

HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hamburg, Berks County, PA 19526-0401
September 14, 2026

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

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

Absent: Tonia Krick, Laura “Lolly” Leshner,

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; Ryan McGinley, High School Principal; Kristen Missimer, Assistant High School Principal; Timothy Easter, Middle School Principal; John Henne, Middle School Assistant Principal; Andrea Berger, Elementary Principal; Alyssa Fink, Elementary Principal; Margaret Schearer, Director of Transportation and Child Accounting; Carlie Cole, Director of Human Resources; Shawn Gravish, Director of Operations; Elaine Ruppert, Director of Facilities; Andrew Diehl, Director of Information Technology; Jillian Bergman, Director of Food Services; Lena Gebely, Student Representative; James Mancuso, District Solicitor; Nicolette Hoover, Board Secretary; Visitors – Bernice Kostohris, Arlie Torres, Mary Donatelli, Jeff Bryan, Cindy Bryan, Holly Johnson, Susan Deisemann

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

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Gebely asked for public comments – Jeff Bryan addressed the Board regarding the District’s 9/11 and Veterans Day educational programs and classroom activities.

Dr. Beissel briefly outlined the activities that took place in the District’s buildings on 9/11 and noted that planning for Veterans Day activities was already underway.

V. Report of the Board President

- A. Recommend approval to appoint Dr. Christopher Beissel, Superintendent, and approve contract effective July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2032. (See Exhibit XXVIj – 50)

A motion was made by Daniel Sarna, seconded by Birgit White to appoint Dr. Christopher Beissel, Superintendent, and approve contract effective July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2032.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes – Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Birgit White, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Ryan Gebely

No – None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

Following approval of the contract extension, Dr. Beissel thanked the Board, District, Staff, and Leadership Team for their support. He reflected on his more than 16 years of service to the District in various roles, including teacher, coach, and principal, and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to continue serving the District, its students, and the community.

VI. Report of the Business Manager – nothing to report at this time.

VII. Report of the Superintendent

- A. Recommend approval of the 2026 – 2027 TSI Plan (See Exhibit XXVIj – 51)

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Carson Adams to approve the 2026 – 2027 TSI Plan as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes – Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Birgit White, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Carson Adams, Ryan Gebely

No – None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

- B. Recommend approval of the following 2026-2027 New Staff Mentor - \$500 stipend:

New Staff	Mentor	Building	Year
Stephanie Gechter	Tiffany Gruber	Middle School	Year 1

A motion was made by Daniel Sarna, seconded by Thomas DeAngelo to approve 2026 – 2027 New Staff Mentor as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes –Steven Gilbert, Birgit White, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Ryan Gebely

No – None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

- C. Recommend approval of the following personnel actions. All hiring actions are contingent upon receipt and acceptance of all required pre-employment documents:

Separations

Resignation:

1. Bryan Reinsel – Assistant Coach, High School Golf & Game Help, effective 08/24/2026.
2. Jason Berger – Assistant Coach, High School Girls Soccer, effective 09/06/2026.

Assignments

Confidential Employee:

1. Arlie Torres – Human Resources Generalist, effective 09/15/2026.
Hourly rate: \$24.04/ 8 hours per day.

Support Employees:

1. Holly Johnson – Tilden Elementary Life Skills Paraeducator, effective 09/15/2026. Hourly rate: \$23.00 / 7 hours per day.
2. Bernice Kostohris – Tilden Elementary Food Service Employee, effective 09/15/2026. Hourly rate: \$16.34 / 4.25 hours per day.

3. Abigail Becker – Perry Elementary Emotional Support Paraeducator, effective 09/16/2026. Hourly rate: \$23.00 / 7 hours per day.
4. Odessia Schwinger – Tilden Elementary Custodian, effective 09/30/2026. Hourly rate: \$16.34 / 8 hours per day.
5. Tara Berk – High School Food Service Employee & Kitchen Manager, effective 10/12/2026. Will receive current hourly rate / 8 hours per day and \$3191.36 (prorated Kitchen Manager stipend).

Extra-Curricular Employees:

1. Beth Jackowski – Unified Leadership Bocce Head Coach (50%), effective 09/01/2026. Stipend: \$1834.
2. Brad Losito – Junior High Wrestling Head Coach (50%) & Paid Game Help, effective 09/15/2026. Stipend: \$1782.50 (step 3). Game Help stipends paid at the Board approved rate per event.
3. Patrick Hanlon - High School Football Assistant Coach & Paid Game Help, effective 09/15/2026. Stipend: \$4769 (step 3). Game Help stipends paid at the Board approved rate per event.
4. Skylar Miller – Varsity Girls Soccer Assistant Coach (50%) & Paid Game Help, effective 09/15/2026. Stipend: \$1495 (step 2). Game Help stipends paid at the Board approved rate per event.

District Volunteers

Building level:

1. Emily Boltz
2. Mallory Dombroski
3. Jennifer Guidon
4. Megan Long
5. Noelle Miller
6. Andrea Ritter
7. Kristin Vogel

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Thomas DeAngelo to approve the following personnel actions as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes –Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Birgit White, Ryan Gebely

No – None

Motion carried with seven directors voting yes.

VIII. Information Items

A. Enrollment(See Exhibit XXVIj – 52)

IX. Dates to Remember

Month	Day	Event	Time
September	25	Homecoming	7:00pm
September	28	Board Meeting	6:30 pm
October	9	Act 80 Day – No school for students	
October	12	Adult Learning Day – No school for students	
October	12	Committee Meeting	6:30pm

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Toni McFadden, seconded by Daniel Sarna to adjourn the meeting 6:47pm. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED

September 28, 2026

RECORDED BY

Ryan J. Gebely

Nicolette A. Hoover