

Lackawanna Trail board members recognized

Robert Baker / Published: August 8, 2018

A past and a present Lackawanna Trail School Board member were recognized Monday night during a work session to address matters that are to be approved during next Monday's regular board meeting.

Superintendent Matt Rakauskas and board president Phil Stark unveiled a plaque dedicated to the memory of Karl K. Beichler, who died May 22, 2018.

Beichler was a graduate of Trail who taught in the Scranton School District and gave back to his alma mater as a school board member representing the people in Trail's Region 2 (Factoryville Borough and Benton Township).

Rakauskas said that "Having taught for more than two decades his experiences with students both inside and outside of the classroom gave him the ability to lend valuable input on curriculum, contract and labor relations, student health and wellness and a variety of complex educational issues."

He added that this past spring during a comprehensive planning meeting, Beichler introduced the concept of celebrating and showcasing successful graduates.

"It was always his intent to have Trail put its best foot forward," Rakauskas said.

The plaque underscores that he "dedicated his life to education."

The board also acknowledged Joe Ross who was recognized by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as among the long-term school directors being honored across the state.

Ross has been on the Trail board for 16 years, and PSBA representative Shane Pagnotti spoke about his dedicated volunteer service to children, the community and public education.

During its regular meeting the board spoke to a recent evaluation of Superintendent Matt Rakauskas, and gave him a satisfactory review.

Matters to be approved next Monday include:

- *One-year naming rights for the High School Library to Tri-County Insurance at \$2,500;
- *The appointment of a secondary guidance counselor not yet identified;
- *The appointment of Lauren Hale as a long-term special education substitute;
- *A contract with the Dalton Borough Police Department for a School Resource Officer at the rate of \$38 and hour;
- *A listing of driver and bus contractors for 2018-19;
- *Acceptance of extracurricular resignations: Ethan Johnson (asst. wrestling coach); and Dane Bower II (Stagecraft director); and
- *Approval of extracurricular appointments: Gabrielle Sunseri (asst. girls volleyball coach) for \$3,125; Rich Ronchi and Steve Jervis Sr. (volunteer asst. football coaches); Daniel Demora (Stagecraft Director) at \$1,675; Jodi Rinehimer (asst. marching band director) at \$3,550; Michael Dalton (volunteer band asst.); and Michelle Fahey and Marissa Ryon (volunteer junior high field hockey coaches).

Board members Adrian Bianchi and David Thorne were absent from the meeting.

Administrators present in addition to Rakauskas, were business manager Keith Glynn, solicitor John Audi, high school principal Mark Murphy, K-12 principal of student management Rebekkah King and special education director Amie Talarico.