

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on October 21, 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
Tom Bartasavage

Melanie Dillman
Nancy Jones
Mark Rother

ABSENT

Bryan Miller
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 – members of the press, Erik Helbing, Solicitor

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the minutes from September 16, 2025. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones 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, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Rother all voted “FOR.”

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

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

Hearings – Tom Williams and Tom Borough held a 10 minute meeting to discuss youth sports start time on Sundays

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

No meeting held.

President Wittig called for the recommendation of the committee.

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 2025-2026 school year: First Reading of Policy # 202; Coach; Advisor; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

First Reading of Policy # 202 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students.

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

Michael Murphy, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined.

Thorn Devlin, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Ski Club Advisor, at a stipend to be determined.

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; Second Reading of Policies # 428 and #204; Adopt Policy # 202; Homebound Instruction; Agreement with LearnWell; 2025-2026 Title IIA Non-Public Programs and Services Letter of Agreement; Resignation; Professional Employee Contracts; Mentor; Family Medical Leave; Substitute Guest Teacher; Substitute Teacher; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

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

Adopt policies #428 and #204

Homebound Instruction for one Elementary Student

Approve the Agreement with LearnWell for educational services, at the time of admittance to a medical facility.

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

Resignation of Heather Metric, Occupational Therapist and Access Billing Coordinator, with a separation date to be agreed upon with the Superintendent.

Gaosen Gentile, to be given professional status as of October 21, 2025

Amy Heffelfinger, to be given professional status as of October 21, 2025

Taylor Prehotsky, to be given professional status as of October 21, 2025

DarciJo Smarr, to be given professional status as of October 21, 2025

Kristen Klingaman, certified teacher, mentor to Brianna Vleck, certified teacher

Marsha Rodgers, continuation of Intermittent FMLA

Ratify Carson Barron, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Guest Teacher

Alyssa Beil, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Teacher

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones 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; Bid Participation; E-Rate Program; 2025-2026 Tuition Rates; John E. Morgan Foundation Agreement; Architectural Services; Stadium Improvement; Copier Lease; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Tamaqua Borough	2022, 2023, 2024 – Assessed Occupation
	2022, 2023, 2024 – Per Capita

Walker Twp.	2025	– Assessed Occupation
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Schuylkill Twp.	2024	– Assessed Occupation
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Payment of Bills

Authorize the Business Manager to participate in the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council’s bid process for the 2026-2027 fiscal year

Authorize the Business Manager to participate in the E-Rate Program for the 2026-2027 funding year and to execute agreements as necessary for timeline compliance subject to future ratification by the Board of Education

Approve the following 2025-2026 tuition rates

Elementary	\$11,950.92 (PY \$9,856.47)
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Secondary	\$13,346.52 (PY \$10,384.84)
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Approve the John E. Morgan Foundation grant acknowledge, agreement and resolution
Authorize administration to select the most cost effective proposal submission for architectural services, pending board approval

Approve the High School and District Office Copier Lease. Sixty-month lease for four Xerox AltaLink copiers, including unlimited servicing, at a cost of \$ 1,198 a month. Lease attached
Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Rother all voted "FOR." Boyle voted to abstain.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to recommend that the Board accept the proposal from Alloy5, Bethlehem, PA for Architectural Services for the Stadium Improvement Project at the cost of \$37,000 (minimum) not to exceed 6% of project cost

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

Communications – None

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

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Rother all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary