

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on June 16, 2026 at 8:03 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

Curt Hartung
Bryan Miller
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 – members of the press and Erik Helbing, Solicitor

Bartasavage made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the minutes from May 12, 2026. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Miller and Schellhammer 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 Bartasavage to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.” Boyle voted to abstain.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Miller 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 2 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; Second Reading of Policies #351.1, #451.1, #551.1; Adopt Policies listed in letter A; Small Games of Chance License; Pay to Participate Fees; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Grounds and Activities Lead; Utility Lead; Termination; FMLA; Rescind Motions; Assistant Band Director; Band Front Advisor; Band Volunteers; Drama Club Volunteers; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Second reading of the following policies:

Policy #351.1 - Pre-Employment Drug Testing

Policy #451.1 - Pre-Employment Drug Testing

Policy #551.1 - Pre-Employment Drug Testing

Schoener made a motion seconded by Shellhammer to forgo the second reading.

Adopt policies #351.1, #451.1, #551.1 - Pre-Employment Drug Testing

Authorize the Tamaqua Area Booster Board to apply for a Small Games of Chance License

Pay to Participate fees:

1st Sport \$40 (\$30, if annual donation received)

2nd Sport \$30 (\$20, if annual donation received)

3rd Sport \$20 (\$10, if annual donation received)

Patrick Blaser, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as Head Boys Soccer Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Jeremy Eltringham, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Sarah Hope, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach

Jarrett Reigel, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Junior Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Michael Ouly, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, as an Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Nicko Bolletino, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach

Jeffrey Reading, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, as Head Baseball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Robert Workman, Minersville, PA 17954, as an Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Zach Chodur, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach

Raymond Kunkel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Grounds and Activities Lead, at a stipend to be determined

Michael Kunkel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Utility Lead, at a stipend to be determined

Termination of Caryn Matz, Full-Time Custodian, effective June 16, 2026

Debra Skripnek, FMLA, beginning on or about June 3, 2026

2026-2027 School Year

Rescind the motion of April 21, 2026, approving Samantha Bubel as High School Assistant Band Director

Rescind the motion of April 21, 2026, approving Kaitlyn Herling as High School Band Front Advisor

James Lobb, High School Assistant Band Director

Samantha Bubel, High School Band Front Advisor

Hannah Murphy, High School Assistant Band Front Volunteer

Kaitlyn Herling, High School Band Volunteer

John Buglio, Sugarloaf, PA 18249, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Ruth Gardiner, Summit Hill, PA 18250, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Chris Kerestus, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Heather Kerestus, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Kylie Lehatto, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer/Worker

Lauri Miller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Caitlin Miller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Brenden Bugge, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer/Worker

Greg Semanco, Auburn, PA 17922, as a Drama Club Volunteer/Worker

Kipp Tonkin, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer/Worker

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Shellhammer to approve the following for the 2025-2026 school year; First Reading of Policy #237; 2026-2027 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan; Agreement with Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley Inc.; Reinstatement of the Elementary Art Program; Revised 2025-2026 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement; Assistant Athletic Director; Resignation; Rescind Motion; Elementary Title I Mathematics Teacher; Mathematics Teacher; Elementary Teacher; Substitute Teachers; mentors; FMLA; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

First Reading of the following policy:

Policy # 237 – Electronic Devices

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to forgo the reading of the listed policy.

2026-2027 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan
Agreement with Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc., Center's Partial Hospitalization Program and Therapeutic Educational Program
Approve reinstating the Elementary Art Program, beginning the 2026-2027 school year
Revised 2025-2026 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement
Edward Titus, Assistant Athletic Director, at a stipend of \$2,000
Resignation of Kailee Kelly, Tamaqua Elementary School Teacher, effective August 16, 2026
Rescind the motion of May 12, 2026, approving Ashley Pleban as an Elementary Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year
Sophia Boyle, Brockton, PA 17925, Elementary Title I Mathematics Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$50,221
Hailee Levonas, Pottsville, PA 17901, Mathematics Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$50,221
Ashley Hepler, Ringtown, PA 17967, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$50,221
Approve Alicia Murphy, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Teacher
Approve Megan Frantz, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Teacher
Approve Frank Wenzel, New Ringgold, PA 17960, Substitute Teacher
Ratify Frank Dickman, certified counselor, mentor to Courtney Tamagini, certified counselor
Approve Leah Gehringer, school nurse, mentor to Kayla Siegfried, school nurse
Approve Adriane Drum, certified teacher, mentor to Anna Hanley, certified teacher
Amanda Woodring, Intermittent FMLA, beginning the 2026-2027 school year

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Miller 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; 2025-2026 Blanket Budget Transfer; 2026-2027 District Insurance Package; Rebate, Face & Penalty Period for 2026-2027; Depositories; 2026-2027 Health & Welfare Trust Rates; Nutrition Group Contract Renewal; District Wide Purchase of Window Security Film; Post Re-Assessment Equalized Mills; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager
Tax Refunds:
West Penn Twp. 2025 - Assessed Occupation
Payment of Bills
2025-2026 Blanket Budget Transfer

Authorize the Business Manager to select the District's Insurance Package (lowest cost option for the current program) for the 2026-2027 fiscal year in the event final numbers are not available for our last June meeting

Approve the rebate, face and penalty periods for Per Capita, Assessed Occupation and Real Estate Tax for the 2026-2027 fiscal year (2026 tax bills) as follows:

Rebate	July to August 2%
Face	September to October
Penalty	November to December 10%

Appoint Mauch Chunk Trust as the district's depository for the 2026-2027 fiscal year

Appoint M&T Bank as the depository for the district's tax account for the 2026-2027 fiscal year

Approve the 2026-2027 Health & Welfare composite, self-pay and COBRA rates effective July 1, 2026 as presented, including adjustments to the out of pocket maximums set by the Affordable Care Act:

TASD HW Trust					
26-27 Rates					
	Health	Dental	Prescr.	Vision	Annual
COMPOSITE RATE PEPM	2,742.77	71.10	457.70	7.09	39,343.92
Single	1,366.05	36.86	227.96	7.09	19,655.52
2-Person	2,732.10	73.72	455.92	7.09	39,225.96
Family	3,415.13	92.15	569.90	7.09	49,011.24
Cobra +2%					

Approve the contract renewal with the Nutrition Group; effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

District wide purchase of window security film, Costars approved vendor, Window Film Depot Inc, Marietta, GA 30060, at a not to exceed price of \$190,000, funded through the Morgan Grant

Approve the equalized mill value of 8.4569

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Miller and Schellhammer all voted "FOR." Boyle voted to abstain.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Shellhammer to recommend that the Board approve the 2026-2027 Final Budget; as presented, copy attached.

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

Communications – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to pay the monthly board invoices as presented. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Miller and Schellhammer 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 8:11 pm. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Hartung, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Board Administrator/Board Secretary