

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
110 Ellison Road  
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – October 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 7:00 PM.

Executive Session – An executive session followed the September 13, 2021 meeting for the purpose of legal and personnel issues.

Executive Session – An executive session preceded the meeting 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, Greg Cummings, Ben Howe, James Moyer, and Kim Strauser. Via Zoom: Jean Kohut. Absent: Jolene Meisner and Jim Neal.

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

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – William Gehman

William Gehman, son of Josh and Sarah Gehman of Lawrenceville, PA and a Sophomore at Williamson Jr./Sr. High School, has been selected as the high school Student of the Month for the month of October. William was selected by teachers from the Math Department. When thinking about reasons to select William for Student of the Month, there was no shortage of responses from those that selected him. One teacher referred to his effort in class, claiming “he's always paying attention in class, always has his work done to the best of his ability, and he always asks questions when something doesn't make

sense.” The teachers in the Math Department were in agreement that he genuinely wants to learn and works hard to achieve perfection.

William is not only a great student, but he is also balancing this while taking on various responsibilities outside of school. William is an active member of the Williamson Soccer Team and helps his father in his metal fabrication shop. While many students may struggle to balance outside activities and academics, William has excelled while taking on extra work. He is consistently on the High Honor Roll and was part of the Jr. National Honor Society. William has proven that he is a well-rounded student and is well-deserving of recognition as our October Student of the Month. William, 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 – Eros Toombs

Williamson Middle School is proud to honor Eros Toombs as the October Student of the Month. Eros is the proud son of Amanda and James Toombs. He is the proud grandson of Deanna and Michael Gurnsey. The family resides in Osceola, Pennsylvania. Eros shared, "I really enjoy attending Williamson High School." He is an involved young man. He plays baseball for the Warriors and is a National Junior Honor Society member, he is a Student Council representative, and belongs to the WESO Club. Eros is a dedicated son and grandson. He loves his family and is involved with the family farm. He enjoys the family dog, rabbits, and cows. Eros also enjoys all genres of music. Eros has many experiences and enjoys learning. At this stage in his young life, Eros is unsure of what his future aspirations will be. It is evident, whatever Eros aspires to achieve in his life, he will meet his goal(s) with success. It is with great pleasure that we honor this special young man as the Williamson Middle School Student of the Month!

Cowanesque Valley High School – Daniel White

Daniel is a tenth grader at Cowanesque Valley High School and is the son of Daniel White of Westfield. He is a wonderful young man - kind, conscientious, respectful, and responsible. Daniel always comes into class with a “Hello” and leaves with “Have a good day” to me. He comes to class prepared with all his work completed. His work is solid, and he works hard every day. His assignments are always complete and turned in on time. He also makes great use of his tutorial time working on current work or reading AR. It is a pleasure to have Daniel in class.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Blake Barley

The Cowanesque Valley Middle School teachers are pleased to announce Blake Barley as our middle school student of the month. Blake is in seventh grade and is the son of James and Kimberly Barley of Middlebury Center. Blake has been a wonderful addition to the CV middle school. He is kind and considerate, and he cares deeply about his academics. He pays great attention to detail and is hardworking. Blake is a member of the band and CV’s new middle school game club. He is a great chess player. In addition, he enjoys outdoor activities, traveling, and sports. When asked what his favorite class was, Blake responded “I like them all!” We appreciate his positive outlook and energy. Blake would eventually like to go to college to be a game warden; we think he would make a great game warden! Way to go, Blake.

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Nathaniel Gehman

Nathaniel (Nate) Gehman has been chosen to be R.B. Walter's Student of the Month for October. Nate, son of Josh and Sarah Gehman of Lawrenceville, is a sixth-grade student. His teachers selected him as the student of the month for his friendly, helpful attitude and his eagerness to learn. He is a great student who takes his school work very seriously. Nate's favorite subject is math. He says he enjoys the challenge of difficult problems requiring him to think and do his best. He also especially loves his math teacher. When he is not at school, Nate enjoys playing basketball, soccer, board games, and video games. He attends church on Sundays and youth group on Wednesdays. He is also training with his mom to run a half marathon!

When asked who his role model is, Nate named his dad. He says his dad works hard and that makes Nate want to be like him and make him proud. Although he does not know what his future will hold, he is considering the possibility of being involved in his dad's business. We are sure that no matter what Nate puts his mind to, he will succeed. All of Nate's teachers enjoy having him in class, and we look forward to all of the great accomplishments he will achieve this year.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Jalen Graves

The Westfield Area Elementary School Student of the Month is Jalen Graves. Jalen is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student. He is the son of Colin and Erin Graves. Jalen is a member of the Cowanesque Valley Youth Football Team and he participates in 4-H. In his free time, he enjoys being outdoors, spending time with his little brother and playing games. His teachers describe him as a positive role model for his peers. He is continuously participating in the classroom and volunteering his time to help others. Jalen is a caring individual with a great personality. He always wants to share his findings at school and when he is at home as well. Jalen loves to travel and likes to send his teacher pictures when he finds or sees something special to show his peers. Jalen is a wonderful addition to the 5th grade class. We are super proud of his accomplishments so far this year!

Clark Wood Elementary School – Ella Krise

Ella Krise is the daughter of Katie Roe and Luke Krise of Osceola. She is active in softball as a pitcher, student council, and art helpers. Ella enjoys painting, hunting, and spending time outdoors. She works hard every day to do her best and improve her skills. She is kind and understanding to all; she is willing to help others throughout the school. She often gives up her free time to work in primary classrooms helping younger students read, learn their letters, and practice sight words. Ella does this with a smile on her face and a kind word of encouragement. She participates in class and does not give up when a concept is new or difficult. Ella Krise is a great kid who I am proud to recognize as Clark Wood Student of the Month

## 1.6 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA

Mr. Goodrich offered words of encouragement and a prayer.

Joshua Shumack, Knoxville, PA

Joshua Shumack expressed concerns over the requirement for students to wear masks while in school.

Laurie Lockett, Westfield, PA

Laurie Lockett expressed concerns over the requirement for students to wear masks while in school.

## 1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the monthly meeting minutes from the September 13, 2021 regular meeting and the September 27, 2021 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 Kim Strauser, seconded by Ed Bonham, to approve bills as outlined in Exhibit #3. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

## 1.10 Facility Use Permits (None) &amp; Conferences (Exhibits #4 &amp; #5)

## 1.11 Information &amp; Correspondence

**2.0 REPORTS**

## 2.1 Superintendent's Report

PSBA 2021 Honor Roll of School Board Service

Ronald Cole, PSBA Section 3 Advisor, presented service awards to two long-standing school board members. Kim Strauser was recognized for 16 years of service and Greg Cummings was recognized for 8 years of service. The board and Dr. Barnes joined PSBA in thanking them for their service to the Northern Tioga School District.

PDE IDEA Letter

Dr. Barnes stated that the district received a letter from PDE regarding compliance with IDEA. Dan Fie, Coordinator of Student Services, said the district is in compliance.

Shoe Bank and CV Closet

Dr. Barnes shared that the Shoe Bank was held again this month. Students continue to come to receive shoes. She thanked Clark Wood Elementary for hosting the Shoe Bank as well as everyone who supports and donates to the program. Dr. Barnes also shared that the CV Closet is doing well. She will be sharing an updated list of needed items for the program. Jess Millard, Principal of Clark Wood Elementary School, also noted that the backpack program has started again. Dr. Barnes commended the district for all of the things done beyond education.

ESS Contract

Dr. Barnes shared with the board the contract from ESS for substitute services. She also shared concerns about the contract from the district's solicitor, Chris Lantz. Dr. Barnes suggested that the board talk with Chris directly about the contract. Ed Bonham suggested that a committee of three board members meet with Chris Lantz. The board agreed that Ed Bonham, Julie Preston, and James Moyer will meet with Chris Lantz.

## 2.2 Business Manager's Report

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

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Ed Bonham, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes, Capital Reserve Report (September 2021), Financial Report (None), Cash Investment Report (September 2021), Student Activity Report (July 2021 Amended and August 2021), Cafeteria Bills & Report (September 2021 Bills and August 2021 Report), Transportation Changes, and Capital Projects Report (None) 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, stated that the building access project is pending punch lists and the building automation project is complete pending final integration. Equipment has been installed for the radio project. We are just waiting on the final radios to be installed. Jean Kohut asked if the chipping floor at Williamson High School has been repaired. Jeremy stated that they have ideas to fix the floor but cannot move ahead while school is in session. James Moyer asked if the parking lot lights that are out at various schools will be fixed. He noticed several lights needing repaired at Williamson High School in particular. Jeremy said they are aware of some lights that are out and have supplies to fix them.

## 2.4 Grant Update

Dr. Barnes stated that with so many grants currently in progress, she has asked Kris Kaufman, Principal of Academic Affairs, to provide monthly updates to the board. Mr. Kaufman provided the board with a handout giving updates on where things stand with the ESSER I, ESSER II, and ARP/ESSER grants.

**3.0 ACTION ITEMS**

## 3.1 2021/2022 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve 2021/2022 co-curricular appointments as outlined in Exhibit #13. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

### 3.2 2021/2022 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Ed Bonham, to approve 2021/2022 substitutes as outlined in Exhibit #14. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

### 3.3 Resignations

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to accept the resignations of: Tammy Grega, teacher at R.B. Walter Elementary School, effective September 9, 2021; Jessica Kachur, cafeteria aide at R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School, effective September 13, 2021; Tonia Champlain, cafeteria aide at R.B. Walter Elementary/Williamson High School, effective October 1, 2021 and thank them for their dedicated service. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

### 3.4 Professional Appointments (Exhibit #16)

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Jean Kohut, to appoint: Kaitlynn Hultz, Middle School Science Teacher, Cowanesque Valley High School, Step 1, Master's Degree, effective October 18, 2021 and Kristen Post, Elementary Teacher, R.B. Walter Elementary School, Step 1, Master's Degree, effective October 19, 2021 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 Ben Howe, to appoint: Amy Rodriquez, 4.0 hour per day instructional aide, Clark Wood Elementary School, \$13.80 per hour, effective October 5, 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 Approval of Increase in Hours

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Kim Strauser, to increase the following teacher aide hours:

Teresa Cutaiar, Clark Wood Elementary School, from 6 hours and 30 minutes to 6 hours and 40 minutes per day effective immediately through the end of the 2021/22 school year; Stacey Mosher, Clark Wood Elementary School, from 5 hours to 5 hours and 30 minutes per day retroactive to October 7, 2021 through the end of the 2021/22 school year; Liz Tracy, R.B. Walter Elementary School, from 4 hours and 35 minutes to 5 hours and 30 minutes per day retroactive to September 13, 2021 through the end of the 2021/22 school year;

Erin Wilson, R.B. Walter Elementary School, from 4 hours and 35 minutes to 5 hours and 30 minutes per day retroactive to September 13, 2021 through the end of the 2021/22 school year. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.7 First Reading of Policy (Exhibit #18)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the first reading of proposed changes to Policy #006 – Meetings as outlined in Exhibit #18. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.8 Second Reading and Final Adoption of Policy (Exhibit #19)

A motion was made by Jean Kohut, seconded by Ben Howe, to approve the second reading and final adoption of proposed changes to Policy #903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings as outlined in Exhibit #19. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.9 Phone Service

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the moving of the majority of our phone service, which includes the porting of most of our existing numbers, from Met-Tel and Frontier to BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 and Spectrum. A few numbers will remain with Met-Tel in Westfield and Elkland as backup numbers should there be an interruption in services. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.10 Approval of Student Activity Account (Exhibit #20)

A motion was made by Ed Bonham, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve establishing the CVHS Military Club Student Activity Account as outlined in Exhibit #20. Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with Jean Kohut casting a negative vote.

3.11 WHS ATSI Plan (Exhibit #21)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Ben Howe, to approve the ATSI Plan for Williamson High School as outlined in Exhibit #21. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.12 Additional Vacancies During October

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the Superintendent to interview and offer positions to top ranking candidates for any teacher or classified vacancies that may occur between the October and November Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular November meeting. (This will eliminate the need to convene a special meeting.) All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

**4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**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 – October 25, 2021, 6:00 PM  
Regular Board Meeting – November 8, 2021, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings

The Buildings & Grounds Committee will hold an executive session on October 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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

Adjournment was at 8:13 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.