

The Board of Education of the Tamaqua Area School District met in regular session in the LGI Room on Tuesday, September 19, 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  
Mark Rother  
Trina Schellhammer

ABSENT

None

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

Others in Attendance – Amy Hehn, Nutrition Group, member of the press, and Erik Helberg, Solicitor

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, 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 – 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 nine minute executive session was held.

President Wittig called for the recommendations of the committees.

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

Rother made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year: Second Reading of Policy #006; Adopt Policy #006; Coach; Volunteer Coach; Full-Time Custodian; Drama Club Volunteers; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

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

Second reading of the following policy:

Policy #006 – Meetings

Adopt policy in letter A

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

Zach Chodur, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Volunteer Baseball Coach

Brian Delaney, Pottsville, PA 17901, Full-Time Custodian-2<sup>nd</sup> shift at a rate of \$11.00 per hour

Lauri Miller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Caitlin Miller, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Kipp Tonkin, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

Kylie Lehatto, Tamaqua, PA 18252, as a Drama Club Volunteer

George Hegedus IV, New Ringgold, PA 17960, as a Drama Club Volunteer

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

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

Dillman made a motion seconded by Bartasavage to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year; Second Reading of Policy #251; Adopt Policy #251; Homebound Instruction; Early Graduation; 2023-2024 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement; 2023-2024 Title IIA Non-Public Programs and Services Letter of Agreement; Service Access and Management, Inc. two-year coordination agreement; Resignations; Revised Retirement Date; Substitute Guest Teacher; Special Education Teachers; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

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

Second reading of the following policy:

Policy #251 – Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability

Adopt policy in letter A

Homebound Instruction for one Tamaqua Elementary Student

Homebound Instruction for two Tamaqua High School Students

Approve early graduation for one-eleventh grade student

Approve 2023-2024 Title I Non-Public Letter of Agreement

Approve 2023-2024 Title IIA Non-Public Programs and Services Letter of Agreement

Approve the Service Access and Management Inc. 2-year Coordination Agreement

Resignation of Candin Fox, High School Special Education Teacher, separation date to be determined

Resignation of Catherine Catizone, Tamaqua Elementary Learning Support Teacher, separation date to be determined

Resignation of Frank D’Agostino, Tamaqua Elementary Vice Principal, separation date to be determined

Approve the revised retirement date of Marjorie McCormick, Middle School Language Teacher from September 15, 2023 to September 21, 2023

William Savitsky, Shenandoah, PA 17976, Substitute Guest Teacher

Cayle Spencer, Harveys Lake, PA 18618, Special Education Teacher, Bachelor’s Step 1, at a salary of \$43,631.00

Lauren Klevis, Frackville, PA 17931, Special Education Teacher, Master’s Step 10, at a salary of \$60,380.00

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

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

Schoener made a motion seconded by Miller to approve the following for the 2023-2024 school year as presented; Tax Report and Tax Exemptions; Tax Refunds; Payment of Bills; Second Reading of Policy #800; Adopt Policy #800; Repository Sale Resolution; Blanket Resolution; Gaming Desktops Purchase; PSBA Officer Elections; PSBA Delegate Assembly Voting Delegates; Resignation of AVTS Authority Member; AVTS Authority Member; Sabbatical Leave; contingent upon the submission of the necessary documentation.

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

Tax Report and Tax Exemptions, presented by the Business Manager

Tax Refunds:

West Penn	2020, 2021, 2022 – Assessed Occupation
	2020, 2021, 2022 – Per Capita
Rush Township	2020, 2021, 2022 - Assessed Occupation
	2022 – Per Capita
Tamaqua Borough	2021, 2022 – Assessed Occupation
	2022 – Per Capita
Walker Township	2020, 2021, 2022 – Assessed Occupation
Schuylkill Twp.	2022 - Assessed Occupation

Payment of Bills

Second reading of the following policy:

Policy #800 – Records Management

Adopt policy in letter D

Authorize the Business Administrator to approve repository sales

Authorize the Business Administrator to process payments, and other routine items

Purchase of 20 STG Aubron gaming desktops and accessories, total cost \$14,600.20

Resolution to vote for the list of candidates for the PSBA Board; PSBA Insurance Trust and PSBA Steering Committee

President Elect-1yr. term: Allison Mathis, North Hills SD

Vice-President-1 yr. term: Sabrina Backer, Franklin Area SD

Treasure-3 yr. term: Karen Beck Pooley, Bethlehem Area SD

PSBA Insurance Trustees-3 yr. term: Marianne Neel and Michael Faccinetto

School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee-2 yr. term: (Secretary vote only),

Betsey Gates and Jamie Lynn Zimerofsky

Appoint Larry Wittig and Thomas Bartasavage as voting delegates to the PSBA Delegate Assembly

Resignation of Trina Schellhammer as AVTS Authority Member

Approve Larry Wittig as AVTS Authority Member

Approve Kailee Kelly for Sabbatical Leave for the 2023-2024 school year for the restoration of health  
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 Schellhammer to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Wittig, Boyle, Schoener, Bartasavage, Dillman, Jones, Miller, Rother, and Schellhammer all voted “FOR.”

Attest:

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Connie Ligenza  
Business Administration/Board Secretary