93 mills
Per Capita, Section 679	\$5.00
Per Capita, Act 511	\$5.00
Earned Income Tax	1% (shared with municipalities)
Real Estate Transfer Tax	1% (shared with municipalities)
EMS Tax	\$5.00 (shared with municipalities)
Assessed Occupation	\$225.00

Establish the 2025-2026 Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion at \$242.00 a reduction in Assessed Value of \$5,399.00 for eligible properties per information provided to us by the county assessment office

Authorize the business manager to select the District's Insurance Package (lowest cost option for the current program) for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the event final numbers are not available for our last June meeting.

Approve the rebate, face and penalty periods for Per Capita, Assessed Occupation and Real Estate Tax for the 2025-2026 fiscal year (2025 tax bills) as follows:

Rebate July to August 2%  
Face September to October  
Penalty November to December 10%

Appoint Mauch Chunk Trust as the district's depository for the 2025-2026 fiscal year

Appoint M & T Bank as the depository for the district's tax account for the 2025-2026 fiscal year

Approve the 2025-2026 Health and Welfare composite, self-pay and COBRA rates effective July 1, 2025, including adjustments to the out of pocket maximum set by the Affordable Care Act:

TASD HW Trust  
25-26 Rates

	Health	Dental	Prescr.	Vision	Total	Annual
COMPOSITE RATE PEPM	2,678.36	70.23	327.14	7.09	3,082.82	36,993.84
Single	1,311.04	35.73	160.13	7.09	1,513.99	18,167.88
2-Person	2,622.08	71.46	320.26	7.09	3,020.89	36,250.68
Family	3,277.60	89.33	400.33	7.09	3,774.35	45,292.20

Cobra +2%

Appoint Larry Wittig, as replacement for Trina Schellhammer as the STC Representative.

Stacey Prusak, Administrative Assistant, School Secretary, at a rate of \$13.50 per hour

Approve the Agreement between TASSP and Tamaqua Area School District for the years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Communications – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to pay the monthly board invoices as presented. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Old Business – Rother made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve Policy #123 – Interscholastic Athletics. Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, and Jones voted “NO.” Miller, Rother, and Schoener voted “YES.”

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

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Connie Ligenza  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary