

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on Tuesday August 15, 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
Daniel Schoener, Treasurer
Tom Bartasavage
Melanie Dillman

Bryan Miller
Mark Rother
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Nicholas Boyle, Vice President
Nancy Jones

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, members of the public and Erik Helberg, Solicitor

Miller made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the minutes from June 20, 2023 and July 18, 2023. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, 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 Rother to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Superintendent Report – Kinder indicated that the report in its entirety was attached to the agenda.

Hearings – A member of the public discussed the dress code.

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 – Rother presented the following items as recommendations of the Auxiliary Committee.

Rother made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year:

First Reading of Policy #006; Junior High Softball Program; Volunteer Coaches; Band Assistant; SPO; Substitute Custodian; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to forgo the reading of the listed policy. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #006 – Meetings

Approve the formation of a Junior High Softball Program

Cole Eberts, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Ryan Oldt, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Morgan Miller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Cheerleading Coach

Amy Gardiner, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Band Assistant, at a stipend to be determined

Phoenix Ritchie, New Ringgold, PA 17960, SPO2, at a rate of \$26.92 per hour, contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation

Jordan Rehrig, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.04 per hour

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year; First Reading of Policy #251; Authorization; Early Dismissal; Special Education Teachers; Resignation; Substitute Teacher; Mentors; Liaison Teachers; Professional Substitute Teacher List; Part-Time Paraprofessionals; Reclassification; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Rother to forgo the reading of the listed policy. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #251 – Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability

Authorize the Superintendent to employ staff as needed

Early Dismissal for the West Penn and Tamaqua Elementary Schools, November 8th-10th for Parent/Teacher Conferences

Elaina Wilson, New Tripoli, PA 18066, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$43,631

Courtney Kovatch, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$43,631

Resignation of Melissa Gillette, Part-Time Paraprofessional, effective immediately

Melissa Gillette, Summit Hill, PA 18250, Substitute Teacher

Vanessa Gimbor, certified teacher, mentor to Elaina Wilson, certified teacher

Lauren Barr, certified teacher, mentor to Courtney Kovatch, certified teacher

Sabrina Gross, certified counselor, mentor to Devin Murphy, career counselor

Alexa Hauer, adjustment Tamaqua Elementary Grades 3-5 Liaison Teacher to Tamaqua Elementary Grades 3-5 Co-Liaison Teacher

Linda Travis, Tamaqua Elementary Grades 3-5 Co-Liaison Teacher

Professional Substitute Teacher List

Jeanine Edmonds, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour
Amy Walburn, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour
Reclassification, Dara Schaeffer, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional to Full-Time Paraprofessional

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Rother to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; First Reading of Policy #800; 2023-2024 Bus Runs; Van Purchase; Purchase of Food Service Equipment; Taxes- American Hose Company; 2023-2024 Bus Driver List; Resignation; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation. Schoener made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to forgo the reading of the listed policy. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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	2022 – Assessed Occupation
Walker Township	2021, 2022 – Assessed Occupation
	2021, 2022 – Per Capita

Payment of Bills

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #800 – Records Management

2023-2024 Bus Runs

Purchase of 2 2024 Chrysler Pacifica touring vans from TriStar Fleet Sales for \$87,624 from the capital reserve fund

Purchase of 2 milk coolers (\$3,032.24 each) and an ice maker (\$5,505.16) from Singer, a co-stars vendor, for a total of \$11,569.64 from the food service fund

Taxes, American Hose Company: East Mauch Chunk Street (Parcel No. 65-12-0169). The total for each year is \$303.70 (2019) and \$311.23(2021) = \$614.93 total

2023-2024 Bus Driver List

Resignation of Christine Kostecky, Middle School Health Room Assistant, effective immediately

Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Communications - None

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

Old Business - None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. Wittig, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary