

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on Tuesday July 15, 2025 at 7:30 PM with Larry Wittig presiding. President Wittig led with the “Pledge of Allegiance.” A moment of silence meditation followed.

PRESENT

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

Bryan Miller
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Tom Bartsavage
Nancy Jones
Mark Rother

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 Boyle to approve the minutes from June 17, 2025. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer 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 Miller to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Schoener made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer 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.

President Wittig called for the recommendation of the committees.

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

Schellhammer made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year: Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Rescind Motions; Drama Club Assistant; Drama Club Volunteers; Advisor; Adult Game Worker and Event Security List; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Alexa Hauer, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Co-Assistant Volleyball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Desiree Whitehead, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Co-Assistant Volleyball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Ashlyn Houser, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

David Holmes, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Junior High Wrestling Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Eric Temarantz, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Francis Hill, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Robert Workman, Minersville, PA 17954, Assistant Baseball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Gregory Haney, Pottsville, PA 17901, Junior Varsity Baseball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Zach Chodur, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach

Nate MacDonald, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach

David Holmes, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Track and Field Coach

Rescind the motion of April 15, 2025, approving Ruth Gardiner as Drama Club Assistant #2 (Scenic Director)

Emily Barrett, Drama Club Assistant #2 (Scenic Director)

Michael Graham, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Nathan Johns, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Chris Kerestus, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Brian Nallon, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Kylie Lehatto, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Caitlin Miller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Lauri Miller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Kipp Tonkin, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Rescind the motion of May 13, 2025, approving Taylor Stair as a Middle School 8th Grade Class Co-Advisor

Rescind the motion of April 15, 2025, approving Taylor Stair as a Middle School Aevidium Co-Advisor

Megan Berezwick, Middle School 8th Grade Class Co-Advisor

Adult Game Worker and Event Security List

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; 2025 First Reading of Policies #815.2 and #215; 2025-2026 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan; Adoption of IU #29 LEA Policies and Procedures; Authorization; Flexible Instructional Days; Resignations; Elementary Teachers; Middle School Mathematics Teacher; Middle School English Language Arts Teacher; Mentor; Summer School Teacher; Rescind Motion; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #815.2 – Artificial Intelligence

Policy #215 – Promotion and Retention

Schoener made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to forgo the reading of the listed policies.

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

2025-2026 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan

Adoption of the IU #29 LEA Policies and Procedures for 2025-2026 program year

Authorize the Superintendent to employ staff as needed

Approve FID plan as submitted to PDE

Resignation of Jessica Zeigler, West Penn Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, effective June 18, 2025

Resignation of Taylor Stair, Middle School, Language Arts Teacher, effective end of the 2024-2025 school year

Resignation of Linda Travis, Tamaqua Elementary School, Fifth Grade Teacher, effective end of the 2024-2025 school year

Resignation of Norlina Rex, Part-Time Paraprofessional

Megan Rosahac, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a Salary of \$48,030

Sarah Jacobs, Mountain Top, PA 18707, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$48,030

Stew Caladie, Mountain Top, PA 18707, Middle School, Mathematics Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$48,030

Makayla Harvey, Schnecksville, PA 18078, Middle School, English Language Arts Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$48,030

Megan Frantz, certified teacher, mentor to Stew Caladie, teacher

Ratify Kristen Klingaman, 2025 Summer School Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00

Rescind the motion of May 13, 2025, approving Rachael Maly as a Full-Time Paraprofessional

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year as Presented. Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Donations; Affirmative Vote Resolution; Use of School Property; School Uniform Stipend; LCCC Shine Afterschool Program Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement; St. Jerome’s Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement; 2025-2026 Breakfast and Lunch Prices; Tennis Court Drainage Repairs; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

West Penn 2022, 2023, 2024 – Per Capita

Payment of Bills

Approve the following donations to:

ESRC \$2,500

Tamaqua Library \$3,500

Affirmative Vote Resolution

Matt Hope, Tamaqua, permission to use the triangular piece of property on Stadium Hill for the 2025-2026 school year

School uniform stipend, at \$25.00, with a cutoff for financial assistance relative to the dress code for household income less than 130% of the poverty guideline

LCCC Shine Afterschool Program Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement at \$4.25 per meal

St. Jerome's Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement for school lunch at \$3.00 per student lunch

2025-2026 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

Elementary \$2.45

Secondary \$2.70

Breakfast: \$1.25

Adult \$4.85

Adult Breakfast \$2.95

Approve drainage repairs under the Tennis Court, at a cost of \$65,415.00

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Communications – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to pay the monthly board invoices as presented.

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary