

Trail board revamping calendar

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Lackawanna Trail School Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas has proposed amending the 2016-2017 school calendar to include June 12-16 as make-up days for days lost to Winter Storm Stella, and also changing graduation to Tuesday, June 13.

At Monday's school board work session, Rakauskas also proposed changes in the 2017-2018 school calendar be formalized through a vote on that and other issues at next week's regular school board meeting.

Options he proposed involve settling on graduation dates for next year's graduation, options for which included June 1, June 8, or June 12. Rakauskas also proposed setting the last day of school for the 2018 school year as June 4.

"I would love to see a big asterisk at the bottom on this saying, 'Subject to revision by the administration under unusual circumstances without the need for the board to get involved,'" board member Joe Strauch said.

In other business, the board next Monday will also be asked to vote on continuing its four-year agreement with the Wyoming County Juvenile Court which provides the district with law enforcement liaison officer Daralyn Carr.

"She's not a cop in school; she's not a security guard. But she does carry a weapon, she is trained. She is here for proactive reasons in both the elementary and the secondary school," Rakauskas said.

Carr would continue to serve the district's students at a cost of \$13,500, an increase of \$1,000 from last year.

Rakauskas also said he would provide board members with more specifics on the costs of approving its ongoing contract with ProCare Physical Therapy, which has been recently acquired by Towson, Md., based Pivot Physical Therapy. ProCare provides the district with athletic training, physical and occupational therapy and speech pathology services.

Two looming issues were briefly discussed towards the end of the meeting, one as a result of a question by Strauch concerning extensive long-term upgrades in the high school's networking hardware.

The other involved the status of the district's active request for help with clean up costs in the wake of Winter Storm Stella. The district's clean up costs amounted to \$5,115.91.

In other business, the board will be asked next week to vote on:

*A contract for Sarah DeBree, an administrative assistant for superintendent Rakauskas;

*The retirements of both the district's bookkeeper and a special education math teacher;

*The approval of three volunteer band assistants.

*The move of athletics coach Laura Evans from assistant cross country coach to junior high field hockey coach, with a stipend of \$3,550. The two sports occur during the same season.

*A senior class trip on June 5, to Six Flags, Jackson, N.J., at no cost to the district.

*The appointment of Sweet, Stevens, Katz, Williams (John G. Audi) as school solicitor with no increase in rates.

*The approval of the board's renewal contract with the Nutrition Group. at \$93,000.