

Lackawanna Trail approves \$18.1M budget with tax increase for some

ROBERT L BAKER

Published: June 29, 2011

Trail budget raises Lackawanna taxes Wyoming County rate reduced

FACTORYVILLE - Lackawanna Trail School Board has approved an \$18,168,951 budget for 2011-12 that raises taxes for Lackawanna County residents but drops them for those in Wyoming County.

The total figures came in about \$200,000 below what had been approved as preliminary figures a month earlier at a special board session on May 31.

Lackawanna Trail business manager Dave Homish said Tuesday that a districtwide pay freeze agreed to in May for faculty and support staff had been extended to eight administrators through a memorandum of understanding signed Monday night. The net savings for all personnel just by the freezing of salaries and benefits amounted to about \$400,000, he said.

He noted that there also would be a net loss in three teacher positions. Two teachers who retired will not be replaced, and a school-to-work teacher was laid off from the high school, he said.

The board approved property tax rates of 67.7 mills for Wyoming County and 133.92 mills for Lackawanna County.

One mill represents a \$1 tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The 2011-12 millage rate represents a 0.04-mill drop from what is currently assessed for Wyoming County but an increase of 4.26 mills for Lackawanna County.

While Wyoming County property owners would likely see no increase in their tax bills, Lackawanna County residents living within the school district would likely see their tax bills go up an average of \$42, Mr. Homish said.

In other business Monday, the board accepted a letter of retirement from Judith Griggs, and Larry Reagan was approved as a volunteer boys' basketball coach.

Denise Collins was appointed to a secondary French teaching position at a salary of \$42,000 a year, and Matt Zumbach was appointed to a full-time special needs Level III teacher assistant position at the probation rate of \$12.73 an hour.

Board member Michael Mould was elected treasurer for the Lackawanna Trail School District with a corresponding stipend of \$600.

Contact the writer: bbaker@wcexaminer.com: