

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – Special Meeting
July 13, 2020

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 6:02 PM.

The Board convened for an executive session at 6:02 PM for legal and personnel issues.

The Board reconvened for the meeting at 8:00 PM.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

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

1.4 Open Forum

Chris Collum, NTEA President

Chris Collum stated that he hopes the district allows staff to have a voice in developing a reopening plan. Staff can offer insight from their first-hand experience in the classrooms. They can offer input for what requirements would be feasible and possible for students. Staff are on the front lines and can provide a unique perspective that emphasizes student and staff safety.

Rebecca Meyer, Millerton, PA

Rebecca Meyer expressed her concerns about students returning to in-person school in the fall. She stated that she hopes the Board and the pandemic team have reviewed the reopening guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She hopes that NTSD's plan will reflect current guidelines for mask wearing, occupancy limits, social distancing, and health and temperature screenings. She hopes that there will be flexible attendance requirements and extra efforts to protect those who are immunocompromised. She also shared a quote from the guidelines issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Kimberly Slusser, Millerton, PA

Kimberly Slusser stated that she hopes the community, teachers, and students can take part in developing a plan to reopen schools. Community members are invested in the district and would like opportunities to be involved in the planning process. Teachers are at the forefront of any decisions that are made and need to feel comfortable with what is being asked of them. Their voices need to be elevated as we search for solutions.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS**2.1 Approval of Change Order (Exhibit #2)**

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve change order #CO-GC-019 for a deduct of \$53,500.00 for J.C. Orr & Son as outlined in Exhibit #2. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Settlement and Release Agreement (Exhibit #1)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve the Settlement and Release Agreement between Myco Mechanical, Inc. and the district as outlined in Exhibit #1. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS**3.1 NTSD Health and Safety Plan**

Dr. Barnes stated that the administration has been working to develop the district's Health and Safety Plan. The district is still gathering input from other areas including the Union, teachers, and Laurel Health. The school nurse has already reviewed the plan and offered input. Once the Board approves the plan, it will be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and placed on the district's website. Once all input has been received, the Board will review the final plan and information will be sent to the public.

Administrators reviewed the key strategies, policies, and procedures of the plan with the Board. Jeremy Freeman and Jess Millard reviewed the cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilation section of the plan. Greg Cummings asked if the district has enough equipment to complete all of the necessary cleaning. Amy Coots and Kathy VanSchaick said cleaning supplies have been ordered with grant money and are arriving daily. Jolene Meisner wondered if custodians will need any special training. Jeremy stated that they will receive training on any new equipment.

Cheryl Sottolano and Kris Kaufman reviewed the social distancing and other safety protocols section of the plan. This section is centered around the district's plan to provide daily, in-person, instruction. Jolene Meisner wondered who will be disinfecting the school buses. Kathy VanSchaick said the contractors will be responsible for cleaning the buses after each bus run. The district will provide the disinfecting supplies. Greg Cummings wondered how bus routes will be managed. Kathy stated that the district is currently looking at how bus routes can be broken up and said a survey will be going out to parents this week to help with the planning process. James Moyer asked if the square footage of classrooms will allow students to stay 6 feet apart. Administration stated that they are still

working out these details. Kim Strauser suggested that plexiglass be placed between students.

Dan Fie and Matt Sottolano reviewed the section on monitoring student and staff health. Greg Cummings asked that Dr. Barnes review some of the items in this section with Laurel Health to ensure we are listing proper guidelines. The items he requested be reviewed include the possibility of having our students tested for the virus, contact tracing, and the conditions under which someone can return after being in isolation.

Amy Coots and Christina Fry reviewed the other considerations for students and staff section of the plan. Greg Cummings requested that the Governor's current requirements for mask wearing be listed in this section. Ed Bonham asked if there will be enough time between hands on classes to sanitize things in the classroom. Dr. Barnes said this will be worked out with teachers. Greg Cummings asked if the Board must approve the plan each time a change is made. Dr. Barnes said they do not need to but added that the Board will be informed of any changes. Greg stated that if proper distance cannot be maintained between students, we need to reduce the number of kids in the buildings by considering a different type of reopening. The administration stated that parents do not indicate that they want a different type of reopening. The district is balancing safety guidelines with the priority of getting kids back in school. The district will follow the Governor's orders when they reopen.

Greg Cummings requested that more people be added to the pandemic team including a Laurel Health representative, Board members, and members of the community. Jolene Meisner, Jean Kohut, and James Moyer agreed to be part of the team. Dr. Barnes said the district will work to add more members.

A motion was made by Ian McLaughlin, seconded by Jean Kohut, to approve the NTSD Health and Safety Plan with the corrections that were discussed. Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with Greg Cummings casting a negative vote.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjournment was at 9:25 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.