

## Trail SB expects to okay curriculum guides

C.J. MARSHALL / Published: February 7, 2018

Lackawanna Trail School Board is expected to approve the curriculum guides for the district schools at its regular session next Monday.

The board announced at its work session on Feb. 5 that it will be voting on the Elementary Curriculum Guide, the Junior High Curriculum Guide, and the Senior High Curriculum Guide.

High school Principal Mark Murphy reported that no major changes have been incorporated in the junior and senior high curriculums. One thing the administration will be careful scrutinizing, he said, are the schedule changes for the English Language Arts and math programs for the seventh and eighth grades.

Double classes were incorporated for both programs in the hopes of improving academic standards. Murphy explained they are in the mid-point of a two year cycle, and will be carefully studying the effects of increasing class time from 42 to 84 minutes.

Elementary Principal Brian Kearney said that the elementary school will be changing from a Response to Interval Instruction program to a Multi-tiered System of Support. Part of this will include a new reading program - Journeys - with the English Language Arts course.

The board is expected to approve its share of the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, which is \$15,061.

Superintendent Matt Rakauskas reported that the cost will be \$7,000 less than this year.

But there are concerns that the IU will be cutting back and providing less support in the coming year.

Rakauskas said he will contact the IU to see if he can obtain further information and hope he will have some answers by Monday.

A resolution, opposing the proposed Education Savings Account Voucher Program is anticipated to be approved. If approved, students would be able to use the ESA accounts to pay for expenses such as private school tuition.

The board is expected to approve Policy 202, adopting the policy of non-resident students attending schools at Trail.

As explained by Rakauskas, in addition to students who are residents, there are circumstances in which students who are non-residents are allowed to take classes within the district. Such circumstances include foster children, homeless children, and children of parents who are faculty members or support staff who live outside the district.

The board also heard a presentation from Senior Class President Shawn Jones, as well as class officers Ami Sohns and Ally Decker. They requested the board approve a senior class trip to the Kalahari Resort in Mount Pocono in either May or June. They were informed the board will make its decision at a future meeting.

In other business, the board is expect on Monday to:

\*Approve a field trip request for the sixth grade class go to Dorney Park in Allentown on May 25 at no cost to the district.

\*Approve the resignation of Benjamin Simmons as the assistant football coach.

\*Approve Benjamin Simmons as a volunteer assistant football coach.

\*Approve Bill Burnell as a volunteer Track and Field coach.

\*Approve Jeffrey Stage as a volunteer assistant football coach.

\*Approve Brett Stage as a volunteer assistant football coach.

\*Approve the resignation of Mason Stiver from the Percussion instructor position for the 2018-19 school year.

\*Approve an unpaid leave request from Karen Brown for March 12-16.

They also expect to appoint next week a person - not identified to a Maintenance II evening position at a rate of \$15.20 an hour.