

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on September 16, 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
Daniel Schoener, Treasurer
Melanie Dillman

Nancy Jones
Bryan Miller
Mark Rother

ABSENT

Tom Bartasavage
Nicholas Boyle
Trina Schellhammer

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

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

Miller made a motion seconded by Rother to approve the minutes from August 19, 2025. Wittig, Schoener, 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 Rother to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Schoener, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

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

Superintendent Report – Kinder indicated that the report in its entirety was attached to the agenda. Acknowledgement of Kristy with PSBA for her years of service.

Hearings – None

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

A 13 minute meeting was held.

President Wittig called for the recommendation of the committees.

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

Rother made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year: Volunteer Coach: Coach Removal; Volunteer Game Worker; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Heather Patrick, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Softball Coach.

Removal of Darvin Faust, as a Volunteer Football Coach, effective immediately.

David Cipko, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Game Worker.

Wittig, Schoener, 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 Rother to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; Annual Review of Policy #249; First Reading of Policies #428 and #204; Early Graduation; Homebound Instruction; Affiliation Agreement; Three-Year Agreement with The Meadows Psychiatric Center; Act 48 Program Agreement; Contract with River Rock Academy; Agreement with Pennsylvania Counseling Services, Inc; 2025-2026 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement; Elementary Teacher; Certified School Nurse; Resignation; Mentor; Professional Substitute Teacher List; Substitute Guest Teacher List; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Annual review of the following policy:

Policy #249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying

First reading of the following policies:

Policy #428 – Salary Determination

Policy #204 – Attendance

Schoener made a motion seconded by Rother to forgo the reading of the listed policies. Wittig, Schoener, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Approve early graduation for five-tenth grade students

Homebound Instruction for one Elementary Student

Affiliation Agreement with Central Penn College, for student practicum experience

Three-year Agreement with The Meadows Psychiatric Center, to provide educational services

ACT 48 Program Agreement for services, dated May 14, 2025 with River Rock Academy LLC, for the delivery of alternative education services for disruptive youth

Contract with River Rock Academy for the reservation of 3 secondary student slots at a reduced per diem rate of \$180.00 for an annual cost of \$99,900.00 and 3 elementary student slots at a reduced per diem rate of \$215.00 for an annual cost of \$119,325.00 at the Cressona Campus.

Three-year Agreement with Pennsylvania Counseling Service, Inc
 2025-2026 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement
 Megan Pries, Kingston, PA 18704, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$48,030
 Leah Gehringer, Kempton, PA 19529, Certified School Nurse, Master’s Step 6, at a salary of \$60,818
 Resignation of Jacob Atherly, High School Teacher, effective August 4, 2025
 Audra Schlecht, certified teacher, mentor to Megan Rosahac, certified teacher
 Professional Substitute Teacher List
 Substitute Guest Teacher List

Wittig, Schoener, 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 2025-2026 school year as Presented. Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Repository Sale Resolution; Blanket Resolution; PSBA Officer Elections; PSBA Delegate Assembly Voting Delegates; Transportation Contract; Purchase of Computers; Donation; RFP; Service Personnel MOU; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Rush Township	2022, 2023, 2024, 2025	Assessed Occupation
	2022, 2023, 2024	Per Capita
Tamaqua Borough	2025	Assessed Occupation
	2025	Per Capita
Walker	2023, 2024, 2025	Assessed Occupation
	2023, 2024, 2025	Per Capita
	2025	Real Estate
West Penn	2024	Assessed Occupation

Payment of Bills

Authorize the Business Administrator to approve repository sales
 Authorize the Business Administrator to process payments, and other routine items
 Resolution to vote for the list of candidates for the PSBA Board; PSBA Insurance Trust and PSBA Steering Committee

President-Elect (1 year term): Holly Arnold, Tunkhannock ASD
 Vice-President (1 year term): Matt Vannoy, Sharon City SD
 Section E-3 Advisor (2 year term): Andrew Kline, Oley Valley SD
 PSBA Insurance Trustees (3 year term): Kathy Swope and Roberta M. Marcus
 School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee (2 year term: Secretary Vote only):
 Christina DeAngelis, Tricia Cousino, and Jamie Zimerofsky

Appoint Larry Wittig and Thomas Bartasavage as voting delegates to the PSBA Delegate Assembly

Five-year contract with Kistler Transportation, effective August 21, 2025 through June 30, 2030

Purchase of 20 to 25 gaming computers from Costar vendor, Bytespeed Inc, at a not to exceed price of \$95,000.00

Approve donation of used books, toys, and art supplies to local organization

Authorize administration to complete an RFP for architects, for the stadium concession stand and pole building

Approve the MOU with TASSP, concerning West Penn Elementary Second Shift Employees

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

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. Wittig, Schoener, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary