

Trail looking to revamp devices policy

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Lackawanna Trail School District is looking at revamping its hand-held devices policy.

Superintendent Matt Rakauskas acknowledged last Monday (Nov. 11) that neighboring Lakeland School District had adopted a Bring Your Own Device – initiative, recently that encouraged teachers to incorporate technology in instruction and students in grades seven through 12 to use technology responsibly.

“It is something we can look at as possibly implementing for the 2014-15 school year,” Rakauskas told the board.

“Times have changed. Many educators find value in using the technology to help students,” he said. “It is something we want to carefully look into by adopting the proper academic parameters.”

Rakauskas said he doubted the policy would necessarily be as simple as bringing a device to school, and “We are welcoming input on this next January through June.”

In other business, vice president Ned Clarke recognized fellow board members Judy Johnson and Joseph Ross for their long-time service.

“They have acted as tremendous mentors to me and been very helpful as I learn my way,” he said.

Both Johnson and Ross did not seek reelection, and Phil Stark, who was in the audience was recognized as coming on the board to replace Ross.

Johnson’s replacement had not yet been certified by the Lackawanna County Elections office, but last Tuesday about 16 hours after the board meeting, it was confirmed that Adrian Bianchi had won a write-in race.

The board appointed Chris Bergey as an elementary long-term substitute from Dec. 3 through the end of the 2013-14 school year.

The board also voted to hire Ethan Johnson as junior high wrestling coach for this year at a stipend in \$2,950.

Board member David Thorne was the lone member to vote against Johnson’s appointment and said it had nothing to do with the individual, but that he had concerns about the district setting its priorities on junior high sports when other academic matters were not being attended to.

Johnson’s brother Adam was also approved as a volunteer varsity wrestling.

High school principal John Rushefski spoke to a Veterans Day program that had occurred earlier in the day – a dramatic production on the ‘Life of Gino Merli.’

Elementary center principal Tania Stoker said that veteran James Gray spoke to her students earlier in the day as well.

She noted that there would be a Family Fun Night at the school on Nov. 21, with a Toys for Tots collection.

At the front end of the meeting the Board was visited by members of Cub Scout Pack 175 in Dalton, who led the adults in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.