

**Trail preparing for upcoming school year** BY KEVIN MCCONLOGUE PRESS EXAMINER August 11, 2021

Preparing for the opening of school is on the minds of many in the Lackawanna Trail School District.

At a virtual school board meeting on Monday night, district leaders addressed questions they have been receiving, including about the dress code for the upcoming year.

Some changes have been made to the dress code. Hoodies will be allowed to be worn in school and collared shirts will not be required. Girls will also be allowed to wear leggings. Sweatpants will not be allowed except during gym classes.

“This year’s dress code will be a trial basis,” principal of student management Shannon Kuchak said. “If we start to see things like hoodies becoming a problem, we will reevaluate for next school year. We want to give the students a chance with this more relaxed dress code.”

High School principal Mark Murphy announced that seventh grade orientation will take place Wednesday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m., at the high school. New students will be able to receive tours of the building and walk their schedules. He also reminded students who wish to learn virtually that they must register for the district’s virtual program by Aug. 16.

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas reiterated that masks will be encouraged, but not mandated for students and staff when the school year begins. He also announced that the Wright Center will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Trail High School on Tues-day, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments are not required for the clinic.

“Students and staff who can get vaccinated getting the shot is the main way we are going to have the safest school year possible,” Rakauskas said. “I encourage any student 12 and older who has not been vaccinated yet to take advantage of this clinic.”

Maintenance and Transportation Director Tom Schofield gave an update on the many projects being done inside the schools over the summer. He said the flooring project is complete in the elementary school and will be completed in the high school by the end of this week. The new track at Lions Pride Stadium is also complete-ly installed and should be open for public use Aug. 16.

Schofield also announced that bus schedules for students will be posted next week after kindergarten registration is complete. He said there “shouldn’t be too many changes” to the bus schedules for this year.

In other business, the board approved:

■ Hemmler and Camayd Architects as the architecture/engineering firm for a recreational educational facility project at a cost of $105,320.

■ an agreement with ISS for network support services in the amount of $7,000.

■ the purchase of 12 elementary cafeteria tables from the assigned fund balance for $23,754.74.

■ CareGivers America Medical Staffing LLC to provide contracted substitute nursing services for 2021-22.

■ the hires of: Maureen Mahoney, Jennifer Wert, Brenda Grunza, school nurse substitutes; Donna Biglin as a men-tor to special education teacher Victoria Brown; Matt Zumbach, Ann Miner, Dawn Zawicki, and Lora Wright, level I personal care assistants; Kara Waters, Linde Maurer, and Lauren Keyes, part-time para-professionals.

■ the retirement of Debbie Josephite, paraprofessional, effective Aug. 9.

■ the appointments of: Katie Beichler, Interact advisor; Keith Glynn and Dimitri Gnall, volunteer boys basket-ball coaches; Marisa Ryon, Kelly Martin, Erin Burns and Michelle Fahey, volunteer varsity field hockey coaches.

The Lackawanna Trail School Board will next meet for a work session Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be posted on the district web-site, www.ltsd.org