

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:30 PM with Larry Wittig presiding. President Wittig led with the “Pledge of Allegiance.” A moment of 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 – Stephen Toth, Assistant Superintendent; Connie Ligenza, Business Administrator and Kenny Dunkelberger, Chief Operating Officer

Others in Attendance – member of the press, members of the public and Erik Helberg, Solicitor

Miller made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the minutes from October 17, 2023. 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 Bartasavage to approve the treasurer’s report. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Superintendent Report – Toth indicated that the report in its entirety was attached to the agenda.

Hearings - Members of the public addressed dress code and coach position.

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

A 34 minute meeting was held.

President Wittig called for the recommendations of the committees.

Auxiliary Committee – Schellhammer presented the following items as recommendations of the Auxiliary Committee.

Schellhammer made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year: First Reading of Policy #823; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; Full-Time Maintenance; Substitute Custodians; Resignation; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation. Schoener made a motion

seconded by Bartasavage to forgo the reading listed. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

First reading of the following policy:

Policy #823 – Naloxone

Andy Smarr, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as 1st Assistant Track and Field Coach, at a stipend to be determined

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

Emily Titus, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Girls Basketball 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

Thomas Kanger, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, as Head Cross Country Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Megan Frantz, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Cross Country Coach

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

Rich Gibson, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Volunteer Tennis Coach

Sam Bonner, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, as Head Football Coach, at a stipend to be determined

David Rex, New Ringgold, PA 17960, Full-Time Maintenance at a rate of \$12.00 per hour

Samantha Miller, New Ringgold, PA 17960, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.92 per hour

Metta Pavia, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Substitute Custodian at a rate of \$11.92 per hour

Resignation of Brian Delaney, Full-Time Custodian, separation date to be determined

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Schellhammer to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year; Winter Formal; Out of State Trips; Agreement with ReDCo Group; Mentors; Resignation; Maternity Leave; Sabbatical Leave Request; Part-Time Paraprofessionals; Special Education Teachers; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Approve TASGA to hold the Winter Formal at Capriotti's, McAdoo, PA, November 25, 2023

Approve Out of State Trip, AP Social Studies students, New York City, April 12, 2024

Approve Out of State Trip, Raider Marching Band, Washington D.C, April 27, 2024

Approve the one-year agreement with the ReDCo Group- Behavioral Health Services of Pottsville, PA, for the 2024-2025 school year

Amanda Woodring, certified teacher, mentor to Cayle Spencer, certified teacher

Vanessa Gimbor, certified teacher, mentor to Courtney Kovatch, certified teacher

Resignation of Lauren Barr, Tamaqua Elementary Emotional Support Teacher, separation date to be determined

Briona Spotts, Maternity Leave, beginning on or about March 11, 2024, with a tentative return to work date of May 13, 2024

Ashley Brennan, Maternity Leave, beginning on or about January 3, 2024, with a tentative return to work date of April 3, 2024

Deny request for sabbatical leave for a professional employee

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

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

Ashlyn Herring, Tamaqua, PA 18252, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$43,631

Jordan Abdo, Pottsville, PA 17901, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$43,631

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 2023-2024 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; 2023-2024 Tuition Rates; Act 32 Primary and Alternate Delegates for 2025; Delinquent Tax Collectors; 2023-2024 Special Education Agreement; Act 1 Index; Transportation Agreement; Part-Time Health Room Assistant; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

West Penn	2022 – Assessed Occupation
	2022 – Per Capita
Tamaqua Borough	2023– Assessed Occupation
	2023– Per Capita
	2023 - Real Estate Exemption approved

Payment of Bills

Approve the following 2023-2024 Tuition Rates

Elementary	\$10,361.00
Secondary	\$11,134.00

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
Appoint Portnoff Law Associates as our delinquent real estate tax collector for the unpaid taxes for the 2025 collection cycle

Appoint Berkheimer Incorporated as the delinquent Per Capita and Assessed Occupation tax collector for the 2025 collection cycle

Approve the 2023-2024 Special Education Agreement with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29, for the provision of Special Education Services at a tentative amount of \$251,036 for its projected participation in the program

Approve to not exceed the Act 1 Index of 5.3%, including the adjustment factor 7.6% for the 2024-2025 budget cycle

Approve continuing the agreement with Kistler Transportation Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year

Jennifer Hermany LPN, Hazleton, PA 18201, Part-Time Health Room Assistant at a rate of \$21.97 per hour

Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, 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, 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 8:32 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Schellhammer all voted "FOR."

Attest:

Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary