

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI room on Tuesday, June 18, 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

Bryan Miller
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

Nancy Jones
Mark Rother

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

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

Boyle made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the minutes from June 18, 2024. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, 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 Miller to ratify the transfer of funds and payment of bills. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

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

No session was held.

President Wittig called for the recommendation of the committees.

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

Bartasavage made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the following for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year; Small Games of Chance License; Pay to Participate Fees; Volunteer Coaches; Coaches; Rescind Motion; Substitute Custodian; Grounds and Activities Lead; Utility Lead; Adult Game Worker and Event Security List; Volunteer Advisor; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Authorize the Tamaqua Area Booster Board to apply for a Small Games of Chance License

Pay to Participate fees:

1st Sport \$40 (\$30, if annual donation received)

2nd Sport \$30 (\$20, if annual donation received)

3rd Sport \$20 (\$10, if annual donation received)

Chris Paisley, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Cross Country Coach

Morgan Boyle, Brockton, PA 17925, as a Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach

Ryan Bamford, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach

Emma Hinkle, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Assistant Cheerleading Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Jarrett Reigel, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Junior Varsity Football Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Tyler Skripko, Brockton, PA 17925, as a Junior High Football Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Devin Murphy, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Football Coach

Carson Barron, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Football Coach

Francis Hill, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Football Coach

Joshua Holmberg, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Football Coach

Brandon Heffelfinger, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Tyler Skripko, Brockton, PA 17925, as an 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Sophia Boyle, Brockton, PA 17925, as a Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach

Sarah Hope, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach

Casey Wagner, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach

Lisa Trubilla, Coaldale, PA 18218, as an Assistant Swimming and diving Coach, at a stipend to be determined

David Holmes, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Junior High Wrestling Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Cole Eberts, Andreas, PA 18211, as an Assistant Junior High Wrestling Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Jim Hehn, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

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

Kyle Nothnagel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Francis Hill, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

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

Lauren Hill, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Wrestling Coach

Tony Zancofsky, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the Head Softball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

- James Gormley, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Junior Varsity Softball Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Jeffrey Reading, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, as the Head Baseball Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Robert Workman, Minersville, PA 17954, as an Assistant Baseball Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Zach Chodur, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach ff. Jason Gerber, Ashland, PA 17921, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach
- Jim McCabe, Brockton, PA 17925, as the Head Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- David Holmes, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the 2nd Assistant Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Megan Frantz, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the 3rd Assistant Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Devin Murphy, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the 4th Assistant Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Alexa Hauer, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as the Head Junior High Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Maria Campomizzi, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Assistant Junior High Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined
- Rich Stianche, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Track and Field Coach
- Rescind motion of February 20, 2024, approving Olivia Matula, Coaldale, PA 18218, as an Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Gabriella Brode, Barnesville, PA 18214, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.92 per hour
- Raymond Kunkel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Grounds and Activities Lead, at a stipend to be determined
- Michael Kunkel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Utility Lead, at a stipend to be determined

2024-2025 School Year

Tracy Miller, Volunteer Middle School Student Council Advisor

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, 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 Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year; First Reading of Policy #237; 2024-2025 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan; Early Dismissal; Extended School Year Teacher; Extended School Year Paraprofessional; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #237 – Electronic Devices

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

2024-2025 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Plan

Early Dismissal for the West Penn and Tamaqua Elementary Schools, November 6th, 7th and 8th for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Katelyn Midas, Extended School Year Teacher, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
Madison McGlinchey, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, current hourly rate

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller 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 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Payment of Bills; Second Reading of Policies #827 and #626; 2023-2024 Blanket Budget Transfer; 2024-2025 Final Budget; 2024-2025 Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion; 2024-2025 District Insurance Package; Rebate, Face & Penalty Period for 2024-2025; Depositories; 2024-2025 Health and Welfare Trust Rates; Agreement for participation in the Child Nutrition Program with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29 and the Schuylkill County AVTS; Contract with Behavioral Health Associates; Memorandum of Understanding with St. Luke’s University Health Network for cooperative education services; Purchase of Zero Turn Mower; Public School Facility Improvement Grant; 2024-2025 Salary Schedules; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager
Payment of Bills
Second reading of the following policies:
Policy #827 – Conflict of Interest
Policy #626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance

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

2023-2024 Blanket Budget Transfer
Approve the following 2024-2025 Final Budget
Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/24: \$2,116,099
Revenue: \$39,880,052
Expenses: \$39,908,429
Ending Fund Balance 6/30/25: \$2,087,722
Unassigned:
Real Estate Tax Rate 44.93 mills
Per Capita, Section 679 \$5.00
Per Capita, Act 511 \$5.00
Earned Income Tax 1% (shared with municipalities)
Real Estate Transfer Tax 1% (shared with municipalities)
EMS Tax \$5.00 (shared with municipalities) Assessed
Occupation \$225.00

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the Final Budget. Boyle, Dillman, Miller, and Wittig, all voted “FOR.” Bartasavage and Schellhammer voted “AGAINST.”

Establish the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion at \$242.00 a reduction in Assessed Value of \$5,399.00 for eligible properties per information provided to us by the county assessment office

Authorize the business manager to select the District’s Insurance Package (lowest cost option for the current program) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the event final numbers are not available for our last June meeting.

Approve the rebate, face and penalty periods for Per Capita, Assessed Occupation and Real Estate Tax for the 2024-2025 fiscal year (2024 tax bills) as follows:

- Rebate July to August 2%
- Face September to October
- Penalty November to December 10%

Appoint Mauch Chunk Trust as the district’s depository for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

Appoint M & T Bank as the depository for the district’s tax account for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

Approve the 2024-2025 Health and Welfare composite, self-pay and COBRA rates effective July 1, 2024, including adjustments to the out of pocket maximum set by the Affordable Care Act:

TASD HW Trust						
24-25 Rates						
	Health	Dental	Prescr.	Vision	Total	Annual
COMPOSITE RATE PEPM	2,403.96	66.50	295.78	7.09	2,773.33	33,279.96
Single	1,156.79	33.04	142.33	7.09	1,339.25	16,071.00
2-Person	2,313.58	66.08	284.66	7.09	2,671.41	32,056.92
Family	2,891.98	82.60	355.83	7.09	3,337.50	40,050.00
Cobra +2%						

Agreement for participation in the Child Nutrition Program with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29 and the Schuylkill County AVTS

Approve the contract between the district and Behavioral Health Associates, for the 2024-2025 school year

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding dated June 1, 2024 between the district and St. Luke’s University Health Network for cooperative education services

Purchase of a 72 KOHLER ECV749 EFI (26.5HP) Zero Turn Mower as per state cooperative purchasing program, at a cost of \$13,500

Approve the following Resolution:

Be it RESOLVED, that the Tamaqua Area School District of Schuylkill County hereby requests a Public School Facility Improvement Grant of up to \$5,000,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for a roof replacement at our High School. Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Connie Ligenza, Business Administrator and/or Dr. Stephen Toth, Assistant Superintendent as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Tamaqua Area School District and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant. Tamaqua Area School District commits to match the award amount by 25%. This resolution was acted upon and passed at the board meeting held on May 21, 2024. It will be revised at our board meeting on June 18, 2024.

2024-2025 Salary Schedules for Administration and Non-Contract Positions

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

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Miller and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary