

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room of the Tamaqua Area Middle School on August 17, 2021 with Larry Wittig presiding. President Wittig led with the “Pledge of Allegiance”; a moment of silent meditation followed.

PRESENT

Larry Wittig, President  
Nicholas Boyle, Vice President  
Thomas Bartasavage  
Melanie Dillman  
Bryan Miller

Mark Rother  
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Daniel Schoener, Treasurer  
Dr. Thomas Rottet

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

Others in Attendance – Attorney Jeff Bowe, Solicitor and several members of the community

Rother made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the minutes from June 15, 2021, Special Board Meeting June 22, 2021 and July 20, 2021. Wittig, Boyle, 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.

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

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, 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 – Several community members spoke.

President Wittig called for an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. A 57-minute 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 Boyle to approve the following for the 2021-2022 school year: Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Resignation; Adult Game Worker List; Event Security List; Substitute Health Room Assistant List; Substitute Custodian List; at stipends to be determined, contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

- Ryne Fisher, Tamaqua, Volunteer Esports Coach
- Dominic Stegemerten, Brockton, PA, 17925, Volunteer Esports Coach
- Aaron Gill, Tamaqua, Volunteer Golf Coach
- Resignation, Caitlin Miller, 2021-2022 Raiders Step Up Advisor, effective the 2020-2021 school year
- Adult Game Worker List
- Event Security List
- Substitute Health Room Assistant List
- Substitute Custodian List

Wittig, Boyle, 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 Rother to approve the following for the 2021-2022 school year; Comprehensive Plan; 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan; Letters of Agreement; Authorization; Resignations; Retirement; Elementary Principal; Certified Teachers; Teaching Assignments; Professional Substitute Guest Teachers List; Substitute Paraprofessional List; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

- Comprehensive Plan
- 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan
- Letters of Agreement with Child and Family Support Services Inc., Reading, PA, 19602 for Student Assistance Program Service and Individual Student Elementary Student Assistance Assessments, beginning on August 1, 2021, not to exceed one year
- Authorize the Superintendent to employ staff as needed
- Resignation of Laura Shook, Elementary School Principal, on a date to be agreed upon with the Superintendent
- Resignation of Philip Traube, High School Math Teacher, effective August 15, 2021
- Resignation of Kara Schiel, Middle School Life Skills Teacher, effective immediately
- Resignation of Kerrie Gabriel, Part-Time Paraprofessional, effective immediately
- Retirement of Caitlin Miller, Middle School and High School Speech and Language Pathologist, effective the last day of the 2020-2021 school year
- Tara Orefice, Jim Thorpe, PA, 18229, Elementary School Principal, at a salary of \$88,000.00, starting on a date to be agreed upon
- Lisa Shivrinski, Tamaqua, High School Assistant Principal, at a salary of \$82,000.00, starting on a date to be agreed upon

Joseph Berezwick, Tamaqua, Certified Teacher, Bachelor's, Step 2, \$43,769.00, beginning the 2021-2022 school year  
Vincent Schultz, New Ringgold, PA 17960, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$42,528.00, beginning the 2021-2022 school year  
Catherine Catizone, Shenandoah, PA, 17976, Certified Teacher, Masters, Step 1, \$49,528.00, beginning the 2021-2022 school year  
Bailey Rottet, Andreas, PA, 18211, Speech Pathologist Certified Teacher, Masters, Step 2, \$50,428.00, beginning the 2021-2022 school year  
Teaching Assignments  
Professional Substitute Guest Teachers List  
Substitute Paraprofessional List

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

Miller made a motion seconded by Rother to amend the above to include mandated mask wearing by all passengers on the bus. Rother, Boyle, Dillman, Miller all voted "FOR." Wittig, Schellhammer, and Bartasavage all voted "AGAINST."

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

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2021-2022 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemption; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Bus Runs; 2021 Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals; 2021-2022 Breakfast and Lunch Prices; 2021-2022 Tuition Rates (Preliminary); Agreement with the Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc.; Purchase of SAVVAS ELA Literacy Program; Substitute Clerical List; Bus Driver List; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report, presented by the Business Manager  
Tax Refunds  
Payment of bills  
Bus Runs  
2021 Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals  
2021-2022 Breakfast and Lunch Prices  
2021-2022 Tuition Rates (Preliminary)  
Agreement with The Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc.  
Purchase of SAVVAS ELA Literacy Program for grades 3-5 at a cost of \$108,516.91, funded with EESER II funds  
Substitute Clerical List  
Bus Driver List

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

Hearing Committee – Boyle presented the following item as recommendation of the Hearing Committee.

Boyle made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the termination of employment of Zachary A. Blihar, effective immediately. Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, 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, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Miller made a motion seconded by Boyle to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. Wittig, Boyle, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

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Connie Ligenza  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary