

**Trail considering nurse sub pay increase**Brooke Williams / Published: August 7, 2019

The Lackawanna Trail School Board discussed increasing its substitute school nurse pay rate to stay competitive with other school districts.

At the board’s June meeting, in response to the district’s struggle in securing substitute nurses, business manager Keith Glynn announced that he had conducted research into the pay rates at other local school districts and found that Lackawanna Trail School District lies on the low end with $90 per day.

At the board’s work session on Monday, Glynn recommended a two-tier structure that would raise the rate to $125 per day for registered nurses and $110 per day for licensed practical nurses.

In September, he said the board can also consider contracts with Caregivers of America or Bayada Home Health Care as another way of ensuring substitute nurses are staffed when necessary.

To rectify a mistake made in the 2019-20 school year calendar that plans for 179 school days instead of 180, the board will make an amendment next week to add one more school day.

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas suggested two options: Dec. 2, which is the Monday after Thanksgiving, or April 9, Holy Thursday.

Going around the room, most board members leaned toward adding April 9 as an additional school day rather than Dec. 2.

Board president David Thorne announced that Tiffany Carpenter and Lindsey Rager have achieved tenure, effective July 1.

The board also gave Rakauskas a satisfactory superintendent evaluation.

The board plans to approve Nicole Pizzola as a secondary science teacher at a salary of $50,786, bachelor’s step 3, effective at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

The board has also been conducting interviews for a secondary music teacher and an elementary teacher, both to begin this fall.

Names and salaries for these teachers will be announced at the board meeting next week.

Once the board decides on candidates for these positions, mentors will be appointed for them at a stipend of $450 each for the 2019-20 school year. However, Pizzola does not need a mentor, having previously been mentored at another school district.

Next week, the board plans to vote on approving a repository property sale bid of $3,365.30 of a parcel located on Colvin Road in Benton Township.

Glynn also asked that the board consider adding the purchase of at least one van to the agenda next week, as one of the district’s vans has been nearing the end of its life.

Next week, the Lackawanna Trail School Board also plans to vote on the following:

\*Allow the Pennsylvania School Boards Association to add a note at the bottom of policies that state if a reference to the policy awaits board approval.

\*Approve an agreement with ISS Solutions for IT help during the 2019-20 school year.

\*Approve Steve Jervis Sr., Ben Simmons, Brett Stage, Jeff Stage, Colin Golden and Tyler Hinkley as volunteer assistant football coaches for the 2019-20 school year.

\*Approve Michael Dalton and Diane Dalton as volunteer marching band assistants for the 2019-20 school year.

\*Approve Michelle Fahey and Marisa Ryon as volunteer junior high field hockey coaches for the 2019-20 school year.

\*Approve the recommended bus contractor’s rate at the state formula for the 2019-20 school year.

\*Approve the recommended car and van driver’s rate at $1.51 in compliance with the state formula for the 2019-20 school year.

\*Approve 2019-20 bus contractors/contracted drivers: Wayne Beers, Anthony Dodge Jr., Paul Fetter, Sandy Fulkersin, Bonnie Gregory, James Gregory, Mark Jarocha, Brian Kane, Robyn Nichols, Nichols Bus Company, Padula Ritter Bus Company, Joann Ritter, James Schirg, Mary Smartkusky, Tina Smith, Allen Tator, David Vangorder, James Vasky and Kevin Weisenfluh.

\*Approve 2019-20 substitute bus drivers: William Archer, Gloria Aten, Jesse Borosh, Corrina Kinney, Leslie R. Nichols, James R. Nichols, Carol Otto, Brian Ritter, Valadamir Schalasta, Jason Schirg, Dale Shupp, William Smarkusky and Sandra Snyder.

\*Approve 2019-20 private vehicle contractors/substitutes: Shawnee Baltrusaitis, Derek Buffinton, Margaret Burns, D. Wayne Burns, Gayle Demming, Kathy Geerts, Catherine Gerrity, Tammy Gillespie, Debbie Hazlak, Constance James, Vince Kalinoski, Ann Marie Kalinowski, Michelle Klinges, Roger Landsiedel, Theresa Loney, Darlene Matthews, Peggy McGowan, Connie Otto, Megan Richards, Mary Schirg, Judith Smith, Karl Smith, Arlene Sorak, Cheryl Sutton and Gennifer Sutton.

\*Adoption of Policy 204: Attendance and Policy 217: Graduation.

\*Second reading of Policy 249: Bullying/Cyberbullying, Policy 810: Transportation, Policy 810.1: School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers and Policy 810.3: School Vehicle Drivers.

\*First reading of Policy 828: Fraud.

The Lackawanna Trail School Board is scheduled to meet on Monday, Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m.