

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – November 9, 2020

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 Vice President, Kim Strauser at 7:31 PM.

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

Executive Session – An executive session followed the October 26, 2020 work session for Negotiations Committee members for the purpose of legal and personnel issues.

1.2 Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was led by Kim Strauser.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Kim Strauser led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

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

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Brianna Glover

Brianna Glover, daughter of Jamie Nagy and Mark Glover of Tioga, PA, is a junior at Williamson Jr./Sr. High School and was selected as the high school student of the month. One of the reasons Brianna was chosen as student of the month is because of her dedication to her academics. She has been an honor roll student all through high school and has even earned perfect attendance for the school year. In addition to applying herself inside the classroom, she also has been very involved in making an impact outside of the classroom. Brianna is a member of both the student council and the Jr. National Honor Society and was the class president of her sophomore class. She is also a member of the softball team. While all these accolades contributed to Brianna being selected as student of

the month, it is her positive attitude and active participation in the classroom and her dedication to becoming a better person that many feel make her worthy of this award. As one teacher put it, “Brianna is always so engaged in what we are learning about, and her understanding of what it takes to be an active and upstanding citizen inspires those around her. I cannot think of a better candidate for this award.” Brianna, the faculty and staff of Williamson High School would like to congratulate you and let you know that we are very proud of you.

Williamson Middle School – Kenna Thomas

Williamson Middle School is proud to honor Kenna Thomas as the November Student of the Month. Kenna is the daughter of Melissa and Chad Thomas of Tioga Junction. Kenna has a brother, Kaedan, who is a 10th grade student at WHS.

Kenna is a very active student. She enjoys participating on organized sports teams. She plays WHS softball, basketball and volleyball. Travel softball (“Lady Rebels of NY”) allows Kenna even more competitive time throughout the year. She is also a drummer in the WHS band and is a soprano in our chorus. Kenna has been a Student Council Representative since the 4th grade and is, again, her class rep for the 7th grade year.

Kenna’s favorite subject is math. Kenna’s professional aspirations include her love of people and love of mathematics. Her future plans are to become a forensic scientist. Williamson Middle School is honored to have Kenna Thomas as a student at our school! Congratulations, Kenna!

Cowanesque Valley High School – Makayla Vargeson

Makayla is a senior at Cowanesque Valley High School. She is the daughter of Mike and Heidi Vargeson of Westfield. The teacher that nominated Mak described her as conscientious, well prepared, an active participant, and an all-around outstanding student. Teachers are also impressed by her willingness to help others. She is respectful, polite, friendly and to put it simply, a nice person. In addition, Mak excels in three sports, volleyball, basketball, and softball, having achieved her 500th kill in volleyball this season. She is also the Secretary of the National Honor Society, the President of the History Club and a member of the student council. Mak’s future plan is to pursue a degree in architectural engineering.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Judah Mummert

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are pleased to announce Judah Mummert as our middle school student of the month. He is in seventh grade and is the son of Nathaniel and Amanda Mummert of Knoxville. Judah is a pleasure to have in the classroom. He is responsible and kind, and his work is impeccable. He is also an extremely well-rounded student. He is in cross country, basketball, and band. He also plays the piano, has a passion for music, and loves to write. In addition, Judah is a master of the Rubik’s Cube; his fastest time solving it is 11.64 seconds!! We are confident that Judah will do amazing things in the future!

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Bristol Slaymaker

Bristol Slaymaker is the daughter of David and Sara Slaymaker. She is a fifth grade student at R.B. Walter and is consistently on the high honor roll. At school, she is in the enrichment program and a member of the chorus and band groups. Bristol excels in

English Language Arts. She loves to read and write. Her outside interests from school are anything outdoors. Bristol enjoys gardening, summer activities, camping, and swimming. Bristol's teachers describe her as a very well-mannered, conscientious student who is considerate to her peers and is always eager to help others. She describes herself as an animal lover, happy, funny, kind, loyal, trustworthy, and supportive to those around her. We are proud to recognize Bristol as our Student of the Month!

Westfield Area Elementary School – Faith Brant

The Westfield Area Elementary School Student of the Month is Faith Brant! Faith is a 5th grade student that resides in Westfield. She is an honor roll student that is the daughter of Danielle Brant and Michael Brant. Faith plays soccer at WAES and is part of the student council. In her free time, she enjoys painting and jumping on her trampoline. Faith's favorite class is science. Her teachers describe her as a positive role model who always does her work to the best of her ability. She is a friendly student that is always kind to everyone! She models our BRAVE expectations perfectly! We are proud to have Faith Brant as our Student of the Month!

Clark Wood Elementary School – Riley Stidfole

Third grade is proud to announce that Clark Wood's Student of the Month is Riley Stidfole! Riley is the son of Alisha and Jake Stidfole. He lives with his parents and younger brother, Brody, who is in first grade at Clark Wood Elementary. He also has two dogs, Beau and Chance, who he loves to play with. During his school day, he most enjoys math class, recess, and gym class. Outside of school, he enjoys riding his bike, playing video games, and practicing shooting with his dad. Riley truly is a wonderful example of our Clark Wood values. He is respectful to everyone- teachers and students alike. He is kind to his friends, participates in class often, and follows directions the first time. He also has a hilarious sense of humor and loves to tell his teacher all about his fun hobbies. Way to go, Riley. We are proud of you!

Tenure and Professional Contract

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to grant Abby Brown, Guidance Counselor at Williamson High School, tenure and issue a professional contract. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.6 Open Forum

Chris Collum – NTEA President

Chris Collum thanked the administration for the efforts they have made to keep students and staff safe this school year. Mr. Collum stated that the short-term school closures when COVID-19 cases arise can be effective, however, the Association believes improvements can be made. The possible benefits of these closures are negatively impacted by requiring teachers to report to work on these days. Teachers could have had contact with someone who is positive without knowing, teachers could be positive but symptom free, and classrooms cannot be deep cleaned with teachers working in them. The Association believes teachers can do the same remote work they are doing from their classrooms from home on these days. Accommodations could be made for teachers who cannot work from home due to poor internet or lack of a device. In the Spring, teachers were taught how to work from home and, with more work moving online, principals have more access than ever to each teacher's lesson plans. If a longer lockdown were to occur, teachers could

report for in-person work after some time working remotely from home initially to allow for a separation period and deep cleaning.

Mr. Collum also stated that the Association has concerns with requirements for teachers during the flexible instructional days the district has been approved for. Teachers have been told that if a flexible instructional day is used on a snow day, they may be required to report to work. The Association believes that teachers should be able to work remotely on these days. They believe that all staff who can work remotely should be afforded that option on snow days. On any days that remote learning takes place, the level of instruction will not change whether it is done from a classroom or from home. It is in the best interest of students and staff for teachers to work remotely during closures.

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from the October 12, 2020 regular meeting and October 26, 2020 work session. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

1.8 Budget Transfers (Exhibit #2) – None

1.9 Approval of Bills (Exhibit #3)

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve 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)

1.11 Information & Correspondence

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent's Report

Recognition of Employee Veterans

Dr. Barnes recognized current employees that served in the Armed Forces and thanked them for their service.

Recognition of Employees

Dr. Barnes noted that November 18, 2020 is National Education Support Professionals Day and November 16-20, 2020 is American Education Week. She thanked all staff members who make our schools work.

District Update

The District Update was made available in the usual format.

2.2 Business Manager's Report

Monthly Reports – (Exhibits #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #15)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes, Capital Reserve Report, Financial Report, Cash Investment Report, Student Activity Report, Cafeteria Bills & Report, Transportation Changes, and Capital Projects Report as outlined in the Exhibits. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Bus Contractor Payment

Kathy VanSchaick, Business Manager, shared information with the Board regarding bus contractors and school closures. The district's four major bus contractors have written letters to the district requesting reimbursement for days not driven during school closures. They have not requested a specific amount and are grateful for the 85% they received during the closure last school year. Kathy presented the revenue impact of the recent closure on contractors and shared with the Board what different rates of reimbursement would look like for the district. The district cannot request state reimbursement for any payments made to contractors for days not driven. Payment for these days would be all at district cost. Kathy also noted that the transportation contracts state that contractors will only be paid for days driven.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report

Jeremy Freeman, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, reported that they are still working to complete final punch lists and close the building project. Building automation work and the secure entrance project are still underway. Ed Bonham asked how the roof replacement at Cowanesque Valley High School is progressing and asked if there has been any damage due to rain. Jeremy said that the work is moving along and some areas are complete. Mr. Sottolano said there is some rain damage that will need to be looked at. Kathy VanSchaick noted that the district holds a 10% retainage on payments to the contractor which should cover any repairs.

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 2020/2021 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)

A motion was made by Jolene Meisner, seconded by Ed Bonham, 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 Jolene Meisner, to approve 2020/2021 substitutes as outlined in Exhibit #14. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.3 Resignation

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to accept the resignation of Jennifer Barley, teacher aide at R.B. Walter Elementary School, effective November 3, 2020, 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 Jolene Meisner, to appoint Michael Schmitt to the position of long-term substitute mathematics/physical education teacher currently assigned at the Cowanesque Valley High School at Step 1, Master's Degree effective October 20, 2020 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 Appointment (Exhibit #17)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Ed Bonham, to appoint Sheila Earl to the position of 4.5 hour per day cook currently assigned at the Cowanesque Valley High School at a rate of \$14.84 per hour, effective November 10, 2020 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 Second Reading and Final Adoption of Policies (Exhibits #18, #19, & #20)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve the second reading and final adoption of proposed changes to the following policies:
#111 - Lesson Plans (Exhibit #18)
#314 - Physical Examination (Exhibit #19)
#705 - Facilities and Workplace Safety (Exhibit #20)
Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.7 Special Sick Leave (Exhibit #21)

A motion was made by Jolene Meisner, seconded by Jean Kohut, 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 #21. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.8 Approval of Volunteer

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve the following volunteer: Aaron Vargeson, Clark Wood Elementary School. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Retirement

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to accept the retirement of Carol Cody, cafeteria aide at R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School, effective January 1, 2021, and thank her for her dedicated service. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.2 Resignation

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Greg Cummings, to accept the resignation of Kelly Lowe, cafeteria aide at R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School, effective November 2, 2020, and thank her for her dedicated service. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.3 Approval of Increase in Hours

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jolene Meisner, to approve increasing daily hours for Abby Slocum, special education teacher aide at Clark Wood Elementary School, from 5.0 hours per day to 5.5 hours per day effective immediately. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.4 Special Sick Leave (Exhibit #22)

A motion was made by Jim Neal, seconded by Greg Cummings, 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 #22. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

4.5 Impact Statement

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the impact statement from Mr. Sottolano. 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 – November 23, 2020, 6:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting – December 1, 2020, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Greg Cummings, to adjourn. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

Adjournment was at 8:24 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.