

Trail board gets update on wellness plan

by Robert L. Baker

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The Lackawanna Trail School Board got an update on its wellness committee last Tuesday night (Oct. 11) based on a meeting held the previous Friday and attended by Superintendent Matt Rakauskas and board member Joseph Strauch.

Strauch said the group was seeking food information from parents, but also exploring what the district was doing nutritionally, looking at a spectrum of issues including access to drinking water, health and physical education classes as well as the emotional well-being of its students.

The group would be meeting again in November and doing a survey of parents to make sure as much input could be solicited as possible.

Barb Cwikla of the Nutrition Group spoke to a number of initiatives which the agency that serves up daily lunches is pursuing.

Among them is a 'Lunch for Life' promotion designed to introduce kindergarten students to the school lunch program and create a comfort level for students early in their school years.

She also spoke to the fact that menus were now online, and at the high school level students were getting up to 10 choices for a main entree.

Rakauskas said he was excited about the Nutrition Group's initiatives.

Rakauskas said that he and Strauch had been to an open house at Crystal Windows, a business that started up a year ago which is located in the Trail school district and has ambitions in 3-4 years to employ hundreds of individuals in the manufacture of windows.

In other action, the board voted to deny support staff grievance #1 which apparently dealt with the location allowed for lunch breaks.

The board voted to approve Otylia Dugan as Basketball Cheerleading Coach at a stipend of \$2,150.62.

The board also approved the appointment of Brenda Gibson as the mentor for Lindsey Rager at a stipend of \$450.

The board approved the appointment of Lauren McNamara as the long-term substitute for Holly Colvin, third Grade, for the second and third quarter of the 2016-17 with a pro-rated salary of \$47,500 a year.

The following substitutes were also approved with all clearances on file: Robert Houser - Maintenance; Jamie June - Cafeteria; and Elizabeth Amos - Paraprofessional.

The board approved a contract with the Scranton School District for transportation shared services for 2016-2017 school year. This dealt with outplacement transportation services at about \$125 per transport.

An agreement between the board and the Northern Tier Industry and Education Consortium to provide career education services for 2016-2017 was also approved.

The board gave its okay to a field trip request for sixth grade on November 22 to attend the DaVinci Science Center in Allentown at no cost to the district.

Tuesday was also to have been a night for curriculum director Tania Ross to have a Power Point presentation challenging some of the statistics raised in a 'Grading our Schools' feature that appeared earlier this year in the Scranton Times-Tribune.

Superintendent Rakauskas said information from the state Department of Education was being corrected and not yet ready for release.

He said he expected that Ross' report would be at a November meeting of the board.