

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – Special Meeting
August 23, 2021

1.0 OPERATIONS

1.1 Call to Order

The special meeting of the Northern Tioga School District Board of Directors was called to order by President, Julie Preston at 6:06 PM.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

1.3 Board Attendance: Board Members Present: Julie Preston, Ed Bonham, Greg Cummings, Jean Kohut, Jolene Meisner, Jim Neal, and Kim Strauser. Via Zoom: James Moyer.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Barnes, Kathy VanSchaick, Amy Coots, Dan Fie, Christina Fry, Matt Sottolano, and Kris Kaufman. Absent: Jess Millard, Jeremy Freeman, and Cheryl Sottolano.

1.4 Open Forum

No one from the public wished to address the Board at this time.

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1 SEL and Bridges Out of Poverty Implementation

Dr. Barnes asked the building principals and Dan Fie, Coordinator of Student Services, to describe how the SEL and Bridges Out of Poverty techniques that were learned as part of professional development trainings are being implemented in the schools. Each principal shared some things they have implemented in their buildings. The principals shared that COVID impacted the implementation of some techniques last year. They stated that each school has offered a Bridges Out of Poverty book study to staff to allow for a deeper understanding of how these techniques work and can be implemented. They also shared that SEL and PBIS trainings and implementation have continued. With increasing challenges facing students today, the implementation of these techniques is very important. While staff have been trained on these techniques before, it is important to continually receive training in these areas.

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 First Reading of Policy (Exhibit #1)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve the first reading of proposed changes to Policy #314 - Physical Examination. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.2 Appointment of New Board Member

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Ed Bonham, to appoint Benjamin Howe as a Board Member for Region 3. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried. Mr. Howe will be filling the term of Ian McLaughlin who resigned from the board on August 1, 2021.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Jean Kohut, to adjourn the special meeting. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 6:27 PM.

Julie Preston called a board work session to order for some discussion items at 6:27 PM.

ESS for Substitutes

Dr. Barnes shared that representatives from ESS met with the administrative team to discuss the possibility of the district using ESS for substitutes. Dr. Barnes said ESS has sent her a contract that is currently being reviewed by the district solicitor. There are still some items to be looked into and discussed before the district makes a decision as to whether we want to use ESS. Kim Strauser asked what the cost is for ESS. Kathy VanSchaick, Business Manager, said the district pays per teacher. The cost is 33% on top of our daily rate. She also noted that ESS would take care of tracking substitutes for compliance with certification requirements. ESS would provide substitutes for teachers and support staff. Ed Bonham asked if the district can see statistics on the success rate of ESS in providing substitutes when needed.

Health & Safety Plan

Dr. Barnes stated that the district's Health & Safety Plan has been posted on our website. At this time, many districts are still not requiring masks. The district continues to monitor the situation very closely and will follow any mandates that are issued.

The board adjourned the work session at 6:47 PM.

Alyson Yerrick
Board Secretary

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