

New Trail course offerings
BY KEVIN MCCONLOGUE PRESS EXAMINER Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Lackawanna Trail High School students will have some more options next school year when it comes to filling their schedules.

At a school board work session meeting on Monday night, principal of student management Shannon Kuchak presented the curriculum guide for the 2022-23 school year. The presentation included the addition of 13 new courses which will be offered, mostly as electives.

The new courses include, Honors Film Study and Creative Fiction Writing; News and C u r r e n t Events; Civil W a r a n d Reconstruction; Honors Psychology of Sport and Exercise; Honors Sociology; Piano Keyboarding Skills I; Honors Band; Honors Madrigal; Honors Environmental Science; Yoga; and Weight Lifting.

“We want to have something for everyone in our schools,” Kuchak said. “We have a very talented faculty who have been pushing some of these courses for a couple of years now. It gives students a more broad range of electives, rather than just a music class or foreign language.”

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas also presented the progress made so far on the development of the district’s new comprehensive plan. Rakauskas outlined the four goals of the plan, which will be used to further develop leadership, teaching and learning.

The four goals are to expand the district’s multi-tiered system of supports and school wide positive behavior interventions and supports program; develop a long range professional development plan with attention to both in-person and remote learning; update the course description guide; and expand the safe schools initiative to include social and emotional wellness.

Trail parent Ronda Norman of Factoryville questioned the board about the current universal masking strategy adopted last month. She asked with the decreasing number of cases over the past couple of weeks why children are still being forced to wear masks and when is a possible date for the end of the mask mandate.

Rakauskas would not commit to a date as to when he would lift the mask mandate, saying that although cases are going down, the transmission rates in Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties still remain high according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We currently have the least amount of cases in the district since before Thanks- giving,” Rakauskas said. “I think that shows our current mitigation efforts are working. My goal from the start of the pandemic was to keep kids in school and I think our efforts are doing that.”

Rakauskas also said the district is in the process of receiving materials for the test to stay program which was approved by the board last month. In the program, students who are deemed as close contacts but are showing no symptoms will be allowed to stay in school as long as they continue to test negative. The district hopes to start the program this month.

Board president Kevin Mulhern announced five candidates were interviewed to replace David Thorne as a school board director representing Region I. Thorne’s re placement will be announced at Monday’s regular board meeting. The person will serve the rest of Thorne’s term which expires in 2023.

At next week’s regular meeting the board will vote to approve,

■ Lackawanna Trail’s budget for the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 for fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Trail’s contribution is $13,193.94.

■ The solicitation of bids for the construction of the student wellness center.

■ The appointments of: Tom Lengel, stagecraft director and Elissa Loubet, dramatics director.

■ The resignation of Laurel Kinback, unified track and field coach.

The Lackawanna Trail School Board will hold its regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be posted at www. ltsd.org.