

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT

110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – Work Session
September 28, 2020

The Northern Tioga School District Board of Directors met for a work session in the Board Room at 110 Ellison Road, Elkland, PA. The session was called to order by Board President Julie Preston at 6:04 PM.

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

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

Moratorium on Graduation Project

The high school principals are requesting a one year moratorium on the graduation project for this year's seniors. Dr. Barnes shared that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, places where students would usually complete community service hours are not allowing volunteers. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for seniors to fulfill the community service requirements. Kris Kaufman stated that they would like to give credit to those who have already completed their projects but must figure out how to do so fairly. An item will be placed on the October board agenda requesting the moratorium.

Dr. Barnes also noted that the new state graduation requirements could be pushed back due to COVID-19. They are currently set to take effect with 21/22 seniors but there is a proposed bill to have this delayed. Due to school closures and the cancelation of the keystone exams, it will be a challenge for some students to meet the new graduation requirements. If the keystone exams are not made up, students will lose two of the five paths to graduation. Principals stated that students will have the option to make up these exams this year if they choose.

Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc.

Dr. Barnes stated that the district has old lab chemicals that need to be disposed of. Jeremy Freeman, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, reached out to a disposal company, Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. The district's solicitor has reviewed the proposed contract from this company and he is comfortable with the district using them for disposal. The district will make every effort to ensure that the chemicals are disposed of properly.

Secure Entrance Project

Jeremy Freeman stated that the concrete company making blocks for the secure entrance project has had an equipment failure. This will cause a delay in receiving the materials needed for the project. They hope to have the materials by mid-October. This will delay the finish date for the project until the end of November.

Warranty Walk-Through

Dr. Barnes shared with Board members that the 11-month warranty walk-through for the building project is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2020. The walk-through will begin at 9:00 am at Williamson High School and then proceed to Cowanesque Valley High School. Board members are welcome to attend.

Updates

Dr. Barnes shared that students have been back in school for five weeks and so far all is going well. Principals stated that students have been doing well with mask wearing and are happy to be back in school. The district has received PPE donations and currently has plenty of supplies.

Dr. Barnes stated that the district continues to work on applying for available grants. The district is currently in the process of using proceeds from the safety grant to update bus radios throughout the district. This process has been going well.

Jean Kohut asked Dr. Barnes if sports are going well. Dr. Barnes said they have been. Before traveling to other areas for games, the district looks carefully at the area's current COVID-19 case numbers.

Open Forum

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

The Board adjourned the work session at 6:39 PM.

Alyson Yerrick
Board Secretary