

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI room On Tuesday, October 15, 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

ABSENT

Trina Schellhammer  
Mark Rother

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the minutes from October 15, 2024. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Miller 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, Jones and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Miller 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 50 minute meeting was held.

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

Bartasavage made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Rescind Motions; Adult Game Worker; Advisor; Reclassification; Substitute Custodians; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Brayden Knoblauch, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend of \$2,500.00

Rescind motion of June 18, 2024, approving Brandon Heffelfinger, Tamaqua, PA 18252 as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach

Allen Graver, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend of \$2,500.00

Madelyn Jones, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as 2nd Assistant Swimming and Diving Coach, at a stipend of \$2,500.00

Brandon Eberts, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

Gregory Haney, Pottsville, PA 17901, as a Junior Varsity Baseball Coach, at a stipend of \$3,036.43

Craig Valentine, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach

Nate MacDonald, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach

Jim McCabe, Brockton, PA 17925, as Head Boys Soccer Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Clem McCarroll, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Head Girls Soccer Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Matthew Stine, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, as Head Golf Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Kathy Odorizzi, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Head Tennis Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Jeff Oakes, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as an Adult Game Worker

Rescind motion of August 20, 2024, approving Robert Quezada, as a Part-Time SPO

Thorn Devlin, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as Ski Club Advisor, at a stipend of \$669.00

Reclassification of Liam Conforti, Tamaqua, PA 18252, from Substitute Custodian to Full-Time Custodian, at a rate of \$11.00 per hour

Mason Derr, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$12.41 per hour

Addison Rummel, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$12.41 per hour

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Miller 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; Out-of-State Trip; Agreement; Salary Adjustment; Resignations; Rescind Motion; Family Medical Leave; Full-Time Paraprofessional; Part-Time Paraprofessionals; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Out-of-state trip, “Raider” Marching Band to The Disney World Theme Park parade, departing Tuesday, February 16, 2027 and returning Sunday, February 21, 2027

Ratify the Agreement with LearnWell to provide educational services, at the time of admittance to a medical facility

- Salary adjustment of Taylor Prehotsky, certified teacher form Bachelor’s, Step 1, to Master’s, Step 4, at a salary of \$55,739.00, retroactive to her hire date
- Resignation of Clarence Opolsky, Middle School, Social Studies Teacher, with a separation date to be determined
- Resignation of Emily Martin, Tamaqua Elementary School, Special Education Teacher, with a separation date to be determined
- Resignation of Cayle Spencer, High School, Learning Support Teacher, with a separation date to be determined
- Resignation of Amanda Gallagher-Dunkelberger, Social Worker, effective immediately
- Rescind motion of September 17, 2024, approving Ashley Mcardle, as a Part-Time Paraprofessional
- Denise Drum, Intermittent FMLA, beginning on or about January 13, 2025
- Adjustment of Bailey Rottet from approved maternity leave to FMLA
- Kailee Caputo, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Full-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour
- Sabrina Moyer, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour
- Nicole Wronski, New Ringgold, PA 17960, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour
- Lilliana Birkmier, Tamaqua, Pa 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour
- Carmen McGlothlin, Tamaqua, Pa 18252, Part-Time Paraprofessional at a rate of \$12.00 per hour

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Miller 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; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; 2025 Tax Exemption Form; Act 32 Primary and Alternate Delegates; 2024-2025 Special Education Service Agreement; PSEA Vision Contract; Latshaw Landscaping Contract ; Equipment Purchase; Middle School Elevator Repairs; Land Bank; 2025 Delinquent Tax Collector; Rescind Motion; Fuel Surcharge Agreement; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Rush Township	2023	- Assessed Occupation
	2024	- Real Estate
Tamaqua Borough	2021, 2022, 2023	- Assessed Occupation
	2021, 2022, 2023	- Per Capita
Walker Township	2024	- Real Estate
West Penn Township	2024	- Real Estate, Per Capita & Assessed

Occupation

Payment of Bills

2025 Tax Exemption Form

Appoint John Hurst, Business Administrator-Mahanoy Area School District, as the district’s second alternative on the Act 32 Tax Collection Commission, with the primary delegate continuing to be Connie Ligenza and the first alternate continuing to be Larry Wittig

Approve the 2024-2025 Special Education Service Agreement with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29, for the provision of Special Education Services at a tentative amount of \$401,270 for its projected participation in the program

Approve the two-year agreement with PSEA Vision effective 1/1/2025 with no change in rates, the current rate is \$7.09 PEPM remains intact

Contract with Latshaw Landscaping and Lawncare for Tamaqua Elementary School Topdressing and Aeration, at a cost of \$12,000

Purchase of a used New Holland Model L175 Skid Loader (1565 Hrs.) with Cab/Heat & AC + Aux hydraulics, from Eckroth Equipment Company, Orefield, PA, at a cost of \$20,900

Approve repairs to the Middle School elevator, repairs by Reading Elevator Service, Costar approved vendor at a cost of \$22,959

The Tamaqua Area School District consents and agrees to allow the Schuylkill County Land Bank to acquire the following properties in advance of the December 2024 Judicial Sale via trump bid for the purchase price of \$100 each, plus the cost of deed filing and certification 401 Willing Street, Parcel No. 65-08-0205.000, 423 Willing Street, Parcel No. 65-08-0223.000, 200 Pitt Street, Parcel No. 65-11-0144.000

Appoint Portnoff Law Associates as our delinquent real estate tax collector for the 2025 collection period effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 inclusive of goals established by the district

Rescind motion of October 15, 2024, approving Justin Hillard, as a Part-Time Health Room Assistant

Approve continuing the Fuel Surcharge agreement with Kistler Transportation Inc. for the 24-25 school year

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year as presented; Approve Agreement regarding 3:22-cv-00525 as presented. Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller all voted “FOR.” Wittig and Boyle voted “AGAINST.”

Hearing Committee – Boyle presented the following item as recommendation for the Hearing Committee. Boyle made a recommendation seconded by Jones to approve the expulsion of a 10<sup>th</sup> grade high school student, for one calendar year for a violation of the discipline code under the identified criteria. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Miller 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 and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Old Business - None

New Business – None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones and Miller all voted “FOR.”

Regular School Board Meeting

November 19, 2024

Attest:

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Bryan Miller  
Assistant Board Secretary