

BY MICHAEL WINTERMUTE Wyoming County Press Examiner

Trail board thanks Lane, makes school policy revisions

Lackawanna Trail School Board members met Monday night and accepted the resignation of marching band director Katie Lane.

Lane is largely responsible for Trail's participation and success in band competitions in the area for more than a decade.

"I'd like to thank Katie Lane for her dedication and time," board vice president Ned Clarke said. "She has truly been an asset and a breath of fresh air, and her presence will be surely missed."

The board also made a number of appointments.

Jeremy Popiel, who coached cross country last fall at Forest City Regional High School and is a Keystone College graduate, was approved as track coach at a stipend of \$3,050; and Carlee Laubach was appointed as assistant boys' volleyball coach at a stipend of \$3,150.

Shantel Franklin, Jeff Kilmer and Hannah Whitney were added to the district substitute list.

Board members also voted to approve newly-proposed school policy revisions.

Policy #815, entitled 'Acceptable Use of the Internet,' and policy #237, entitled 'Electronic Devices,' was approved for second reading.

Policy #226, entitled 'Search and Seizure,' was approved for first reading.

The policy revisions are posted on the district's web page. Those up for second reading are in relation to Trail's 'Bring Your Own Device' policy that was introduced last month at a special meeting.

In his superintendent's report, Matt Rakauskas thanked individuals within the district for their patience and flexibility during a winter that has been particularly detrimental to schools around the area.

Rakauskas informed the board that, due to the constraints of weather, the Pennsylvania Department of Education contacted superintendents across the state asking for input on whether or not PSSA testing ought to be adjusted.

The superintendent was pleased to report that testing windows will be moved forward, allowing students and teachers more time to prepare.

Rakauskas also noted that the district adopted guidelines to be 'fur and feather free.'

In order to avoid issues that could arise from dander, allergies or sensitivity to animals, no animals are allowed in the school unless for a limited time with administrative approval.

Elementary principal Tania Stoker said that Laura Anderson from the Wyoming County Conservation District will be visiting the school on Feb. 21.

High school principal John Rushefski wanted to highlight the work of Trail's artist-in-residency program, headed by artist Liz Parry-Faist.

An exhibition at Everhart Museum in Scranton called 'WWII on the Homefront' features work done by the Trail art club.

Assistant principal Mark Murphy informed board members that the tentative date for Trail's annual 'Good Guy' speaker and ceremony is April 23.

Janice Joyce, curriculum director for Trail, reported that students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade took a writing field test for the PSSAs which the state uses to determine what changes need to be made to the test.

Michael Mould, who was reappointed as the board's NEIU Board of Directors Monday night, shared information about a program called 'Arts Alive' at Marywood University.

The program, which runs in July, is geared toward elementary and secondary students with an interest in the arts.

"It looks like a terrific program that's motivating young people," Mould said.

The Lackawanna Trail Junior-Senior Curriculum Guide was approved, including a 12-period scheduling format that guidance counselors are now using.