

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
110 Ellison Road  
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – Special Meeting  
February 28, 2022

**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 President, Julie Preston at 6:01 PM.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2.3 Board Attendance: Board Members Present: Ed Bonham, Greg Cummings (arrived at 6:04 PM), Jean Kohut, James Moyer, Julie Preston, and Kim Strauser. Via Zoom: Ben Howe and Jim Neal. Absent: Jolene Meisner

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

2.4 Open Forum

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

**3.0 ACTION ITEMS**

3.1 Substitutes

Dr. Barnes updated the Board on the status of the contract with ESS, Northeast, LLC. Due to exclusivity requirements by ESS and the district concerns, ESS has notified the district that they will be cancelling the contract and issuing a null and void addendum.

Board members reviewed a list of current daily professional substitute rates being paid by school districts in Tioga County and neighboring counties. Discussion was held on raising the district's current rate of \$100.00/day in an effort to attract more substitutes.

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Jim Moyer, to increase the current daily rate of \$100.00/day for professional substitutes to \$130.00/day, effective March 1, 2022. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

The administrative team will meet over the summer to discuss the possibility of using a 2-3 tier payment scale for professional substitutes that includes different rates for the number

of consecutive days substituting. A recommendation will be brought to the Board in the Fall, prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year.

#### 4.0 ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, to adjourn the special meeting. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 6:25 PM.

Julie Preston called a board work session to order for some discussion items at 6:25 PM.

##### Northern Tioga Academy Presentation

Kris Kaufman, Principal of Academic Affairs, presented information of the Northern Tioga Academy with current enrollment standing at 43 students at the high school level and 14 students at the elementary level. Mr. Kaufman discussed the per pupil cost for students in the Academy compared to students that are enrolled in Cyber Schools as follows:

<u>Program</u>	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Special Education</u>
NTA	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Cyber School	\$12,945.02	\$28,916.00

As of January 31, 2022 the total expenditures for NTA are \$98,250.00 and Cyber School are \$693,145.63.

Mr. Kaufman also shared some strategies they will be using to encourage more families to attend the district's Academy versus Cyber Schools in an order to decrease costs.

##### Building Use

Dr. Barnes distributed the current building use procedures and fees to the Board and asked them to review them and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting on March 14, 2022.

##### 2022-23 Budget Update

Kathy VanSchaick, Business Manager shared the following information on the 2022-23 budget:

- **Act 1 Budget Timeline**

**May 31, 2022** – Adopt Proposed Final Budget

**June 30, 2022** – Adopt Final Budget

- **Preliminary Budget Revenue Information**

No Tax Increase - \$49,472 in new money

Adjusted Index is 5.0% for Northern Tioga which equates to .9230 mills or approximately \$551,292.00 in increased tax revenue

2016-17 Increase was 3.03% slightly less than adjusted Act 1 Index of 3.5%.  
2017-18 Increase was 1.78% less than adjusted Act 1 Index of 3.6%  
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

- **State Budget for 2022/23**

Governor presented his proposed budget on February 8, 2022  
Includes \$1.25 billion in Basic Education Funding via the student weighted formula  
\$300 million for Level Up Supplement  
\$200 million in Special Education Funding  
\$16 million for Transportation  
\$170 million for PSERS Reimbursement  
\$30 million for Social Security Reimbursement  
\$373 million Charter Reform Savings---3-Tier System for Special Needs Students and \$9,800  
Cyber Rate Statewide

Recommendation from state organizations is to NOT use these estimates

- **Federal Revenue**

No projections for 2022/23 yet

- **Expenditure Information**

BC/BS Increase at 6.1% average -- increase of approximately \$284,240.00  
PSERS Retirement Rate is 35.26% -- increase of approximately \$52,043.00  
Salary Increase for Professional and Support Staff approximately \$500,686  
Act 93 Agreements Expire June 30, 2022

- **Next Steps**

Continue to review expenditures and revenues and update projections

Review Equipment Requests with Administrators, which were due February 22<sup>nd</sup>

The board adjourned the work session at 7:04 PM.

Kathy VanSchaick  
Acting Board Secretary

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