Regular School Board Meeting October 20, 2026

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on October 20, 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
Daniel Schoener, Treasurer
Tom Bartsavage
Curt Hartung
Nancy Jones
Bryan Miller

ABSENT

Nicholas Boyle, Vice President
Melanie Dillman
Trina Schellhammer

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

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

Miller made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the minutes from September 15, 2026.

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, 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 Bartasavage to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills.

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavge to approve the treasurer's report.

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Hartung, Jones, and Miller 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 35 minute session was held at the end of the meeting.

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 2026-2027 school year: Out of State Trip; Rescind Motion; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Revised Game Worker Event Stipends; Resignation; Full-Time Custodian; Middle School and Elementary School Band Director; Purchase of Band Uniforms; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Approve the Ski Club, out of state trip, Killington, Vermont, dates to be determined.
Rescind the motion of May 12, 2026, approving Troy Hartman as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach.
Troy Hartman, Andreas, PA 18211, as an Assistant Junior High Wrestling Coach, at a stipend to be determined.
Jennifer Paisley, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Head Swimming and Diving Coach, at a stipend to be determined.
Jennifer Schock, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Softball Coach.
Lynzee Kerestus, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Softball Coach.
Gabe Erbe, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach.
Approve the Revised Game Worker Event Stipends.
Resignation of Chris Gardiner, Full-Time Custodian, effective October 23, 2026.
Ryan Dunkelberger, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Full-Time Custodian, at an hourly rate of $12.50.
James Lobb, Middle School Band Director.
James Lobb, Elementary School Band Director.
Approve the purchase of band uniforms from DeMoulin Brothers and Company, Greenville IL, at the cost of $140,473.55.

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

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

Jones made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year: Affiliation Agreement; Out of State Trip; Overnight Trip; 2026-2027 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement; Professional Employee Contracts; Substitute Guest Teachers; Part-Time Paraprofessional; Resignation; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Affiliation Agreement with Western Governors University, for student practicum experience.
Out of State Trip, Schuylkill Youth Conference, Washington DC, October 26, 2026.
Overnight Trip, Middle School Student Council Students to attend the PASC State Conference, Kingsley, PA, November 12, 13 and 14, funded by Student Council.
Approve 2026-2027 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement.
Megan Wentz, to be given professional status, as of October 20, 2026.
Elaina Wilson, to be given professional status, as of October 20, 2026.

Ashlyn Herring, to be given professional status, as of October 20, 2026.
Approve John Kovatch IV, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, Substitute Guest Teacher.
Approve Jessica Koscak, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Guest Teacher.
Hannah Murphy, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional, at an hourly rate of $16.75.
Resignation of Jennifer Novotney, High School, English Language Arts Teacher, with a separation date to be agreed upon with the Superintendent.

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavge, 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 Bartasavge to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year as presented: Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Bid Participation; E-Rate Program; PSEA Vision Contract; Temporary Secretary; Schuylkill County Land Bank; Solar Inverter Replacement; High School and West Penn Roofs; Purchase of Door Security Equipment; Purchase of UPS Battery Backup Technology; Purchase to Replace/Repair Doors; Purchase of Security Equipment; High School Hot Water Boiler; Blended Nursing Services Contract; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager
Tax Refunds:

Rush Township	2026	Real Estate
Schuylkill Twp.	2025	Assessed Occupation

Payment of Bills
Authorize the Business Manager to participate in the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council's bid process for the 2027-2028 fiscal year.
Authorize the Business Manager to participate in the E-Rate Program for the 2027-2028 funding year and to execute agreements as necessary for timeline compliance subject to future ratification by the Board of Education.
Approve a two-year agreement with the Pennsylvania State Education Association Health and Welfare Fund for Vision Benefits: effective 1/1/2027 – 12/31/2029 at the current rate of $7.09 per employee per month.
Ratify as of the September 15, 2026 Board Meeting, approving Board Member, Bryan Miller as Temporary Secretary.
Ratify the acquisition of parcel #65-13-162 located at 21 Greenwood Street, Tamaqua PA in advance of the 10/29/26 Judicial Sale for the price of $100 plus the cost of deed filing and certification.
Authorize acceptance of the proposal from McClure Company (Costars vendor) to replace a solar inverter at the Tamaqua Elementary School at a cost of $22,816.15.

Authorize the proposal from Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. for the following:
High School: Repairs necessary for 10 year warranty renewal: $38,000
High School: Warranty and Tremcare Gold Maintenance Service Agreement and
West Penn ES: Warranty and Tremcare Gold Maintenance Service Agreement at a cost not to exceed $64,000
Approve the purchase of 'Board Approved' door security equipment from CoStars Vendor, Bytespeed in the amount not to exceed $29,000.00, paid from PCCD Grant.
Approve the purchase of 'Board Approved' UPS Battery Backup Technology from CoStars Vendor, Mechanical Advantage in the amount not to exceed $26,000.00, paid from MCL Grant/Funds.
Authorize the replace/repair of doors from CoStars Vendor, Muncy Door, Inc. in the amount not to exceed $41,000.00, paid from PCCD Grant.
Approve the purchase of security equipment from CoStars Vendor, Bytespeed in the amount not to exceed $75,000.00, paid from MF Grant/Funds.
Approve the replacement of the High School Domestic Hot Water Boiler, CoStars Vendor, McClure Company. Installed as part of the original Geothermal Project (20 years old). Project not to exceed $140,000.00.
Approve a contract with Schuylkill IU #29 for Blended Nursing Services: effective 10/5/2026 at an hourly rate of $77/hour.

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavge, 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, 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 7:08 PM.

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

Attest:

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Connie Ligenza
Business Manager/ Board Secretary