

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on January 20, 2026 at 7:12 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

Nancy Jones  
Bryan Miller  
Mark Rother  
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Connie Ligenza, Business Manager

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

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

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

Miller 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, Jones, Miller, Rother and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

A 26 minute meeting was held.

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 Shellhammer to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; 2026-2027 Schuylkill IU #29 Calendar; 2026-2027 TASD School Calendar; Out of State Trip; 2026 'Raider' Marching Band Christmas Party; Class of 2026 Prom; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Full-Time Custodians; Substitute Custodians; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

2026-2027 Schuylkill IU #29 Calendar

2026-2027 TASD School Calendar

Approve the Drama Club out of state trip, Sunday, April 12, 2026 to New York City

'Raider' Marching Band Christmas Party, December 12, 2026 at Capriotti's, McAdoo, PA 18237

Class of 2026 Prom, May 2, 2026 at Lakeside Ballroom, Barnesville, PA 18214

Courtney Hoffman, Barnesville, PA 18214, as an Assistant Softball Coach, at a stipend of \$3,126.31

Ryan Bamford, Tamaqua, PA 18252 as a Volunteer Softball Coach

Samuel Bonner, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, as Head Football Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Michael Bonner, Lehighton, PA 18235, as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend to be Determined

Shane Kaufman, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Junior High Football Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Francis Hill, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Assistant Junior High Football Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Duane Barron, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Football Coach

Rich Gibson, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Volunteer Girls Tennis Coach

Cristie Ansbach, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach

Ryan Bamford, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach

Joe Holland, Albrightsville, PA 18210, as a Volunteer Cross Country Coach

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

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

Justine Milller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Full-Time Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.50

Sonya Epler, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Full-Time Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.50

Liam McKee, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Kelsey Lusch, Andreas, PA 18211, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, 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 Jones to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; New Class Proposal to the curriculum; MOU; Appointment of Assistant Superintendent; Special Education Teacher; Professional Employee Contracts; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

- Approve Course #97, Educators Rising to the Curriculum
- Memorandum of Understanding with St. Luke’s for a student internship program to begin fall of 2026
- Thomas McCabe, District Assistant Superintendent
- Abby Schoffstall, Pottsville, PA 17901, Special Education Teacher, Master’s Step 1, at a salary of \$56,045
- Dana Ayers, to be given professional status, as of January 20, 2026
- Megan Hine, to be given professional status, as of January 20, 2026

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; 2026 Tax Exemption Form; 2025-2026 Special Education Service Agreement; Request for Proposals; Affirmative Vote Resolution; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Schuylkill Twp.	2024	Assessed Occupation
Tamaqua Borough	2024	Assessed Occupation
West Penn Twp.	2022, 2023, 2024	Assessed Occupation
	2022, 2023, 2024	Per Capita

Payment of Bills  
2026 Tax Exemption Form

Approve the 2025-2026 Special Education Service Agreement with Shuylkill Intermediate Unit #29, for the provision of Special Education Services at a tentative amount of \$617,152 for its projected participation in the program  
Approve permission to advertise for proposals from interested qualified energy services companies to complete an investment grade audit for an Act 163-2016 Guaranteed Energy Savings Project  
Affirmative Vote Resolution

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

Negotiation Committee - Boyle presented the following items as recommendations for the Finance Committee.

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the 2026-2029 Act 93 Agreement for school administration, supervisory personnel and other non-contracted employees

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

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Miller made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, Rother and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

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Bryan Miller  
Board Secretary