

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on December 16, 2025 at 7:42 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 Bartsavage

Melanie Dillman

Bryan Miller

Mark Rother

Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Nancy Jones

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

Others in Attendance – 2 members of the press, and Erik Helbing, Solicitor

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartsavage to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2025 meeting as well as the minutes from the Reorganization meeting on December 2, 2025. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartsavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother and Shellhammer 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, Bartsavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother and Shellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

President Wittig called for the recommendation of the committees.

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

Bartasavage made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year: Approve Board Treasurer, Daniel Schoener; Volunteer Coaches; Retirement; Part-Time SPO; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Approve Daniel Schoener, Board Treasurer for a one-year term
Isabella Jones, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Swimming Coach
Vinny Valentine, Brockton, PA 17925, as a Volunteer Swimming Coach
Jack Tharpe, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Volunteer Swimming Coach
Lynzee Kerestus, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Softball Coach
Retirement of Roberta Geissinger, Full-Time Custodian, effective January 6, 2026
Retirement of Bernard Witcofsky, Full-Time Custodian, effective February 4, 2026
Michael Weaver, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, Part-Time SPO, at an hourly rate of \$28.03

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year: Second Reading of Policies #102 and #105; Adopt Policy #102– Academic Standards and Policy # 105– Curriculum; Homebound Instruction; Affiliation Agreement; Superintendent; Resignations; Department Chairperson; FMLA; Substitute Teachers; Substitute Guest Teacher; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Second reading of the following polices:
Policy #102 — Academic Standards
Policy #105 — Curriculum

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

Adopt Policy #102 — Academic Standards
 Adopt Policy # 105 – Curriculum
 Homebound Instruction for one Elementary Student
 Homebound Instruction for one High School Student
 Affiliation Agreement with Alvernia University, for the purpose of providing experiential learning for education students
 Dr. Stephen Toth, District Superintendent, effective August 26, 2026
 Resignation of Jillian Saltz, Occupational Therapist, effective immediately
 Resignation of Courtney Kovatch, Teacher, effective February 8, 2026
 Tracy Miller, Middle School Language Arts Department Chairperson
 Carla Keller, for FMLA, beginning on or about February 4, 2026 with a tentative return to work date of April 29, 2026
 Diann Belsak, for FMLA, beginning on or about December 2, 2025
 Sarah Hope, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Teacher
 Zachary Antosh, Mountaintop, PA 18707, Substitute Teacher
 Jillian Saltz, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, Substitute Guest Teacher

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year as presented: Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Delinquent Tax Collectors; Act 1 Index; Purchase of Security Equipment; Purchase of Police Vehicles; Purchase of Baseball/Softball Security Netting; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Rush Twp. | 2024 | Assessed Occupation |
| West Penn Twp. | 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, | Assessed Occupation |
| | 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 | Per Capita |

Payment of Bills

Appoint Berkheimer Incorporated as the delinquent Per Capita and Assessed Occupation tax collector for the 2025 collection cycle

Appoint Portnoff Law Associates as the delinquent Real Estate tax collector for the 2025 collection cycle

Approve the motion to not raise taxes above the Act 1 Index for 2026-2027 budget cycle, per motion attached

Purchase of security equipment from Costar vendor, Verkada, at a not to exceed price of \$120,000.

Purchase of three (3) Police Vehicles from Costar vendor, Miracle Ford, at a not to exceed price of \$165,000.

Purchase of new baseball/softball security netting from Costar vendor, Keystone Sports Construction, at a not to exceed price of \$25,000.

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

Communications – None

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

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother and Shellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary