

## Trail school year off to good start

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Amidst mostly routine business, the Lackawanna Trail School Board learned Monday that the new school year has gotten off to a great start.

Superintendent Matt Rakauskas said the naming Aug. 28 of the high school auditorium after First National Bank was the start of three successful in-service days for teachers before students returned to class the following Thursday.

Monday's board meeting opened with a moment of silence in memory to those who died 16 years ago during 9-11-01.

During the regular business meeting, the board approved the retirement request of Kenneth Yerkes from maintenance effective Jan. 3, 2018 with regret but many compliments to his dedication over the years to the district.

The board approved the appointment of Thomas Schofield in maintenance, and also added Robert Naylor and Sharon Bray as long-term part-time maintenance substitutes

The board also approved a list of substitutes for the 2017-2018 school year which included Gertrude Billings, a nurse, from Factoryville; Genevieve Evans, a nurse from Factoryville; Brenda Grunza, a nurse from Nicholson; and Paula Litwin, a paraprofessional from Factoryville.

The board also approved the resignation of Jeff Marx as the Weight-Lifting Coach, and appointed Curtis Sohns to fill that spot for the fall term, at a stipend of \$1,750, pro-rated for the fall season, per the LTEA collective bargaining agreement.

In response to a question from a resident of Fleetville in the audience who asked the board to consider helping with transportation costs of getting her son to Holy Cross High School, the board said that there were several issues in mind including liability once the carrier was outside of the district and their belief that it wasn't right for taxpayers to have to pay transportation costs for persons who choose to send their children to private schools.

Board member Joe Strauch said if the woman did not like the ruling, she should take School Code 13-1361 up with the legislature which has placed restrictions on public school districts.

Board vice president Ned Clarke said he was a product of a parochial education and empathized with the woman, but could not come to terms with why the taxpaying public should pay for transportation costs of getting it.

Although it was on the agenda, the board voted 7-0 with Karl Beichler and Adrian Bianchi absent to table a contract with Scranton School District for transportation shared services for 2017-2018.