

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on April 21, 2026 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
Tom Bartsavage
Melanie Dillman

Curt Hartung
Nancy Jones
Bryan Miller

ABSENT

Nicholas Boyle, Vice President
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 – members of the press, and Erik Helbing, Solicitor

Miller made a motion seconded by Bartsavage to approve the minutes from March 17, 2026. Wittig, Schoener, Bartsavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller 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 Jones to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Schoener, Bartsavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartsavage to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Schoener, Bartsavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller 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 27 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 Miller to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; Golf Team Home Course; Drama Club Ticket Prices; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Resignations; Substitute Custodians; Access Billing Coordinator; Band Directors; Band Assistant; Volunteer Band Assistant; Elementary Choral Director; Drama Club Advisor and Assistants; Auditorium, Stage and Audio Visual Manager; Advisors; Gaming Coaches; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tamaqua Golf Team to transfer home golf course from Mountain Valley Golf Course to White Birch Golf Course, beginning with the fall 2026 season

Approve the Drama Club ticket price increase for the fall and spring shows to \$12, courtyard price remaining at \$15, beginning the 2026-2027 school year

Erika Davis, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as Head Girls Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Casey Chodur, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Gina Morgan, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Cristie Ansbach, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Tyler Skripko, Brockton, PA 17925, as 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Duane Barron, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach

James Barron, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Head Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

James McCabe, Brockton, PA 17925, as Head Wrestling Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Michael Weaver, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Jared Reitz, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Troy Hartman, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Football Coach

Resignation of James McCabe, Head Boys Soccer Coach, effective immediately

Resignation of Jacob Hartranft, Full-Time Custodian, effective April 1, 2026

Ava Hess, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Julie Oakes, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Jalissa Correa, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Madison Schaeffer, Andreas, PA 18211, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Liberty Coleman, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Hailey York, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Sara Haldeman, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Kenneth CJ Bailey, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Nico Conahan, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

Hailee Brode, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Eli Schock, Andreas, PA 18211, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Lila Stegemerten, Brockton, PA 17925, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Fatima Polanco Soriano, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Kayden Dunkelberger, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Janessa Mincavage, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Amy Walburn, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Joe Conahan, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78
Bernard Witcofsky, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$12.78

2026-2027 School Year

McKenzie Habel, Access Billing Coordinator
Mark Beltz, Band Director
Samantha Bubel, Assistant Band Director
Benjamin Turrano, Band Assistant
Kaitlyn Herling, Band Front Advisor
Jamie Gibson, Volunteer Band Assistant
Samantha Bubel, Elementary Choral Director
Adriane Drum, Drama Club Advisor
Colleen Koppenhaver, Drama Club Assistant #1 (Choreographer)
Emily Barrett, Drama Club Assistant #2 (Scenic Director)
Randa Ray, Drama Club Assistant #3 (Pit Band/Vocal Director)
Johanna Ulicny, Drama Club Marketing Director
Mark Beltz, Auditorium/Stage/Audio Visual Manager
Nate Halenar, High School Freshman Advisor
Katie Koneschusky, High School Sophomore Class Advisor
Kristen Klingaman, High School Junior Class Advisor
Amanda Hascin, High School Senior Class Advisor
Stephen Ulicny, High School Student Government Advisor (TASGA)
Kristen Klingaman, High School Biology Club Advisor
Kristen Klingaman, High School Environmental Club Advisor
Katie Koneschusky, High School World Language Club Advisor
Kiersten Rivera, High School National Honor Society Advisor
Eddie Titus, High School Math National Honor Society Advisor
Katie Koneschusky, High School Science National Honor Society Volunteer Advisor
Amanda Woodring, Step Up Co-Advisor
Courtney Tamagini, Step Up Co-Advisor
Amanda Woodring, Aavidum Co-Advisor
Courtney Tamagini, Aavidum Co-Advisor
Dana Ayers, High School Yearbook Advisor
Thorn Devlin, Ski Club Advisor
Nicole Evans, Middle School Student Council Advisor
Michael Murphy, Middle School Math Counts Advisor
Michael Murphy, Middle School Lego Club Advisor

Brittany Hill, Middle School 6th Sense Advisor
Brittany Hill, Middle School ACE Advisor
Michael Murphy, Middle School Yearbook Advisor
Lauren Ahner, Middle School National Junior Honor Society Advisor
Nicole Evans, Middle School 8th Grade Class Co-Advisor
Megan Berezwick, Middle School 8th Grade Class Co-Advisor
Kelly Klimowitch, Middle School Aavidum Advisor
Aaron Knepp, Head Gaming Coach
Angela Faust, Elementary Assistant Gaming Coach
Taylor Prehotsky, Elementary Assistant Gaming Coach
Amy Walburn, Elementary Assistant Gaming Coach

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller 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; Assistant High School Principal/Athletics Director; Assistant Principal Tamaqua Elementary/Special Ed; Retirements; Resignation; Physics Teacher; Elementary Music Teacher; Special Education Teacher; Mathematics Teacher; Part-Time Paraprofessional; FMLA; Department Chairpersons; Liaison Teachers; Extended School Year Teachers; Extended School Year Paraprofessionals; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Adam Felt, Assistant High School Principal/Athletics Director, at a salary of \$93,369
Theresa Williams, Assistant Principal Tamaqua Elementary/Special Ed, at a salary of \$86,369
Retirement of Frank Wenzel, Mathematics Teacher, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year
Retirement of Lawrence Capozzelli, Physics Teacher, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year
Resignation of Alexandra Costa, Elementary Teacher, effective April 17, 2026
Dr. Andrew Solonoski, Weatherly, PA 18255, Physics Teacher, PhD Step 1, at a salary of \$66,672
James Lobb, Newton, NJ 07860, Elementary Music Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$50,221
Corrine Morris, Palmerton, PA, 18017, Special Education Teacher, at a salary TBD
Jaclyn Guth, Weatherly, PA 18255, Mathematics Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$50,221
Kaitlyn Perich, New Ringgold, PA 17960, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.50 per hour
Edward Mariano, FMLA, beginning on or about April 6, 2026
Doreen Siegfried, FMLA, beginning on or about April 20, 2026

2026-2027 School Year:

Kiersten Rivera, High School Business Education Department Chairperson
Frank Dickman, High School Extended Services Department Chairperson
Jennifer Curcio, High School Fine and Practical Arts Department Chairperson
Jillian Tuckett, High School Language Arts Department Chairperson
Robin Fink, High School Mathematics Department Chairperson
James McCabe, High School Health and Physical Education Department Chairperson
Kristen Klingaman, High School Science Department Chairperson
Connie Segedy, High School Social Studies Department Chairperson
Amanda Hascin, High School World Language Department Chairperson
Sherri Gerber, High School Special Education Department Chairperson
Tracy Miller, Middle School Language Arts Department Chairperson
Lauren Ahner, Middle School Science Department Chairperson
Charlene Shannon, Middle School Social Studies Department Chairperson
Jacqueline Murphy, Middle School Special Education Department Chairperson
Krista Martin, Tamaqua Elementary Grades K-2 Liaison Teacher
Andrew Michalik, Tamaqua Elementary Grades 3-5 Liaison Teacher
Dawn Walsh, Tamaqua Elementary Special Education Liaison Teacher
Dana Barachie, West Penn Elementary Grades K-2 Liaison Teacher
Angela Faust, West Penn Elementary Grades 3-5 Liaison Teacher
Amanda Peters, West Penn Elementary Special Education Liaison Teacher

2025-2026 Extended School Year Staff:

Amanda Woodring, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Stacy Setlock, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Jordan Abdo, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
JoAnn Dombrosky, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Amy Heffelfinger, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Sarah Hollenbach, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Ashlyn Herring, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Ashley Brennan, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
McKenzie Habel, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Kaitlyn Midas, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Yarilis Velasco, Extended School Year Nurse, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Kim Modesto, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate
Christina Modesto, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate
Julianna Meckes, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate
Hedy Cohen, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate
Alivia Woodring, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate
Samantha Coombe, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate
Hannah Murphy, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller 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; 2026-2027 CSIU Eservices Agreement; Masonry and Stadium Concession Stand Contract; Paving Projects Contract; 2026 Tax Bill Envelopes; Solar Array Maintenance Agreement; Clarvida/Redco Group Updated Linkage Agreement; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Rush Twp.	2025	- Assessed Occupation
	2025	- Per Capita
Tamaqua Borough	2024, 2025	- Assessed Occupation
	2024, 2025	- Per Capita
West Penn Twp.	2025	- Assessed Occupation
	2025	- Per Capita

Payment of Bills

Approve CSIU Eservices Agreement 2026-2027

Award the Masonry and Stadium Concession Stand contract to Bamford Concrete and Masonry as per the following tabulation: Bamford Concrete and Masonry: \$18,675.00, Snyder Masonry: \$21,429.50, Bruce A. Snyder: \$20,245.00

Award the following Paving Projects Contract to Sacks and Sons Inc. based on the Costars Contract #008-E24-1290: Middle School: \$257,258.21, Administration Building: \$21,635.50, West Penn Elementary: \$205,691.26

Purchase of 2026 Tax Bill Envelopes

Approve the 3-year Solar Array Maintenance Agreement with McClure Company at a cost of \$6,000; \$6,200 and \$6,400 per year effective 5/1/2026.

Approve Clarvida/Redco Group updated linkage agreement, effective April 3, 2026 for services as needed

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to recommend that the Board approve entering into a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) with the McClure Company for the mechanical HVAC, and lighting upgrades to the Middle School, High School, Tamaqua Elementary School and West Penn Elementary School at a cost not to exceed \$2,992,970, contingent upon solicitor review and approval

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Communications – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to pay the monthly board invoices as presented.

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary