

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – November 10, 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 7:00 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, James Moyer, Kim Strauser, Ed Bonham, Craig Stage, arrived at 7:08PM, and Rod Butler. Absent: Allison D’Haene

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

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Morgyn Colegrove

Morgyn Colegrove has been selected as Student of the Month for Williamson by the science department. This junior, daughter of Heather and Jason Colegrove of Lawrenceville, is active in her youth group at the Tuscarora Baptist Church. Morgyn enjoys science, particularly biology and life sciences. Her teachers describe her as meticulous with assignments and willing to ask questions if needed. Morgyn is also one of the students who scored Advanced on her Biology Keystone. Besides being driven, Morgyn has a positive light that she brings to the room and her peers. She is always kind and willing to help other students. In short, her instructors say she is a delightful student. These strengths will positively impact her future goal of either becoming a respiratory therapist or an ultrasound technician. Congratulations to you, Morgyn! Keep up the great work and positive attitude!

Williamson Middle School – Giana Gonzalez

Giana Gonzalez, daughter of Jennifer and Jason Gonzalez of Millerton, PA, has been named Student of the Month at Williamson Middle School. As the middle school student of the month, Giana is dedicated to excellence. Her teachers note that she is thorough and pays a great deal of attention to detail. Additionally, Giana is personable and shows empathy to everyone. Outside the classroom, Giana participates in cross country soccer, and basketball. Giana is also an active member of student council. Giana is passionate about 4H and shows pigs and goats. Giana's empathy, dedication, and all-around great character make her a role model among her peers and a valued member of the Williamson community.

Cowanesque Valley High School – Alyvia Haynes

Cowanesque Valley proudly announces Alyvia Haynes as November's Student of the Month. Alyvia is the daughter of Trish and Jake Gleason of Knoxville and Rory and Emily Bump of Knoxville. She is the president of the FFA, vice president of chorus, and is in the Developing Future Special Educators program. Liv's teachers describe her as someone with a vibrant personality who makes the school an even more enjoyable place to be. She is kind and goes out of her way to make sure others are included. Outside of school, Alyvia loves to barrel race and take care of the family farm.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Abigail Hunter

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are proud to name Abigail Hurler as November's student of the month. Abigail is an inquisitive and responsible student. She participates in class frequently, demonstrating a desire to learn by asking her teachers questions to improve her class performance. Abigail's favorite class is study skills, and she hopes to one day work with animals as a vet tech or veterinarian. In addition to her academic strengths and interests, she participates in chorus and volleyball. Outside of school, she enjoys creating diamond art and coloring. Abigail says that the thing that makes her the happiest is her dog Eeyore.

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Lane Lockwood

R.B. Walter Elementary is proud to recognize Lane Lockwood as our 5th Grade Student of the Month for November! Lane is the son of Joshua and Kara Lockwood of Lawrenceville, PA. Lane is a friendly, welcoming student with a great sense of humor that shines both in and out of the classroom. His positive attitude contributes to his academic success—especially in his favorite subject, math. Lane's goal is to become a welder after graduation, a career where his strong math skills will serve him well. Always eager for a challenge, he pushes himself academically and enjoys taking on extra work to learn more. At the start of the school year, Lane confidently declared, "This is my year!" His teachers describe him as a well-mannered, conscientious student who is kind, helpful, and caring toward his classmates. Lane is always ready to lend a hand and goes above and beyond to show kindness to others. Lane has such active and varied interests, from wrestling at school to enjoying time outdoors with his family through hunting, fishing, camping, running 5Ks, and riding anything with a motor! He leads a very fulfilling and energetic life. We are very proud of you, Lane—congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Clark Wood Elementary School – Harmony Sharp

Harmony Sharp is representing Clark Wood Elementary School as our November Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Randy and Ashley Sharp of Elkland. Harmony is a 6th grader who contributes to our school community in many ways. She is a PBIS student ambassador, an art helper, a chorus member, and a recycling team member. Incredibly kind and thoughtful, Harmony is always looking out for others and eager to help. She has a positive attitude and is exceptionally hardworking and determined. Her favorite subjects are math and art. Outside of school, Harmony enjoys being outside, and playing with her siblings, Braydon, Isabella, and Remi. She is a talented softball player and helped her team win an All-Stars championship last year. The teachers and staff of Clark Wood are so very proud of Harmony! Congratulations and keep up the great work.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Cael Bruce

Cael Bruce is our November student of the month. Cael is in fourth grade and is the son of Tony and Jodi Bruce of Westfield. Cael is a strong, positive leader in his classroom and in the school. He volunteers his time to help students in 1st grade as well as peers in his classroom. Cael is fun to joke around with but also takes his schoolwork seriously. He is always happy to help anyone - from peers to adults! He plays the trombone in the band, participates in youth football, and plays baseball with the Knoxville Tigers. He is also a great ball/water boy for the varsity football team. He has been recognized by being named to the “Principal’s 100 Club” every year since he started school at WAES. Outside of school and playing sports, he likes to read, build with Legos, and play outside. He is always smiling and gives lots of warm hugs! Congratulations Cael.

Fall Sport District IV Qualifiers

High School Principals and team coaches recognized fall student athletes with teams that qualified for district competition. Including: Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Football, Cross Country, and Williamson Volleyball.

Recognition of Employee Veterans

Mr. Kaufman recognized and expressed how grateful the district is to our veteran employees across Northern Tioga School District!

PSBA Honor Roll Presentation

Kim Strauser was recognized by PSBA for her 20 years of service as a school board director.

1.6 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA.

Mr. Goodrich shared a joke with the board. He also requested that the board consider approving the Act I Index resolution in December to not go above the Act I Index.. He closed with a prayer.

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from October 13, 2025, Regular Meeting, and October 27, 2025, Special Meeting. 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 Ed Bonham, 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

25/26 Private School Students (Provided to Board)

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent's Report

National Recognitions

Mr. Kaufman shared that as a district we will be recognizing School Psychology Week- November 3-7, 2025, National Education Support Professionals Day- November 19, 2025, and Education Week- November 17-21, 2025. Thank you to all staff members who make our schools work.

Transportation Secretary Mike Carroll's Visit

Mr. Kaufman shared that the PA Transportation Secretary, Mike Carroll, visited the district on November 6th to recognize the partnership between Northern Tioga School District and PennDOT. In bringing a new pilot program to our two high schools; Cowanesque Valley High School and Williamson High School. Our schools are the only two schools in the Commonwealth that now provide a program to allow students to take the online knowledge portion of the driver permit test in school. The pilot program will run for two years after which PennDOT will look to expand the program into other rural schools across the Commonwealth.

Budget Impasse

Mr. Kaufman also shared that the budget impasse has forced the district to make a difficult decision not to move forward with the purchase of new equipment items along with halting payments to cyber charter schools.

Kids Can't Fight Cancer Alone-District

Mr. Kaufman shared that this fall, the district hosted our first (annual) Kids Can't Fight Cancer Alone fundraising effort. In addition to district wide Dress Down Days, students from Cowanesque Valley HS and Williamson HS held a powder puff football game, under

the lights at CV's football field. In all, a little over \$3000 was raised. This event was made possible due to the efforts of Amy Millard, CVHS teacher, and Vanessa Hess, WAES teacher.

Meeting with Representative Owlett

Mr. Kaufman shared that he attended a meeting with Mr. Rotella (STSD), Mrs. Sottolano (WASD), and Representative Owlett to discuss concerns regarding the lack of a state budget.

Veterans Day

The principals shared with the board how each school recognized and celebrated (or will be celebrating) our local veterans.

Textbook Adoptions Roll Call

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Rod Butler, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the following Textbook Adoptions: ELA 5, "My View", Authors: Young-Suk Grace Kim, Alfred W. Tatum, Sharon Vaughn, Lee Wright, Elfrieda Hieber, Publisher: Savvas, Copyright 2025; ELA 6-12, "My Perspective", Authors: Jim Cummins, Kerry Gallagher, Elfrieda Hiebert, Ernest Morrell, Monica Yoo, Publisher: Savvas, Copyright 2025; and Mythology, "World Mythology 101", Author: Phoenix Bard, Publisher: Independently Published, Copyright 2024. 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 James Moyer, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes, Capital Reserve Report, Financial Report, Cash Investment Report, Student Activity Report, Cafeteria Bills and Report, 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 5 completed work orders and replacing the radio batteries across the district. Daren also shared that his department has completed their annual Right to Know and AHEARA Training.

2.4 Grant Update - None

3.0 ACTION ITEMS- VOICE VOTE

3.1 Voice Vote (Exhibits #13 and #14)

A motion was made by Rod Bulter, seconded by Greg Cummings 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 Approval of Volunteers: Vivian Watkins and Andrew Adams- Cowanesque Valley High School.

3.1.4 Additional Vacancies During November- to interview and offer positions to successful candidates for any teacher, classified, or Act 93 vacancies that may occur between the November and December Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular December 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, and #18)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Craig Stage to approve the following roll call vote action items as outlined below and in Exhibits #15, #16, #17, and #18. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative.

4.1.1 Classified Appointments in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals; Heather Hurd, 5.75 hours/day Teacher's Aide, Williamson High School, \$17.32 per hour, effective October 29, 2025.

4.1.2 Approval of Resolution to End the State Budget Impasse (Exhibit #15)

4.1.3 Approval of the agreement between Service Access & Management, Inc. and Northern Tioga School District for the 2025-2026 Mental Health Student Assistance Program effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. (Exhibit #16)

4.1.4 Approval of the Proposal for Additional Services on the Westfield Area Elementary School Pole Barn Project totaling \$8,500.00. (Exhibit #17)

4.1.5 Policy First Reading- of proposed changes to the following policies: (Exhibit #18)

- Policy 815.1 - Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education

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–December 2, 2025, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings

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

6 ADJORN

6.1 Adjourn

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

Adjournment was at 8:11 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.