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Lackawanna Trail board members sworn in Dec. 7

By Ben Freda - For Abington Journal

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Magistrate David Plummer swears in Lackawanna Trail School Board members Dec. 7. From left, newly-elected Karl Beichler and re-elected board members Dr. Michael Mould, David Thorne, Joseph Strauch, and Joseph Ross



Lackawanna Trail School Board members are, first row, from left, Philip Stark, David Thorne, Matthew Rakauskas, and Ned Clarke. Second row, Adrian Bianchi, Karl Beichler, Joseph Strauch, Dr. Michael Mould, Kevin Mulhern, and Joseph Ross.

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FACTORYVILLE — At the Lackawanna Trail School Board reorganization meeting Dec. 7, Magisterial District Judge David Plummer swore in new board member Karl Beichler and re-elected board members Dr. Michael Mould, David Thorne, Joseph Strauch and Joseph Ross.

Thorne was elected president and Clarke was elected vice president of the board. The reorganization meeting was followed by a regular board meeting.

In his superintendent's report, Matthew Rakauskas acknowledged board member Mould for being added to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Honor Roll of School Board Service. Mould received recognition for eight years of service.

"School directors continually are spending more of their personal time on school-related activities," said Rakauskas. "Fifty-four percent of them devote 16 hours or more a month to school board business. That shows a real commitment on their part."

Also in his report, Rakauskas announced a new text-based system called Remind, in which students can receive weather-related updates such as closings and delays. He mentioned he can send a message to everyone within 10 seconds.

"We communicated this to the parents (in) newsletters," he said. "We put it on our website. We tried to get it out there as much as possible. That is the system we are now using. It's quicker, it's easier and we can tailor this."

In his elementary report, principal Brian Kelly announced the school-wide positive behavior system has data, not just subjective opinions anymore.

"I'm pleased to announce the first three months of the school year have shown a significant decrease in office-discipline referrals," he said. "That is significant because that means our students are receiving more instruction time. There's less of those petty behaviors happening and being reported. Our students are gaining more instruction."

Kelly mentioned he is proud of the work the community and the parents have done to make this happen.

Also, the board voted to approve:

- The appointment of Courtney Boslough as a basketball cheerleading advisor at a stipend of \$2,150 as stipulated in the collective bargaining agreement, pending receipt of all clearances.
- Michael Nyland's resignation as Maintenance II employee to be accepted with regret.

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