

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – February 9, 2026

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 Rod Butler at 7:03 PM.

1.2 Moment of Silence

Rod Butler led a moment of silence.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Rod Butler led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

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

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Dana LaPointe

Dana LaPointe is the Student of the Month for Williamson. This sophomore is the daughter of Roxy Roslund and Dan LaPointe of Tioga. Dana is a member of the school volleyball team and loves Spanish class. Since seventh grade, Dana has attended dance classes in Wellsboro where she is currently learning hip hop style. She entertained the school at this year’s talent show with her rendition of a dance from the movie Napoleon Dynamite. In the future, Dana hopes to attend culinary school and eventually open her own baking business. Her Foods 1 teacher describes her as an extremely hard worker who can work well with anyone she is paired with. Also, Dana never complains and always keeps her work area neat. If there are extra tasks in the kitchen, Dana steps up to do them. Congratulations to you, Dana, and keep up the great work and positive attitude!

Williamson Middle School – Alivia Jones

Williamson Middle School is proud to announce Alivia Jones as the February Student of the Month. Alivia is the daughter of Clarissa and Jeremy Jones from Lawrenceville. Alivia's teachers describe her as a student who is always displaying PRIDE expectations, specifically integrity and dependability. She takes great pride in her work, and her teachers want to acknowledge her efforts and success. Alivia is a very talented artist who spends a lot of time perfecting her skills. In addition to her artistic abilities, she is a talented writer. She is an avid gamer. She enjoys the outdoors, specifically running and volleyball with her sister.

Cowanesque Valley High School – Carter Hoke

Cowanesque Valley is proud to announce Senior Carter Hoke as February's Student of the Month. Carter Hoke is the son of Danielle Tracy and Ryan Hoke. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and History Club. He also plays tennis. Carter's teachers describe him as an amazing young man who is kindhearted and puts others' needs before his own. In class, he is always on task, attentive, and hardworking. After graduating high school, Carter plans to go to college for Economics, with a minor in Political Science. Congratulations to Carter for being honored as an outstanding student.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Aubree Lowe

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are proud to name Aubree Lowe as February's student of the month. Aubree lives in Osceola with her parents Paul and Kelly Lowe. Aubree comes to class prepared and ready to learn. She is always respectful, diligently follows classroom rules, and takes pride in completing quality work. She participates in band, chorus, and is in the FFA. In her personal time, Aubree likes to listen to music, and she enjoys playing games, including card games, board games, and video games. The class that Aubree enjoys most is math. She hopes that her education will one day allow her to become an EMT or a doctor. Aubree's teachers congratulate her on being a dedicated student this school year and encourage her to continue to strive for excellence in her academic and personal endeavors. Great job Aubree!

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Anna Smalley

RB Walter would like to congratulate Anna Smalley as our 5th grade student of the month for February. Anna is the daughter of Alicia Smalley of Tioga, PA. Anna is a friendly, well-mannered, and hardworking student that always has a smile on her face. This transfers to her academic excellence and Anna's love for math. Anna is always challenging herself academically and enjoys extra work for a challenge. At school she is active in student council. She is organized and contributes to decision making. Anna'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. Anna's interests outside of school are spending time with her family and friends. She loves softball and drawing. Everyone at RB Walter is so proud of you! Congratulations Anna.

Clark Wood Elementary School – Natalie Baker

Natalie Baker is the daughter of Ira Baker and Nicole Baker. She exemplifies all our RAMS expectations and is a great role model for our school. Natalie is always willing to help and is a hard worker in the classroom. She is also an active participant in Student

Council, Chorus and Art Helpers. Outside of school Natalie enjoys spending her time doing crafts, drawing, crocheting, playing video games, and reading. She also enjoys playing volleyball and softball. Natalie is a joy to have in class and always comes in with a smile on her face. We are SO proud of her. Congratulations!

Westfield Area Elementary School – Avery Dibble

Avery Dibble is a 6th grade student at WAES and the daughter of Jason and Jodie Dibble of Knoxville. Avery is an excellent student, she is organized, listens well, participates, and always tries her best. She takes pride in her schoolwork and truly understands the value of hard work and determination. She is also thoughtful, kind, and has a lot of positive energy. She is willing to help her teachers and her fellow students. She follows the BRAVE rules and is a great example to others. She is always looking for ways to be a great classmate and friend. At school she is a member of the chorus and outside of school, she enjoys riding horses, swimming (when it's warm), and spending time with her family. She is a bright light in our school, and we are very proud of Avery. Congratulations!

1.6 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA.

Mr. Goodrich expressed his trust in Superintendent Kaufman's judgment regarding decisions to delay or close school due to weather, particularly as they relate to the safety of the community. He also encouraged the Board to approach any funds that may be borrowed for the proposed athletic facility with the same care and consideration as if they were their own personal funds. He finished with a prayer.

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Julie Preston, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from January 12, 2026, and the work session minutes from January 23, 2026. 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 Greg Cummings, 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 Attendance Area Exception Requests

1.12 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 1, 2026, deadline.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent's Report

Athletic Facility Project Update

Mr. Kaufman shared that the district held a pre-bid meeting on January 28th. There were 9 companies that attended the meeting. On February 23rd, he will present an overview of the project, the funding sources for the project, and the timeline associated with the project.

Governor Shapiro's Budget Address

Mr. Kaufman also shared that on February 3rd, Governor Shapiro presented his budget for the fiscal year. Mr. Kaufman noted that with the Governor's previous budgets he is proposing increases in funding to education, along with several legislative priorities that would have an impact on schools.

SB 1014-Cell Phone Ban Bill

Lastly, Mr. Kaufman shared that on February 3rd, the Senate passed legislation to implement a bell-to-bell cell phone ban for all schools. This ban could go into effect with the 26-27 school year. As more information becomes available on how the policy for this ban should be implemented, the district will communicate those requirements to parents and students.

2.2 Business Manager's Report

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

A motion was made by Julie Preston, seconded by Allison D'Haene, 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, 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 with one in the queue. He also noted that the custodial team kept busy with snow and ice treatment and removal throughout the last month.

2.4 Grant Update - None

3.0 ACTION ITEMS- VOICE VOTE

3.1 Voice Vote (Exhibits #13, #14, #15, #16 and #17)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Ed Bonham to approve the following voice vote action items as outlined below and in Exhibits #13, #14, #15, #16 and #17. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.1.1 2025/2026 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)

3.1.2 Substitutes (Exhibit #14) – None

3.1.3 Approval of Volunteers: Greta Foster- Williamson High School, Ski Club, and Colin Ososkie- Williamson High School, Musical.

3.1.4 Approval of the 2026 summer school program for credit recovery for grades 7-12. Students' seats are included in our VLN package, so there are no additional costs to them. Transportation will be provided from the high schools to the administration building. Guidance counselors will notify eligible students.

3.1.5 Approval of the 2026-27 Future Planning Guide. (Exhibit #15) Highlighted items are revised from the previous edition.

3.1.6 Approval of the 2026-27 yearbook quotes for Cowanesque Valley and Williamson High School, Jostens, as outlined in Exhibit #16.

3.1.7 Approval of the 2026/27 Pupil Transportation Cost Index Adjustment (Exhibit #17) The PDE pupil transportation cost index adjustment and the base fuel rate increase of 2.7% over the previous year for the 2026/2027 school year. This cost adjustment factor is utilized by the state for the transportation reimbursement formula and by the district for fuel adjustment allowances and athletic contract rate per mile adjustments.

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

4 ACTION ITEMS- ROLL CALL VOTE

4.1 Roll Call Vote (Exhibits #18, #19, #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, and #31)

A motion was made by Julie Preston, seconded by Allison D'Haene to approve the following roll call vote action items as outlined below and in Exhibits #18, #19, #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, and #31. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative, with

Greg Cummings abstaining from item 4.1.7.

- 4.1.1 Approval of the compensation for the 2026 summer school teacher(s) at their per diem rate and a summer school aide at their hourly rate for the three weeks of summer school.
- 4.1.2 Mr. Sottolano, Principal of Cowanesque Valley High School, requests the Board's approval to use up to \$3,000.00 from his Principal's Special Request Fund to support student rewards, field trips, and a deposit on next year's first day guest speaker.
- 4.1.3 Approval of Category 2 E-Rate Funding Bids: The Superintendent, Business Manager, and Network Administrator request the Board's approval to use the eRate bidding process to upgrade the battery backup units in the buildings using our Category 2 funds. Approximate cost is \$35,000.00, and our typical e-rate discount is 80%.
- 4.1.4 Approval of the General Obligation Bond Resolution with PFM.
The Board of School Directors of the Northern Tioga School District (the "School District") does hereby authorize the Administration to work with PFM Financial Advisors LLC, as Financial Advisor, and Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC, as Bond Counsel in conjunction with the local solicitor to proceed with the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, for the purpose funding capital projects of the District in the par amount of \$9,995,000 via a competitive internet auction as shown in Scenario 1.
- 4.1.5 Approval of the Settlement Agreement as outlined in Exhibit #18. (Exhibit #18)
Approval of the Linkage Agreement between Keystone/Red Rock Job Corps and Northern Tioga School District. (Exhibit #19)
- 4.1.6 Approval of Change Order with LDG. (Exhibit #20)
- 4.1.7 Approval of a 3-year contract with NRG. (Exhibit #21)
- 4.1.8 Approval of the renewal of a 60-month copier lease agreement with ToppCopy. (Exhibit #22)
For 19 copiers at a rate of \$7,398.95 per month. The current lease agreement is \$8,454.07 per month. The current average cost per month with overages is \$8,650.16 with the new lease the average monthly cost is estimated at \$7,595.05. The new lease will save the district approximately \$1,055.11/month. As with our current lease, this agreement will increase at \$.001/copy per year and will include new machines, service on the machine, and the toner.
- 4.1.9 Approval of the Williamson High School Kitchen Sanitary Plumbing Project Bids. (Exhibit #23)

- 4.1.10 Policy First Reading- of proposed changes to the following policies: (Exhibits #24, # 25, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, & #31)
Policy 105.2- Exemption From Instruction, Policy 203- Immunizations and Communicable Diseases, Policy 218.1- Weapons, Policy 220A- Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials Attachment, Policy 233- Suspension & Expulsion, Policy 622- GASB Statement 34, Policy 907- School Visitors, and Policy 913- Non-School Organizations/Groups/Individuals.

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.

Board Special Meeting– February 23, 2026, 6:00 PM

Regular Board Meeting– March 9, 2026, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings

6 ADJORN

6.1 Adjourn

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

Adjournment was at 7:41 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.