

**HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Hamburg, Berks County, PA 19526-0401**  
**October 28, 2024**

The meeting of the Board was called to order by President, Ryan Gebely, at 6:30p.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, Birgit White, Ryan Gebely

There were nine 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; Rob Marra, Student Services and Special Education Director; Matt Bertschy, Director of Transportation and Child Accounting; Carlie Cole, Director of Human Resources; Molly Fox, Student Council Representative; James Mancuso, District Solicitor; Nicolette Hoover, Board Secretary; Visitors – Marcy Donatelli, Dave Mengle, Damian Buggy, David Kline, Nick McBreen

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

**IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes- September 23 and October 14, 2024**

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

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

**V. Public Comments**

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

## VI. Board Reports

- A. Berks E.I.T. Committee – Ms. Zimmerman- nothing to add at this time.
- B. Joint Operating Committee –Mr. DeAngelo shared the Joint Operating Committee Meeting Briefs from October 23rd. (See Exhibit XXVIf-40)
- C. Committee on Legislative Action – Mrs. McFadden shared
- PSBA event: Building Stronger School Communities Through Civil Discourse on February 1st, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 2:00PM.
  - PSBA Data- Driven Directors Session #2: Utilizing Stakeholder and Community Data will take place on November 7th, 2024, online at 6:00pm.
  - Informed the board two Senate Bills are going to the house, SB340 and SB7
- D. Intermediate Unit – Mr. Gebely shared
- The last IU meeting covered state mandates and revisions.
- E. Student Council – Miss Molly Fox shared the following:
- Past Events
- Hawks T-Shirt Fundraiser
  - Members sold over 400 Hawk Gear shirts
- Upcoming Events
- Holiday Dance - Santa's Workshop
  - Tickets will start to go on sale today and will be sold until
  - @ CJ Hummels from 6-10 pm
- Cookie Dough Fundraiser
- Begins on 11/18
  - Forms due 12/6
- Haunted House
- Sophomore Class running it on 10/30
  - Runs from 6-9
  - Student Council selling popcorn and soda
- F. President – Mr. Gebely
- nothing to share at this time

## VII. Report of the Business Manager

- A. Recommend approval of the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Calendar (See Exhibit XXVIf-41)

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

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

B. As of June 30, 2024, recommend approval to: done at the end of each year

1. move \$4,966.94 from Committed Fund Balance to Unassigned Fund Balance, resulting in a \$59,996.39 balance in Committed Fund Balance
2. move \$145,897.76 from Non-spendable Fund Balance to Unassigned Fund Balance
3. move \$3,214,434 from Unassigned Fund Balance to Assigned Fund Balance for the 2024-2025 General Fund budget shortfall
4. move \$2,333,846 from Assigned Fund Balance to Unassigned Fund Balance for the 223-2024 General Fund budget shortfall

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Carson Adams to approve the movement of funds as listed.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

C. Ratify Electricity Supply Agreement with Constellation Energy at the price of \$.0595/kWh for the time period 7/1/25 – 6/30/27.

A motion was made by Tonia Krick, seconded by Birgit White to approve the Ratification of the Electricity Supply Agreement with Constellation Energy at the price of \$.0595/kWh for the time period 7/1/25 – 6/30/27.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

## VIII. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Beissel briefly addressed the evacuation of the High School and District Office due to an outdoor gas odor. He thanked Dr. Gravish, Mr. McGinley, and the staff, faculty, and custodians for their careful actions to ensure a safe evacuation, allowing UGI to conduct tests and confirm a safe re-entry. UGI will continue their inspections and assessments.

### A. Adult Learning Overview- Mrs. Freiwald

- Mrs. Freiwald reviewed recent adult learning initiatives, stressing the importance of professional development through in-service days and individual staff plans.
- Teachers participated in targeted trainings, such as structured literacy, curriculum writing, and aligning curriculum from elementary to highschool.
- Special education staff prepared for a state audit, completed trauma training, and received support training for paraeducators.
- Development days included sessions on new science standards, data analysis, and literacy standards.
- Mrs. Freiwald praised the staff's dedication to growth and collaboration.

### B. Social Studies Symposium - High School Social Studies Department

- Organized by David Kline, Nick McBreen, and D. Buggy.
- Inspired by coaching clinics where participants can customize their day; applied this concept to create a unique, customizable symposium for over 50 social studies teachers.
- Featured five 1-hour segments with opportunities to explore engaging topics and share innovative teaching methods.
- Sessions included teacher-led topics and roundtable discussions, and fostering collaboration.
- Key topics included AI, game-based learning, and lesson-sharing.
- Received positive feedback from participants, with schools like Reading High and the IU sharing different teaching and management techniques.
- Goal is to establish this symposium as an annual event to expand professional development and capacity, showcasing Hamburg High School as a leader in this initiative and inviting broader participation from other schools to join and present.
- Organizers expressed appreciation for the support in thinking outside the box and enhancing social studies education.

### C. Snow Removal and Anti-Skid Application Services Proposal (See Exhibit XXVIf-42)

- No action needed at this time, this proposal will be on the November 18th agenda for approval.

### D. Chillers Project Proposal and Update – Mr. Adam Moser, from Consolidated Engineers

- The project proposal was provided to the board prior to the meeting to review.
- Mr. Moser gave a brief update on the chillers project.
- Mr. Gebley asked about the name of the coating that Mr. Moser mentioned in his update. Mr. Moser did not have that information on hand at the time of meeting.

- E. Recommend approval of Proposal for Engineering Services for High School Chillers Project in the amount of \$29,000. (See Exhibit XXVIf-43)

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Daniel Sarna to approve the Engineering Services for High School Chillers Project Proposal in the amount of \$29,000.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

- F. Feasibility Study Proposal- AEM Architects (See Exhibit XXVIf-44)

- This was made available to the board since the last meeting for review.
- The intention is to formally create a board committee.
- Ryan Gebley mentioned that this committee will only be made up of 4 board members.

- G. Berks County Cybersecurity Services Consortium - Overview of Services and LOI (See Exhibit XXVIf-45)

- Hand out was provided (See Exhibit XXVIf-46)
- The LOI is nonbinding.
- No action needed at this time.
- Will bring this to you at a later date for approval.

- H. Recommend approval of the General Fund Treasurer’s Report (See Exhibit XXVIf-47)

- I. Recommend approval of the General Fund invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIf-48)

- J. Recommend approval of Food Service Profit and Loss Statement and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIf-49)

- K. Recommend approval of the Capital Reserve Treasurer’s Report and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIf-50)

- L. Recommend approval of the Debt Service Treasurer’s Report (See Exhibit XXVIf-51)

- M. Recommend approval of the High School and Middle School Activity Funds Treasurer’s Reports and invoices submitted for payment (See Exhibit XXVIf-52)

A motion was made by Thomas DeAngelo, seconded by Laura “Lolly” Leshner to approve the General Fund Treasurer’s Report; and Invoices in the amount of \$1,373,195.79 (check nos 00000081887-00000081984 and D001004009-D001004086); Food Service Profit and Loss Report and invoices \$101,450.15 (0000008683 - 0000008688 and D000000752-D000000762); Capital Reserve Treasurer Report ; Debt Service Treasurer Report; Treasurer Report High School Activity Fund and checks in the amount of \$15,498.84 ( check nos. 0000013733-0000013750); Middle School Activity Fund Treasurer Report.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

- N. Acknowledgement of the following separations:
  - 1. Maria Tabora – Custodian, Second Shift
    - Effective date: 10/22/2024
- O. Acknowledgement of the following leave of absence:
  - 1. Employee # 1647 – Classroom Teacher
    - FMLA-qualifying leave
    - Anticipated effective dates: 01/27/2025 – 04/25/2025
- P. Recommend approval of the following Extra-curricular staff:
  - 1. Mason Wolber – Athletics Game Help
    - Effective upon receipt of all required employment documents
    - Will receive applicable stipend payment per event

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

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

- Q. Recommend approval of the following District Volunteers:
  - 1. Kayla Rehrer
  - 2. Shane Shin

A motion was made by Carson Adams, seconded by Birgit White to approve the following District Volunteers as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

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

No- None

Motion carried with nine directors voting yes.

IX. Information Items

A. Board Summary Report (See Exhibit XXVIf-53)

X. Dates to Remember

| Month    | Day       | Event  | Time      |
|----------|-----------|--|-----------|
| November | 5         | Perry Elementary Virtual Learning Day<br>(Tilden, MS, HS in person learning as normally scheduled)           |           |
| November | 18        | Board Meeting  | 6:30 p.m. |
| November | 25, 26    | Early Dismissal; Parent Conferences  |           |
| November | 27,28,29  | Thanksgiving Recess- No School   |           |
| December | 2         | Thanksgiving Recess- No School   |           |
| December | 4         | School Board Reorganization<br>(rescheduled from original date of Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> , due to winter break) | 6:30 p.m. |
| December | 23-31     | Winter Holiday Recess- No School   |           |
| January  | 1-3, 2025 | Holiday Recess- No School  |           |

XI. New Business

- None at this time.

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Laura “Lolly” Leshner to adjourn the meeting at 7:12p.m. Motion carried.

**MINUTES APPROVED**  
**November 18, 2024**

**RECORDED BY**

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**Ryan J. Gebely**

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**Nicolette A. Hoover**