

Trail business manager to step down

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Lackawanna Trail School Board announced Monday night that long-time business manager David Homish was stepping down as of June 30, 2015.

The board met with Homish in executive session just before the start of the public meeting, the latter of which he did not attend.

“His resignation is certainly taken with regret,” board president Mark Lombardi said, of the 29-year veteran of managing budgets for the district.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to approve a 3-year comprehensive plan for the district.

Later in the meeting, curriculum director Tania Stoker thanked the board for its action which is mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The comprehensive plan looks at the district’s curricular offering and shared values, and evaluates its needs and assessments, and establishes an action plan for the district to follow from July 1 of next year through June 30, 2018.

The document was 10 months in the making and due to PDE by the end of November, Stoker said.

Serving on the planning committee was a cross section of individuals including school board member Ned Clarke, parents’ Leslie Grega and Pam Phillips, business representative Fran Langan, community representative Annette Smith, and educators John Brander, Wendy Cathrall, Denise Collins, Dan Demora, Sarah Haus, Brian Kelly, Marty Kerzetski, Shannon Kuchak, Leanne Lombardi, Mark Murphy, Gina Pricci, Stephenie Russell, Stoker, and Amie Talarico.

Following its regular agenda Monday night, the board also

- *added two names to the district’s substitute teacher list: Bernetta Scacchitti, Dunmore, and Daniel Luce II, Wilkes Barre;

- *approved a second reading of school policy 138 on “Limited English Proficiency Program;”

- *appointed Mary Zbegner as a mentor for Secondary Librarian Kelly Hopkins at a stipend of \$450 per the district’s collective bargaining agreement;

- *moved that Leslie Grega be appointed to a full time secretarial position at \$15.20 an hour;

- *approved Jody Kwiatkowski as a volunteer girls basketball coach;

- *approved Thomas Ward as a volunteer wrestling coach; and

- *okayed a settlement agreement and release between the district and Laurie Burdett.

In the public comment session, parent Cathy Strauch raised the issue of why the school district won’t affiliate with a pair of state sanctioned driving schools.

Parent Christy Clarke said she had not been at a previous meeting where the issue was first raised, and wondered why the school board had no interest in affiliating, given that there were no liability issues.

“I have been in the high school parking lot at school dismissal times, and it’s a scary place,” she said.

Asked about whether the high school ever signed on with Southwestern Energy regarding a safety program, high school principal Mark Murphy said that a ‘25 Alive’ program had happened as part of the health curriculum.