

**LTSB hears about coronavirus precautions**Brooke Williams / Published: March 11, 2020

The Lackawanna Trail School Board recently heard how its district administration has been taking precautionary measures as the new coronavirus, or COVID-19, spreads worldwide.

At Monday’s board meeting, Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas said students and their families have been informed of steps the district has taken to prepare for a local COVID-19 outbreak. The action plan is also available online at ltsd.org.

“I know every school district is doing something. Some are doing things that are very extensive, some are doing things that are very basic, and I think we kind of struck in the middle,” he said.

Rakauskas said the maintenance staff and transportation contractors have stepped up their sanitation efforts while school nurses get a handle on tracking absences.

The district has also been promoting simple ways to stop the spread of germs and developing a contingency plan in case schools need to close.

“The biggest thing we want to look at is informing the public, informing our students, without setting off any panic,” he said.

Rakauskas also updated the board on major projects in the works at the district.

On June 15, a paving project will begin at the elementary center and finish at the high school, he said. The district also hopes to replace a filter tank in the high school sewer plant this June.

Last week, Rakauskas spoke publicly for the first time about potentially building an athletic field house at Lions Pride Stadium. A location has been picked out between the back of the high school and the bleacher area, and more details should be available by April, he said on Monday.

The district might be able to receive grant matching funds if it uses energy efficient heating and lighting, and it would also accept donations, he added.

From the audience, Doni Holmes suggested that while the school district explores the idea of building an athletic field house, it also should look into other areas in need of improvement.

“I’m just looking at the school district investing their capital money into improvements that benefit a larger quantity of students,” Holmes said.

Keith Glynn, business manager, said the district looks at wants versus needs, and the field house has become a need, especially with safety concerns for student athletes and maintenance staff who need to move the equipment twice per year.

The upcoming budget proposal also addresses other areas in need of improvement, he said.

“As we see needs develop in the school district, they are being addressed,” he said.

Glynn added that a field house would not only benefit the football team, but a variety of Lackawanna Trail athletes, with elementary principal Brian Kearney noting that 125 students in the track and field program could especially benefit from it.

Rakauskas also plans to present the 2020-21 academic calendar proposal during the board’s April work session.

The board also tabled a motion to approve an Act 93 Administration contract for July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024, with board president David Thorne absent for the vote.

The LTSB also approved the following on Monday:

\*First readings of a list of policy numbers in the 200s.

\*The 2018-19 single audit as submitted by Murphy, Dougherty & Co. (Financial statements will be available on ltsd.org this week.)

\*An E-Rate wireless access point upgrade to ePlus for better internet access in the high school at a pre-E-Rate cost of $33,939.50, pending E-Rate and general operating budget funding approval. (The district pays 40 percent% of this cost).

\*An internet service provider contract proposal from Frontier for 500 MB internet service at $990 per month and point-to-point access of 300 MB at $650 per month for three years, eligible for an E-Rate discount. (This saves the district approximately $2,190 per month.)

\*A senior class field trip to Six Flags for May 22-23.

\*Mary Kate Rodenbach as a full-time secretary to begin March 23 at $21.59 per hour.

\*The Ski Club request for a two-day trip to Vermont in January 2021, with the exact location and dates to be decided, at a cost of up to four substitute teachers to the district.

\*Judy Ambrose’s unpaid leave request for three and a half days April 6-9.

\*Acknowledge the resignations of Keith Glynn, junior high basketball coach, and Sarah Richards, basketball cheerleading coach, both effective immediately.

\*Steve Beckish and Rhett Butler as volunteer golf coaches for the 2020-21 school year.

\*Charlie Cobb as a volunteer assistant baseball coach for the 2019-20 season.

\*Lori Swanchak as a volunteer track and field coach for the 2019-20 season.

\*Vince Kalinoski Jr. as a volunteer football coach for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

\*Marisa Ryon as a volunteer junior high softball coach for the 2019-20 school year.

\*A disciplinary adjudication for student #22171.

The LTSB is scheduled to meet for a work session on Monday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m