

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – January 11, 2021

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 7:05 PM.

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

Executive Session – An executive session was held on December 14, 2020 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, Jolene Meisner, James Moyer, and Jim Neal. Via Zoom: Ian McLaughlin, Greg Cummings, and Kim Strauser.

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

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Gabriella Stephens

Gabriella Stephens, daughter of Aaron and Nicole Stephens of Tioga, PA, is a Senior at Williamson Jr./Sr. High School and was selected as the high school Student of the Month. Gabriella was nominated by the Social Studies Department for her dedication to her classwork and the History Club. As one teacher put it, “Gabby is one of the most devoted students I have had. I have had her for two different classes and in both of them she turned in great work, even revising the work until it was near perfect. Most importantly, Gabby has been a vital part of the History Club. Since her freshman year she has taken on various leadership roles that have helped us in raising thousands of dollars for our Veterans.

Among the various leadership roles, she has been an officer multiple years, a top fundraiser for the Jogathon, and has spoken at the annual Veterans Day program.”

In addition to being a leader in the classroom and her clubs, Gabriella is very active in other extracurricular activities. She is a member of the Williamson Volleyball team, National Honor Society, Student Council, and has served as a class officer. There is no doubt that Gabriella’s academic accolades are impressive, but what’s more impressive is that she is able to manage all of that while holding a job outside of school. During the school year, Gabriella can be found babysitting for a number of different people. In addition, she has held seasonal positions at The Tioga Twist and Sky King Fireworks. All of this hard work has prepared her for future success, in which Gabriella’s future plans are to attend college majoring in Speech Pathology.

Williamson Middle School – A’llexis Bellows

Williamson Middle School is proud to honor A’llexis Bellows as the January Student of the Month. A’llexis is the daughter of Carisa and Ryan Buzako and William Bellows. She has three siblings, Calex, a 2020 graduate of Williamson High School, Logan, a freshman at Williamson High School, and her little 4 year old sister, Quinn. The family resides in Millerton, Pennsylvania.

A’llexis loves her ELA class and enjoys being inquisitive. Exploring different types of literature has given A’llexis a new found excitement. She is also interested in becoming bi-lingual.

Commitment is a large component of A’llexis’ character. She is a good friend to all who know her. Sports is a passion for A’llexis. She has played basketball and volleyball since elementary school. Service is another important commitment to this fine young lady. She is a member of the Girl Scout Troup in Millerton.

A’llexis is unsure of her exact career path but has interests in photography and baking. Whether profession or hobby, A’llexis has a bright future ahead of her. Congratulations A’llexis, all of Williamson Middle School is very proud of you!!

Cowanesque Valley High School – Bryson Fuhrer

Bryson is a sophomore at Cowanesque Valley and is the son of Brandon and Jessica Fuhrer of Knoxville. Bryson, besides being a delight to interact with, is a hard worker who goes the extra mile (literally - Cross Country team, and figuratively). This year he is taking a CCC computer class, has auditioned for District Band and Chorus, and has made District Band as 5th chair alto saxophone. In his spare time, he can often be found at a piano in the music wing working on his entry for a young composer contest. Bryson enjoys writing, arranging music and is currently working on writing a musical. After high school, he plans to attend Cornell University for a degree in computer science.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Addison Winch

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are pleased to announce Addison Winch as our middle school student of the month. She is in eighth grade and is the granddaughter of Linda Clement of Little Marsh. Addi’s teachers appreciate her joyful and upbeat attitude; she always has a smile on her face. She also works very hard in the classroom and takes pride in her work. Addi is the Historian of the middle school student council and

the eighth grade Historian. She is also a member of chorus and National Junior Honor Society. She loves science because there is always something new to learn and math because it is universal. She also enjoys art and music. In the future, she would like to have a career in which she can benefit others.

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Ava Chapel

Ava Chapel, sixth grader, is R.B. Walter's Student of the Month for January. She is the daughter of Nicholas and Nicole Chapel of Lawrenceville.

Ava's teachers chose her to receive this award because of her hard work ethic, her kind and helpful personality, her great sense of humor, and her academic excellence. Ava is frequently on the honor roll. Although she likes all subjects, her favorite subject is social studies, because she gets to learn more about people's culture, what languages they speak, and the world we live in.

Outside of school, Ava likes being outside, playing soccer, swimming, biking, and hanging out with friends and family. Ava says her mom is her biggest role model, because she was the one who was there for her on her bad days, and taught her to be brave and to never give up.

When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, Ava chose a professional soccer player. She wants to be able to inspire others that are interested in soccer to play soccer. With the grit and determination that we see in Ava, we believe this to be a great career aspiration!

On behalf of Ava's teachers and the R.B. Walter family, I want to congratulate her on this well-deserved accomplishment.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Isaiah Mummert

The Westfield Area Elementary School Student of the Month is Isaiah Mummert! Isaiah is a 4th grade honor roll student that is the son of Nate and Amanda Mummert of Knoxville. He is a member of the WAES band. Isaiah plays football and is planning to play basketball this year. In his free time, he enjoys reading (he already has 141 AR points!), playing piano, and solving the Rubric's cube. Isaiah's teachers describe him as a pleasure to have in class. He is always working incredibly hard and striving to do his best, all with a positive attitude. Isaiah can always be counted on to be a role model for others. We are proud to have Isaiah Mummert as our January Student of the Month!

Clark Wood Elementary School – Emerson West

Emerson is a 6th grade student in Ms. Lyon's homeroom. She is the daughter of Mrs. Shannon West and Mr. Stanley West of Elkland. Emerson works hard and always strives to do her best. She uses corrections to improve her errors and works hard to improve her academics. She is excellent at helping in any way needed. Emerson is supportive of her friends or anyone who is in need. She is a friend to everyone. She has an excellent sense of humor and participates constantly. Miss West is truly a joy to have in class and she exemplifies all our RAMS qualities.

While in school she participates in Student Council and has participated in Band and Chorus. In her free time, she has a dynamic range of interests. Emerson designs and sells

jewelry. She creates stage makeup illusions (example: a pencil protruding from her brother's face). She enjoys long walks with the family and cooking. One of her favorite pastimes is playing with her dog Sadie.

Emerson has an amazing personality and has an even more amazing future ahead of her. We at Clark Wood Elementary School are very proud of her.

1.6 Open Forum

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

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from the December 1, 2020 regular meeting. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.8 Budget Transfers (Exhibit #2)

1.9 Approval of Bills (Exhibit #3)

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve (1.8) budget transfers as outlined in Exhibit #2; (1.9) 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) – None

1.11 Attendance Area Exceptions (Handout)

1.12 Information & Correspondence

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent's Report

School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month – Dr. Barnes read a resolution from PSBA and thanked Board members for their time and commitment to the school district.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Dr. Barnes shared that school employees in Tioga County are in class 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination program. Laurel Health and Guthrie will be administering the vaccine to school employees who would like to receive it.

Professional Development Day

February 5, 2021 will be a Professional Development Day. Staff members will receive a “Bridges Out of Poverty” training. The training will be held virtually in each building. The district has invited some other organizations in the community to participate virtually as well. The Board agreed that the district will provide lunch to all employees on this day.

District Update

The District Update was made available in the usual format.

2.2 Business Manager's ReportMonthly Reports – (Exhibits #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #15)

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes (None), Capital Reserve Report (November and December 2020), Financial Report (November and December 2020), Cash Investment Report (November and December 2020), Student Activity Report (November 2020), Cafeteria Bills & Report (December 2020), Transportation Changes, and Capital Projects Report (November and December 2020) as outlined in the Exhibits. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report

Jeremy Freeman, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, reported that the building project is almost complete. There are just a few remaining items to be finished at Cowanesque Valley High School. The secure entrances at the elementary schools and the roof replacement at Cowanesque Valley High School are coming along as well. Building automation has been completed at Westfield Area Elementary School. Work at Clark Wood Elementary has started. Jean Kohut asked Jeremy why the secure entrances are taking so long to complete. Jeremy said work is continuing to progress with each stage of the project.

3.0 ACTION ITEMS**3.1 2020/2021 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)**

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve 2020/2021 co-curricular appointments as outlined in Exhibit #13. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.2 2020/2021 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by James Moyer, to approve 2020/2021 substitutes as outlined in Exhibit #14. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.3 Intent of Retirement

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Ed Bonham, to accept the intent of retirement of Karen Simonetti from her position of teacher at the Westfield Area Elementary School, effective January 15, 2021, and thank her for her dedicated service. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.4 Professional Appointment (Exhibit #16)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jim Neal, to appoint Brittnee Warren to the position of long-term substitute elementary teacher currently assigned at the Westfield Area Elementary School at Step 1, Master's Degree, effective January 19, 2021 for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Association as outlined in Exhibit #16. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.5 Classified Appointments (Exhibit #17)

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to appoint Dorothy Frey to the position of 3.5 hour per day cafeteria aide currently assigned at the Cowanesque Valley High School at the rate of \$14.10 per hour, effective December 7, 2020 (currently 3.25 hour per day cafeteria aide at R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School); Tonia Champlain to the position of 3.25 hour per day cafeteria aide currently assigned at the R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School at the rate of \$13.36 per hour, effective January 12, 2021 (currently 2.75 hour per day cafeteria aide at R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School); and Jennifer Barley to the position of 2.75 hour per day cafeteria aide currently assigned at the R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School at the rate of \$12.61 per hour, effective January 12, 2021 in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals as outlined in Exhibit #17. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.6 Special Sick Leave (Exhibit #18)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve the attached staff members for Special Sick Leave in accordance with the Special Sick Leave Guidelines approved by the Board at the October 12, 2020 meeting as outlined in Exhibit #18. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.7 First Reading of Policies (Exhibit #19, #20, #21, #22, and #23)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Ed Bonham, to approve the first reading of proposed changes to the following policies:

#332 - Working Periods (Exhibit #19)

#803 - School Calendar (Exhibit #20)

#113.1 - Discipline of Students With Disabilities (Exhibit #21)

#113.2 - Behavior Support (Exhibit #22)

#113.4 - Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information (Exhibit #23)

Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.8 Approval of Perkins/Vocational Minutes (Exhibit #24)

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Ed Bonham, to approve the October 28, 2020 minutes from the Vocational Advisory Committee and the Perkins Advisory Committee. The minutes provide documentation that annual meetings of the local advisory committee (LAC) provide advice to the board and the administration concerning the program of the school, including its general philosophy, academic and other standards, strategic plans, course offerings, support services, safety requirements, and the skill needs of employers as outlined in Exhibit #24. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Approval of Bus Contractor Payment

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Ed Bonham, to approve the business manager to pay bus contractors for days buses did not run in the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with Act 136 of 2020. This will allow the school district to receive a 2021-2022 fiscal year pupil transportation subsidy equal to the greater of the amount allocated for the 2020-2021 fiscal year or the amount calculated for payment in the 2021-2022 fiscal year (based on school year 2020-2021 data). Roll Call Vote. 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.

Board Work Session – January 25, 2021, 6:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting –February 8, 2021, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to adjourn. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 7:43 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.