

**HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Hamburg, Berks County, PA 19526-0401**  
**January 27th, 2025**

The meeting of the Board was called to order by Vice President, Thomas DeAngelo, 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, Birgit White

Absent- Daniel Sarna, Ryan Gebely

There were seven 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; Tim Easter, Middle School Principal; Andrea Berger, Elementary Principal; Lacie Cucciuffo, Elementary Principal; Matt Bertschy, Director of Transportation and Child Accounting; Elaine Ruppert, Director of Facilities; Andrew Diehl, Director of Information Technology; Molly Fox, Student Council Representative; James Mancuso, District Solicitor via phone; Nicolette Hoover, Board Secretary; Visitors – Marcy Donatelli, Dave Mengle, Brandon Scholl

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

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes- December 5th, 2024 and January 13th, 2025

A motion was made by Carson Adams, seconded by Toni McFadden to approve the minutes as written.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

V. Public Comments

Mr. DeAngelo asked for Public Comments.

Brandon Scholl- addressed the Board regarding a concern for students outside of the middle school prior to 7:20am when the temperature is zero degrees.

VI. Board Reports

A. Berks E.I.T. Committee – Ms. Zimmerman- update was included in your documents. (See Exhibit XXVIf-74)

B. Joint Operating Committee –Mr. DeAngelo - will share briefs as they become available.

C. Committee on Legislative Action – Mrs. McFadden shared Governor Shapiro presented his 2025-26 state budget proposal. There will be a PSBA Government Affairs 2025-2026 State Budget Address Webinar that she will be joining.

D. Intermediate Unit – Mr. Gebely- not present

E. Student Council – Miss Molly Fox shared the following:

- The annual Holiday dance on December 6th was a success with 142 students in attendance.
- The same evening there were student council members who assisted at the Tilden Holiday workshop.
- February 21st is the Annual Faculty Basketball Charity Game. This year they are raising funds for Blessed Beginnings. The game will take place in the New Gym while all stands will be set up in the Old Gym.
- May Day will take place on May 22nd this year and we are bringing back the battle of the bands.

F. President – Mr. Gebely- not present

VII. Report of the Business Manager

A. Recommend approval of the 2025-2026 General Fund Preliminary Budget Opt-Out Resolution (See Exhibit XXVIf-75)

A motion was made by Laura “Lolly” Leshner, seconded by Birgit White to approve the 2025- 2026 General Fund Budget Calendar.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

- B. Recommend approval to move \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the High School Chiller Project

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Carson Adams to approve \$500,000 moved from the General Reserve Fund for the High School Chiller Project.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

- C. Acknowledgement of the 2023-2024 Single Audit Report

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

A. 2025 Board Appointments

1. Berks E.I.T Committee
  - Michele Zimmerman
  - Birgit H. White (Alternate)
2. Joint Operating Committee
  - Thomas D. DeAngelo
  - Carson B. Adams (Alternate)
3. Committee on Legislative Action & P.S.B.A. Regional Cabinet
  - Toni L. McFadden
4. B.C.T.C. Authority
  - Not needed at this time.
5. Berks County Intermediate Unit Board
  - Ryan J. Gebely
6. Fine Arts Hall of Fame
  - Ryan J. Gebely
  - Tonia S. Krick
7. Wellness Committee
  - Toni L. McFadden
8. Academic Hall of Fame
  - Toni L. McFadden
  - Carson B. Adams
9. High School Building Committee
  - Ryan J. Gebely
  - Thomas D. DeAngelo
  - Steven C. Gilbert

- Laura “Lolly” Leshner
- B. High School Chiller Project Update
- Cranes were on location to remove old chillers on January 20th. The new chillers are scheduled to be delivered in February after the steel structure has been assembled.
- C. Recommend approval of the General Fund Treasurer’s Reports for November and December 2024 (See Exhibit XXVIf-76)
- D. Recommend approval of the General Fund invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIf-77)
- E. Recommend approval of Food Service Profit and Loss Statements for November and December 2024 and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIf-78)
- F. Recommend approval of the Capital Reserve Treasurer’s Reports for November and December 2024 and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIf-79)
- G. Recommend approval of the Debt Service Treasurer’s Reports for November and December 2024 (See Exhibit XXVIf-80)
- H. 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 XXVIf-81)

A motion was made by Tonia Krick, seconded by Carson Adams to approve the General Fund Treasurer's Report; and Invoices in the amount of \$3,474,041.05 (check nos 0000082041-0000082186 and D001004147-D001004270); Food Service Profit and Loss Report and invoices \$204,693.38 (0000008694- 0000008697 and D000000775-D000000796); Capital Reserve Treasurer Report and invoices in the amount of \$17,209.00(check no 0000001337) ; Debt Service Treasurer Report; High School Activity Fund Treasurer Report and checks in the amount of \$28,296.33(check nos. 0000013757-0000013803); Middle School Activity Fund Treasurer Report and checks in the amount of \$1,571.29 (check nos. 0000004135-0000004137)

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

- I. Acknowledgement of the following separations:
1. Laura O’Keefe – Elementary Art Teacher
    - Effective 06/06/2025
    - Resignation submitted for the purpose of retirement
  2. Douglas Pietsch – Elementary Classroom Teacher

- Effective 06/06/2025
- Resignation submitted for the purpose of retirement
- 3. Nicholas McBreen – Assistant Coach, High School Football (50%) and Spring Weightroom Supervisor (50%)
  - Effective 01/15/2025
  - Will remain Volunteer Assistant Coach, Football
- 4. Robert W. Henne, Sr. – Assistant Coach, Middle School Football (50%)
  - Effective 01/27/2025
- 5. Robert E. Henne, Jr. – Assistant Coach, Middle School Football (50%)
  - Effective 01/27/2025

Dr. Beissel extended his sincere appreciation to both Laura O’Keefe and Doug Pietch for their over 50 years of combined service. We congratulate them on their retirement and wish them all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

J. Acknowledgement of the following leaves of absence:

1. Employee # 1526 – Classroom Teacher
  - FMLA-qualifying leave
  - Anticipated leave period: 05/02/2025 – 09/30/2025

K. Recommend approval of the following Support staff:

1. Tara Ulrich – Food Service Employee
  - Increase from 7.5 to 7.75 hours per day
  - Effective 01/28/2025

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Toni McFadden to approve the support staff as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

L. Recommend approval of the following Extra-curricular staff:

1. Nathan Rothermel – Drama Club Advisor
  - Replacing Barry Driesbach
  - Effective 01/01/2025
  - Stipend: \$750 (prorated)
2. Nicholas McBreen –Assistant Coach, High School Football (100%)

- Replacing Kevin Smith
  - Effective 07/01/2025
  - Stipend: \$4654 / Step 3
3. Robert W. Henne, Sr. - Head Coach, Middle School Football (50%) & Athletics Game Help
- Replacing William Wilson
  - Effective 01/28/2025
  - Stipend: \$2042 / Step 3
4. Robert E. Henne, Jr – Assistant Coach, Middle School Football (100%)
- Replacing Robert W. Henne, Sr.
  - Effective 01/28/2025
  - Stipend: \$3345 / Step 3
5. Richard Reinhart, III – Winter and Spring Weight Room Supervisor
- Replacing Zac Kossifos (Winter), Nick McBreen (Spring 50%), and Scott Troutman (Spring 50%)
  - Effective 01/28/2025
  - Stipend: \$1700 per season
6. Randall Lykens – Assistant Coach, Middle School Track & Athletics Game Help
- Replacing Katie Cornell
  - Effective upon receipt of all required employment documents
  - Stipend: \$2475 / Step 3
7. Olivia Bing – Assistant Coach, Middle School Track & Athletics Game Help
- Replacing Wyatt Conrad
  - Effective upon receipt of all required employment documents
  - Stipend: \$1980 / Step 10
8. Rebecca Henne – Head Coach, Middle School Boys Soccer & Athletics Game Help
- Replacing Shilpa Moser
  - Effective upon receipt of all required employment documents
  - Stipend: \$2451 / Step 1
9. Tyler Manmiller – Assistant Coach, Varsity Baseball (50%) & Athletics Game Help
- Replacing Nicholas Sager
  - Effective upon receipt of all required employment documents
  - Stipend: \$1707.50 / Step 3

10. Jude Bubeck – Volunteer Assistant Coach, High School Football

- Effective 01/28/2025

A motion was made by Laura “Lolly” Leshner, seconded by Tonia Krick to approve the following Extra-curricular staff as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

M. Recommend approval of the following student trip:

1. Sixth grade trip on May 7, 8, and 9 to South Mountain YMCA, Wernersville, PA
  - Approximate cost to the District is \$25,300.

A motion was made by Laura “Lolly” Leshner, seconded by Birgit White to approve the following

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

IX. Information Items

A. Board Summary Reports (See Exhibit XXVI-f-82)

X. Dates to Remember

Month	Day	Event	Time
February	6	Middle School and High School Parent-Teacher Conferences	3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
February	10	Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
February	14	No School Act 80 Day/Adult Learning Day	
February	17	No School for Students/Adult Learning Day	
February	24	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.

XI. New Business

- Lolly Leshar asked Dr. Gravish about the HAEF Casino Night Fundraiser Event taking place on Saturday March 1st, 2025 at the Warehouse of Hamburg. The purpose of this event is to raise funds for Teacher and Student grants for HASD.
- And Lolly also asked that we discuss the public comment from the beginning of the meeting.

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Laura "Lolly" Leshar, seconded by Birgit White to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. Motion carried.

**MINUTES APPROVED**

**February 24, 2025**

**RECORDED BY**

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**Ryan J. Gebely**

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**Nicolette A. Hoover**