

NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT
110 Ellison Road
Elkland, PA 16920

Minutes – November 11, 2024

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, Ed Bonham 7:00 PM.

1.2 Moment of Silence

Ed Bonham led a moment of silence.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Ed Bonham led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

1.4 Board Attendance: Board Members Present: Julie Preston (Via Zoom), Ed Bonham, Greg Cummings, James Moyer, Denise Mack, and Kim Strauser. Absent: Craig Stage and Glen Hallead.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Kaufman, Dan Fie, Daren Bryant, Rebecca Koehler, Bill Butterfield, Matt Sottolano, Kathryn Slavinski, Jess Millard, and Cheryl Sottolano.

1.5 Student/Staff Recognitions & Presentations

Tenure and Professional Contract

The Superintendent, Mrs. Slavinski, and Mr. Butterfield recommend that the following teachers, be granted tenure and issued a professional contract: Kaitlynn Hultz, Science Teacher and Kristen Post, Elementary Teacher.

Student of the Month

Williamson High School – Issabella Bressler

Isabella Bressler, daughter of Deanna and Gerald Abbey of Elkland, has been chosen by the Science Department as Williamson's Student of the Month. She is an 11th grade student who is currently taking Environmental Science, which will assist in her pursuit of a degree in Marine Biology. Her teachers describe her as a quiet young lady who is quick to volunteer to answer questions and is always ready with the correct answer should she be called upon. Isabella is well mannered, very respectful, willing to help others in class, and possesses a wonderful sense of humor. She is a student who strives to always do her best work and is not afraid to ask for help when needed. In short, Isabella is an absolute

pleasure to teach. When not in school, Isabella enjoys creating art of all types and reading. Congratulations, Isabella. Williamson is proud of you!

Williamson Middle School – Grant Hills

Grant Hills, son of Adam and Tara Hills of Lawrenceville, PA, has been named Student of the Month at Williamson High School. As a dedicated middle school student, Grant balances his academics and extracurricular activities with enthusiasm and commitment. He consistently earns a place on the high honor roll, showcasing his hard work and dedication to his studies. Outside the classroom, Grant is an active athlete, excelling in both soccer and baseball. When he is not on the field, he enjoys spending time hunting. Grant's positive attitude and all-around great character make him a role model among his peers and a valued member of the Williamson High School community.

Cowanesque Valley High School – Hunter Simonds

Hunter Simonds, son of Shawn and Nicole Simonds of Little Marsh, is the senior high student of the month for November. Hunter is described by his teachers as a responsible, respectful, and hardworking student who is always willing to help others. He is a member of the student council and band and participates in cross country, wrestling, and baseball. He is also the treasurer of his class. He recently competed at states for cross country. Outside of school, Hunter enjoys playing guitar and participating in outdoor activities. His favorite part of school is tackling challenges. In the future, he plans to attend college to become an electrical engineer.

Cowanesque Valley Middle School – Braylin Main

The CV Middle School team chose Braylin Main as their November Student of the Month. Braylin is the daughter of Brett and Alisa Main. She has one brother and one dog, and they live in Sabinsville. The middle school teachers describe Braylin as thoughtful, polite, professional, and self-motivated. Braylin plays volleyball and basketball. She's a member of CV chorus, FFA, and CV pride club. Braylin plans to stay involved in these extracurricular activities while in high school. She enjoys staying busy and being involved in her school community.

When Braylin is not in school, she loves to read, watch movies, cook, and bake. She really enjoys books and movies that involve mystery. Braylin has been baking sugar cookies, biscuits, and homemade bread, just like her mom! ELA is Braylin's favorite subject, and she loves the freedom she has in middle school. Braylin is most proud of herself for never giving up and always trying her best. She thinks that she was picked for student of the month because she is kind, quiet, and works well with her classmates. Her teachers agree and add that Braylin is determined, self-motivated and receptive to learning new things. When she is an adult, Braylin would like to be an interior designer because she loves to clean and organize space. She sees herself staying in the area with her family and friends.

R.B. Walter Elementary School – Greta McCormick

RB Walter would like to congratulate Greta McCormick as our 5th grade student of the month for November. Greta is the daughter of Jamie McCormick of Lawrenceville, PA and Jason McCormick of Tioga, PA. Greta is a friendly and well-mannered student. She works hard to be successful and is consistently on the honor roll. This transfers to her

academic excellence and love for reading. She especially loves reading about history. At school she is active in chorus. Greta has many appealing character traits. Greta's teachers describe her as a hardworking, responsible, conscientious student who is kind, intelligent, athletic and a great friend to her peers. She is always eager to help others and goes above and beyond to show her kindness. Greta's outside interests from school are spending time with her family, reading and soccer. We are very proud of you! Congratulations Greta.

Clark Wood Elementary School – Kayleigh Costellic

Kayleigh Costellic is Clark Wood's Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Anthony and Erica Costellic of Lawrenceville. During the school day, Kayleigh is involved in chorus and plays the flute in band. She volunteers her time as a Kindergarten helper, an Art helper and is also a member of Student Council. Kayleigh is a joy to have in the classroom where she is an active participant, always has her work completed on time and done well. Outside of the classroom, Kayleigh enjoys riding horses, going on trail rides and helping out at Triple D Farms. She also plays soccer and is a competitive swimmer. When she is not spending time outside, she enjoys drawing and painting. Kayleigh is a well-rounded student and athlete and exemplifies all of our RAMS expectations in and out of the classroom! Kayleigh, we are very proud of you.

Westfield Area Elementary School – Noah Mummert

The WAES Student of the Month for November is Noah Mummert! Noah is the son of Amanda and Nate Mummert of Knoxville. Noah is a 6th grade student, who is a percussionist in the band! His favorite subjects in school are geography and math. In his free time, Noah enjoys writing stories and playing with his siblings. He really enjoys football, too! Noah's teachers describe him as a student that is always enthusiastic about learning! He is full of kindness and respect! He looks after others and provides a level of positivity that is unique among his age group. Additionally, he is very disciplined with his academics and puts full effort into his endeavors. We are proud to have Noah Mummert at our WAES November Student of the Month!!

Recognition of Northern Tioga School District, Fall Sport District Qualifiers

Principals recognized students from across the district that participated fall sports and qualified for districts in their perspective sports, including Golf, Tennis, Cross Country, Volleyball, and Soccer.

1.6 Open Forum

Bob Goodrich, Osceola, PA

Mr. Goodrich shared how thankful he is for the schools' efforts to provide Veteran's Day assemblies and ceremonies to our students. He also stated he has concerns regarding the Policies approved during the October meeting regarding Title IV, and that he will be bringing his concerns back to the board at another time. Mr. Goodrich also asked the board to pass a resolution to not raise taxes above the Act 1 index during our December meeting. Lastly, he shared a prayer.

1.7 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the meeting minutes from the October 14, 2024, Regular Meeting and the October 28, 2024, Building & Grounds Meeting. 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 Greg Cummings, 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-None)

1.11 Information & Correspondence - None

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kaufman provided recognition to all the district's staff members who make our schools work. He also recognized the following events: November 11-15, 2024, is National School Psychology Week, November 18-22, 2024, is American Education Week, and November 20, 2024, is National Education Support Professionals Day.

Mr. Kaufman reported that the PA Future Ready Index will be released publicly on November 12, 2024.

Mr. Kaufman also shared that he and Kathy VanSchaick sat in on a webinar about available grants through DCNR, last week. The district will continue to look for grant opportunities to support the athletic facility project.

Lastly, Mr. Kaufman reported that cyber charter tuition cost the district \$1.5 million for the 23/24 school year. We have budgeted \$1.7 million annually for the last couple of years. We will receive an estimated cyber charter reimbursement of \$127,013.00 after the first of the year. He will report to the board, at the December board meeting, on NTSD's performance on state achievement measures. As with last year, he will include the performance of those charter schools that we support financially.

2.2 Business Manager's Report

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

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the Payroll Rate Changes, Capital Reserve Report, Financial Report, Cash Investment Report, Student Activity Report, Cafeteria Bills & Report, and Transportation Changes as outlined in Exhibits #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

2.3 Buildings and Grounds Report

Daren Bryant provided the Board with a summary of the jobs completed throughout the month, including 18 work orders. Mr. Bryant also shared that the plows and salters are ready for the winter season.

2.4 Grant Update

Rebecca Koehler shared with the Board that we have closed out the ARP/ESSR Grant, and that we were awarded the Public School Facility Improvement Grant for our Emergency Application on the Westfield Area Elementary School Road Project.

3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 2024/2025 Co-Curricular Appointments (Exhibit #13)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, to approve 2024/2025 co-curricular appointments as outlined in Exhibit #13. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.2 Substitutes (Exhibit #14)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the 2024/2025 substitute list as outlined in Exhibit #14. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.3 Resignations

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Greg Cummings, to accept the following resignations: Abby Brown, Williamson High School, Guidance Counselor, effective October 22, 2024, to be held up to 60 days, Christopher Collum, Williamson High School, Social Studies Teacher, effective October 22, 2024, to be held up to 60 days, Franklin Nudd, Cowanesque Valley High School, Custodian, effective October 28, 2024, Madelen Brunner, Clark Wood Elementary School, Special Education Teacher, effective December 16, 2024, to be held up to 60 days, Susan Overpeck, Cowanesque Valley High School, Technology Assistant, January 2, 2025. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.4 Emergency Certified Teacher Appointments

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Denise Mack, to hire the following individual on Emergency Permits, pending PDE approval, for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Association: Stephanie Harkenrider, Special Education Teacher, Clark Wood Elementary School, Step 1 Bachelor's Degree, effective December

16, 2024, and pending the signing and approval of the Credit Reimbursement Agreement for Emergency Permit and the Tuition Reimbursement Guarantee. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.5 Classified Appointments

A motion was made by James Moyer, seconded by Greg Cummings, to appoint the following classified employees: Brittany Riley, from 3 hour to 3.5 hours per day Cafeteria Aide, Cowanesque Valley High School, \$15.04 per hour, retroactive to October 22, 2024 and Christopher Harris, Full-time Custodian, Cowanesque Valley High School, \$17.51 per hours, effective November 19, 2024, in accordance with the contractual agreement between the Northern Tioga School District and the Northern Tioga Education Support Professionals. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.6 Emergency Certified Reimbursement Agreements (Exhibits #15 and #16)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by James Moyer, to approve the Credit Reimbursement Agreement as outlined in Exhibit #15 and the Tuition Reimbursement Guarantee as outline in Exhibit #16, between the district and the Emergency Certified Teachers. Tuition Reimbursement Guarantee: Felisha Hackett and Credit Reimbursement Agreement: Tabatha Wheatley and Felisha Hackett. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.7 Appointment of New Board Member

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, to appoint Roderick Butler as Region 2 Board Member for Northern Tioga School District. The term for this position ends in 2025. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.8 Board Member Resignation

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Greg Cummings, to accept Glen Hallead's resignation of Region 2 Board Member, effective October 14, 2024. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.9 Approval of Resolution (Exhibit #17)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the resolution of intent to reimburse the school district's capital reserve fund and/or general fund from a portion of the proceeds of bonds to be issued for up to \$14,000,000 of capital projects for renovations and improvements to the athletic facilities at Williamson High School and Cowanesque Valley High School. This does not lock the district into borrowing funds or issuing bonds, it only allows the district to have this option if the Board votes to do so in the next 18 months, as outlined in exhibit #17. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.10 Approval of Equipment Requests (Exhibit #18)

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Julie Preston, to approve the revisions to the 2024/25 approved custodial equipment list, as outlined in exhibit #18. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.11 Policy Second Readings & Final Adoption (Exhibits #19, #20, and #21)

A motion was made by Greg Cummings, seconded by Kim Strauser, to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption of the following policies: #218 Student Discipline, #251- Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability, and #254- Educational Opportunity for Military Children, outlined in exhibits #19, #20, and #21. Roll Call Vote. All votes were affirmative. The motion carried.

3.12 Additional Vacancies During November

A motion was made by Kim Strauser, seconded by Denise Mack, to approve the Superintendent to interview and offer positions to top ranking candidates for any teacher, classified, or Act 93 vacancies that may occur between the November and December Board meetings. Those recommendations will be made to the Board at the regular December 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 – November 25, 2024, 6:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting – December 3, 2024, 7:00 PM

5.2 Committee Meetings- None

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjournment was at 8:05 PM.

Brittany Mondock
Board Secretary

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