

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – Special Meeting
May 23, 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 7:02 PM.

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

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2.3 Board Attendance: Board Members Present: Julie Preston, James Moyer, Jim Neal, and Kim Strauser. Absent: Ed Bonham, Greg Cummings, Jean Kohut, Ben Howe, and Jolene Meisner.

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

2.4 Open Forum

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

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 CVHS Bathrooms Project

Larry Foor, Foor & Associates, was present to discuss the results of the bid opening conducted on Thursday, May 19, 2022. JC Orr was the low bidder for General Construction with a base bid of \$345,959.00; Kimble, Inc. was the low bidder for Plumbing and HVAC with base bids of \$393,400.00 and \$84,700.00 respectively; and G.R. Noto was the low bidder for Electrical with a base bid of \$46,850.00. Larry performed a descope with the bidders, and received some Value Engineering ideas from each in order to get closer to the district's construction budget. Painted drywall in lieu of ceramic tile walls was one option suggested by JC Orr. Kim Strauser stated that painted drywall was used in a former school district and, while it looked great when it was first completed, within a year, it needed to be removed and more money needed to be spent to put in tile. She strongly urged the school district does not go with this idea, as there will

most likely be the same issues and painted drywall will not hold up well in a bathroom. Larry expressed the increase in construction labor, material pricing, and the schedule for this project also had an impact in the bids. The Buildings and Grounds Committee had a meeting earlier in the day to discuss the results of the bids and the descope suggestions, and the committee is going to recommend the Board not accept any of the bids and do a re-bid in the Fall of 2022. Larry Foor and Jeremy Freeman will continue to work on the Value Engineering together.

5.0 WORK SESSION

5.1 2022-23 Budget Update

Kathy VanSchaick, Business Manager, delivered an update to the Board on the 2022/2023 Budget. She had an outlined update to handout to the Board with the following information:

- Final Budget Adoption is Scheduled for the June 13, 2022 Board Meeting
- NTSD proposed budget included a real estate tax increase of 4% or .7384 mills and level funding for State Basic Education
- Which equates to an:
 - Increase for a home assessed at 100,000 = \$73.84
 - Increase for a home assessed at 150,000 = \$110.76
 - Increase for a home assessed at 200,000 = \$147.68
- PASBO is noting that they fully expect school districts will see an increase in the State Basic Education Funding, but do not know the amount at this time.
- Some districts are budgeting a percentage increase ranging from 2-3%
 - Troy, Sullivan County, Northeast Bradford, Williamsport, and Sayre are budgeting a 3% increase
 - Southern Tioga, Canton, and Wyalusing are level funding
- A 2% increase for Northern Tioga in State Basic Education Funding amounts to \$266,053
- Adjusting the millage rate with a 1 to 1 replacement, equates to 0.5422 mills. This would decrease the amount of the tax increase proposed in the preliminary budget from 19.1974 mills to 18.6552 mills.
- This equals a 1.063% increase over the 2021 millage rate.
- Property owners assessed as noted below would see the following increase in their tax bills

- Increase for a home assessed at 100,000 = \$19.62
 - Increase for a home assessed at 150,000 = \$29.43
 - Increase for a home assessed at 200,000 = \$39.24
- Property Tax Relief from PDE has seen the largest increase in many years from \$476,809.00 to \$601,608.00, which is an increase of \$124,799
 - 2021 Homestead Reduction was \$141.66
 - 2022 preliminary calculations show this will increase to approximately \$180.00
 - This is an increase of approximately \$38.34
 - The average homestead property in Northern Tioga School District is \$78,365.00
 - The chart below illustrates the effect of the millage from the 2021 tax year to the proposed millage rate of 19.1974, and to the rate of 18.6552 if the district were to include a 2% increase in Basic Education Funding
 - By decreasing the millage rate to 18.6552, this could affect the final Homestead exclusion amount either increasing or decreasing by a few dollars.
 - Dr. Barnes has asked that I prepare 2 budget options for the June 13 Final Budget Adoption Meeting as follows:
 - The proposed budget with a real estate tax increase of 4% or .7384 mills
 - A budget with a 2% increase in Basic Education Funding.
 - This is information for the Board, no action needs to be taken at tonight's meeting.

AVERAGE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY - \$78,365

2021 Tax Bill @ 18.459 Mills	\$1,446.54
Homestead Assessment Exclusion	\$141.66
Total Tax Bill @ Face	\$1,304.88

2022 Tax Bill @ 19.1974 Mills	\$1,504.40
Projected Homestead Assessment Exclusion	\$180.00
Total Tax Bill @ Face	\$1,324.40

2022 Tax Bill @ 18.6552 Mills	\$1,461.91
Projected Homestead Assessment Exclusion	\$180.00
Total Tax Bill @ Face	\$1,281.91

5.2 ESL Discussion

Dr. Barnes stated to the Board that there was an ESL (English as a Second Language) update necessary to apply for the AEDY program. She wanted the Board members to be aware there will be a June Action Item on the agenda to approve the ESL program, and principals have been asked to have one (1) ESL certified teacher in each building. Dr. Barnes said the number of ESL students is increasing and explained that English is not the primary language of an ESL student. To apply for AEDY program, there must be a plan for ESL on file. Dan Fie, expressed students are identified for ESL through a process of interviews, assessments to determine a course of action, and there is a step-by-step process to determine the procedure to provide for the needs of an ESL student.

The board adjourned the work session at 7:40 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.