

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI room on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 7:30 PM 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  
Daniel Schoener, Treasurer  
Tom Bartasavage  
Melanie Dillman

Nancy Jones  
Bryan Miller  
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Mark Rother

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

Others in Attendance – one member of the press, Erik Helbing, Solicitor, and a community member

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the minutes from July 16, 2024. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller 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 Boyle to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, 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 – A member of the community asked several questions.

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

A thirty minute executive session was held.

President Wittig called for the recommendations of the committees.

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

Bartasavage made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Adaptation of SPO Position; Volunteer Coach; Reclassification; SPO's; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Approve the Adaptation of the SPO position from a Part-Time position to a Full-Time position

Amanda Hascin, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Cross Country Coach

Reclassification of Ronald Kazakavage, from Part-Time SPO to Full-Time SPO, current hourly rate of \$29.22

Linda Flores, Full-Time SPO, at an hourly rate of \$28.03

Robert Quezada, Part-Time SPO, at an hourly rate of \$28.03

Bill Easparro, Part-Time SPO, at an hourly rate of \$28.03

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Schoener to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Annual Review of Policy #249; Authorization; Homebound Instruction; Affiliation Agreement; Resignations; Retirement; Spanish Teacher; Special Education Teachers; Elementary Teacher; Guidance Counselor; Mentors; Department Chairperson; Family Medical Leave; Professional Substitute Teacher List; Substitute Guest Teacher List; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Annual review of the following policy:

Policy #249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying

Authorize the Superintendent to employ staff as needed

Homebound Instruction for two Elementary Students

Homebound Instruction for one Middle School Student

Affiliation Agreement with Kutztown University, for student teachers, practicum or student teaching experience

Resignation of Randa Ray, High School Spanish Teacher, with a separation date of August 30, 2024

Resignation of Krystal Fitzgerald, West Penn Elementary, Life Skills Support Teacher, with a separation date of August 18, 2024

Retirement of Carol Reigel, Part-Time Paraprofessional, effective immediately

Nicol D. Brito-Polanco, Tresckow, PA 18254, Spanish Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1.5, at a salary of \$45,298.00

Rebecca Hoffman, Barnesville, PA 18214, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$45,048.00

Melissa Gillette, Summit Hill, PA 18250, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, at a salary of \$45,048.00

Janice Maher, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 7, at a salary of \$49,921.00

Courtney Tamagini, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Guidance Counselor, Master’s Step 1, at a salary of \$53,439.00

Frank Dickman, certified counselor, mentor to Ashley Swiezak, career counselor

Gregory Haney, certified teacher, mentor to Nicol D. Brito-Polanco, certified teacher

Jennifer Kinder, certified teacher, mentor to Rebecca Hoffman, certified teacher

Jennifer Kinder, certified teacher, mentor to Melissa Gillette, certified teacher

Audra Schlecht, certified teacher, mentor to Janice Maher, certified teacher

Amanda Peters, certified teacher, mentor to Ashlyn Herring, certified teacher

Elizabeth Marakovits, certified counselor, mentor to Kelly Klimowitch, social worker

Elizabeth Marakovits, certified counselor, mentor to Stacey Mika, social worker

Frank Dickman, High School Extended Services Department Chairperson, for the 2024-2025 School Year

Dana Ayers, FMLA, Beginning on or about August 26, 2024 with a tentative return to work date of October 26, 2024

Professional Substitute Teacher List

Substitute Guest Teacher List

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; 2024-2025 Revised Breakfast and Lunch Prices; One-Year Agreement with Sovereign Commercial Services; MOU between the District and Tamaqua Area Education Support Personnel; Purchase of Furniture; Purchase of Food Service Equipment; Purchase of Teacher PCs; Purchase upgrade of Verkada Cameras; 2024-2025 Bus Runs; 2024-2025 Bus Driver List; Confidential Secretary; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Rush Township	2021, 2022, 2023	- Assessed Occupation
	2022, 2023	- Per Capita
Tamaqua Borough	2022	- Assessed Occupation
	2022	- Per Capita
Schuylkill Township	2022	- Assessed Occupation
West Penn Township	2021, 2022, 2023. 2024	- Assessed Occupation

Payment of Bills

2024-2025 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

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

Adult \$4.75

Adult Breakfast \$2.85(revised)

Approve a 1-year agreement with Sovereign Commercial Services for cleaning services, at a date to be determined for a monthly cost of \$5,546.66

Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Tamaqua Area Education Support Personnel regarding West Penn Elementary Second Shift Custodians

Ratify the purchase from Hertz Furniture, at a cost of \$36,816.07, using the Co-stars purchasing cooperative and Morgan Foundation Funds

Purchase of serving equipment for the High School Cafeteria from Rice’s Food Equipment and Consulting, Inc. at a total cost of \$14,260.66, using the Co-stars contract

Approve the purchase of Teacher PCs from ByteSpeed, a Co-stars approved vendor, at a cost of \$99,750.00, using pre-allocated funds

Approve the upgrade purchase of Verkada Cameras, from ByteSpeed, a Co-stars approved vendor, at a cost of \$193,127.00, using pre-allocated funds.

2024-2025 Bus Runs

2024-2025 Bus Driver List

Ashley Morgan, Frackville, PA 17931, Confidential Secretary, at a salary of \$38,000

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

Communications - None

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

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

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Connie Ligenza  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary