

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – September 25, 2017
Special Meeting

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 6:03 PM.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

The President led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

1.3 Board Attendance: Board members present: Greg Cummings, Robin Fitzmartin, Jean Kohut, Kim Strauser, and Julie Preston, Absent: Ed Bonham, Tony Daley, Ian McLaughlin, and Jolene Meisner.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Barnes, Amy Coots, Wanda Erb, Dan Fie, Kris Kaufman, Jess Millard, Cheryl Sottolano, and Amy Wood. Absent: Matthew Sottolano.

1.4 Open Forum

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

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Resignation

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Jean Kohut, to accept the resignation of Michael Granat, guidance counselor at the Williamson High School, effective September 13, 2017. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Cafeteria Meal Procedures

At a recent Board meeting, Board member Robin Fitzmartin questioned the district's meal charging procedures and the proposed "lunch shaming" legislation which has not yet been passed. Mrs. Erb explained that the district recently changed their procedures and no longer give a "replacement meal" and now allow students to charge a regular meal if they do not have funds on their account. In the past cafeteria personnel would notify students in the lunch line if they had or low or negative balance on their account. This is no longer done and notes are now sent home with students and/or phone calls are made to the home. The district is also utilizing the automated call system to notify parents that their child has a negative balance.

Mrs. Erb noted that these charges, if not paid, will have to be covered by the district's general fund account and that the current unpaid balance for the district is approximately \$467.00.

3.2 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Mrs. Erb discussed the Community Eligibility Provision Program, which is a federal program that would allow all students in the district to receive a free breakfast and lunch if the school meets the requirements of the program.

The program would reimburse the district at a specific rate for meals served but Mrs. Erb noted that based on the information that she has received from the state and her calculations that the program reimbursement would not replace all current revenue and depending on the increased participation the district could stand to lose money on the program, putting the food service department in a deficit position. When considering the program, the district will need to take into consideration increased costs of food and the possibility of needing additional staff to meet the increased production needs.

She also noted that the increase may cause an issue with time and getting all students through the lunch line with their current schedules. She currently estimates that this program could cost the district between \$78,000.00 - \$123,000.00 per school year. She recommended that if the Board chooses to participate in this program that they vote on it first and then she will work with the PA Department of Education to get included in the program.

Mrs. Fitzmartin inquired as to the amount the district takes in from the sale of Al La Carte food items in the cafeteria each year. Mrs. Erb noted that the district took in approximately \$90,000.00 in A La Carte sales in the 2016/2017 school year.

This item will be placed on the October 9, 2017 Board meeting for further discussion and Mrs. Erb will bring additional information with her for the Board.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjournment was at 6:31 PM.

Kathy VanSchaick
Board Secretary

All documents as attachments to the minutes not contained herein are maintained in a separate file located in the Superintendent's Office.