

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on February 17, 2026 at 7:00 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

Miller made a motion seconded by Bartsavage to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026. 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 Boyle 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.

No 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; Organizational Chart; Agreement with Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank; Out of State Trip; Full-Time Custodian; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Approval of Organizational Chart

Approve the agreement with Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank, Reading, PA 19608, as a host site for product distribution

Approve the Ski Club, out of state trip, Killington, Vermont, March 6-8, 2026

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

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 Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; Job Descriptions; Early Graduation; Homebound Instruction; PHEAA Participation Agreement; Revised Graduation Requirements; Director of Secondary Education; High School Principal; Occupational Therapist; Substitute Teachers; Retirement; Professional Employee Contracts; FMLA; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Approve the Job Descriptions of Director of Secondary Education, updated High School Principal, Assistant High School Principal/Athletic Director, updated Middle School Principal, Tamaqua Elementary, Assistant Principal/Special Education and Assistant Athletic Director

Approve early graduation for one eleventh grade student

Homebound Instruction for one Middle School Student

Approve the participation agreement with PHEAA, for a Student Teacher Support Program

Approve the change in graduation requirements, replacing the mandatory “Computer Apps” course with a mandatory “Personal Finance” course. Effective with the graduating class of 2030

Christopher Czapla, Director of Secondary Education, at a salary of \$135,000

James Hahn, High School Principal, at a salary of \$106,385

Aubrey Scott, Lehigh, PA 18235, Occupational Therapist, at a salary of \$74,000

Anna Hanley, Barnesville, PA 18214, Substitute Teacher

Ashley Brennan, Pottsville, PA 17901, Substitute Teacher

Edward Braxmeier, Hellertown, PA 18055, Substitute Teacher

Retirement of Amy Delpais, Middle School Mathematics Teacher, effective end of 2025-2026 school year

Michael Ouly, to be given professional status, as of February 17, 2026
Courtney Blaser, to be given professional status, as of February 17, 2026
Amy Heffelfinger, For FMLA, beginning on or about March 2, 2026, with a tentative return to work date of March 30, 2026, barring any unforeseen medical complications

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; 2025 Delinquent Tax Lists; School Photography Contract; 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
Payment of Bills

2025 Delinquent Real Estate, Per Capita and Assessed Occupation Tax Lists

Approve the School Photography three-year contract, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029

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

Communications – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage 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

Regular School Board Meeting

February 17, 2026

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, Rother and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Bryan Miller
Assistant Board Secretary