

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
110 Ellison Road  
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – Special Meeting  
February 19, 2024

**1.0 SPECIAL MEETING**

**2.0 OPERATIONS**

2.1 Call to Order

The special meeting of the Northern Tioga School District Board of Directors was called to order by Greg Cummings at 6:00 PM.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Greg Cummings led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

2.3 Board Attendance: Board Members Present: Julie Preston (via Zoom), Glen Hallead, James Moyer, Aaron Smith, Greg Cummings, Kim Strauser, and Craig Stage. Absent: Ed Bonham and Daniel Costley

Administrators Present: Superintendent Kaufman, Kathy VanSchaick, Kathryn Slavinski, Matt Sottolano, Cheryl Sottolano, William Butterfield, Dan Fie, Rebecca Koehler, and Daren Bryant.

2.4 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA

Mr. Goodrich asked for the district to strongly consider not raising taxes this year due to concern for the older generation. He closed by offering a prayer.

**3.0 ACTION ITEMS**

3.1 Approval of Resolution- Coates Avenue Property (Exhibit #1)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Aaron Smith, to approve the resolution to enter into a listing agreement with Cowanesque Lake Realty LLC, and to follow the procedures set forth in the school code for the sale of property, as outlined in Exhibit #1. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

### 3.2 Approval of Revisions of the Athletic Code of Conduct (Exhibit #2)

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by Craig Stage, to approve the revisions of the Athletic Code of Conduct as outlined in Exhibit #2, with the addition of the following wording being added: as defined in the Student Code of Conduct. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

### 3.3 Approval of Policy 123 Attachment (Exhibit #3)

A motion was made by Craig Stage, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the revisions to the Attachment of Policy 123, as highlighted in Exhibit #3. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

### 3.4 Classified Appointments (Exhibit #4)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, to appoint the following classified appointments; Martha Sweet, 6.5 hours per day Special Education Teacher's Aide, currently assigned to Westfield Area Elementary School, \$18.38 per hour, effective February 26, 2024; Sophia Davis, 5.5 hours per day Special Education Teacher's Aide, currently assigned to Williamson High School, \$15.62 per hour, effective February 28, 2024; Charissa Thomas, 6.5 hours per day Instructional/Medical Aide, currently assigned to Williamson High School, \$15.62 per hour, effective March 11, 2024., in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals, as outlined in Exhibit #4. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

## 4.0 ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING

A motion was made by Glen Hallead, seconded by Craig Stage, to adjourn the special meeting. All Votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 6:13 PM.

## 5.0 WORK SESSION

Greg Cummings called a board work session to order for discussion items at 6:13 PM.

### 5.1 2024/2025 Budget Update

- Act 1 Budget Timeline

  - May 31, 2024 – Adopt Proposed Final Budget

  - June 30, 2024 – Adopt Final Budget

- Preliminary Budget Revenue Information

  - Adjusted Index is 6.1% for Northern Tioga which equates to 0.5768 mills or approximately \$657,502.40 in increased tax revenue

2018-19 Increase was 2.69%. Less than adjusted Act 1 Index of 3.5%  
2019-20 Increase was at the adjusted Act 1 Index of 3.4%  
2020/21 – No Tax Increase  
2021/22 – No Tax Increase  
2022/23 – Increase was 4.0%. Less than the adjusted Act 1 Index of 5%  
2023/24 – Increase was 3.211%. Less than the adjusted Act 1 Index of 6.1%

•State Budget for 2024/25

Governor Shapiro presented his proposed budget on February 6, 2024. Included in his proposal:

Basic Education Funding \$200 million increase for the BEF formula  
New Adequacy Investment Formula driven into the BEF Base of \$871 million  
Special Education Funding \$50 million increase  
\$50 million in safety and security grants for physical safety through PCCD  
\$100 million in mental health grants through PCCD  
\$300 million school environmental repair projects  
Statewide Cyber Charter Tuition Rate of \$8,000.00/student.  
Increase to the Minimum Wage from \$7.25 to \$15.00/hour

What does the PROPOSED budget equate to for Northern Tioga?

---Basic Education Funding increase \$1,941,008.00 over 2023/24 allocation  
---Special Education Funding increase \$66,457.00 over 2023/24 allocation  
---No Increase in Ready to Learn Block Grant  
---Vocational Educational Funding increase \$13,410.00

Important to remember that this is a PROPOSED budget.

•Federal Revenue

No projections for 2024/25 yet

•Expenditure Information – that is known at this time

---PSERS Retirement Rate is 33.99%, down from 34.00% last year. Please note that employer contribution rates are projected to increase in the following fiscal year and beyond. Estimated projections are listed below:

2025/2026 – 34.72%  
2026/2027 – 35.41%  
2027/2028 – 35.94%  
2028/2029 – 36.53%  
2029/2030 – 37.15%  
2030/2031 – 37.78%

---Support Staff Salary Increases \$232,989.00  
---Act 93 Salary Increases \$57,560.00

---BC/BS Health Insurance Tentative Increase of 6.5% is \$348,125.00. Rate will be finalized at the February 28th meeting.  
---Professional Contract is under negotiations.

•Next Steps

Continue to review expenditures and revenues and update projections  
Review 2024/25 Equipment Requests with Board at Next Work Session

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was at 6:19 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.