

**HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Hamburg, Berks County, PA 19526-0401**  
**January 13, 2025**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board was called to order by President, Ryan Gebely at 6:30 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 following directors were present:

Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Laura “Lolly” Leshner, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Ryan Gebely

Absent- Birgit White

There were eight 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 Principal; John Henne, Middle School Assistant Principal; Andrea Berger, Elementary Principal; Rob Marra, Student Services and Special Education Director; Matt Bertschy, Director of Transportation and Child Accounting; Aaron Menapace, Athletic Director; David Shefter Director of Food Services; Elaine Ruppert, Director of Facilities; James Mancuso, District Solicitor; Nicolette Hoover, Board Secretary; Visitors – Marcy Donatelli, Terri McCarthy, Sophia Cruz-Garcia, Sophia Garretson, Kelly Rollman, Nick Rollman, Evan Rollman

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

The Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Gebely asked for Public Comments. There were no public comments.

V. Report of the Business Manager

- A. 2025- 2026 General Fund Preliminary Budget Opt-Out Resolution (See Exhibit XXVIf-69)
  - This will not increase the tax rate.
  - This will be on the next agenda for approval.
- B. Move \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the High School Chiller Project
  - For the High School Chiller Project.
  - Will be on the next agenda for approval.
- C. 2023-2024 Single Audit Report (See Exhibit XXVIf-70)
  - The report was given to each Board Member to take with and review.
  - It was a clean audit, no findings.
  - Please reach out to Ms. Zimmerman with any questions.
  - This will be on the next agenda.
  - Mr. Gebely thanked Ms. Zimmerman for her hard work and dedication.

VI. Report of the Superintendent

A. School Director Recognition Month

- Dr. Beissel took a minute to thank the Board for all their hard work and turned the floor over to Mr. McGinley.
- Mr. McGinley also thanked the board for all their hard work.
- Mr. McGinley and three of our High School students, Sophia Garretson, Sophia Cruz Garcia, and Evan Rollman presented the Board with gifts.
- Sophia Garretson and Sophia Cruz-Garcia created and designed the coasters. Sophia Garretson explained the sublimation process.
- Evan Rollman explained the process of the laser printed wooden name plates.
- Mr. Gebely thanked the students on behalf of the board and pointed out that this is a wonderful public display of their learning.

B. School Resource Officer (SRO) Overview

- Dr. Beissel provided a handout and discussed Act 55. (See Exhibit XXVIf-71)
- They have been working closely with the local law enforcement.
- The floor was turned over to Chief Kuklinski.
- Toni McFadden asked if there would be one Officer in each building?
- Tonia Krick asked if the Officer would be armed?
- Dr. Beissel explained with the start of this initiative there would be one Resource Officer in the District at all times. One Officer across four schools, armed and in uniform.
- Corporal Chase was introduced and has been the Officer who has been in our buildings, building relationships with our staff and students so far this year.

C. First reading of the following board policy:

1. 805.2- School Security Personnel (See Exhibit XXVIf-72)
  - Mr. Gebely reminded the Board Members to read over this policy.

D. High School Chiller Project Update and Timeline

- There was a kickoff meeting before the winter break, and we now have an aggressive timeline for the project.
- Key dates: Work has already started, and the first crane day(s) tentatively scheduled for 1/27-1/31. The second crane day(s) will be during the adult learning day(s) so no students will be on campus. February 14th and 17th. Mechanical/Electrical work will begin again in the beginning of March.
- With this timeline, it will ensure the chillers will be providing cool air by April 1st.
- Dr. Beissel thanked Mrs. Elaine Ruppert, Dr. Shawn Gravish, Consolidated Engineers and Leibold for their efforts.

E. Acknowledgement of the following separations: thanked 1 & 2 for their many years of service and lives they have touched over the year

1. Lori Crider – Elementary Teacher
  - Effective 06/06/2025
  - Resignation submitted for the purpose of retirement
2. Susan Franco – Elementary Teacher
  - Effective 06/06/2025

- Resignation submitted for the purpose of retirement
3. Dustin Rohrbach – Assistant Coach, High School Boys Soccer
  - Effective 12/17/2024
  - Will remain a Volunteer Assistant Coach, Boys Soccer
4. Nate Rothermel – Musical Choreographer
  - Effective 12/31/2024
5. Nicholas Sager – Assistant Coach, High School Baseball (50%)
  - Effective 01/02/2025
6. Leon Blatt – Assistant Coach, High School Boys Soccer
  - Effective 01/06/2025
  - Stipend: \$1525 / Step 3
7. Katie Hillman – Food Service Employee
  - Effective 01/10/2025

F. Acknowledgement of the following leaves of absence:

1. Employee # 1395, High School Teacher
  - Medical sabbatical
  - Extension for full school year term beginning 01/21/2025
2. Employee # 743, High School Teacher
  - Medical sabbatical
  - Anticipated leave dates: 01/21/2025 – 06/06/2025 (extended for full year term)
3. Employee # 1807, Custodian
  - FMLA-qualifying leave
  - Anticipated leave dates: 11/22/2024 – 01/10/2025
  - Intermittent leave dates: 01/13/2025 – 07/13/2025
4. Employee # 388, Elementary Teacher
  - FMLA-qualifying leave
  - Anticipated leave dates: 01/08/2025 – 01/28/2025
5. Employee # 2032, Elementary Teacher
  - FMLA-qualifying leave
  - Anticipated leave dates: 01/08/2025 – 01/22/2025

G. Recommend approval of the following Extra-curricular staff: \*

1. Damian Buggy – Assistant Coach, High School Football
  - Replacing Nicholas McBreen & Scott Troutman
  - Effective 01/14/2025
  - Stipend: \$4859 / Step 3
2. Leon Blatt – Assistant Coach, High School Boys Soccer
  - Replacing Dustin Rohrbach
  - Effective 01/14/2025
  - Stipend: \$3297 / Step 3
3. Shilpa Moser – Assistant Coach, High School Boys Soccer
  - Replacing Leon Blatt
  - Effective 01/14/2025
  - Stipend: \$1550 / Step 3
4. David Roche – Head Coach, High School Girls Wrestling
  - Effective 01/14/2025
  - Budgeted position for 2025-2026
  - Stipend: \$4000 / Step 3
5. Nate Rothermel – Musical Director, High School
  - Replacing Barry Driesbach
  - Effective 07/01/2025
  - Stipend: \$3500

A motion was made by Toni McFadden, seconded by Daniel Sarna to approve the following Extra-curricular staff as listed.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Laura "Lolly" Leshler, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Ryan Gebely

No- None

Motion carried with eight directors voting yes.

H. Recommend approval of the following Extra-curricular staff: \*

1. Ryan Gebely – Volunteer Assistant Coach, Middle School Track
  - Effective 01/14/2025

A motion was made by Laura "Lolly" Leshler, seconded by Carson Adams to approve the following Extra-curricular staff as listed.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Laura "Lolly" Leshler, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Carson Adams

No- None

No Vote: Ryan Gebely abstained due to conflict of interest. Abstention form. (See Exhibit XXVIf-73)

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes and one director abstaining.

I. Recommend approval of the following District Volunteers: \*

1. Amanda Amey
2. Lindsay Adam
3. Christopher Kunkel
4. Terrie Moseman
5. Deborah Russell
6. Ashley Pauliuc

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

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Laura "Lolly" Leshler, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Ryan Gebely

No- None

Motion carried with eight directors voting yes.

VII. Information Items

- January Enrollment

VIII. Dates to Remember

Month	Day	Event	Time
January	20	No School (First scheduled snow makeup day if needed.)	
January	27	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
February	10	Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.

IX. New Business

- We are officially kicking off the building committee. The members are Ryan Gebely, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, and Lolly Leshner.

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Tonia Krick, seconded by Toni McFadden to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Motion carried.

**MINUTES APPROVED**  
**January 27, 2025**

**RECORDED BY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ryan J. Gebely**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nicolette A. Hoover**