

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI room on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 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
Mark Rother
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Bryan Miller

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

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

Boyle made a motion seconded by Rother to approve the minutes from November 21, 2023. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, 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 Boyle to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

A three minute meeting 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 2023-2024 school year: Second Reading of Policy #823; Adopt Policy #823; First Reading of Policies #815 and #819; Advisors; Volunteer Coach; Volunteer Advisor; Substitute Custodians; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to forgo the readings listed. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Second reading of the following policy:

Policy #823 – Naloxone

Adopt policy in letter A

First reading of the following policies:

Policy #815 – Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources

Policy #819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response

Troy Hartman, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Nate Halenar, Volunteer Student Government Advisor (TASGA) for the 23-24 school year

Talib Whah, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.92 per hour

Lisa Macalush, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.92 per hour

Melissa Martinez, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.92 per hour

Isabella Fort, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.92 per hour

Thorn Devlin, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Ski Club Advisor, at a stipend of \$642.00

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, 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 Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year; First Reading of Policy #233; Revised 2023-2024 Health and Safety Plan; Homebound Instruction; Unpaid Leave; Maternity Leave; Retirement; Substitute Guest Teacher; Substitute Teachers; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to forgo the readings listed. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #233 – Suspension and Expulsion

Approve the revised 2023-2024 Health and Safety Plan

Homebound Instruction for one High School student

Kristen Tubbs, unpaid leave beginning January 8, 2024, with a tentative return to work date of January 6, 2025

Amanda Gallagher, unpaid leave for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, with a tentative return to work for the 2024-2025 school year

Ratify DarciJo Smarr, Maternity Leave, began September 6, 2023 with a return to work date of November 29, 2023

Retirement of Cathy Miorelli, Secondary School Nurse, with separation date of December 22, 2023

Julian Costa, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, Substitute Guest Teacher

Emily Titus, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Teacher
Ainsley Segedy, Drums, PA 18222, Substitute Teacher

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, 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 Boyle to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; 2024 Tax Exemption Form; 2022 Audit Report; IDEA part B; Section 619; Senior High and Middle School parking lot repairs; Sensor Install; 2024 Appointing of Solicitor; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

West Penn	2022, 2023 – Assessed Occupation
	2022, 2023 – Per Capita
	2023 - Real Estate
Tamaqua Borough	2022 - Assessed Occupation
Schuylkill Twp.	2023 - Real Estate
Rush Township	2021, 2022 – Assessed Occupation

Payment of Bills

2024 Tax Exemption Form

2022 Audit Report

Approve IDEA part B with Schuylkill IU #29 for the 2023-2024 school year

Approve Section 619 with Schuylkill IU #29 for the 2023-2024 school year

Approve the repairs and replacement of the High School and Middle School parking lot(s)

and driveway, using the Gordian Group, approved PA State & KPN vendor at a cost of \$469,331.03

Approve the building/classroom sensor install using IotaComm, Allentown, PA at a cost not to exceed

\$2,500.00 with a per month not to exceed \$600 based upon building sqft., pilot for 1 calendar year

Eric Helbing, Esquire of Bowe and Odorizzi Law, LLC, Tamaqua, PA as the district’s solicitor for

2024, at a retainer of \$5,200 and \$175.00 per hour

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

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

Boyle made a motion seconded by Rother to approve the expulsion of a middle school student for one calendar year for violation of the discipline code under the identified stipulations. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Communications - None

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

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary