

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
Melanie Dillman
Nancy Jones

Bryan Miller
Mark Rother

ABSENT

Tom Bartasavage
Trina Schellhammer

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

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

Miller made a motion seconded by Boyle to approve the minutes from September 17, 2024. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother 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, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

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

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

Rother made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Second Reading of Policies #317.1, #336, #339, #807, #824; Coaches; Volunteer Coaches; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation. Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to forgo the reading of the listed policies. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Second reading of the following policies:

Policy #317.1 – Educator Misconduct

Policy #336 – Personal Necessity Leave

Policy #339 - Uncompensated Leave

Policy #807 – Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays

Policy #824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

Cristie Ansbach, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Owen Koch, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Michael Murphy, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Anthony Agosti, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, as an Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, at a stipend to be determined

Michael Ouly, Center Valley, PA 18034, as a Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach

Eric Temarantz, Andreas, PA 18211, as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Boyle to Board approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year; Second Reading of Policies #218, #234, #247, #249, #252; Affiliation Agreement; Substitute Guest Teachers; Reclassification; Professional Employee Contracts; Rescind Motion; Family Medical Leave; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation. Schoener made a motion seconded by Rother to forgo the reading of the listed policies. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Second reading of the following policies:

Policy #218 – Student Discipline

Policy #234 – Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students

Policy #247 – Hazing

Policy #249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying

Policy #252 – Dating Violence

Affiliation Agreement with the University of Phoenix to provide education experiences for selected University students

Pamela Sabath (Binder), New Ringgold, PA 17960, Substitute Guest Teacher

Grace Kenna, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, Substitute Guest Teacher

Reclassification of Kayla Siegfried, from Part-Time Health Room Assistant to Full-Time Certified School Nurse, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$45,048 for the 2024-2025 school year

Joseph Berezwick, to be given professional status, as of October 15, 2024

Sarah Geronimo, to be given professional status, as of October 15, 2024

Vanessa Gimbor, to be given professional status, as of October 15, 2024

Autumn Pedron, to be given professional status, as of October 15, 2024

Bailey Rottet, to be given professional status, as of October 15, 2024

Briona Spotts, to be given professional status, as of October 15, 2024

Edward Titus, to be given professional status, as of October 15, 2024

Rescind the motion of September 17, 2024, approving Tracy Moyer, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Full-Time Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year

Marsha Rodgers, Intermittent FMLA, Beginning on or about November 12, 2024

Bailey Rottet, Maternity Leave, with an anticipated date at the beginning of November 2024, with an anticipated return date in February 2025

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2024-2025 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Bid Participation; E-Rate Program; Act 1 Index; Tax Appeals; 2024-2025 Tuition Rates; Health Room Assistants; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

Tamaqua Borough 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 - Assessed Occupation
2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 - Per Capita

Payment of Bills

Authorize the Business Manager to participate in the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council’s bid process for the 2025-2026 fiscal year

Authorize the Business Manager to participate in the E-Rate Program for the 2025-2026 funding year and to execute agreements as necessary for timeline compliance subject to future ratification by the Board of Education

Approve the resolution to not increase taxes beyond the established index for the 2025-2026 budget cycle, per attached resolution

Ratify the list of tax appeals

Approve the following 2024-2025 Tuition Rates

Elementary \$9,856.47

Secondary \$10,384.84

Justin Hillard, LPN, Plymouth, PA 18651, Part-Time Health Room Assistant at a rate of \$22.87 per hour

Linda Yannuzzi, RN, Kelayres, PA 18231, Part-Time Health Room Assistant at a rate of \$25.41 per hour

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

Communications - None

Schoener made motion seconded by Boyle to pay the monthly board invoices as presented.

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

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Schoener made a motion seconded by Boyle to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Dillman, Jones, Miller, and Rother all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

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Connie Ligenza
Business Administrator/Board Secretary