

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI room on Tuesday, July 16, 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
Mark Rother
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

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

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

Bartasavage made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the minutes from June 18, 2024. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, 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, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

Superintendent Report – Assistant Superintendent Toth 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.

There was no meeting held.

President Wittig called for the recommendations of the committees.

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

Rother made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Adult Game Worker; Volunteer Game Worker; Resignation; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Kevin Smith, Mahanoy City, PA 17948, as a Co-Assistant Volleyball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Jaclin Backo, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Co-Assistant Volleyball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Cristie Ansbach, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach

James Dean, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Girls Tennis Coach

Andy Smarr, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the 1st Assistant Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Beth Jones, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Adult Game Worker

Randy Wasserleben, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Game Worker

Resignation of Brandon Scull, Full-Time Custodian, due to abandonment of position

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Jones to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Second Reading of Policy #237; Revised 2024-2025 Health and Safety Plan; Affiliation Agreement; Agreement with Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley Inc.; Agreement and Contract with River Rock Academy; Resignations; Full Time Social Worker; Career Counselor; Substitute Teacher; Summer School Teacher; Reclassifications; Part-Time Paraprofessional; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Second reading of the following policy:

Policy #237 – Electronic Devices

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

Approve the revised 2024-2025 Health and Safety Plan

Affiliation Agreement with Nova Southeastern University, Inc. for educational and professional programs which require teaching or clinical, fieldwork or practicum experiences

Agreement with Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc., Center’s Partial Hospitalization Program and Therapeutic Educational Program

ACT 48 Program Agreement for services, dated July 3, 2024 with River Rock Academy LLC for the delivery of alternative education services for disruptive youth Contract with River Rock Academy for the reservation of 5 secondary student slots at the Cressona Campus at a reduced per diem rate of \$161.00 for an annual cost of \$148,925.00

Resignation of Marta Monk, West Penn Elementary First Grade Teacher, separation date to be determined

Resignation of Sabrina Gross, High School Guidance Counselor, separation date to be determined

Kelly Klimowitch, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, Full Time Social Worker, at a salary of \$58,055.59

Ashley Swiezak, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, Career Counselor, Master's Step 2, at a salary of \$53,939.00

Lacey Timony, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Teacher

Ratify Jason Gerber, Summer School Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00

Reclassification, Devin Murphy, from a RPT Guidance Counselor to RPT Social Worker at a salary of, \$52,000.00

Reclassification, Amy Walburn, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional to Full-Time Paraprofessional

Reclassification, Corinne Miller, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, Part-Time Paraprofessional to Full-Time Paraprofessional

Norlina Rex, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; 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; 2024-2025 Breakfast and Lunch Prices; Purchase of Furniture for the Student and Career Center; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager Payment of Bills

Approve the following 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 2024-2025 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 \$4.25 per meal
 St. Jerome’s Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement for school lunch at \$3.00 per student
 lunch 2024-2025 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

Elementary	\$2.45
Secondary	\$2.70
Breakfast:	\$1.25
Adult	\$4.75
Adult Breakfast	\$2.50

Purchase of furniture for the Student and Career Center from Hertz Furniture, at a cost of \$36,816.07, company is on State Contract, funding from the Morgan Grant.

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, 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, 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 7:44 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
 Business Administrator/Board Secretary