

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes –May 12, 2025

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 Julie Preston at 7:02 PM.

1.2 Moment of Silence

Julie Preston led a moment of silence.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Julie Preston led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

1.4 Board Attendance: Board Members Present: Julie Preston, Greg Cummings, Rod Butler, Denise Mack, Allison D’Haene, James Moyer, and Kim Strauser. Absent: Craig Stage and Ed Bonham.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Kaufman, Dan Fie, Kathryn Slavinski, Matt Sottolano, Daren Bryant, Cheryl Sottolano, William Butterfield, Jess Millard, and Kathy VanSchaick.

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Kohen Flynn

Kohen Flynn is the Student of the Month for Williamson. This freshman is the son of Jessica and Tom VanDelinder of Millerton. He is a member of the wrestling team and the baseball team and enjoys hunting in his free time. His favorite class in school is history and since he enjoys building things, his future plans are to become an architect. Kohen was selected by the Physical Education Department for this honor. His teachers find him to consistently demonstrate outstanding effort and sportsmanship. He always shows up and is ready to participate. Kohen is someone others can count on to make class better and more fun. He works hard and demonstrates a great attitude in the classroom and during athletic competitions. Kohen was a varsity starter in wrestling, earning over 20 wins. Congratulations and keep up the great work, Kohen! Williamson is proud to call you a warrior.

Williamson Middle School – Nathaniel Wood

Congratulations to Nathaniel Wood, Williamson Middle School's Student of the Month! Nathaniel, son of Jessica Boyce and Josh Wood, lives in Lawrenceville and has consistently gone above and beyond in both his academics and classroom behavior. A model student and leader among his peers, Nate stands out for his hard work and positive attitude. Outside the classroom, he is a talented three-sport athlete, competing in Soccer, Basketball, and Track, all while maintaining his strong academic performance. In addition to his school sports, Nate enjoys bowling and hanging out with his friends. We are proud to recognize Nathaniel for his outstanding contributions to our school community!

Cowanesque Valley High School – Miriah Buck

This month's high school student of the month is Miriah Buck. Miriah is the daughter of Megan Buck of Enola, PA and Eric Buck of Lawrenceville. She is in the National Honor Society, student council, a captain of the soccer team, and works at Racks. Miriah consistently demonstrates the qualities we value most in our school community. Kind, mature, and hardworking, Miriah sets a strong example for her peers through both words and actions. In the classroom, she is positive, creative, and always engaged. Her respectful and pleasant attitude makes her a joy to teach, and she brings positive energy to every discussion and activity. Beyond academics, Miriah is genuinely considerate and goes out of her way to participate in community service activities. We are proud of Miriah and have no doubt she will go on to do great things in her future.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Richard Laing

The CV Middle School has chosen Richard Laing as their May Student of the Month. Richard lives in Westfield with his mom, Karly West, and his four younger siblings. Richard's teachers describe him as responsible, curious, logical, and dedicated. On top of standing out in the classroom, Richard is a member of the cross country team and the track and field team. Richard has competed in three running events and the long jump this season. When Richard is not in school, he loves playing video games, running, and reading. He said he'll literally read any book (as long as it has AR points). Richard would like to attend Penn State University and eventually be a software developer. He would also like to travel and live in a different part of Pennsylvania.

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Mikenna Cody

RB Walter would like to congratulate Mikenna Cody as our 5th grade student of the month for May. Mikenna is the daughter of Mike and Melissa Cody of Tioga, PA. Mikenna is a friendly, well-mannered, and hardworking student that always has a smile on her face. She loves to learn about the natural world and science is her favorite subject. At school she is active in student council, chorus, and select chorus. Mikenna's teachers describe her as a conscientious student who is helpful and a great friend to her peers. She is always eager to help others and goes above and beyond to show her kindness. Mikenna's interests outside of school are spending time with her family and friends. She loves softball, kickball, swimming and traveling. We at RB Walter are proud of you! Congratulations Mikenna.

Clark Wood Elementary School – Dallyce Beard

Dallyce Beard is Clark Wood's student of the month! She is the daughter of Jeremy Beard of Osceola. Dallyce works really hard in school and is involved in Student Council,

Art Helpers and is a breakfast Kindergarten helper. She also enjoys playing softball. Dallyce is always willing to help other students or help in the classroom any way she can. Dallyce has a great attitude and is a fantastic role model for others. She is a genuine person and always has a smile on her face. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with her younger siblings playing soccer and two square with them. Dallyce enjoys hunting, farming and taking care of her cows, goats and her dog. We are so proud of you and you make Clark Wood proud!

Westfield Area Elementary School – Layla Miles

The Westfield Area Elementary School Student of the Month is Layla Miles! Layla, a 4th grade student, is the daughter of Brianna and Chanse Miles of Knoxville. Layla is involved in the WAES band, where she plays the trombone. Layla is also a member of 4H! This year she will show market sheep and breeding sheep at the Tioga County Fair. In the past she showed goats and rabbits, too! In her free time, she enjoys playing outside, cleaning, and reading. In the future, Layla would like to volunteer at an animal shelter because she loves to help animals! Layla's teachers describe her as a polite student with a positive attitude. She is quick to offer a smile and always willing to help other students and teachers. She is very conscientious with her schoolwork and often praises her fellow classmates for a job well done! Layla models the BRAVE expectations daily! We are proud to have Layla Miles as our May Student of the Month!

1.6 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA.

Mr. Goodrich expressed his gratitude towards the board regarding the guidance provided to Mrs. VanSchaick on how to proceed with the 2025/2026 proposed budget. He also requested a minor change in the information shared for the public agenda. Lastly, Mr. Goodrich reminded the board that the school year is a marathon and to continue working hard to have a strong finish to the year. He ended with a prayer.

Christine Cook, Lawrenceville, PA.

Mrs. Cook, submitted a letter to be read aloud to the board and administration regarding her concern regarding the current and projected class sizes, particularly in the early elementary grades as well as the need for paraprofessional support in these classrooms. Her letter provides research examples on the Educational Impact on Young Learners, Lack of Paraprofessional Support, and Teacher Impact and Retention Crisis. She requests a call for immediate action regarding these concerns.

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from the April 14, 2025, Regular Meeting, the April 28, 2025, Buildings Grounds Committee Meeting, and the April 28, 2025, Work Session. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.8 Budget Transfers (Exhibit #2)

A motion was made by Rod Butler, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the budget transfers as outlined in Exhibit #2. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.9 Approval of Bills (Exhibit #3)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Denise Mack, 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

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent's Report

Athletic Facility Project Update- Legislative Meetings

Mr. Kaufman shared that the three Tioga County Commissioners (Marc Rice, Sam VanLoon, and Shane Nickerson) our team from Delta Development Group, Kathy VanSchaick and himself attended meetings with Representative Clint Owlett and Senator Gene Yaw on May 6th in Harrisburg. During these meetings, the District had the opportunity to present the proposed athletic facility project. Both Representative Owlett and Senator Yaw had the opportunity to hear the needs of the District regarding athletic facilities and ask questions about the project. The support of Representative Owlett, Senator Yaw, and the county commissioners is necessary for our RACP grant application.

Spring Sports Participation Numbers

Mr. Kaufman also presented the spring sports participation numbers. This is a report that he provides the school board each sports season. He also stated that participation from over the last two school years has been consistent.

Textbook Adoption- OpenSciEd

A motion was made by Allison D'Haene, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the Textbook Adoption of "OpenSciEd" for High School Biology. Publisher: OpenSciEd, Copyright 2025. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.2 Business Manager's Report

Monthly Reports – (Exhibits #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, 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.

Approval of Bids

A motion was made by Allison D'Haene, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve 2025/2026 Copy Paper Bids as outlined in Exhibit #16 and the 2025/2026 Paper and Small Ware Bids as outlined in Exhibit #17. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report

Daren Bryant prepared a report to provide the board an update on the various projects that have been completed or are in progress throughout the district by the buildings and grounds team, which included three complete work orders. Mr. Bryant also shared that the annual inspection on all basketball hoops and bleachers has been completed.

2.4 Grant Update- None**3.0 ACTION ITEMS- VOICE VOTE****3.1 Voice Vote (Exhibits #13, #14, #15, #19, #20, and #21)**

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Rod Butler to approve the following voice vote action items as outlined below and in Exhibits #13, #14, #15, #19, #20, and #21. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.1.1 2024/2025 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)**3.1.2 2025/2026 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #15)****3.1.3 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)****3.1.4 Retirements & Resignations**

Joan DeSera, Westfield Area Elementary School, Teacher's Aide, retirement effective, May 1, 2025.; Laurie Wood, Cowanesque Valley High School, Teacher's Aide, resignation effective April 28, 2025; Jason Reynolds, Williamson High School, Custodian, resignation effective May 6, 2025; and Riley McClellan, Williamson High School, Physical Education Teacher, resignation effective August 1, 2025.

3.1.5 Summer Lump Sum Payment Requests (Exhibit #19)**3.1.6 Approval to Advertise for 2025/26 Transportation Proposals****3.1.7 Approval to Apply for Any Grants, Including Federal Grants during the 2025/26 School Year**

- 3.1.8 Approval to Participate in State Bids During the 2025/26 School Year
- 3.1.9 Approval of 2025/26 Technology Services Agreement with BLaST IU 17 for the 2025/26 School Year. (Exhibit #20)
- 3.1.10 Approval of Agreement Between NTSD and NTESPA (Exhibit #21)

Approval of the agreement between Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals Association to adjust the work week from June 16, 2025 - August 8, 2025 to reflect 4 ten hour days with Fridays being an off day and the work day starting at 6:00 AM and ending at 4:30 PM.

- 3.1.11 Additional Vacancies During May- to interview and offer positions to successful candidates for any teacher, classified, or Act 93 vacancies that may occur between the May and June Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular June meeting. (This will eliminate the need to convene a special meeting.)

4.0 ACTION ITEMS- ROLL CALL VOTE

- 4.1 Roll Call Vote (Exhibits #22, #24, #26, #27, #28 and #29)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by James Moyer to approve the following roll call vote action items as outlined below and in Exhibits #22, #24, #26, #27, #28 and #29). Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

- 4.1.1 Emergency Certified Teacher Appointments; in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Association, and pending the signing and approval of the Credit Reimbursement Agreement for Emergency Permit: Lee Charlier, Special Education Teacher, Cowanesque Valley High School, Step 1 Bachelor's Degree, effective May 5, 2025, for the 2024-2025 School Year, and Evan Kies, Music Teacher, Cowanesque Valley High School, Step 1 Bachelor's Degree, effective August 18, 2025, for the 2025-2026 School Year.
- 4.1.2 Temporary Professional Teacher Appointments; in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Association: Nicholas Bentley, Physical Education Teacher, Williamson High School, Step 1 Bachelor's Degree, effective August 18, 2025, and Breanne Roe, Elementary Teacher, Clark Wood Elementary School, Step 3 Bachelor's Degree, effective August 18, 2025; pending the 2025/2026 Final Budget Adoption.
- 4.1.3 Classified Appointments; in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals: Amanda Callahan, Elementary Secretary, R.B. Walter Elementary School, \$17.64 per hour, effective May 15, 2025, and Katrina Nickerson, 6.5

hours/day Teacher's Aide, Clark Wood Elementary School, \$17.32 per hour, effective August 20, 2025; pending the 2025/2026 Final Budget Adoption.

- 4.1.4 Re-Appointment of the following individuals on Emergency Permits, pending PDE approval, for the 2025-2026 School Year: Emily Mitchell, Crystal Dorn, Heidi Zuchowski, Danielle Tracy, Sheri Sunderland, Kylie Schoonover, Emma Rice, Kara Lockwood, Felisha Hackett, Debra Bigley, Kyle Adriance, Tabatha Wheatley, and Lee Charlier.

- 4.1.5 2024/25 Extended School Year Appointments (Exhibit #22)

- 4.1.6 2025/2026 Proposed Final Budget Adoption (Exhibit #23)- Removed from the grouping and voted on separately below.

- 4.1.7 Election of Treasurer- One Year Appointment- Removed from the grouping and voted on separately below.

- 4.1.8 Election of School Board Secretary

Appointment of Brittany Mondock as Board Secretary for a 4-year term, through 2029.

- 4.1.9 Approval of Additional Days (Exhibit #24)

Approval for the social workers and the elementary counselor to work up to an additional five days during the summer of 2025.

- 4.1.10 Curriculum Contracted Services with BLaST IU 17 MOU (Exhibit #25)- Removed from the agenda.

- 4.1.11 Capital Projects (Exhibit #26)

Recommendation that the board approves the addition of two projects to the capital project list which was approved at the March board meeting. The original capital project list total cost came in lower than projected. The two additional projects are the tie in of the Westfield Area Elementary School outdoor learning center to the building security/access system and the replacement of two entrance doors at Cowanesque Valley High School. If approved, this will increase the amount approved in March by \$9,950.92.

- 4.1.12 Appointment of General Fund Depository

Recommendation that the Board continue with PSDLAF (PA School District Liquid Asset Fund) as school district depository for local, state, and federal monies for the 2025/26 school year, continuing to utilize Citizens & Northern Bank of Elkland, PA as the primary checking institute.

4.1.13 Policy First Reading- of proposed changes to the following policies: (Exhibit #27)

Policy 323 - Tobacco and Vaping Products

4.1.14 Policy Second Reading & Final Adoption- of proposed changes to the following policy: (Exhibits #28 & #29)

Policy 806 - Child Abuse

Policy 815 - Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources

4.1.6 2025/2026 Proposed Final Budget Adoption (Exhibit #23)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Kim Strauser to approve the proposed final budget for the 2025/26 school year in the amount of \$46,081,274.00. This reflects a 3% tax increase, as outlined in Exhibit #23. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.1.7 Election of Treasurer- One Year Appointment

A motion was made by Kim Strauser to nominate Greg Cummings as treasurer, seconded by James Moyer. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

5 NEW BUSINESS

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1 Future Board Meetings

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

Regular Board Meeting and Final Budget Adoption – June 11, 2025, 7:00 PM

6.2 Committee Meetings

7 ADJORN

7.1 Adjourn

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Greg Cummings to adjourn. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 7:50 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.