

Students honor LT board

C. J. MARSHALL / Published: January 10, 2018

High school and elementary school students gave presentations before the Lackawanna Trail School Board on Monday, in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month.

Members of the Lackawanna Trail High School Madrigal Singers performed two numbers for the board.

Afterward, the students introduced themselves to the board, and thanked the members for their service to the community.

Among the performers were Grace Pawlukovich, freshman; Alacian Jones, senior; Abby Dalton, sophomore; Bella Chanecki, freshman; Damian Howard, sophomore; Isaac Vicking, sophomore; Michael Jacoby, sophomore; Ethan Palaskas, sophomore; and Eric Craig-Peysson, junior.

Next, elementary students presented the board with various books containing plates, indicating they are being donated in recognition of the time and effort donated by its members.

Those who presented the books included second grader Antonio Tayoun; third grader Nadia Kuckak; fourth grader Keira Mulhern; fifth grader Leigha Joseph; and sixth grader Gianna Familetti.

Following the presentations, the board was in the process of approving the final reading of Policy No. 202, regarding the eligibility of non-resident students.

However, before the vote was taken, Joan Peterson, a resident of Factoryville, raised an objection to some of the wording in the document. She explained that the policy requires the district be given a two-week notice before children in foster care could be admitted. Peterson said she believes this runs counter to state law, which does not require such notice.

Following discussion, on a motion made by Joseph Strauch and seconded by Philip Stark, the board voted to table the matter until next month, to give the district solicitor time to consider the question.

The board also unanimously approved a resolution indicating it will not raise the rate of tax support for the 2018-2019 fiscal year by more than 3.1 percent. Strauch explained before the vote was taken that the 3.1 percent is the maximum amount allowed by the state, and the district will not necessarily seek the full increase when the budget is approved.

Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor Rick Kordish noted that new software and equipment, allowing school buses to be tracked has been performing very well in a pilot program.

Once the new system is fully incorporated in August, the district will be able to track buses within one-tenth of a mile, he explained. The software provides of satellite view of each bus, he said, and will save money by helping the bus drivers track the most effective routes. The software will also allow drop off times of students to be pinpointed with great accuracy, he said.