

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – April 11, 2023

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 Vice President, Ed Bonham at 7:05 PM.

Executive Session – An executive session preceded the meeting for the purpose of legal and personnel issues.

1.2 Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was led by Julie Preston.

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, Ed Bonham, Jean Kohut, James Moyer, and Kim Strauser. Absent: Greg Cummings, Ben Howe, Jolene Meisner, and Jim Neal.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Barnes, Kathy VanSchaick, Dan Fie, Jess Millard, Kris Kaufman, Bill Butterfield, Daren Bryant, Cheryl Sottolano, Matt Sottolano, and Christina Fry.

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Mason White

The Student of the Month for Williamson is Mason White. He is the son of Dan White of Westfield. Mason is a junior who loves to be active, so his favorite class is Phys. Ed. His teacher describes him as sweet and genuine. He always takes time out of his day to ask how his teacher's day is going or how her weekend was. Mason works hard in class, and he loves math. He has a great sense of humor, and he treats others with respect. In December, he started working in the cafeteria at Williamson High School. The staff in the cafeteria love Mason and say wonderful things about his work ethic and willingness to learn. Mrs. Rentschler has Mason for Foods class and has said that Mason is wonderful to have in class and that he is always willing to help or take on extra jobs. Congratulations, Mason, on being the Student of the Month for April. Williamson is proud of you!

Williamson Middle School – Lexi Smalley

Williamson Middle School's student of the month is eighth grader Lexi Smalley. Lexi is the daughter of Brett and Amy Smalley of Tioga. Lexi is an outstanding student who enjoys learning about American history. She works hard and maintains a positive outlook on life. Lexi is a member of the junior high softball and volleyball teams. She is also involved in Leo Club and National Junior Honor Society. In the future, Lexi is hoping to pursue a career in physical therapy. Congratulations Lexi Smalley!

Cowanesque Valley High School – Dakota Shedden

Dakota is a senior at Cowanesque Valley and is the daughter of William Shedden of Knoxville. Dakota is known to look out for others and being an example of caring and selflessness. Dakota has a maturity in her ability to take care of her friends and classmates that is rare to see in high school. Dakota is a member of the chorus. Outside of school she volunteers with the Knoxville-Deerfield Volunteer Fire Department and the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Tioga. She also enjoys drawing, animating, and participating in barrel racing competitions. Her future plans are to attend Corning Community College for Illustration, Animation and Business.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Natalie Grab

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are pleased to announce Natalie Grab as our middle school Student of the Month for April. She is in eighth grade and is the daughter of Alayna and Nathan Grab of Westfield. Natalie is an outstanding student! She holds herself to a high standard. She is hard-working, respectful, kind, and mature. Outside of the classroom, she is a member of the band, the captain of the Battle of the Books team, a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and a member of both the basketball and softball teams. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with her friends and family, going outside, and playing with her cat. Her favorite thing about middle school is having time to learn and hang out with her friends. Natalie's favorite subject in school is reading and she plans to be an elementary school teacher. When asked what she is most proud of this year, Natalie responded, "My marking period 3 grades!" Natalie, we know you work hard at what you do, and we love having you as a student.

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Ayden Silvernail

Ayden Silvernail has been chosen to be R.B. Walter's Student of the Month for April. Ayden, son of Jade Fenstermacher and Michael Silvernail, is a sixth-grade student. His teachers selected him as the student of the month for his work ethic, determination, and overall great personality.

Ayden is a hard-working student. He says that math is his favorite subject in school because it interests him the most, and he can use it when he gets older. Ayden also really enjoys recess, because it is fun and gets his energy level up.

When he is not at school, Ayden enjoys playing baseball, soccer, wrestling and racing. He is a natural athlete, and we look forward to his future successes in this area!

When asked who his role model is, Ayden named his dad. He says his dad is always there for him, and he is the person who got him interested in racing.

R.B. Walter is very proud to recognize Ayden as our April Student of the Month. We are confident that as he enters the high school next year, he will continue to thrive. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for this outstanding young man.

Clark Wood Elementary School – Max Millard

Max Millard is a 6th Grade student at Clark Wood Elementary. He is the son of Jess and Amy Millard of Osceola. Max is an all-around outstanding student that exemplifies all of our RAMS expectations. He puts forth his full effort in everything that he does to achieve his goals in school and out of school! He volunteers his mornings, before classes begin, to be a Kindergarten Helper and a helper for the Backpack program. In addition, Max is an Art helper that volunteers his time to help Mrs. Bullock in the Art Room. Outside of school he enjoys playing all sports, but is involved in recreation and travel baseball, indoor soccer, and football. While at home, Max enjoys hunting, fishing, and playing outside. Congratulations, Max! You are a positive role model for Clark Wood Elementary! We are proud of you.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Jaelyn Young

The Westfield Area Elementary School Student of the Month for April is Jaelyn Young! Jaelyn, a 5th grade student, is the daughter of Craig and Stephanie Young. She is involved in Student Council, ski club, and chorus. She will be attending Song Fest later this month. She is also tutors first grade students in the mornings. Jaelyn plays softball for the Knoxville Tigers. Her favorite subject in school is science and she hopes to become a PA specializing in audiology! In her free time, she likes to do crafts and play outside! Jaelyn's teachers describe her as a tender-hearted student who always has a kind word to say. She is very engaged in learning and goes above and beyond in classes to ask questions and excel. We are proud to have Jaelyn Young as our Student of the Month!

Tenure and Professional Contract

Kierstan Le, School Psychologist, was granted tenure and issued a professional contract.

1.6 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA

Mr. Goodrich gave recognition to the wonderful students in Northern Tioga School District and a thank you to the parents who work hard to help their children succeed. He also offered a prayer.

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from the March 13, 2023 regular meeting, the March 22, 2023 Buildings & Grounds Meeting, and the March 28, 2023 work session. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.8 Budget Transfers (Exhibit #2)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the Budget Transfers as outlined in Exhibit #2. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative, however, there was not 2/3 affirmative votes for the entire Board. Motion did not carry. This will be moved to the May 08, 2023 Board agenda for approval.

1.9 Approval of Bills (Exhibit #3)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Kim Strauser, 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

ARP/ESSER Audit:

Dr. Barnes noted that the ARP/ESSER audit was finished on April 5, 2023 and the auditors were very helpful and great people to work with.

Battle of the Books:

Christina Fry shared with the Board that Battle of the Books is back in session after COVID and Erin Wilson and Brittany Warren are the new coaches. Christina was excited to let the Board know this group took 2nd place in this event.

2.2 Business Manager's Report

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

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes (none), Capital Reserve Report, Financial Report, Cash Investment Report, Student Activity Report, Cafeteria Bills & Report, and Transportation Changes as outlined in the Exhibits. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report

Daren Bryant, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, reviewed the Buildings and Grounds Report with the Board. A few of the items discussed were:

- Daren had a meeting with TurfTrack regarding the Cowanesque Valley High School tennis courts and Williamson High School fields. They are putting a packet together to present to Daren. Daren will share the information after he receives it.
- The Westfield Area Elementary School hot water project is 100% complete.
- EBS will be sending Daren quotes for flat and shingle roofs.
- Intercom issues have been repaired.
- The roof ice guards are complete at R.B. Walter Elementary School and Williamson High School.

2.4 Grant Update - None

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 2022/2023 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve 2022/2023 co-curricular appointments as outlined in Exhibit #13. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.2 2022/2023 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve 2022/2023 substitutes as outlined in Exhibit #14 and Exhibit #14 from the February 13, 2023 meeting. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative, with Julie Preston abstaining for only David Wilcox. He will be listed for approval at the May 08, 2023 meeting. The motion carried for all others listed.

3.3 Resignations

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by James Moyer, to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Foulkrod, Special Education teacher at Clark Wood Elementary School, effective August 15, 2023, and thank her for her dedicated service. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.4 Retirement

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by James Moyer, to accept the intent of retirement of Donna Blend, teacher aide at Williamson High School, effective June 9, 2023, and thank her for her dedicated service. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.5 Professional Appointments (Exhibit #15)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to appoint Alan Burgess to the position of Industrial Arts/Technology Education Teacher, at the Williamson High School, Step 1, Bachelor's, effective August 21, 2023, pending teacher certification from PDE, in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Association as outlined in Exhibit #15. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.6 Approval of Bus Accident Procedure Agreement (Exhibit #16)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the bus accident procedure agreement between Northern Tioga School District and UPMC Wellsboro as outlined in Exhibit #16. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.7 Pupil Transportation Cost Index Adjustment (Exhibit #17)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the PDE pupil transportation cost index adjustment and the base fuel rate increase of 6.50% over the previous year for the 2023/2024 school year. This cost adjustment factor is set by PDE and 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. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.8 Request to Attend Out-of-State Conference (Exhibit #18)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by James Moyer, to approve Daren Bryant's request to travel to Nichols, New York on April 6, 2023 to attend the 2023 Sanico Trade Show at a total cost of approximately \$94.32 to the District as outlined in Exhibit #18. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.9 Approval of Special Education Report (Exhibit #19)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the Special Education Plan Report 2023-2027, which needs to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by May 1, 2023 and as outlined in Exhibit #19. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.10 Approval of Volunteers

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the following volunteers:

- Tony Bruce: Cowanesque Valley High School
- Brandon Enck: R.B. Walter Elementary School

Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.11 Approval of Reimbursement of Praxis Tests

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the increase of the reimbursement rate of Praxis test up to \$200.00 per test, pending the test is passed. This will be for instructional add-ons only, and after the initial certification is obtained. The current rate was up to \$150.00 per test, if passed, which was approved at the March 9, 2005 Board Meeting. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. This motion carried.

3.12 Approval to Purchase AED Devices

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the purchase of four (4) additional AED devices, at approximately \$1,500.00 each, to use throughout the district. There is a current shortage of the AED devices, and the nurses will be guiding the purchases. Money from the general fund will be used to purchase these devices. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.13 Administrative Building Summer Worker

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the hiring of a summer worker at \$10.00 per hour to assist with various projects in the administrative offices during the summer. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.14 Extended School Year

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve advertising in-house for two (3) extended school year special education teacher positions, one (1) social worker, one (1) nurse, and one (1) speech and language support teacher at the rate of \$150.00/day and six (6) paraprofessional positions at their current hourly wage. The ESY Program will begin June 27, 2023 and end July 27, 2023. The ESY Program will operate 3 days per week, 4 hours per day. Transportation will be provided for the students and the routes will be put out for bid. Extended School Year is required under IDEA regulations for eligible students. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.15 Additional Vacancies During April

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the Superintendent's request to interview and offer positions to top ranking candidates for any teacher, classified, or Act 93 vacancies that may occur between the April and May Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular May meeting, which will eliminate the need to convene a special meeting. Voice Vote. 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 – April 24, 2023, 6:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting – May 8, 2023, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Kim Strauser, to adjourn. Voice Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 7:50 PM.

Kelly Sherman
Board Secretary

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