

**HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Hamburg, Berks County, PA 19526-0401**  
**March 24, 2025**

The meeting of the Board was called to order by Vice President, Thomas DeAngelo, at 6:31 p.m. This meeting was held in the James A. Gilmartin Community Room of Hamburg Area School District

A roll call of directors followed, and the following directors were present:

Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White

There were six directors present at the meeting when roll call was taken.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Christopher Beissel, Superintendent; Michele Zimmerman, Business Manager; Teresa Freiwald, Chief Learning Officer; Shawn Gravish, Director of Operations; Ryan McGinley, High School Principal; Alyssa Fink, Assistant High School Principal; Tim Easter, Middle School Principal; John Henne, Assistant Middle School Principal; Andrea Berger, Elementary Principal; Lacie Cucciuffo, Elementary Principal; Robert Marra, Student Services and Special Education Director; Matt Bertschy, Director of Transportation and Child Accounting; Carlie Cole, Director of Human Services; David Shefter, Director of Food Services; Aaron Menapace, Athletic Director; Elaine Ruppert, Director of Facilities; Andrew Diehl, Director of Information Technology; Molly Fox, Student Council Representative; James Mancuso, District Solicitor; Nicolette Hoover, Board Secretary; Visitors – Marcy Donatelli, Sara Parry, Laurin Eichler

Mr. DeAngelo opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

- VI. The board voted on the corrected February 24th meeting minutes, nothing to memorialize and the previous March 10th meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Toni McFadden to approve the corrected February 24th meeting minutes, again nothing to memorialize and the previous March 10th meeting minutes as written.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Carson Adams, Steven Gilbert, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with six directors voting yes.

Laura “Lolly” Leshar arrived at 6:34pm.

- V. Public Comments

Mr. DeAngelo asked for Public Comments.

Sara Perry and Laurin Eichler thanked the Board of the Directors for allowing Laurin the opportunity to attend Hamburg as an Exchange student for the 2024-2025 school year. Laurin shared that it has been an intense 8 months but a wonderful opportunity.

VI. Board Reports

- A. Berks E.I.T. Committee – Ms. Zimmerman- nothing to report at this time, meeting will be this Thursday.
- B. Joint Operating Committee –Mr. DeAngelo - will share briefs as they become available, meeting will be this week.
- C. Committee on Legislative Action – Mrs. McFadden shared
  - President Trump signed an Executive order regarding the Department of Education.
  - PSBA School Leadership Conference will be October 19-21, 2025
  - Student Showcase will be held on October 19th
  - More information can be found on PSBA.org
- D. Intermediate Unit – Mr. Gebely- not present
- E. Student Council – Miss Molly Fox shared the following:
  - May day is May 22nd- The theme is Hawaiian.
  - The Hawk Hoedown that was scheduled for over Spring Break has been canceled.
- F. President – Mr. Gebely- not present

VII. Report of the Business Manager

- A. Recommend approval of the Berks Career and Technology Center Proposed Operating Budget in the amount of \$20,223,509 and the HASD portion of \$864,820 (See Exhibit XXVIg-1)

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Daniel Sarna to approve the Berks Career and Technology Center Proposed Operating Budget in the amount of \$20,223,509 and the HASD portion of \$864,820

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Steven Gilbert, Laura “Lolly” Leshner, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

- A. Special Education Plan First Reading- Presentation will be given by Mr. Marra at the April 14th meeting. It will be brought to the April 28th meeting for approval.
- B. Recommend approval of the General Fund Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2024 (See Exhibit XXVIg-2)
- C. Recommend approval of the General Fund invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIg-3)
- D. Recommend approval of Food Service Profit and Loss Statements for November and December 2024 and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIg-4)
- E. Recommend approval of the Capital Reserve Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2024 and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIg-5)
- F. Recommend approval of the Debt Service Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2024 (See Exhibit XXVIg-6)
- G. Recommend approval of the High School and Middle School Activity Funds Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2024 and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIg-7)
- H. Recommend approval of disposal items presented on detailed listing (See Exhibit XXVIg-8)

A motion was made by Toni McFadden, seconded by Carson Adams to approve the General Fund Treasurer's Report; and Invoices in the amount of \$1,591,742.54 (check nos0000082259-0000082330 and D001004337-D001004391); Arbiter payments in the amount of \$893.00; Food Service Profit and Loss Report and invoices \$91,814.33(check no000008705-000008709 and D000000812-D000000824); Capital Reserve Treasurer Report and invoices in the amount of \$740,880.00(check no0000001338) ; Debt Service Treasurer Report; High School Activity Fund Treasurer Report and checks in the amount of \$10,068.77(check no0000013819-0000013832); Middle School Activity Fund Treasurer Report and checks in the amount of \$647.00(check nos. 0000004140-0000004141)

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Laura "Lolly" Leshner, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Steven Gilbert, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

- I. Recommend approval of the following Board Policy:
  - 1. Policy 808- Food Services (See Exhibit XXVIg-9)
  - 2. Policy 918 Attachment- Title I Parent and Family Engagement (See Exhibit XXVIg-10)

A motion was made by Birgit White seconded by Daniel Sarna to approve the following Board policies as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Steven Gilbert, Laura “Lolly” Leshner, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

J. First review of the position description for Central Administration Secretary. Will seek approval at the April 14, 2025, Committee Meeting

K. Acknowledgement of the following leaves of absence:

1. Erica Dawson, Tilden Elementary Paraeducator, effective 03/20/2024
2. Susan Snyder, Tilden Elementary Paraeducator, effective 03/24/2025
3. Nick McBreen, Middle School Basketball Girls Head Coach, effective 03/24/2025
4. Megan Kline, High School Marching Band Director, effective 06/06/2025
5. Dr. Lacie Cucciuffo, Tilden Elementary Principal, effective 06/30/2025 for the purpose of retirement.

Dr. Beissel took a minute to acknowledge this was Dr. Cucciuffo's 11th year at Tilden Elementary and that she always put her students first. He also congratulated her on her retirement from Hamburg at the conclusion of this school year.

L. Recommend approval of the following leave of absence:

1. Employee #2023, Tilden Elementary Teacher, FMLA qualifying leave beginning 05/05/2025 through 06/06/2025

A motion was made by Carson Adams seconded by Toni McFadden to approve the leave of absence as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Birgit White, Carson Adams, Steven Gilbert, Laura “Lolly” Leshner, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

Superintendent corrected agenda items to reflect last minute changes to personnel matters.\*

M. Recommend approval of the following Transfers:

1. Susan Snyder, ~~High School~~-Tilden Food Service Employee replacing Katie Hillman, effective 03/25/2025, pending transition of replacement hire \*
2. Nick McBreen, High School Boys Basketball Assistant Coach replacing Nathan Santiago, effective 03/25/2025 with a stipend payment of \$4162 / Step 3
3. ~~Lori Fritz, Tilden Elementary Food Service Employee replacing Susan Snyder, effective 03/25/2025 \*~~

A motion was made by Birgit White seconded by Daniel Sarna to approve the following Transfers as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Carson Adams, Steven Gilbert, Laura "Lolly" Leshner, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

N. Recommend approval of the following Support Staff:

1. Kiersten Duke, Tilden Elementary Paraeducator, replacing Jodi Miller. Effective 03/31/2025 at an hourly rate of \$13.34 for 7 hours per day
2. Sharon Strausser, Perry Elementary Paraeducator (based on student need). Effective 04/14/2025 at an hourly rate of \$13.34 for 7 hours per day

A motion was made by Laura "Lolly" Leshner seconded by Carson Adams to approve following Support staff as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Steven Gilbert, Laura "Lolly" Leshner, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

O. Recommend approval of the following Extracurricular Staff:

1. Teresa Zalasky, Athletics Game Help, effective 03/10/2025 at the Board-approved stipend rate per event.
2. Matthew Haney, Athletics Game Help, effective 03/25/2025 at the Board-approved stipend rate per event.

A motion was made by Toni McFadden seconded by Birgit White to approve following Extracurricular staff as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Laura "Lolly" Leshner, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Steven Gilbert, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting

P. Recommend approval of the following District Volunteers:

1. Michael Crimmins
2. Allyson Lash
3. Jason Nichols
4. Carl Worrell

A motion was made by Daniel Sarna, seconded by Laura "Lolly" Leshner to approve the following District Volunteers as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Steven Gilbert, Laura "Lolly" Leshner, Thomas DeAngelo

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

IX. Information Items

- A. March Enrollment
- B. Board Summary Reports ( See Exhibits XXVIg-11)

X. Dates to Remember

Month	Day	Event	Time
April	14	Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
April	15	Full Day for Students	
April	16	Early Dismissal for Students Adult Learning PM	
April	17,18,21	Spring Holiday Recess	

XI. New Business

- Lolly Leshar mentioned Governor Shapiro's Proposed Budget and stop-gap funding during new business.

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Toni McFadden seconded by Birgit White to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm. Motion carried.

**MINUTES APPROVED**  
**April 28, 2025**

**RECORDED BY**

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**Ryan J. Gebely**

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**Nicolette A. Hoover**