

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on August 18, 2026 at 7:52 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
Melanie Dillman

Curt Hartung
Nancy Jones
Bryan Miller
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Tom Bartsavage

Administrative Staff in Attendance – Dr. Stephen Toth, Superintendent; Tom McCabe, Asst. Superintendent; Connie Ligenza, Business Manager; Kenny Dunkelberger; Chief Operating Officer; James Betz, Director of Special Education; Dr. Tara Orefice, Principal, West Penn Elementary School; James Hahn, Principal, Tamaqua Area High School; Adam Felt, Assistant Principal, Tamaqua Area High School/Athletic Director

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

Miller made a motion seconded by Shellhammer to approve the minutes from July 21, 2026. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, Miller 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, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, Miller and Shellhammer all voted "FOR."

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the treasurer's report. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, Miller and Shellhammer all voted "FOR."

Superintendent Report – Toth 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 34 minute meeting was held.

President Wittig called for the recommendation of the committees.

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

Shellhammer made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year; Volunteer Coachers; Adult Game Workers; Retirement; Rescind Motion; Advisor; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Leah Black, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, as a Volunteer Volleyball Coach
Jamie Hartz, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Softball Coach
Leah Black, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, as an Adult Game Worker
Ann Frohnheiser, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Adult Game Worker
Thomas Conner, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Adult Game Worker
Retirement of Debra Skripnek, Full-Time Custodian, effective August 18, 2026
2026-2027 School Year
Rescind the motion of April 21, 2026, approving Dana Ayers as High School Yearbook Advisor
Emma Barrell, High School Yearbook Advisor

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, Miller and Shellhammer 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 2026-2027 school year; Second Reading of Policy #815.1; Adopt Policy listed in letter A; First Reading of Policy #918; Revised K-5 Behavior Analyst/Interventionist Job Description; Early Dismissal; Agreement and Contract with River Rock Academy; Resignation; High School Graphic Arts Teacher; Elementary Teacher; Elementary Special Education Teacher; Rescind Motion; Removal from the Substitute Teacher List; Substitute Teacher; Substitute Guest Teacher; Mentors; Department Chairperson; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation

Second reading of the following policy:

Policy #815.1 – Student Chromebook Responsible Use

Schoener made a motion seconded by Jones to forgo the second readings of the listed policies.

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

Adopt policy in letter A

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #918 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement

Approve the revised K-5 Behavior Analyst/Interventionist Job Description

Early Dismissal for the West Penn and Tamaqua Elementary Schools, November 4th, 5th and 6th for Parent/Teacher Conferences

ACT 48 Program Agreement for services, dated April 27, 2026 with River Rock Academy LLC for the delivery of alternative education services for disruptive youth

Contract with River Rock Academy for the reservation of 3 secondary student slots at the Cressona Campus at a reduced per diem rate of \$189.00 for an annual cost of \$104,895.00 and 3 reserved elementary student slots at the Cressona Campus at a reduced per diem rate of \$221.00 for an annual cost of \$122,655.00

Resignation of Dana Ayers, High School Graphic Arts Teacher, with a separation date to be agreed upon with the Superintendent

Emma Barrell, Hellertown, PA 18055, High School Graphic Arts Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$50,221

Paige Triano, Brockton, PA 17925, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 2, at a salary of \$50,721

Hannah Mordaunt, Albrightsville, PA 18210, Elementary Special Education Teacher, Master’s Step 6, at a salary of \$63,573

Rescind the motion of May 12, 2026, approving Ashley C. Brennan as an Elementary Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year

Approve the removal of Ashley C. Brennan from the Substitute Teacher List for the 2026-2027 school year

Nicole Leary, Andreas, PA 18211, Substitute Teacher

Richard Beltz, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Guest Teacher

Ratify Gina Morgan, certified teacher, mentor to Sarah Jacobs, certified teacher

Ratify Gina Morgan, certified teacher, mentor to Lauren Cimino, certified teacher

Approve Abby Shumgart, certified teacher, mentor to Emma Barrell, certified teacher 2026-2027 School Year

Jay Daubert, Middle School Specials Department Chairperson

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; HRA Amendment; 403B Updated Plan Document; Revised 2026-2027 Breakfast and Lunch Prices; One-Year Agreement with Sovereign Commercial Services; Print Quote; 2025 Audit; Pole Building Bid; 2026-2027 Bus Runs; Smart/One Screen TV Purchase; 2026-2027 Bus Driver List; Special Education Settlement Agreement; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Rush Township 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 - Assessed Occupation
2026 - Per Capita

Tamaqua Boro. 2022, 2023, 2024 - Assessed Occupation
2022, 2023, 2024 - Per Capita

Payment of Bills

Approve the HRA Amendment

Approve the 403B Updated Plan Document (12)

Revised 2026-2027 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

Elementary \$2.45

Secondary \$2.70

Breakfast: \$1.25

Adult Lunch \$5.05

Adult Breakfast \$3.50

Approve a 1-year agreement with Sovereign Commercial Services for cleaning services, effective September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027 for a monthly cost of \$5,884.67

Approve Print Quote

Approve 2025 Audit

Approve the Pole Building Bid:

General Construction; Dutchman Contracting LLC

Base Bid: \$471,538

Alternate 1: \$101,987 less deductions/change orders (\$14,670)

Alternate 3: \$9,000

Electrical: Berkshire Mechanical/Dennys Electric: \$52,500

2026-2027 Bus Runs

Purchase of (10) 75" Smart/One Screen TV with stands for classroom use K-12
from Costar Vendor Dauphin Datacom, not to exceed \$34,000
2026-2027 Bus Driver List
Special Education Settlement Agreement

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, Miller and Shellhammer all voted "FOR."

Communications – None

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

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Hartung, Jones, Miller and Shellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

