

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – March 11, 2024

1.0 OPERATIONS

1.1 Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Tioga School District Board of Directors was called to order by Ed Bonham at 7:00 PM.

1.2 Moment of Silence

Ed Bonham led a moment of silence.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Ed Bonham led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

1.4 Board Attendance: Board Members Present: Ed Bonham, Glen Hallead, Aaron Smith, Kim Strauser, and James Moyer. Absent: Julie Preston, Greg Cummings, Craig Stage, and Daniel Costley.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Kaufman, Bill Butterfield, Dan Fie, Kathryn Slavinski, Matt Sottolano, Cheryl Sottolano, Jess Milliard, and Daren Bryant.

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month:

Williamson High School – Thomas Bomba

Thomas Bomba, son of Angela Bomba of Tioga, PA, has been named the Student of the Month at Williamson for March. His teachers describe him as a student who pleasantly does what he needs to do and does what is right. Thomas is always polite and respectful, and he has transitioned into his new school seamlessly. This freshman is active in three sports: soccer, basketball, and track. When not at practice or representing Williamson in competition, Thomas enjoys biking and hunting. He also likes cooking, especially venison. His future plans are to pursue a career as a state trooper, inspired by his father's law enforcement service. Congratulations, Thomas, on this accomplishment. Williamson is proud of you!

Williamson Middle School – Jocelyn Colegrove

Williamson Middle School's student of the month for March is 8th grader Jocelyn Colegrove. Jocelyn is the daughter of Josh and Helene Colegrove of Lawrenceville. Jocelyn works hard each day and is a friend to all. She strives to do her best. Jocelyn is a

member of the Williamson Warrior volleyball, basketball and softball teams. She enjoys all athletic endeavors and balances school and sports very well. She is also a member of the middle school chorus. In the future she hopes to attend college and continue her softball career. Congratulations Jocelyn!

Cowanesque Valley High School – Maggie McClaren

Maggie is a senior at Cowanesque Valley. She is the daughter of Heather and Chris McClaren of Knoxville. Maggie was the captain of the volleyball team and is a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, the History Club, the Drama Club, and band. Her teachers will tell you she is an exemplary student and person. Maggie has been a vital part of the CV musicals over the past several years and most recently, she had a lead role in the musical Freaky Friday and did an awesome job! After graduation, Maggie plans to attend Corning Community College to study early childhood education and play volleyball.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Isaiah Fuhrer

Isaiah Fuhrer is the CV middle school team's choice for March Student of the Month. He is friendly, respectful, kindhearted, and provides insightful contributions to class discussions. Isaiah is the son of Brandon and Jessica Fuhrer of Knoxville. Isaiah was the center on the junior high football team and plays third base for the baseball team. He also plays the euphonium in the band.

When he's not in school, Isaiah loves to play video games, play with his three cats and two dogs and talking with his friends. His favorite school subject is Algebra, which he has with Mrs. Kreisler. His favorite thing about middle school is going outside when it's nice. Isaiah is very proud of making the high honor roll every marking period this year. Isaiah's future plan is to be a chemical engineer. We wish him the best of luck!

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Klara Windows

Klara Windows has been chosen for student of the month! She is a 4th grade student at RB Walter. Klara is a wonderful and kind student. She is always upbeat and comes in with a smile and a hug every day. She is a good listener who works hard, and she is an excellent role model. We can always count on Klara to be doing the right thing and being the best she can be.

Klara really likes school and is excited to be here every day! She especially loves science because she finds it interesting to learn about the environment. She is an honor roll student and works hard to make sure she is successful. Klara is well liked by both students and adults. She has many friends and is very social. Klara's teachers appreciate her work ethic and her helpful attitude. She is someone they can count on! During her free time she likes to read and do diamond puzzles.

Klara is the daughter of Kenny and Krista Windows. She lives with her family in Millerton. She enjoys hanging out with her 3 brothers and loving on her 2 dogs. She likes spending time with her family skiing in the winter and swimming in the summer. In the future, she would like to become a horse instructor or a marine biologist because she would like to work with and help animals. Congratulations Klara!

Clark Wood Elementary School – Ila Alexander

Ila is the daughter of Anne and Dwayne Alexander. She lives in Nelson with her parents and sister, Anabel. She was chosen as student of the month because of her inclusion of others and kindness to everyone. Ila chooses to spend time at recess playing with kids with special needs. She always works hard and is good at asking for help when she needs it. Ila is the first one to offer help to both teachers and classmates. Her favorite subjects in school are science and social studies. She is very enthusiastic and inquisitive about these topics.

Ila loves to paint outside of school. She is also a very talented writer, always going above and beyond what her teachers expect of her in class. When she grows up, she wants to be a teacher. Ila is a remarkable girl who is a great role model at Clark Wood. We at Clark Wood are very proud of her. Congratulations.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Kelsi Mulvaney

The Westfield Area Elementary School Student of the Month is Kelsi Mulvaney! Kelsi is a 6th grade student that is the daughter of Anthony and Ashiley Mulvaney of Knoxville. Kelsi is a member of the after-school program at WAES and the WAES chorus. She also plays the clarinet in the band! She is a member of the Knoxville Tiger's softball team. In her free time, she likes to help her brother with homework and do art projects! She also likes to bake! Her favorite subject in school is math. When Kelsi grows up, she would like to go to college to become an elementary teacher! Her teachers describe her as being a very helpful student...she is the first one to offer to lend a helping hand to both teachers and other students. She has a positive attitude and is engaging with adults and peers. Kelsi is always kind to others and genuinely wants to brighten their day! We are proud to have Kelsi Mulvaney as our Student of the Month!

1.6 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA

Mr. Goodrich started by commending our support staff for the contributions they provide to each of our schools. He also asked for the district to take into consideration not raising taxes due to family budgets and inflation increases. Lastly, he offered a prayer.

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Glen Hallead, to approve the February 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, the February 19, 2024, Buildings and Grounds Committee Minutes, and the February 26, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.8 Budget Transfers- None

1.9 Approval of Bills (Exhibit #3)

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by Aaron Smith, to approve bills as outlined in Exhibit #3. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.10 Facility Use Permits & Conferences (Exhibits #4 & #5)

1.11 Information & Correspondence

Ethics Statements: As required by law, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania “Statements of Financial Interest” have been distributed to all Board members, administrators, and the superintendent. These must be completed and returned to the Board Secretary prior to the May 1st deadline.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Kaufman shared the impact the Cyber Charter Schools have on the district budget along with a report comparing our schools’ performance, as compared to the 9 Cyber Charter Schools that have Northern Tioga students in attendance. Overall, the district outperforms the Cyber Charter Schools.

2.2 Business Manager’s Report

Monthly Reports – (Exhibits #7, #8, #9, #10, and #11)

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by Aaron Smith, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes(none), Capital Reserve Report, Financial Report, Cash Investment Report, Student Activity Report, Cafeteria Bills and Report, and Transportation Changes(none) as outlined in Exhibits #7, #8, #9, #10, and #11. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report

Daren Bryant provided an update on various projects that have been completed or are in progress throughout the district by the buildings and grounds team. He also mentioned that Scott Eldridge has returned to work at Williamson High School, and they can already tell the difference.

2.4 Grant Update- None

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 2023/2024 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Glen Hallead, to approve the 2023/2024 co-curricular appointments as outlined in Exhibit #13. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.2 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Aaron Smith, to approve the additional substitutes be added to the 2023/2024 substitute list as outlined in Exhibit #14. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.3 Approval of Teacher's Aide for Sign Language Interpreting

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by Kim Strauser to create an additional teacher aide position to provide sign language interpreting to a student with this need. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.4 Classified Appointments

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by Aaron Smith, to appoint Lori Finnerty to a 6.5 hour per day teacher aide position assigned to Williamson High School to provide sign language interpreting support, \$15.62 per hour, effective March 15, 2024, in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.5 Request to attend an Out-of-State Conference (Exhibit #15)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Glen Hallead, to approve the request for Stephen Spencer to travel to Bloomington, IN to view the Solar Eclipse from April 8-9, 2024, at an approximate cost of \$1,131.00, as outlined in Exhibit #15. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.6 Approval of Summer School, Grades 7-12

A motion was made by Aaron Smith, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the 2024 summer school program for credit recovery for grades 7-12. A student may take up to 2 courses and the course work will be paid for with ARP ESSER, summer school program set aside grant funding. Transportation will be provided from the high schools to the administration building and will also be funded through ARP ESSER set aside grant. Guidance counselors will notify eligible students. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.7 Summer School Teacher/Aide Compensation

A motion was made by Aaron Smith, seconded by Glen Hallead, to approve the compensation for 2024 summer school teacher(s) at per diem rate for 3 weeks to be paid by ARP ESSER Summer School Program grant funding. A summer school teacher aide will be paid for 3 weeks at the employee's hourly rate paid by ARP ESSER Summer School Program grant funding. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.8 2024/25 Yearbook Quote- WHS (Exhibit #16)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Glen Hallead, to approve the 2024-25 yearbook quote for Williamson High School, Jostens, in the amount of \$68.00 per book as outlined in Exhibit #16. Roll Call Vote.

3.9 Approval of IU 17 General Operations Budget (Exhibit #17)

A motion was made by Aaron Smith, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the 2024/25 IU 17 General operations Budget as outlined in Exhibit #17. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.10 Approval of Settlement with Vitaulic (Exhibit #18)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Aaron Smith, to approve the Solicitor's settlement with Victaulic Company regarding a Tax Assessment Appeal, as outlined in Exhibit #18. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.11 Second Reading and Final Adoption of Policies (Exhibit #19 and #20)

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by Aaron Smith, to approve and adopt the Second Readings of proposed changes to the following policies: #204 – Attendance and #218 – Student Discipline, as outlined in Exhibits #19 and, #20. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.12 Approval of PenTeleData Contract (Exhibit #21)

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the PenTeleData Contract for Point-to-Point WAN connectivity, as outlined in Exhibit #21. Roll E-Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.13 Additional Vacancies During March

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Aaron Smith to approve the Superintendent to interview and offer positions to top ranking candidates for any teacher or classified vacancies that may occur between the March and April Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular April meeting. (This will eliminate the need to convene a special meeting.) All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1 Future Board Meetings

An executive session for purposes authorized by the Sunshine Act may be held between tonight and the next Board meeting.

Board Work Session – March 25, 2024, 6:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting – April 8, 2024, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings

Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting – March 25, 2024, 5:00 PM

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

6.1 Adjourn

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Aaron Smith to adjourn. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 8:01 PM.

Brittany Mondock
Board Secretary

All documents as attachments to the minutes not contained herein are maintained in a separate file located in the Superintendent's Office.