

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – December 1, 2022

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 President, Julie Preston at 7:07 PM.

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

Executive Session – An executive session followed the December 01, 2022 regular 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, Greg Cummings, Jean Kohut, Ben Howe, Jolene Meisner, James Moyer, Jim Neal, and Kim Strauser. Absent: Ed Bonham.

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

Approval to Add a New Motion In Section 4.0

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve to add a new motion under section 4.0 regarding Therapy Dogs. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.5 Election of Temporary President

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Ben Howe, to nominate Greg Cummings as Temporary President. All votes were affirmative and Greg Cummings assumed the role of Temporary President.

1.6 Election of President and Vice President

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Kim Strauser, to nominate Julie Preston as President. All votes were affirmative to elect Julie Preston as President. Julie Preston assumed the President's chair.

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Ben Howe, to nominate Ed Bonham as Vice President. All votes were affirmative to elect Ed Bonham as Vice President.

1.7 Jolene Meisner remained as the district PSBA Liaison.

1.8 Dr. Barnes remained as the district Employee Relations Contact.

1.9 Jean Kohut remained as the School Board Sick Bank Representative.

1.10 Julie Preston remained as the I.U. Board Representative.

1.11 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Cody Fleming

Cody Fleming is the Student of the Month for December from Williamson High School. He is the son of Eugene and Rebecca Fleming of Millerton. He is an avid hunter and fisherman and is a member of the cross country and baseball teams. Cody was named Student of the Month for the Industrial Arts department. In particular, he is currently in Metals 3, and his teacher describes him as a very polite and conscientious young man. Cody has created some projects that relate to his passion for bow fishing such as a two-tier rack that will hold and display carp, which he designed and fabricated. Cody is currently working on a metal table with a butcher block top. This is Cody's senior year, and his future plans are to enter the electrical union apprentice program in Elmira. Congratulations, Cody. You make Williamson proud!

Williamson Middle School – Mackenzie Knapp

Mackenzie Knapp is an 8th grade student at Williamson Middle School. She is the daughter of Ben and Beth Knapp of Millerton. Mackenzie's teachers describe her as incredibly kind, hardworking, and diligent. Outside of school, Mackenzie enjoys reading, writing, art, drawing, fishing, and riding four-wheeler. After graduation, Mackenzie hopes to go to college somewhere in Maryland to become a veterinarian. Williamson Middle School is honored to name Mackenzie Knapp as our middle school "Student of the Month" for December.

Cowanesque Valley High School – Will Ladd

Cowanesque Valley's Senior High Student of the Month is William Ladd. Will is a junior at CV and is the son of Ms. Jamie Geise and Will Ladd. Will's teachers describe him as an all-around great person. They also commented, you can always count on him to be committed to his work and that he is kind to his fellow students. Will is a member of the

FFA, Band, and History Club. Out of school he volunteers for the Crary Hose Fire Department and works for Bieser and Seeley Service and Repair. His future plans include completing EMT training this spring and becoming a paramedic after graduation.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Lilah LaBarron

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are pleased to announce Lilah LaBarron as our middle school Student of the Month. She is in seventh grade and is the daughter of Brad and Christina Labarron of Westfield. Lilah is polite, friendly, respectful, and helpful. She produces quality work, and always keeps a positive attitude, with a smile on her face. Outside of the classroom, Lilah is on the volleyball, basketball, and softball teams, as well as in band. Her favorite thing about middle school is having more freedom and the teachers. She also enjoys hanging out with her friends and family, and riding four-wheelers. Her favorite subjects in school this year are math and science. When asked what she is most proud of, she responded, “My softball accomplishments.” You have a lot to be proud of, Lilah, and we are glad to have you as a student and athlete at CV!

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Neveah Ring

Neveah Ring has been chosen as RB Walter’s student of the month! Neveah is the daughter of Dustin Ring of Millerton and Deanna Ring of Lawrenceville. Neveah is a strong fourth grade student who has a kind heart, a strong work ethic, and a positive attitude. Her contagious smile is an encouragement to those around her. Neveah’s peers identify her as a good listener and an excellent role model.

Neveah really likes school. Her favorite subject is math because she loves the challenge of solving math problems and loves the feeling of being a math genius. She is a high honor roll student and works hard to make sure she is successful. During her free time, she likes to read and practice her math facts. Neveah’s teachers appreciate her work ethic and her helpful attitude. Neveah is a student teachers can count on!

Neveah enjoys hunting with her dad and watching football. She is also involved in gymnastics. In the future, she would like to become a wedding planner because she enjoys helping others and likes to make people happy. Congratulations, Neveah! We are proud to honor you as our student of the month.

Clark Wood Elementary School – Braelynn Balada

Braelynn Balada is a 6th grade student in Mrs. Bedient’s homeroom class. Braelynn is the daughter of Savannah and Martin Balada of Elkland.

Braelynn has an outgoing personality and always comes in with a smile. She is always willing to help others in need and exemplifies all of our RAMS expectations. Braelynn always does the best she can at everything she does and doesn’t give up. She is an all-around good person, and she is a joy to spend time with and have in class. Braelynn has a very bright future ahead of her and we can’t wait to see what she accomplishes!

During school, she is involved in Kindergarten Helpers, Art Helpers, Student Council, and Volleyball. Braelynn also is a helper for the Back-Pack Program. She is involved in many extra-curricular activities and still does well academically in all her classes.

Outside of school she plays travel softball and local softball. She looks forward to playing basketball and volleyball next year in 7th grade. In addition to playing sports, Braelynn,

enjoys painting, going hunting with her dad, being outside, riding in the side by side, hanging out with friends and spending time with her family.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Gracie Worthington

The Westfield Area Elementary School Student of the Month is Gracie Worthington.

Gracie, a 4th grade student, is the granddaughter of Michele and James Gatewood of Westfield. She participates in dance class, which she has done since she was 4 years old! This year, she is planning to participate in the WAES drama club! In school. Gracie's favorite subject is English. When she graduates from high school, she wants to go to college to major in Theater and be a dance teacher.

Gracie is described by her teachers as a leader who is always helpful to her peers and teachers. She is determined, dependable, and always perseveres! Gracie is a quiet force of creativity and goodness! She's thoughtful, focused, hardworking, and kind, making her one impressive young lady! We are proud to have Gracie Worthington as our December Student of the Month!

1.12 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA

Mr. Goodrich commended the School Board and thanked them for committing a lot of their time to the district. He also offered a prayer.

1.13 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ben Howe, seconded by Jim Neal, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from the November 14, 2022 regular meeting. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.14 Budget Transfers (Exhibit #2) - None

1.15 Approval of Bills (Exhibit #3)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve bills as outlined in Exhibit #3. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.16 Facility Use Permits & Conferences (Exhibits #4 & #5)

1.17 Information & Correspondence

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent's Report

Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) – Regina Russell

Dr. Barnes introduced Regina Russell who presented information regarding NPRC. NPRC offers an affordable option to offer classes to students and adults and is working on expanding East into Tioga County. This is a 2-year program for associate degrees and

workforce training is also offered. NPRC currently serves nine counties. After the 2-year degree is earned, the credits can transfer into Mansfield University or other CU school. NPRC has asked to utilize six (or more) rooms in Northern Tioga School District buildings to have a place for students and adults to attend classes in the evening, and two rooms to attend classes during the day. A proctor would be available to coordinate the video conferencing. The 3-year commitment from Northern Tioga School District would include annual meetings.

Building Automation Systems

Bill Butterfield and Dan Cook gave a presentation on an opportunity to offer Building Automation Systems classes. The software portion for these classes are free, however, the cost for three pelican cases would be approximately \$18,000.00 - \$24,000.00, which could be funded through PA Smart Grant funds or EITC Funding. Northern Tioga School District would be the first in Pennsylvania to offer a program like this. Mr. Butterfield and Mr. Cook are working on increasing the interest from students for this program.

Career Coach for Northern Tioga School District

Mr. Kaufman stated there are currently 12-15 students (Seniors) in each school struggling to identify their pathway for graduation. The Guidance counselors are spending a lot of their time working on this, which is causing strain on getting other work-related tasks accomplished. In speaking with Carrie Bradley from the Northern Tier Industry & Education Consortium (NTIEC), Mr. Kaufman and Dr. Barnes would like the Board to approve the proposal as outlined in Exhibit #18 to expand the agreement with NTIEC to include a Career Pathways Coach, which would allow Carrie Bradley to focus more on aiding these seniors in identifying their pathway for graduation.

District Update

The District Update was made available in the usual format.

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 Jim Neal, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes (None), Capital Reserve Report (None), Financial Report (None), Cash Investment Report (None), Student Activity Report, Cafeteria Bills & Report, and Transportation Changes as outlined in the Exhibits. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Due to the timing of the meeting, the November reports were not available and will be considered in January as has been done in the past.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report - None

2.4 Grant Update - None

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

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

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

3.2 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Jim Neal, to approve 2022/2023 substitutes as outlined in Exhibit #14. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.3 Resignations

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Ben Howe, to accept the resignation of: Carrie Blakeslee, Gifted Support Teacher, effective January 2, 2023, and thank her for her dedicated service. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.4 Professional Appointments (Exhibit #15)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the Professional Appointments as outlined in Exhibit #15. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.5 2023/2024 Budget Resolution (Exhibit #16)

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the resolution certifying that the 2023/2024 tax rate will be increased at a rate at or below the adjusted Act 1 Index for our district of 6.1% which equates to a maximum increase of 1.171 mills as outlined in Exhibit #16. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.6 Approval of Increase in Hours – 4-5 Hours/Day

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the increase the following teacher aide hours: Melissa Cody, R.B. Walter Elementary School, from 4 hours per day to 5 hours per day, retroactive to September 26, 2022 until January 9, 2023. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.7 Appointment of Tioga TCC Delegates (Exhibit #17)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve the Tioga TCC Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution appointing Kathy VanSchaick as the primary voting delegate with Diana Barnes and Kelly Sherman as the first and second alternates as outlined in Exhibit #17. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.8 Approval to Pursue Preapprenticeship Opportunities

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve Mr. Kaufman to explore and pursue preapprenticeship opportunities that exist which will align with current programming at the secondary level. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.9 Approval of NTIEC Additional Services (Exhibit #18)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Jim Neal, to approve to enhance/adjust the current service agreement between Northern Tioga School District and Northern Tier Industry & Education Consortium (NTIEC) to include additional services as discussed during the Superintendent's Report and as outlined in Exhibit #18. It was agreed this will be funded with Board Initiative funds, as suggested by Kim Strauser. Greg Cummings requested more data and benefits of these additional services be provided. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.10 Approval of NPRC

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Jim Neal, to approve moving forward with Northern Pennsylvania Regional College as previously discussed during the Superintendent's Report. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.11 Additional Vacancies During December

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the Superintendent to interview and offer positions to top ranking candidates for any teacher, classified, or Act 93 vacancies that may occur between the December and January Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular January meeting. (This will eliminate the need to convene a special meeting.) All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Rescind Use of Therapy Dogs

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Kim Strauser, to rescind use of any therapy dogs and rescind any current agreements effective immediately. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

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.

Regular Board Meeting – January 09, 2023, 7:00 PM

Board Work Session – January 23, 2023, 6:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings - None

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjournment was at 8:28 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.