

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – October 13, 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 Greg Cummings at 7:01 PM.

1.2 Moment of Silence

Greg Cummings led a moment of silence.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Greg Cummings led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Administrators Present: Superintendent Kaufman, Kathryn Slavinski, Dan Fie, Daren Bryant, Bonnie Walker, William Butterfield, Kathy VanSchaick, Rebecca Koehler, and Jess Millard.

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Riley Rall

Riley Rall of Tioga is the son of Kayla Rall and Jessi Rall and has been selected as Williamson’s Student of the Month. This junior is a member of the Wrestling team, Student Council, and History Club. In his free time, he enjoys skiing and weightlifting. Because of these interests, Riley is considering pursuing a Sports Medicine degree when he graduates. His math teachers, who selected him this month, say that Riley is a very hard-working student in class every day. He strives to understand the material and goes out of his way to gain knowledge. Riley is also willing to help others in and out of the classroom. He is a very polite and well-behaved young man. Congratulations to you, Riley! Williamson is proud to call you a Warrior.

Williamson Middle School – Elliott Stephens

Elliott Stephens, son of Tabitha and Robert Stephens of Millerton, PA, has been named Student of the Month at Williamson Middle School. As a dedicated middle school student, Elliott balances his academics and extracurricular activities with enthusiasm and commitment. He consistently displays academic integrity, showcasing his hard work and dedication to his studies. Outside the classroom, Elliott is an active athlete, participating in wrestling. When he is not on the mat, he enjoys spending time outdoors. Elliott's empathy towards others and all-around great character make him a role model among his peers and a valued member of the Williamson community.

Cowanesque Valley High School – Arianna Cary

Cowanesque Valley proudly announces Senior Arianna Cary as October's Student of the Month. Arianna is the daughter of Trevor and Sam Cary of Knoxville. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, History Club, and Historian of the senior class. She plays volleyball, basketball, and softball, and plays clarinet in the band. Arianna's teachers would describe her as hard-working, active in school, and a quiet leader. This year Arianna is participating in the school to work program. After graduating high school, Arianna is set to join the Air Force in the Aerospace Medical Field. Congratulations to Arianna for being honored as an outstanding student.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Lily Cobb

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are proud to name Lily Cobb as September's student of the month. Lily is a kind, creative, and responsible student. She communicates well with her teachers and demonstrates strong leadership skills. Lily has adjusted well to the new demands of middle school. She enjoys the variety of classes that middle school offers and the increased freedom she receives in the middle school setting. Lily reports she takes pride in receiving good grades and that her two favorite subjects are science and history. In the future, she would like to become either a paleontologist or a doctor. Lily participates in band, chorus, softball, and the FFA. Outside of school, she enjoys drawing, painting, cooking, baking, and helping her family around the house.

R.B. Walter Elementary School – RyAnne Scott

RB Walter sixth grade has chosen RyAnne Scott as our Student of the Month. RyAnne is a caring, responsible, friendly and an enthusiastic individual that we are proud to give this honor to. She more than deserves this. She is always willing to put in the extra work without being reminded or asked. She seeks out opportunities to improve herself and academics, which is only one example for her deserving this recognition. When asked what her interests outside of school are, she answered, "Soccer, pool fills with my Uncle Bob and lots and lots of playing outside." Her favorite subject in school is math because it is super fun and she learns a lot. Hanging out with friends and playing outside is her favorite part of school. RyAnne's role models in her life are her mom and dad as well as Bryce Harper and Trea Turner. Her mom and dad inspire her to do good things and Bryce and Trea inspire her to keep going and do her best. When she grows up, she wants to be a NASA engineer or firefighter. She wants to do this because science is very interesting, and a firefighter will help you. RyAnne believes her strongest character trait is being kind. She is always very welcoming to everyone. Congratulations RyAnne, we are beyond proud to recognize you as RB Walter's Student of the Month.

Clark Wood Elementary School – Charlotte Chapa-Bock

Charlotte Chapa-Bock is representing Clark Wood Elementary School as our October Student of the Month. Charlotte is in 5th grade. She is the daughter of Jason and Brittany Bock of Tioga. Charlotte is kind and thoughtful. Caring is a good descriptor for her. She is hardworking and always ready for class. She sets a good example for others to follow. Charlotte is a PBIS ambassador who regularly demonstrates the RAMS school wide expectations. Her favorite subjects are math and science. Outside of school Charlotte likes playing softball and soccer. She enjoys riding her horse, playing with her sisters, and doing crafts with her grandma. We, at Clark Wood, are very proud of her. Congratulations.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Gentry Hatch

Gentry is the son of Curtis and Elmyra Hatch of Knoxville. Gentry is a fourth-grade student in Mrs. Kulish's class. She says that Gentry is a joy to have in class. He always works hard and has a great attitude, no matter what. He shows great responsibility, is a great listener, and always tries his best. He is a leader and a role model for his peers. Most of all he is kind and compassionate towards others, a great friend. Working with him brings a smile to all his teachers' faces. Gentry plays football and when he is not at school, he likes to play outside. He enjoys playing with his brother and sister and spending time with his three dogs and four cats. He also enjoys collecting pennies with his dad. In the future, he thinks he would like to be a farmer. Congratulations Gentry!

Tenure and Professional Contract

The Superintendent and Mr. Millard recommended that the following Teacher be granted tenure and issued a professional contract: Jade Bedient.

1.6 Open Forum - None

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Allison D'Haene, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting, and September 22, 2025, Work Session. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.8 Budget Transfers (Exhibit #2) - None

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

Standards Aligned Systems (SAS) Conference

Mr. Kaufman shared that the SAS conference is the PA Department of Education's annual conference, held in Hershey. This year, Northern Tioga School District will have a group who will be partnering with the IU and PATTAN as presenters. Kate Slavinski, Becky Koehler, Nikki VanGorden, and Tasha Newton will be presenting on the program ECRI and how it has worked within our MTSS framework to support Tier 1,2, and 3 students in reading.

Fire Alarm Pull Covers

Mr. Kaufman also gave recognition to Hunter Simonds, Brayden McDonnell, and Justin Burkholder, under the guidance of Mrs. LaBarron. For designing a 3D printing of new fire alarm pull covers for the CVHS gymnasium. The fire alarm pulls were open to being struck by basketballs and volleyballs, thus setting off the fire alarms. The new, student-designed, covers will protect the fire alarm pulls from ball strikes while still providing easy access in the event of an emergency.

Trailhead Building Lobby Desk

Mr. Kaufman shared that Develop Tioga approached the district to design and build a desk for the reception area of the new Trailhead Building in Wellsboro. CVHS students: Ben Freeman, Jersey Tuttle, Parker Lee, Jacob Johnson, and Mr. Boyer accepted the project. The desk was completed last week and will be set up at the new building this week. There are still a couple of finishing touches, but we are thrilled to have been asked to add something from Northern Tioga School District to the Trailhead Building.

PA Budget Update

Mr. Kaufman discussed that to date, there still is no PA state budget. This is now the fourth month that the legislature has not come to a budget bill agreement. The longest impasse in most recent years was during the 2015-2016 school year. That budget was passed in March.

Cellphone Ban Bill

Mr. Kaufman also shared that there is currently early discussion in the legislature on a bill that would ban student use of cellphones during the school day. New York already has a similar ban in place. The bill is in response to the current adolescent mental health crisis and the impact that cell phones and social media have on the mental health of adolescents.

PIAA Consent Order

Mr. Kaufman informed the board that PIAA recently approved a consent order that now allows students who attend faith-based, private schools to participate in their local, public-school sports team when their faith-based school of choice does not offer the sport.

WAES Garage Bids Opening

Mr. Kaufman shared that one of the remaining projects for the district following the August 9, 2024, flood is the rebuild of the WAES pole barn/garage. The opening of bids for that project will take place on Wednesday, October 15th, at 10:00 AM.

RACP Grant Submitted

Mr. Kaufman also informed the board that since our last monthly meeting, Delta Development Group submitted our RACP Grant application. This 120+ page application was submitted by the September 23rd deadline. The district is seeking a \$6 million award for the athletic facility project.

Athletic Facility Project Update

Lastly, Mr. Kaufman stated that the Athletic Facility Project designs are completed. The Buildings and Grounds committee has a page turn review of the design scheduled for November 17th, at 6:00 PM. Larson Design Group is still working with the Tioga County Conservation District on completing permits for the project. Having these permits in place is a necessary step towards putting the project out for bid.

2.2 Business Manager's Report

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

A motion was made by Denise Mack, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes, Capital Reserve Report, Financial Report, Cash Investment Report, Student Activity Report, Cafeteria Bills, and Transportation Changes, as outlined in Exhibits #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and # 12. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report

Daren Bryant prepared a report to provide the board with an update on the various projects that have been completed or are in progress throughout the district by the buildings and grounds team. Including 4 completed work orders and replacing the radio batteries across the district.

2.4 Grant Update

Rebecca Koehler shared that the district has received the COPS School Violence Prevention Grant that will be used to fund an intercom upgrade across the district.

3.0 ACTION ITEMS- VOICE VOTE

3.1 Voice Vote (Exhibits #13 and #14)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Allison D'Haene to approve the following voice vote action items as outlined below and in Exhibits #13 and #14. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

- 3.1.1 2025/2026 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)
- 3.1.2 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)
- 3.1.3 Retirements & Resignations: Tracey Schmouder, Special Education Teacher, R.B. Walter Elementary School, resignation effective October 3, 2025.
- 3.1.4 Approval of Volunteers: Karly West- Westfield Area Elementary School.
- 3.1.5 Additional Vacancies During October- to interview and offer positions to successful candidates for any teacher, classified, or Act 93 vacancies that may occur between the October and November Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular November meeting. (This will eliminate the need to convene a special meeting.)

4.0 ACTION ITEMS- ROLL CALL VOTE

4.1 Roll Call Vote (Exhibits #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, and #20)

A motion was made by Allison D'Haene, seconded by Kim Strauser to approve the following roll call vote action items as outlined below and in Exhibits #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, and #20. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative.

- 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, pending the signing and approval of the Credit Reimbursement Agreement for Emergency Permit, and PDE approval; Amanda Erdman, Special Education Teacher, R.B. Walter Elementary School, Step 5 Master's Degree, effective September 29, 2025 and Jessy Cole, Technology Education Teacher, Williamson High School, Step 1 Bachelor's Degree, effective September 22, 2025
- 4.1.2 Act 93 Appointments; Noah Neal, Technology Assistant, Cowanesque Valley High School, \$22.90 per hour, effective October 28, 2025.
- 4.1.3 Classified Appointments in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals; Leona Hilfiger, Business Office Secretary, Administration Building, \$18.28 per hour, effective October 6, 2025.
- 4.1.4 MTSS Tutor and Middle/High School Interventionist Appointments; Virginia Seaman, Middle/High School Interventionist, Williamson High School, \$25.00 per hour, effective October 14, 2025, and Jonothan Daley, MTSS Tutor, Clark Wood Elementary School, \$25.00 per hour, Effective October 14, 2025.

- 4.1.5 Approval of Out of State Conference- Rebecca Bean, Teacher- Williamson High School; Troy, OH, at a cost of \$894.00 to the district. (Exhibit #15)
- 4.1.6 Motion to close out the Richard Swartz Memorial Scholarship currently held at Northwest Bank. The funds would then be used to open two accounts with C&N: a municipal checking, so the funds can be awarded and CD that will continue to earn interest.
- 4.1.7 Approval of MOU between SAM Inc. and Northern Tioga School District, for Youth Diversion Service Programs. (Exhibit #16)
- 4.1.8 Approval of 2025/26 Drug & Alcohol SAP Agreement (Exhibit #17)
- 4.1.9 Approval of the adoption of the eQUIP Online Learning Platform through the BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 as the official online learning platform for the Northern Tioga Academy, beginning with the 2026-27 school year.
- 4.1.10 Approval of the 2025-2028 K-12 Guidance Plan (Exhibit #18))
- 4.1.11 Approval to contract with Arbiter (Exhibit #19)
 - For the processing and payment of athletic game officials at a cost of \$4,195.00 effective November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026. This includes a one-time set up fee of \$495.00.
- 4.1.12 Approval of the Kuehn Resolution (Exhibit #20)

4 NEW BUSINESS

5 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.

Regular Board Meeting– November 10, 2025, 7:00 PM

Work Session- October 27, 2025, 6:00 PM- *Has been changed to a Special Meeting*

5.2 Committee Meetings

Building & Grounds Committee Meeting- November 17, 2025, 6:00PM

6 ADJORN

6.1 Adjourn

A motion was made by Allison D'Haene, seconded by Kim Strauser to adjourn. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 7:37 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.