

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on September 15, 2026 at 7 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

Curt Hartung
Nancy Jones
Bryan Miller
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Tom Bartsavage
Melanie Dillman
Connie Ligenza, Business Manager

Administrative Staff in Attendance – Dr. Stephen Toth, Superintendent; Tom McCabe, Asst. Superintendent; Kenny Dunkelberger; Chief Operating Officer

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

Boyle made a motion seconded by Schoener to approve the minutes from August 18, 2026. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Hartung, Jones, Miller, and Shellhammer 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 Hartung to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Hartung, Jones, Miller, and Shellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

Superintendent Report – Toth indicated that the report in its entirety was attached to the agenda and included the PA Supreme Court Essay Contest Winners.

Hearings – None

President Wittig called for an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

No meeting held.

President Wittig called for the recommendation of the committees.

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

Wittig made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year: Agreement with Penn State, Hazleton; Agreement with Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank; Volunteer Coaches; Advisor; Substitute Custodians; Substitute Custodian List; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Approve the Agreement with Penn State, Hazleton for the usage of the High School, Baseball Field, at a negotiated price, contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation. Approve the agreement with Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank, Reading, PA 19608, as a host site for product distribution.

Jessie Howay, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, as a Volunteer Volleyball Coach.

Katie Koneschusky, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Cross Country Coach.

Dr. Andrew Solonoski, High School Physics and Engineering Club Advisor.

Audrey Florea, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$13.13.

Eugene Boyle, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$13.13.

Adam Bachert, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$13.13.

Thomas Graham, New Ringgold, PA 17960, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$13.13.

Adalyn Faust, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$13.13.

Preston Schaeffer, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$13.13.

Angelo Cerimele, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$13.13.

Substitute Custodian List

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Shellhammer to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year: Second Reading of Policy #918; Adopt Policy listed in letter A; Homebound Instruction; Affiliation Agreement; Mentors; Part-Time Paraprofessionals; Substitute Guest Teacher; Resignation; Professional Substitute Teacher List; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Second reading of the following policy:

Policy #918 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement

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

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

Adopt policy in letter A.

Homebound Instruction for one Elementary Student.

Affiliation Agreement with Moravian University, for student practicum experience.

Ratify Andrew Michalik, certified teacher, mentor to Megan Pries, certified teacher.

Ratify Vanessa Gimbor, certified teacher, mentor to Lauren Barrow, certified teacher.

Approve Kristen Klingaman, certified teacher, mentor to Andrew Solonoski, certified teacher.

Approve Samantha Bubel, certified teacher, mentor to James Lobb, certified teacher.

Approve Christa Evanko, certified teacher, mentor to Paige Triano, certified teacher.

Approve Elizabeth Marakovits, Guidance Counselor, mentor to Cara Sanfilippo, Guidance Counselor.

Approve Heather Bleiler, Occupational Therapist, mentor to Aubrey Scott, Occupational Therapist.

Delylah Evans, Tuscarora, PA 17982, Part-Time Paraprofessional, at an hourly rate of \$13.50.

Teanna Hunsicker, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional, at an hourly rate of \$13.50.

Caridad Schuettrumpf, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional, at an hourly rate of \$13.50.

Ratify Kamryn E. Abdo, Pottsville, PA 17901, Substitute Guest Teacher.

Resignation of Yamilis Velasco, Health Room Assistant, effective October 16, 2026.

Professional Substitute Teacher List.

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

Mark Beltz, TASD Band Director, presented the cost and material options for purchasing new band uniforms for next year.

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

Wittig made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year as Presented: Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; eSignature Resolution; Site Logic Facility Assessment; Repository Sale Resolution; Payment Resolution; PSBA Officer Elections; Sound System Purchase and Installation; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Rush Township	2024, 2025	Assessed Occupation
Schuylkill Twp.	2023, 2024, 2025	Assessed Occupation
Tamaqua Boro.	2024, 2025	Assessed Occupation
	2024	Per Capita
Walker Twp.	2024, 2025	Assessed Occupation
	2022, 2023, 2024	Real Estate
West Penn	2023, 2024, 2025	Assessed Occupation
	2023, 2024, 2025	Per Capita

Payment of Bills.

Adopt the resolution, identifying and authorizing the Superintendent, Dr Stephen P. Toth to sign electronic agreements with the PA Department of Education (PDE).

Site Logic Facility Assessment, one-year contract as presented; at no cost to the district.

Authorize the Business Administrator to approve repository sales.

Authorize the Business Administrator to process payments, and other routine items.

Resolution to vote for the list of candidates for the PSBA Board;

President Elect- 2027 Matt Vannoy

Vice-President- 2027 Kristy Bolte

Treasurer- 2027-2029 David Hein

Eastern Zone Representative- 2027 Jason Mell

PSBA Insurance Trustees-(3 yr. term): Marianne L. Need and Dr. Michael Faccinetto

Purchase and installation of a new sound system from Costar vendor, Event Staging Inc., 600 Industrial Drive, Orwigsburg, PA for the Tamaqua Elementary School. Not to exceed \$25,000.00.

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

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM.

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

Attest:

Temporary Board Secretary