

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 7:30 PM with Larry Wittig presiding. President Wittig led with the “Pledge of Allegiance.” A moment of meditation followed.

PRESENT

Larry Wittig, President  
Nicholas Boyle, Vice President  
Tom Bartasavage  
Melanie Dillman  
Nancy Jones

Bryan Miller  
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Daniel Schoener, Treasurer  
Mark Rother

Administrative Staff in Attendance – Raymond Kinder, Superintendent; Stephen Toth, Assistant Superintendent; Connie Ligenza, Business Administrator and Kenny Dunkelberger, Chief Operating Officer

Others in Attendance – members of the press, Eric Helberg, Solicitor

Ligenza indicated that all correspondences and appropriate reports relating to the agenda were available to the members of the board.

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Boyle made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, 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.

No executive session was held.

President Wittig called for the recommendations of the committees.

Auxiliary Committee – Bartasavage presented the following item as recommendations of the Auxiliary Committee.

Bartasavage made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year: Volunteer Coach; Full-Time Custodian; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Jaclin Backo, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Volleyball Coach

Christine Stumhofer, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Full-Time Custodian, at a rate of \$11.00 per hour

Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Jones to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year; Resignations; Substitute Guest Teachers; Salary Adjustment; Career Counselor; Certified Teachers; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Resignation of LeeAnn Matteo, West Penn Elementary, Life Skills Support Teacher, separation date to be determined

Resignation of Jessica Reynolds, Middle School English Language Arts Teacher, effective immediately

Resignation of Jennifer Puckette, Part-Time Paraprofessional, separation date July 15, 2023

Kelly Giffin, Shenandoah, PA 17976, Substitute Guest Teacher

Deb Gogno, Pottsville, PA 17901, Substitute Guest Teacher

Grised Garcia, Middleport, PA 17953, Substitute Guest Teacher

Suzanne Lobichusky, Barnesville, PA 18214, Substitute Guest Teacher

Salary adjustment of Brett Hoch, certified teacher from Bachelor’s, Step 4, \$45,751 to Bachelor’s, Step 4 \$46,331

Devin Murphy, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Career Counselor, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$43,631

Diann Belsak, New Ringgold, PA 17960, ESL Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 19 1/2, at a salary of \$61,891.50

Taylor Stair, Wapwallopen, PA 18660, Middle School English Language Arts Teacher, Master’s +30, Step 7 1/2 at a salary of \$61,646.50

Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Finance Committee – Boyle presented the following items as recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Donations; Affirmative Vote Resolution; Use of School Property; School Uniform Stipend; LCCC Shine Afterschool Program Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement; St. Jerome’s Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement; Contract with Behavioral Health Associates; 2023-2024 Agreement for Participation in the Child Nutrition Program with Schuylkill IU #29 and the Schuylkill County AVTS Operating Agency; 2023-2024 Agreement with Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc.; 2023-2024 Letter of Agreement with Child and Family Support Services Inc.; 2023-2024 Letter of Agreement with Pennsylvania Counseling Services, Inc.; 2023-2024 Memorandum of Understanding with Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services, Justice Works Youth Care; 2023-2024 Breakfast and Lunch Prices; Van Purchase; 2023 Appeals; Middle School Secretary; Occupational Therapist Contract; Two-year MOU with TAESPA; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| West Penn       | 2020, 2021, 2022 – Assessed Occupation |
| Rush Township   | 2022 - Assessed Occupation             |
| Tamaqua Borough | 2021, 2022 – Assessed Occupation       |

Payment of Bills

Authorization of donations to;

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| ESRC            | \$2,500 |
| Tamaqua Library | \$3,500 |

Affirmative Vote Resolution

Matt Hope, Tamaqua, permission to use the triangular piece of property on Stadium Hill for the 2023-2024 school year

School uniform stipend, at \$25.00, with a cutoff for financial assistance relative to the dress code for household income less than 130% of the poverty guideline

LCCC Shine Afterschool Program Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement at \$4.00

St. Jerome’s Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement for school lunches at \$2.75 per student

Contract with Behavioral Health Associates, Lehigh PA, 18235 for the 2023-2024 school year  
2023-2024 Agreement for Participation in the Child Nutrition Program with Schuylkill IU #29 and the Schuylkill County AVTS Operating Agency

2023-2024 Agreement with Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc.

Approve the 2023-2024 Letter of Agreement for the provision of Student Assistance Program Services with Child and Family Support Services Inc.

Approve the 2023-2024 Letter of Agreement for the provision of behavioral health services with Pennsylvania Counseling Services, Inc.

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services, Justice Works Youth Care, to facilitate provision of Truancy Prevention Program Services for the 2023-2024 school term

2023-2024 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Elementary | \$2.45 |
| Secondary  | \$2.70 |
| Breakfast: | \$1.25 |

Adult \$4.75

Adult Breakfast \$2.50

Purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Cargo Van from Tri-Star Chevrolet, Uniontown, PA at a cost of \$40,001.00

2023 Appeals

Leah Huynh, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Full-Time Middle School Secretary, at a rate of \$12.00 per hour  
Heather Bleiler, Occupational Therapist, Full-Time, three-year contract, effective August 21, 2023, at an annual salary of \$52,500

Approve the 2 year MOU with TAESPA

Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Communications – None

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to pay the monthly board invoices as presented. Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Miller made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

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Connie Ligenza  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary