

Lackawanna Trail school board proposes new '16-'17 calendar

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The Lackawanna Trail School Board was apprised of a proposed academic calendar for 2016-17 in the works with a student start date of Aug. 29 during Monday's work session.

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas noted the 180 faculty teaching days, then said that teachers were also required to be present for three in-service days prior to the start of school (Aug. 24-26), and for one day after the last day of school, scheduled for June 1. Other in-service days proposed are Oct. 7, Jan. 20, and May 5.

The teachers are also contractually obligated to hold two parent-teacher conferences, similar to the one which was being conducted during the school board meeting Monday, as well as five extended faculty meetings.

Marking periods will end on Nov. 1, Jan. 18, March 23, and June 1 under the proposal and make up days built into the schedule will include June 16, Apr. 13, Nov. 9, Dec. 22, and June 2-9.

Graduation is set for Friday, June 2, 2017. However, if that is not possible because of make up days for inclement weather, Rakauskas recommended leaving it possible for graduation to be held on a Monday through Friday of the following week.

"Graduation has been held on Friday at Lackawanna Trail for about 52 years," he said. "Recently, seniors have not always wished to wait until the following Friday to graduate, however."

There was also a public presentation recommending a food service management company by Keith Glynn.

Several policies are up for final readings at next Monday night's meeting: Division of Federal Program PDE Policies Adoption- Allowability of Costs, Conflict of Interest, Procurement, and Travel Reimbursement.

A contract with ProCare was recommended for approval, for athletic training at \$22 per hour, physical therapy at \$100 per hour, and speech pathology at \$60 per hour, for the 2016-17 school year.

An agreement with Abington Heights School District was recommended for board approval, to contract for occupational therapy services, for the 2016-17 school year.

Both ProCare and Abington Heights have provided these services for Lackawanna Trail in previous years, and the therapists have been very satisfactory, Rakauskas noted.

There was a motion that the board approve next week the appointment of a yet unnamed Football Cheerleader Adviser. High school principal Mark Murphy is setting up an interview before next week, it was noted.

A list of standardized tests for the 2016-17 school year was submitted for approval.

Changes include replacing the 4Sight test with a comparable test at no cost, to be fiscally responsible.

A memorandum of understanding was submitted for board approval. This regards teacher stipends for the Hybrid Summer School for the summer of 2016.

Murphy took the lead with this program, which addresses a "real" need for some students for remediation over the summer, Rakauskas said. "It is difficult for students to travel to Scranton or Mountain View for summer school."

A retirement for high school science teacher Donald Rupp was submitted for approval next Monday, and also for Debra Reynolds, elementary assistant cafeteria manager. Both of these retirement requests are effective June 30, 2016.

A request for Kevin Dikeman to accompany an all-state choir student (Robert Titus) to Hershey for the PMEA conference Mar. 30-April 2 was submitted.

A list of potential graduates for the Class of 2016 was presented for board approval next week.